



# Blackthorn

EST. 1989 VANCOUVER, BC CANADA

## BIOGRAPHY



**Blackthorn** is a Canadian Celtic folk band that saw its inception back in 1989 with a group of musicians who found a common interest in a music that wasn't all that common in Vancouver at the time. Early highlights included performing at Vancouver's seminal Celtica Festival in 1990 along with De Dannan and Andy M. Stewart and performing and recording with the World Champion SFU Pipe Band. Since then, the group has travelled a long road through the streets of traditional and contemporary Celtic music, performing concerts and at Celtic and Folk Festivals and Highland Games throughout Western Canada and the Pacific Northwest.

**Blackthorn** features four talented musicians, three of whom share lead vocals, bringing a refreshing diversity of character to the group's polished sound and all four contribute a mastery of a colourful variety of instruments. The results of their collective musical backgrounds, skills and experience are witnessed in the high-calibre, entertaining performances they consistently deliver to audiences of all ages.

**Blackthorn's** extensive repertoire is rooted in the musical traditions of Scotland and Ireland as well as the folk music of English and French Canada. Their repertoire has expanded to include creative original compositions that reflect the influences of these traditions. From lively jigs and reels, to songs with rousing choruses and heart-wrenching airs and ballads, they bring the music to life with their luscious harmonies and complex instrumentation.

“a leading light in the Celtic music scene in B.C.  
– and beyond.”

— *Rogue Folk Review*



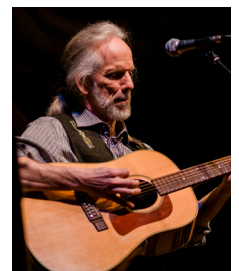
**Michelle Carlisle**  
Vocals, flutes, whistles



**Rosie Carver**  
Fiddle, vocals



**Tim Renaud**  
Vocals, bass, bodhran, cittern



**Michael Viens**  
Vocals, guitars, harmonicas, bodhran

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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YouTube: [www.youtube.com/user/blackthornband](http://www.youtube.com/user/blackthornband)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/blackthornband](http://twitter.com/blackthornband)



## PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

Based in Vancouver, this Celtic group is famed for their refreshing diversity of characters inside the group's polished and solid sound, which they use to create sweet harmonies with complex instrumentation. With intelligent respectful collaborations, this band is luscious.

— Anna Jacyszyn, *Life & Arts, The Daily Courier, Kelowna, BC*

You were the 'hit' of the Phoenix Scottish Games! Thanks for sharing your music with us!

— Don Finch, *President, Caledonian Society of AZ*

Thank-you for a fantastic show last week! Patrons and staff have been sharing nothing but glowing comments about how wonderful it was to have great entertainment in our Glacier Lounge. Everyone loved it and thought you guys were great! We hope to work with you again!

— Jennifer Shaver, *Executive Manager, Marketing, Cascades Casino Hotel and Convention Centre*

The Maritime Festival this year (2009) at Britannia Heritage Shipyard had the largest attendance to date, largely due to the fact that Blackthorn, a Vancouver based celtic band headlined the Musical Expressions series on the Saturday night. Their performance was magical, a highlight of the summer series. They are amazingly talented musicians. Their voices blend together beautifully and they moved the audience sometimes to tears. I also love their inbetween song antics, it really brings the audience in, making them feel like they are a part of the show. I had many emails after the show from fans of the Musical Expressions series, telling me how much they loved Blackthorn.

— Cherelle Jardine, *Producer, Musical Expressions*

Blackthorn is a great Celtic folk band offering feel-good sound. As I looked around our audience, people were smiling, singing along and paying rapt attention. That's saying a lot for a Beer Garden audience – I had many compliments on their performances from all types of people. Vocalist Michelle Carlisle epitomizes the Celtic voice, in a tone that rings clear and true alongside Blackthorn's traditional instrumentation. Rosie plays the fiddle like your heartstrings, and the rest of the band are talented multi-instrumentalists. No wonder their CD sales were brisk! I'd bring them back every year if I could!

— Sally Garen, *Entertainment Chair, Canmore Highland Games*

Thank you so much for participating in this year's Sunday Coffee Concerts in Port Coquitlam. We've had excellent reviews from those in attendance; what a top notch show! Your group was also punctual and professional – we are pleased to have chosen Blackthorn for this event. Looking forward to working with you again!

— Zach Lundrie, *Program Assistant, Arts & Culture, Parks and Recreation, City of Port Coquitlam*

Performing with professionalism and joie-de-vivre, Blackthorn always creates smiles and tapping feet. Their crowd-pleasing mix of Celtic, Quebecois and folk music gives their shows an appeal that crosses cultures and generations. Blackthorn's shows in Harrison Hot Springs have ended with well-deserved standing ovations and encores.

— Phyllis Stenson, *Executive Director, Harrison Festival Society*

## PAST HIGHLIGHTS

Phoenix Scottish Games, AZ  
 Northwest Folk Life Festival, WA  
 Portland Highland Games, OR  
 Pacific Northwest Highland Games, WA  
 BC Highland Games  
 Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival  
 Canmore Highland Games, AB  
 Irish House Pavillion, 2010 Olympics  
 Northwest Washington State Fair, WA  
 Bumbershoot Festival, WA  
 Burns Cabaret, Evergreen Cultural Centre, BC  
 Burns Cabaret, Place des Arts, BC  
 Burns Night, Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, BC  
 Vancouver's First Night, BC  
 Coquitlam's 125th Anniversary Kaleidoscope Festival, BC  
 Maillardville's 100th Anniversary Celebrations, BC  
 Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival, Vancouver, BC  
 CelticFest Vancouver  
 Richmond Maritime Festival, Steveston, BC  
 Brigade Days, Fort Langley, BC  
 Tall Ships Festivals – Steveston / Vancouver, BC  
 Gung Haggis Fat Choy, Vancouver, BC  
 Enchanted Evening Concerts, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Gardens, BC  
 Kelowna Fringe Folk Club, BC  
 Festival du Bois, Coquitlam, BC  
 Hornby Island Festival, BC  
 Island Folk Festival, Duncan, BC  
 Filberg Festival, Comox, BC  
 Envision Twilight Concert Series, Fraser River Heritage Park, BC  
 Festival d'hiver FRANCOFON Prince George, BC  
 Dundarave Festival of Lights West Vancouver, BC  
 Hockey Day in Canada Olympic Oval, Richmond, BC



## DISCOGRAPHY



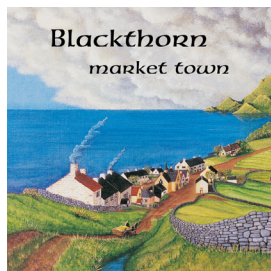
2015



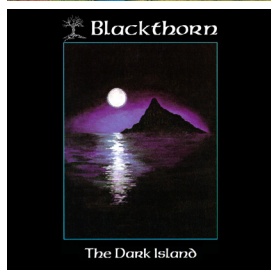
2008



2003



1996



1992

## CD REVIEWS

This long-standing Celtic band from Vancouver in Canada, already together for more than 25 years, really impressed me with this album. Look on the sleeve notes and you'll find plenty of well-known songs from UK folk traditions. But boy, Blackthorn's versions are real stunners. There's a beautiful and uplifting version of "Country life", known through the Watsons, Andy M Stewart's "Queen of Argyll" interpreted to highest quality closely to the original Silly Wizard version; a great version of "P stands for Paddy"; and "Rattling Roaring Willie" in an interpretation reminding somewhat of the Chieftains. Mixed in are a original songs in Celtic style, as well as some tunes of Celtic and French traditions. And just when you thought it could not get much better there's a cracking French Canadian song "V'la l'bon vent". Superb instrumental skills, great voices with excellent harmony singing, and a perfect choice of well and lesser known material, this is simply a top album.

—*FolkWorld #59 03/2016*

After an association with Vancouver's Blackthorn that goes back many years now, I'm delighted to hear fresh material from their long anticipated sophomore release, 'Singing The Travels'. They obviously spent the time well, crafting a knockout CD of songs and instrumentals. I'm most impressed with the polish on the product. 'Sailor Boy' is one of the most achingly beautiful songs I have heard by any artist. The arrangement is breathtaking and Michelle Carlisle delivers the lyrical melancholy with the voice of an angel.

—*Cal Koat, Producer, Celt In A Twist*

I've just listened to the entire performance and it's great! It will be a pleasure to share my enjoyment of Blackthorn's music with the network audience.

—*Max Ferguson, CBC Stereo*

This one is a good listen, and helps prove how well the music travels from across the Atlantic, and what good hands it's in locally with the musicians inspired to keep it going.

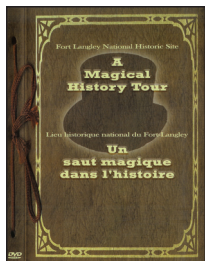
—*David Ingram – Rogue Folk Review – Vol. 17 No. 4*

Market Town - Just about the time I thought I'd had enough Celtic along come these splendid stalwarts with this new package and away I get blown: by the tunes, the playing, the fun and fire of the whole thing; saying nothing of the excellent production (a lot of big labels don't sound this good). It's fresh and crisp and full of charm and energy; rousing dances and lovely lilts.

—*Jurgen Gothe, DiscDrive, CBC Stereo*

## Guest Artists:

Blackthorn also appears as guest artists on the following:



*A Magical History Tour* – Fort Langley National Historic Site's visitors orientation video features the music of Blackthorn.



*Do Mo Chara Maith* – World champions, Simon Fraser University Pipe Band's 1994 recording features Blackthorn as guest artists.