

World Musicians for Humanity

Rhythms of Peace

Think Globally – Listen Locally

R P e a c e . O r g

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Trouz Bras Encore April 14th in Belmont!

Rhythms of Peace Concerts, in association with Club Camembert, presents “Trouz Braz” Saturday April 14th at 7:30 PM in the Payson Park Church Hall, at 365 Belmont St, Belmont MA, 02478. Ray Price and Trouz Bras return with their dance music from Brittany, France, having recently played a sold-out concert at Club Passim in January during the Boston Celtic Music Festival. Their first Belmont dance was at the PPC Hall in September 2005. Tickets may be purchased at the door (\$10 adult, \$5 under 13). Light snacks featuring fine French cheeses and refreshments will be available.

Trouz Bras (pronounced “True Brazz”) means “Great Sound” in the Celtic language of Brittany, the ancient country that now finds itself in the northwestern region of France. It also translates as “Big Noise” – a reference to the loud Breton bagpipes that fuel the band’s driving sound.

Catapulting traditional Breton dance tunes into the 21st century, Trouz Bras combines swirling bagpipes and soaring fiddle with a rocking rhythm section. The band is led by bagpiper and vocalist Ray Price, a native Welshman who has expanded his Celtic roots to become a global ambassador of Breton music and dance.

Brittany is a magical place of barren landscapes, megaliths, Celtic myths and legends and unique music and dance. Ray, who considers Brittany his second home, describes a tremendous recent renaissance of interest in the “Fest Noz” or Night Festival. “A ‘Fest Noz’ can have thousands of dancers at large, international festivals, or just a handful of local dancers in a far-flung village,” he says. “The music is driving, insistent and mesmerizing. The spiral and circle dances are performed by everyone from the very young to the very old.”

The musicians of Trouz Bras seek to introduce these ancient traditions to a modern American audience.

Joining Ray in creating Trouz Bras' "big sound" are some adventurous lads who aren't afraid to let their diverse roots drive the band's powerful sound. With impressive pedigrees in Irish, rock, blues, jazz, zydeco and medieval music, they pump new energy and vitality into the ancient Breton repertoire.

"Our origins are in the trance-like spiral dances of Brittany," says fiddler and bouzouki player Barry Hall, who also sings and plays the vielle (a Medieval-style fiddle). "Much of today's Breton dance repertoire remains unchanged from medieval times. Because Brittany has been so culturally isolated, the ancient musical modes have survived for many centuries. These fascinating tunes provide us with a point of departure for our own unique musical vision."

Not content with merely recreating the past, Trouz Bras' repertoire extends from starkly primitive traditional tunes to modern tunes composed by the band's members that derive from the ancient dance beats. Drummer Mance Grady, who provides the band's percussive foundation, says, "The dance steps dictate everything we play. Each type of dance has its own internal rhythm, and our tunes must synch perfectly to that pulse."

Adds bassist Brian Rost, a 30-year dance roots veteran, "When our music locks up with the dancers, it quickly becomes a symbiotic relationship. Their energy channels back to us and further invigorates our playing."

Since its formation in 2005, Trouz Bras has played at many diverse venues, from the floors of intimate dance halls to the stages of major Celtic festivals. Audiences have enthusiastically embraced Trouz Bras' unique style of traditional Celtic music that honors the past while giving it a swift kick into the present. Whether listening to the music or dancing to it, Trouz Bras offers an uplifting experience for all.

Trouz Bras recently released its "Trouz Bras and Friends" CD, of which one reviewer remarked that "Celtic music and dance are so much the richer in these parts for Trouz Bras." Copies will be available at their Belmont performance on April 14th.

See <http://www.trouzbras.com/> for more information.

Venue

The Payson Park Church Hall is handicap accessible, conveniently located on the Harvard Sq. - Waverly MBTA bus line, and offers ample on-street parking. See www.paysonpark.org for more information