

# Pagan's Folly Interview

PAUL; OK GUYS, C'MON STOP PLAYING FOR A WEE BIT SO WE CAN HEAR OURSELVES.  
I am chatting with a superb Celtic band - Pagan's Folly from almost Scotland - Canada in fact!

So, when did you all meet up and start the band?

Inga, Chris and Juhan have probably been playing together for at least 7 years. Sarah joined a few years later. Then we brainstormed for a name and have been going at it ever since.

What drew all of you to Celtic music? Inga and her sisters first appeared on an album when she was 12 up in Unst (Paul's note; btw thats Scotland everyone!). Sarah's father has always been big time into Celtic music and whiskey and so influenced Sarah. Sarah first started playing classical violin but traditional music was always in her blood. Juhan as well has a classical background but was always drawn to the pipes. Chris and Juhan met a decade ago when they both started playing the pipes around the same time. Celtic music has always been in our hearts, one way or another.

Much more important, you all like a dram now and then, do you have favourites?

Our favourite is when the amber liquid is dispensed into a glass and we partake. Inga though is the aficionado having been weaned on Scotch and Crabbie's Green Ginger by her grandmother. Times were really tough in Unst and that was all there was to be drunk! The cows had all died. Inga thinks we need to mention some whiskies to show we know something. Her present favourite (the rest of us are just happy with a dram) is Jura Superstition (the rest of us don't know if that is any good but we are taking her word for it). She counted out that she has 8 different single malts in her liquor cabinet at the moment next to her I.V. drip. She says she has Drambuie too (fine by us!). Being a Shetlander and continuing the healthy competitive spirit between Shetland and Orkney she doesn't like to admit she drinks Orcadian whiskey but we have seen her with a bottle Highland Park.

How much of your band life includes whisky (of any description)?

Is it really a proper band without Whiskey (and Guinness)? We represent the two sides of Celtic music and alternate between sips of whiskey and Guinness. That is why God created us with two hands.

Have you ever had a gig in a whisky distillery?

We can't remember. Inga and Juhan once played at a wedding in the local hall in Unst and nearly everyone had a half bottle in their back pocket. Does that count? We would love to play in a whiskey distillery but fear we might never leave.

You have a song about wee Maclean's, do you have a song about whisky or angels?

We will soon. We are presently working on a new song called Whiskey Angels. By presently we mean between alternate sips of whiskey and Guinness. Inga has written a poem called Stoned on Scotch. Look it over, you will like it!

Do you have any plans to come to Scotland?

Yes of course! We are trying to put together a distillery tour as we speak. Can you help us with that? Inga was born in Shetland and goes home when she can. She even once brought Juhan along (only once! I don't know why she won't bring me again. It must have something to do with her husband). Chris has been over to visit relatives in Edinburgh, but Sarah's experience of Scotland has only been through her Dad's tales of Scotland and it's distilleries (mostly distilleries).

How would you describe yourselves to complete strangers?

Inga definitely rules the roost and keeps us focused, though we don't listen to her nearly enough; Juhan provides the youthful joie-de-vivre, despite him being the second oldest; Sarah's our main squeeze, but we love her for her talent; and Chris is our steady keel both on and off the stage (even when he is falling off it). We often get mistaken for a family. Although we are not related, we might as well be, rustic disputes and unconditional love, included. (We debated the word 'rustic' for 10 minutes... case in point).

What are the future plans for Pagan's Folly?

We are currently working on our second CD, and keeping busy promoting our first. We are looking forward to traveling, performing and meeting new friends in new places. Whatever the future holds for us we will get there with love, laughter, music and whiskey (in twice the time!)

PAUL; So, what a band! they love each other, the music and the whisky! I urge all our members worldwide to sample the musical blend of Pagan's Folly, and those members in Canada, try and get to see them guys! A fun interview, lovely people, I can't wait for them to come over to Scotland, who knows what may happen?