



Just the Facts on Slainte Mhath . . .

Featured act at Cape Breton's Celtic Colours International Festival, 1997, 1998 & 1999, Denmark's Tonder Festival in 1999 & 2000, Scotland's Celtic Connections Festival 1999, the Grandfather Mountain Festival 2000, the Vancouver Folk Festival 2000, Sidmouth Festival 2001, & Cambridge Folk Festival 2001.

Slainte Mhath was the subject of a 1999 Scottish documentary film aimed at inspiring Scottish school children to embrace their heritage, were featured in a Welsh documentary and part of a Gaelic Television series (MnE Scotland) showcasing local and international talent.

Performed with industry greats such as the Chieftains, Sharon Shannon, Bill Whyman & his Rhythem Kings, Dougie MacLean, Suzanne Vega, Danu, Runrig, the Barra MacNeils, Great Big Sea, Wolfstone, Ashley MacIsaac, Natalie MacMaster, Leahy, La Bottine Souriante and Michael McGoldrick

Toured Denmark and Sweden for 45 days, March and April 2001, playing 49 shows. Consisting of the Danish Folk Music Awards, many schools, pubs and Theaters.

There's a youthfulness abounding in the Celtic music scene these days. It's fresh, energetic and fused with a sound that has a rich international flavour. It's Slainte Mhath (pronounced Slawncha Va). The innovative Cape Breton quintet is keeping its traditional roots firmly planted, with a determination to making 21st century Celtic music and bringing it to a global audience.

The Slainte Mhath (Gaelic for "good health to you") sound draws from a wide range of influences. This high-energy group features traditional instruments associated with the Celtic genre and adds drumbeats, hooks, and sub-bass lines, all augmented with contemporary arrangements.

The diverse and cultural background of Slainte Mhath includes the musical versatility of Lisa Gallant (bodhran, fiddle and step-dancing), Boyd MacNeil (octave mandolin, fiddle, guitars and percussion), Ryan MacNeil (keyboards and percussion), Brian Talbot (drums and percussion) and John MacPhee (Highland bagpipes, Scottish reel pipes and Irish flute).

Slainte Mhath's new sounds explode on their new album VA, a title which is meant to represent the phonetic pronunciation of Slainte Mhath's last name. VA takes the fiercely talented young generation of musicians to another realm of creativity -- combining those deep traditional influences with modern-day nuances that will set popular culture on its ear.

Slainte Mhath has a growing fan base worldwide, having toured across Canada, the U.S.A., England, Scotland, Sweden and Denmark. The young group has honed its chops considerably.

Last summer, Slainte Mhath's momentum grew overseas with a tour that set a ground breaking collaboration with BBC Radio Scotland, featuring a daily diary on their Web site and leading them to a BBC Folk Award nomination in the 'Horizon' category -- the first East Coast artist to receive a nomination from the BBC Folk Awards.

With VA, Slainte Mhath embarks on a new part of their musical journey. Jump aboard, get ready to go -- it's definitely an enjoyable trip into a new century of Celtic music making.

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