



Turpin's Trail in concert
L-R: Noah St. Amand, Jon McLurg, Chris Murphy, Brian Flynn

GETTING YOUR CEILIDH ON with Turpin's Trail

By Lorraine Payette

When Chris Murphy, Brian Flynn, Jon McLurg, and Noah St. Amand of Turpin's Trail appear onstage, things are going to get lively. It isn't just the impish grins or the pile of musical instruments that gives them away. It's something else, something almost subliminal, just waiting to pull you along and get you started.

"We met through the Kingston music scene," said Murphy. "Jon and I met Brian at the weekly folk club jam that was held at the RCHA Club and we met Noah through his brother-in-law Matt Baetz of Longshot Studios, a recording studio in Kingston that Jon and I have recorded at for many years. We have been playing together in various forms as long as we have known each other. Jon and I were two-thirds of the trio Crooked Wood (formed in 2004) and both Brian and Noah sat in with that band on occasion. Crooked Wood eventually became Turpin's Trail."

They play a variety of pieces from the Irish/

Celtic tradition and traditional folk songs, to a lot of their own original music using many different musical instruments. Murphy plays guitar, 5-string and tenor banjos, Irish Bouzouki, mandolin, button accordion, penny-whistles and bodhràn; you'll find Flynn playing fiddle, mandolin, trumpet, Irish flute and bodhràn; McLurg will be on guitar, cajon, mandolin and 5-string banjo; and St. Amand helps keep it together with the upright bass.

"We got together first as a band in 2012 to promote/support my solo album – 'Finally Coming Home' – recorded in Cape Breton and produced by internationally-acclaimed musician J.P. Cormier," said Murphy. "We mostly play in the greater Kingston area (west to Picton - Waring House, north to Perth/Westport - The Cove Inn, east to Gananoque - The Royal and the Firehall Theatres), but we have done a couple of tours to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland (notably headlining the Brimstone Head Folk Festival on Fogo Island, NL, in 2017).

"We had a crazy whirlwind tour of Cape Breton Island one long weekend – we drove straight there and back; we got a flat tire outside of Sackville, NB, and we had a black bear run out in front of us on the way home

driving through the night."

When they aren't performing to sold-out crowds throughout the area, they work at different jobs in the community. Murphy is a full-time musician who teaches guitar when not performing, as well as being the organist/music director at Inverary and Battersea United Churches. McLurg is a support worker for individuals with autism. Flynn works as a supply teacher, and St. Amand is self-employed as a web developer.

"Our families have always been extremely supportive of our musical endeavours," said Murphy. Flynn's children love Dad's music so much that they decorated his violin with a collection of brightly coloured stickers to remind him that they are out there cheering him on.

Fans will be disappointed to know that there will be few chances to see Turpin's Trail in its full form until after the summer. Murphy will be moving to Newfoundland from June through August. He has been offered an artist's residency with the Shorefast Foundation on Fogo Island for the month of August and the chance to perform around the island. But they plan to be back in September. **LH**

For tour dates and other information, please go to www.turpinstrail.com.