

"He hails from the North Irish town of Armagh, where the civil war festered especially strong. But Ben Reel's songs not only have the blood of heart, some are also very poetic and romantic. ... Reel bets on the strength and soul of his songs. He sings them with a voice that at times sounds like Van Morrison, other times like Chris de Burgh, and which quickly gets under the skin."

- Bocholt News, Germany

"Collectively, Reel ( harmonica / acoustic guitar) Ronnie O'Flynn ( bass) Mickey McCartney and John McCullagh ( piano / keys ) Julianne Black ( backups /percussion) prove to be quite a formidable outfit. Their rootsy, no frills approach and overall production only serve to enhance the musical delivery and final product."

- All Gigs.co.uk



"Ben Reel is a superstar in waiting; rarely have I heard an album so complete and so fully realised. From the brilliance of the playing and arranging to the magnificence of Reel's voice - this is heaven all the way."

- HiFi Plus.com

"The songs and the playing are really impressive, an earthy mix of rock, roots and blues, all mixed lovingly together with soulful vocals. His song writing shows maturity and progression which comes through with repeated plays. ... All in all this is an impressive album from a major talent who needs further investigation."

-Birmingham Post



**Ben Reel** is a singular artist, the latest original to emerge from the wonderful Irish tradition of great singer-songwriters. From the troubadours of the heart and the message song, through Van Morrison and that shape-shifting Declan Patrick MacManus (Elvis Costello) and a bit of the Pogues, the Irish songsmiths crafted works both spiritually and emotionally charged while also tinged with the gift of turning a phrase with the best of them.

Hailing from Silverbridge in South Armagh, Ben first picked up the guitar when he was 15 years old, inspired by the realness of Bruce Springsteen whose music struck a chord that resonated deep into Reel's psyche. This is still reflected today in Ben's passionate and heart- on-the-sleeve approach to performing and writing.

Gerry Anderson, of BBC Radio Ulster called Reel's latest album, **NEW HORIZON** "the best album I've heard in years." In live performance, the Ben Reel Band has been consistently building a reputation as being one of the finest live bands in Ireland.

### Highlighted Appearances and Collaborations

- 'RTE Radio 1' recently recorded a full live Ben Reel Band gig which was broadcasted in Feb 08 as part of their 'In Concert' series.
- The John Daly Show, BBC1 N. Ireland. This and numerous performances for BBC Choice Digital TV & TG4.
- Jools Holland / Waterfront Hall, Belfast (7000 – sell out crowd)  
Michael Ball / Odessa Arena  
The Cranberries / Ulster Hall
- Ben has shared the bill with the Alabama 3 (HBO's *Sopranos* fame) in London's Mau Mau club, Ben has also toured solo in New York, Las Vegas, San Francisco, Phoenix, Copenhagen to name but a few far flung locales.

# BEN REEL BAND

**NEW HORIZON** is the Ben Reel Band's fourth studio album and features 15 tracks of quality soulful rock and roots music often reminiscent of the late Robert Palmer with a touch of Van Morrison.

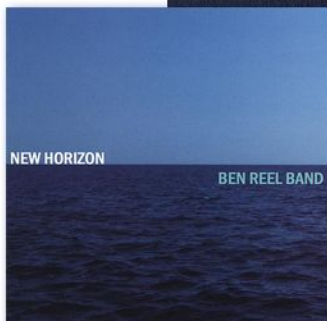
The earthy workout *Hell in Ur Own Head* is an early stunner, the plight of Native Americans is the theme of *When Will We Ever Be Free*, and the murder of John Lennon is part of *All Souls Alive*.

*Westcoast* takes you across America and *Meet U Again* has a funky guitar break. Title track *New Horizon* features Uilleann pipes by one of the guests joining Ben's four-piece band. Other guests include Ben's wife Julianne Black who provides backing vocals on many of the songs.

The CD also includes *Waitin' For U* released as a single earlier this year and its B-side, a cover of Patrick Kavanagh's Guinness soaked weepie *On Raglan Road* appears as a bonus track.

**New Horizon** has received a lot of airplay and some great reviews in Ireland, UK and Europe, especially RTE Radio 1 whom recording a full Ben Reel Band gig which was broadcasted in February '08 as part of their "In Concert" series. The band have been turning heads in all such places, such as legendary country singer Hal Ketchum whom caught a gig of the band while having a night off on his latest Irish tour in the Town & Country in Magherafelt where he joined Ben and the band on stage to sing a few songs. Hal was so blown away with the band that he returned the gesture by inviting Ben to sing with him in the Helix venue in Dublin where they performed Van the mans *Tupelo Honey* together.

The tracks on **New Horizon** contain a more rootsy, earthy Americana rock feel to them. The band has developed a kinship from performing throughout Europe, creating their unique sound together. Bringing real music back to the people in an age of the corporate manufactured mundane, **New Horizon** announces to the world something, which a growing number of people have already known throughout Ireland: Ben Reel is a major talent.



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INDUSTRIES**

Contact: Gille Amaral  
T.603.379.6602 F.603.754.2922  
gille@dogandponyindustries.com  
www.dogandponyindustries.com

Ben Reel website: [www.benreel.com](http://www.benreel.com) | MySpace: [www.myspace.com/benreelband](http://www.myspace.com/benreelband)