

A taste of Homebrew

The title and cover art give it away – *Homebrew* is down-home Newfoundland music at its finest.

A compilation of favourite Newfoundland music and performers, the album was released last Fall but just recently landed on this scribe's desk.

As for the artwork, most Newfoundlanders will recognize Joan Blackmore-Thistle's *Soup, Supper and Dance* painting that can be found in art galleries across the province and probably in as many homes.

Blackmore-Thistle is a native of Port Union and is no doubt quite familiar with the parish hall 'scuff and scoff' image she has created.

Something for every fan

Without further ado, let's get to the music. *Homebrew* features 13 songs including: *Her Father Didn't Like Me Anyway* (Shanneyganock), *Molly Brown* (The Celtic Connection), *Theresa Marie* (Fine Crowd), *Poppy* (Wince Coles), *Matty Groves* (The Billy Diamond Band), *The Wreck Off Point Armour* (Murphy's Law), *Music and Friends* (Simani), *Jig one on the Sly* (Bobby Evans), *Lord of the Dance* (The Ennis Sisters), *Spanish Lady* (The Fables), *Wave over Wave* (Jim Payne, Janis Spence and Fergus O'Byrne), *Cobbler* (Kilkenny Krew) and *No Longer My Kind* (Denielle Hann).

Needless to say, if you're a fan of Newfoundland music there's something here for you.

Four of the songs on the CD are exclusive to this package – *Her Father Didn't Like Me Anyway*, *Wave Over Wave*, *No Longer My Kind* and *Matty Groves*.

Those who can flashback to afros and leisure suits, will recall *Her Father Didn't Like Me Anyway* was a hit for the Sons of Erin in the early 1970s. Shanneyganock's version



The Ennis Sisters (top), The Celtic Connection (centre) and Fergus O'Byrne all performed on 'Homebrew.'

introduces this classic to a new generation. Chris Andrews performs lead vocals and is quite aware of the song's legacy.

Easily recognizable

"I think pretty much everyone is going to recognize the song because even if they weren't old enough to remember it from the 1970s, their parents or uncle or somebody was always singing that song."

"Janis and I haven't done it live for many, many years. The song itself is fine and it always goes over great when Fergus and I do it live an I've heard a lot of people do it at parties."

Jim Payne

Fellow bandmate Mark Hiscock says he's been playing the song for six years.

Sure-fire hit

"I heard it years ago by The Sons of Erin with Chris Hennessey singing it, and myself and Chris Andrews have been singing it since we started playing together in 1995 and it's always been a hit with us," says Hiscock.

"Then when Shanneyganock started up we put it into our repertoire and it's always been a hit with our audience, so we decided to record it for the *Homebrew* package."

Wave over Wave was re-recorded – complete with recitation – and hadn't been available for 10 years. The

song has quite a following and Payne particularly enjoyed the collaboration.

"It was really good to get back in and do it with Janis live," he says. "Janis and I haven't done it live for many, many years. The song itself is fine and it always goes over great when Fergus and I do it live and I've heard a lot of people do it at parties.

"But there's no mistaking that initially when we used to do the full thing with the song and Janis doing her monologue you could feel the electricity that came back from the

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audience. Audiences have always been moved, particularly by the monologue that Janis wrote and that she performed so beautifully."

Satisfy fans

Payne jumped at the chance to re-record the song because it was no longer in circulation and fans were clamouring for it.

"Over the years I've had numerous phone calls, e-mails etc. from people wondering if there was any way the song was going to be recorded in its entirety or if there was any way that they could get a copy of the original version. The impact that the song had was tremendous."

Denielle Hann may not be familiar to local music fans but hopes her

song, *No Longer My Kind*, will help propel her career.

"I would love to see my music career take off and for people to enjoy what I offer and for people to see my music as I see it and feel it like I feel it."

For those not familiar with *Matty Groves*, Billy Diamond explains the tune's history:

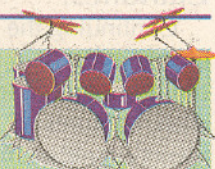
"It's a really, really old English song," says Diamond. "It's basically

just a song about a woman who cheats on her husband. He gets wind of it from one of his servants and comes home and finds the two of them in bed. She's in bed with this guy, *Matty Groves*."

As for its inclusion on the disk, Diamond says it's flattering.

"It means that people like what you're doing. They put the songs on the album that people request the most." ▲

MUSIC BEAT



Tough luck

Oasis frontman **LIAM GALLAGHER** is hated more than Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein according to a yearly popularity poll. Gallagher, who is having a baby with All Saints member Nicole Appleton, was voted the third most hated person after Adolf Hitler and former Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. Gallagher's arch-rival Robbie Williams proved to be far more popular and gained three titles – hottest superstar, favourite artist and favourite entertainer. Tough luck Liam.

Corrupt influence

MARILYN MANSON looks set to stir up a controversy over high school violence once again. His new video for his forthcoming single *Fight Song*, due for release on January 29, features gangs fighting in a stadium. The theme would appear to be a reference to the Columbine High School massacre in the Summer of 1999. The *Fight Song* is the second single to be taken from Manson's current album *Holy Wood In the Shadow of The Valley of Death*.

