



O'Connell Street

A PREMIER IRISH PUB BAND

Traditional heart. Contemporary fire.

PLACERVILLE, CALIFORNIA • FAMILY-FRIENDLY CELTIC MUSIC

[WATCH LIVE](#)

[BOOK THE BAND](#)

An Irish pub wherever they play



O'Connell Street blends rowdy traditional Irish jigs and reels with contemporary, foot-stomping pub anthems. From high-energy interpretations of Flogging Molly and The Pogues to heartfelt ballads and tightly played trad sets, this fun-loving group of multi-instrumentalists delivers a high-octane, family-friendly show built for dancing, , clinking glasses, and singing along.

THE SOUND

- Traditional jigs & reels
- Irish and Celtic ballads
- Contemporary pub anthems
- Six-piece ensemble
- Family-friendly performance

Whether commanding a festival mainstage or filling a local brewery, the band brings the energy and welcome of a Dublin pub to every room.

[OFFICIAL WEBSITE](#)

What people are saying

“

O'Connell Street brings the very best of Irish music, infectious energy and plenty of good times. Their music is lively, heartfelt and guaranteed to get people smiling, singing and tapping their toes.

DIANE R. • OWNER & MANAGER, HWY 50 BREWERY

“

The perfect mix of traditional Irish tunes and contemporary favorites that get everyone moving. They made our event unforgettable.

P. M. KARNAHAN • CREATOR/OWNER, CALAVERAS CELTIC FAIRE

“

A constant celebration of Irish life and fun. I have hired them for birthday parties, wedding rehearsal parties and car shows, and they always have attendees dancing a jig right from the start.

BILL O'NEILL • FOUNDER & FORMER CEO, SHAMROCK ASSOCIATES

“

They have a loyal following who fill the house each time they perform. Great performers, great people - we love booking them at the Green Room.

J. TEIE • OWNER & MANAGER, THE GREEN ROOM SOCIAL CLUB

Recent stages & samples

SELECTED BOOKINGS

- Natomas St. Patrick's Day Celebration - Sacramento, CA
- 40th Annual Calaveras Celtic Faire - Angels Camp, CA
- The Green Room St. Patrick's Day Hooley - Placerville, CA
- NorCal Celtic Festival - Woodland, CA
- Northern Nevada Celtic Ceilidh - Reno, NV
- Midsummer Ceilidh at The Green Room - Placerville, CA
- Artown Celtic Night - Reno, NV
- Georgetown Renaissance Faire - Georgetown, CA

WATCH & LISTEN

Live video collection

Concert footage from the Green Room, festivals and regional venues.

[OPEN LINK](#) →

Featured live performance

O'Connell Street at the Green Room Social Club.

[OPEN LINK](#) →

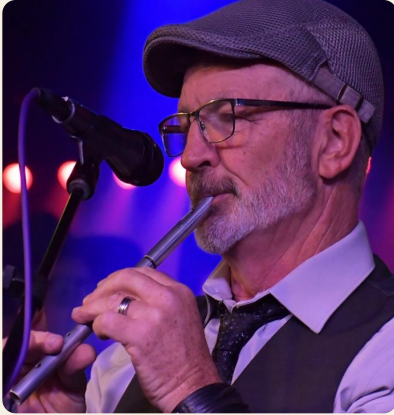
YouTube channel

More live sets and individual performances.

[OPEN LINK](#) →



Six players. One lively sound.



John O'Connell

Vocals • Guitar • Flute & Whistle



Jenny Rutherford

Vocals • Fiddle • Guitar



Neil Bleiweis

Cajon • Percussion



Cameron Lawson

Vocals • Guitar • Sound



Greg Upton

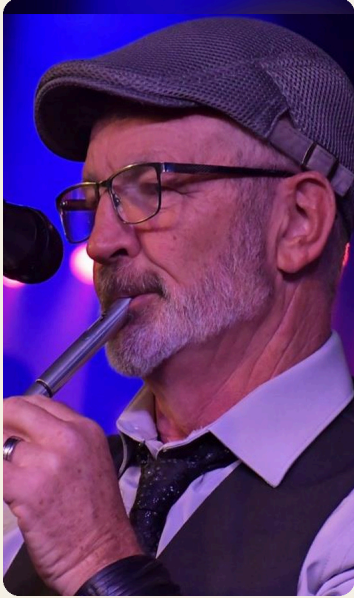
Double Bass



Joe Childers

Mandolin • Tenor Banjo • Vocals

Voices rooted in the tradition



VOCALS • GUITAR • FLUTE & WHISTLE

John O'Connell

John is a born and bred Dubliner, growing up in a family where storytelling and singing were an everyday part of life. He immigrated to the Portland, OR area in 2005, where after singing at an open mic, a member of the very popular Pacific Northwest Irish group, “The Chancers,” approached him to join their band as the lead singer. In 2015, after several years—and many story-generating experiences with “The Chancers”—John and his family moved to Placerville. There John started to attend jams and open mics. He soon found kindred spirits and formed O’Connell Street. John’s wide knowledge of Irish music has been instrumental in shaping the band’s unique sound of integrating influences from contemporary Irish artists while always finding its grounding in traditional tunes and songs. And of course, he sings like an angel. Just ask his ma. Oh, for the record, John did not come up with the band’s name. Another member thought it would be clever to name the group after the main and widest street running through central Dublin. Also, for the record, John didn’t object. We think it suits us just the same.



VOCALS • FIDDLE • GUITAR

Jenny Rutherford

Jenny grew up in the Bay Area and commenced her musical training while quite young. At 4 she started learning piano which she continued throughout her teens; at 9 she picked up the violin, and a couple of years later she was in both orchestra and chorus at her school. Yearning to be a “cool kid,” Jenny learned guitar in high school and studied with teachers who introduced her to the music of The Beatles, Jackson Browne, The Eagles and (gasp!) jazz. In the early 90s she met a couple of lads from Belfast who told her they wanted to start an Irish band. Yes, she fell for that line, but amazingly it happened to be true. Together they became “Blackthorn” and played for several years throughout San Mateo County. In the late 90s she and her husband relocated to El Dorado County, and she was soon playing with Coloma Celtic and, later, Colton Mountain as well as with innumerable iterations of local old time, bluegrass, and Celtic groups. In 2018 Jenny serendipitously sat in with an early version of “O’Connell Street,” and has “manned” the fiddle, guitar, and vocals ever since. She recently said, “The journey of growth with these amazing musicians is what keeps me coming back for more!” We are pretty sure she is talking about us.

Rhythm, craft & youthful fire



CAJON • PERCUSSION

Neil Bleiweis

Neil started playing drums when he was 11 or 12, taking lessons and playing for a several years before giving it up for other, less percussive things (we think that means girls)—a decision he regrets. Still, you can't keep a good drummer down, and about 15 years ago, he got involved in hand percussion and was ultimately drawn toward the cajon. Neil quickly became adept and was soon one of the most sought-after percussionists in the foothills. A pillar of the local musical community, Neil has played with a variety of well-known groups like the Random Strangers and Coloma Celtic and area musicians such as Larry Park, Dan Little, and Dan Dhillon, among others. In 2016 he partnered with John O'Connell to help start O'Connell Street and has been the backbone of our rhythm section ever since.



VOCALS • GUITAR • SOUND ENGINEER

Cameron Lawson

Don't let his youthful looks fool you. Cameron is an experienced music professional. We recognized his talent as a sound engineer in 2016 when he was still in high school and running the sound for a festival where we were playing! He did such a wonderful job, we asked if he would like to sign on as our "in house" sound guy. Over the years we discovered that not only does Cameron have an amazing ear to go along with his great sound tech knowledge and skill, but he is an outstanding musician as well. He comes by it honestly; his mother is a violinist and his father a cellist, each with classical training but also a love for Celtic music. Growing up in this musical household, Cameron gravitated toward guitar—much to his parents' chagrin, though they have dealt with it very well—and played for the Sacramento and foothills area Celtic group "Lady of the Lake." For the past two years, Cameron has added "O'Connell Street guitarist" to his resume on top of continuing to take care of our sound and working as a very busy sound tech for the Harris Center in Folsom. Oh—did we mention he also sings?

Low end, bright strings & stories



DOUBLE BASS

Greg Upton

Say what you like about bass players, Greg is a great one and has been a music professional for decades. His journey had a bit of a rocky start. At 7 he began violin but at 8 gave it up to play trumpet, which he abandoned at 10, to play guitar, which was a great fit and he still plays. About a decade ago, Greg decided to learn bass, and became a real stand-up guy in no time. We have forgiven the fact that he is a native Southern Californian, as he migrated to NorCal over 35 years ago. Since 1992 he has been a professional sound engineer, working live events as varied as the High Sierra Musical Festival, Isleton Crawdad Festival, the Yolo County Fair, and the American River Music Festival. He has also been an important professional fixture at Joe and Pamela Craven's RiverTunes Music Camp since its inception. Greg and his wife have lived in the Placerville-Camino area since 1996, where he is the proud owner and operator of El Dorado Brewing Company. He has kicked around with some local bands, but his life changed in 2023 when he joined O'Connell Street and—as he puts it—“graduated from playing gypsy jazz to Irish/Celtic music.” Clearly, he is on the right track.



MANDOLIN • TENOR BANJO • VOCALS

Joe Childers

Joe grew up in the Ozarks and started out as a guitarist playing in several short-lived folk rock garage bands as a teenager. Much later he picked up the mandolin, primarily to learn to play bluegrass. So, of course, he instead ended up as mandolinist in a regional blues band in Grenada in the Caribbean, where he and his wife lived and worked for a few years. After moving permanently to Placerville, he immersed himself in its vibrant music community and played in several local groups. In 2018, he connected with O'Connell Street as their booker/manager/notes taker and go-to substitute mandolin player. They still often refer to him as the “team mom,” especially when he hands out orange slices and juice boxes to the band during breaks at gigs. IN 2022 he became a full-time band member and now shamelessly indulges his love of trad and neo-trad Celtic music. He has even picked up the tenor banjo, though there are plenty of banjo haters out there who have urged him to put it down.

SRAÍD UÍ CHONAILL
O'CONNELL STREET

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Bring the pub to your stage

FESTIVALS • BREWERIES • WINERIES • PRIVATE EVENTS

BOOKING & CONTACT

O'Connell Street

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JOE 951 255 1512

JOHN 530 363 4856

BASED IN Placerville, California

EMAIL TO BOOK

WEBSITE

VIDEOS

FOLLOW

Facebook

Instagram

YouTube

O'Connell Street Tech Rider April 2026

Ch	Source	Mic/DI	Notes
1	Cajon Rear	SM57	Picks up low frequency thump and inner snare wires
2	Cajon Front	SM57 or condenser	For alternate perc. and improves cajon tone
3	Bass	Active DI	
4	Cameron Guitar	DI	
5	Jenny Fiddle	Active DI/Mute	Upper mid range / high frequencies can be shrill on some systems, please EQ as needed
6	John Guitar	DI	Low mids usually need attenuation – Guitar be clear and not take over the mix
7	Joe Mandolin	Active DI	
8	Joe Banjo	Active DI	
9	Cameron Vox	Telefunken M80	
10	John Vox	Sennheiser E835	Also used for whistle – This will need a bump in volume + reverb
11	Jenny Vox	Shure Beta58	
12	Joe Vox	Shure Beta58	
13			
14			
15			
16			

Mon	Band member	Role	Position	Mix starting point
1	Cameron	Guitar/Vox	Downstage Right	SR Guitar + Vox + DS instruments
2	Jenny	Fiddle/Vox	DSC - Right	Fiddle + Vox + DS instruments
3	John	Guitar/Vox	DSC - Left	Center Guitar + Vox
4	Joe	Mando/Banjo/Vox	Downstage Left	Mando/Banjo + Vox + DS instruments
5	Greg	Upright Bass	Upstage Right	Bass + Vox + DS Instruments
6	Neil	Cajon	Upstage Left	Cajon + Guitar + Vox + DS instruments

General tech notes:

O'Connell Street carries all of their own mics, Dis, and ¼" cables. We will use your stands and XLR cables.

We prefer 6 monitors, one for each band member. As there are many instruments on stage, tailoring the monitor mix to each member helps keep stage volume down and reduce feedback.

However, in the event less monitors are available, Greg/Neil can share a mix, as well as John/Jenny if needed.

Mix notes:

Many of our songs incorporate harmonies, so an even blend of vocals is appreciated, with a bump on the person singing lead for that song. All instruments should be mixed evenly, and boosted as needed for solos. Tasteful reverb is helpful, especially on slower, ballad songs/tunes.

We do our best to mix ourselves with mic technique and playing dynamics, but please adjust as needed depending on who is singing or playing a lead. Instrumental leads (tunes, solos) should be mixed like a vocal- On top, but not overtaking the rest of the mix.

Greg

D.I.

bass
Active DI Box

monitor



Neil

cajon
2 inst mics



monitor



Cameron

D.I.

acoustic guitar--DI Box
Vox mic



monitor



Jenny

D.I.

violin-- Active DI box
Vox Mic



monitor



John

D.I.

acoustic guitar-DI Box
Vox Mic



monitor



Joe

D.I.

D.I.

banjo-Active DI
box
Mandolin-Active
DI box
Vox mic



monitor

