

## Welcome to Midnight Courts home on the web.....

Traditional Irish music lives, and it is constantly further developing itself, it is rediscovered again and again, and it is always enlivened with fresh new elements, it is moreover, immensely popular. Midnight Court exemplifies this synthesis. Aaron Shirlow, Bernd Lüdtkke and Noel Minogue have, through their different origins, individual musical experiences and merits, moulded a progressive, innovative, musical unit.

**Midnight Court stand for a powerful, brilliant sound, with a fresh original performance, a dynamic “Live-Act” in a special-class of its own.**

### Midnight Court Highlights:

- ▶ Producing, composing and publishing three studio CD's, "Half Moon", "Ear to the ground" and "Ring the bell...Run like hell".
- ▶ Solo Tours through Ireland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, Poland and U.S.A.
- ▶ Participation in the Celtic Halloween Tour and St.Patrick's Day Tour together with different Bands through Germany, Switzerland and Austria.
- ▶ Invitations to perform at the mega Irish music festivals in Pittsburgh and West Palm Beach in the U.S.A.
- ▶ Writing the soundtrack for the modern Ballet production "Celtic Touch" in collaboration with the Deutsche Oper Berlin, Germany, which was presented and - performed in Ireland and Germany.
- ▶ Musically represented Ireland for six years at the "International Green Week" in Berlin, Germany.
- ▶ Concert at the official opening of the "International Berlin Film Festival".
- ▶ Representing Ireland as the opening band at the World Exhibition "EXPO 2000".
- ▶ Support act for Emmy Lou Harris at the renowned mega music festival in Zoppot, Poland, that was transmitted live in Polish National Television
- ▶ Toured nationally through Germany as live band for the Irish Step and Modern Dance show "Celtic Life", together with dancers from "Riverdance" and "Lord of the Dance".
- ▶ Composed and produced with Brian O'Connor the soundtrack for "Irish Soul", a neo classic Ballet production from the National Theater of Wiesbaden in Hessen, Germany.
- ▶ Television and Radio performances.

### MIDNIGHT COURT (IRL/ D/ IND)

#### “Irish Tradition X-tended”

Midnight Court are Aaron Shirlow (Belfast) vocals, guitar and songwriter, Noel Minogue (Tipperary) button accordion, vocals and Bernd Luedtke (Berlin) fiddle, bouzouki, bodhrán and vocals.

Since the band was formed in 1995 they have toured solo and with various festivals in Ireland, Germany, Scandinavia, Poland, Spain and in the U.S.A. They have so far produced three internationally renowned CD's, “Half moon over the mountains”, “Ear to the ground” and “ Ring the bell..run like hell” and are at present working on their fourth studio album “Grooving the green”.

Together with the German Opera in Berlin, they composed and performed the music to the contemporary dance theater piece “Celtic Touch” which toured to critical acclaim in Ireland, putting Midnight Court into the limelight musically and confirming the band's ability and talent as composers and arrangers.

There followed soon after an invitation from the State Theater of Wiesbaden, Germany, to write along with flautist Brian O'Connor, the soundtrack for the dance Show “Irish Soul” and thanks again to it's musical originality, it became an immediate success with audiences and media. This led to interest coming from one of the country's leading Television company's (Hessischer Rundfunk), producing a documentary of the show, which has now been seen by more than 150.000 people so far.

Along with (Creole World Music 2006) award winner Ravi Srinivasan (India) tablas, harmonium, santoor and vocals and flute virtuoso Brian O'Connor (Ireland) flute and whistles, the band extends itself from a trio into a celtic/world/fusion quintet, with its sound still very much rooted in Irish Traditional Music.

A thrilling and impressive, listen and danceable, spectacular top-class live act! of vocal, instrumental and rhythmical music.

## **Midnight Court Trio**

In the year 1995 the musicians Aaron Shirlow and Bernd Luedtke, who had been playing together for quite some time, met Noel Minogue after he arrived at a session in the lively Berlin Irish Folk scene. After many a musical meeting together, they decided to take their sound further a field and formed the band "Midnight Court" taking their name from the famous poem by Brian Merriman "Cuir An Mhean Oiche". Each one of them has brought to the band their distinctive, characteristic musical experience, which is the origins of Midnight Court's individual, unique concept of sound. Their first big triumph was the musical cooperation with Marguerite Donlon's Ballet "Celtic Touch" with which they had enormous success in the Deutsche Oper, Berlin and in Longford Theater, Ireland.

In 1997 they produced themselves their first CD "Half Moon" with which the renowned agency Magnetic Music became immediately aware of and subsequently took them under contract. They effectively increased their popularity during the participation of the "St. Patrick's day Celebration Festival" in the years 1997-99. Their second CD "Ear to the ground" followed and continued rapidly to find international acknowledgment/recognition. After a successful guest-tour of the U.S.A interest in Midnight Court was building with invitations to appear at the Pittsburgh Folk Festival and West Palm Beach Festival the next year.

In 2001 their third CD "Ring the bell...run like hell" and highly reviewed in the international press laudatory. Momentary climax in Midnight Court's career is the participation in Ben van Cauwenberghs modern Ballet "Irish Soul" for which Midnight Court in cooperation with Brian O'Connor wrote the soundtrack. They have performed over 50 shows "live" in the State-Theater of Wiesbaden since the show first premiered in 2001 and because of the enormous success, an end is not yet to be foreseen. Midnight Court gives great pleasure with their live appearances, instrumental proficiency, harmonious song and a relaxed magnificent show.

## **Noel Minogue** **Button Accordion, Vocals**

Noel comes from Borrisokane in the County Tipperary, a rural area in which traditional music is very much looked after. In his large family, everyone plays an instrument and Noel, already began as a child to learn the Button accordion, also lovingly named "the box". During innumerable sessions, he studied the polkas, jigs and reels of his native home.

At the age of fourteen he was nominated 'Tipperary junior champion' in the music competitions through out Ireland. He lived a long time in Dublin and played in the band 'Beal Bocht'. He later spent a long time in London and Paris and when he came to Berlin he had already a good reputation as a highly talented box player. Here he met Aaron and Bernd, who already performed successfully together and sought a new melody instrumental player. As a trio, they named themselves Midnight Court. Noel devoted himself completely to the music and became a professional musician. He plays many variations enhanced with a certain swing, in the well known B/ C tuning. In the band, he is the rather quiet part that provides furor through his masterly prestidigitation on his instrument. Atmosphere comes if he can be drawn to sing a song in his unique manner. Noel is with Midnight Court a musician that brings the traditional note into the total game.

**Aaron Shirlow**  
**Singer, Guitarist, Songwriter**

Aaron was born in Belfast. Right from an early age he has been interested in the strength of songs and singing, of words and voice, listening firstly to his Father, on the many occasions he was asked up to "give a song". But it was not only a love of the powerful music of Ireland that gave him great pleasure, but also that of the folk music of America, and in particular the merging of contemporary and traditional styles, that secured him his primary love of his specialty, the voice and guitar.

Concentrating mostly on these two instruments, Aaron learned much from his initial early influences whilst being careful not to tread too close to similarities, choosing rather to try and expand and develop a style of his own. A time that was to see his development and involvement in music be further enhanced when he was to relocate to mainland Europe, where began a full time career as a professional musician. As a guitarist he has tastefully expanded his craft, making fine use of a varied amount of tunings, like Open G and Open C and moreover his "work horse" tuning DADGAD, to create a fresh, exciting, and alternative character. Always looking for the "ultimate tone" on the amplified acoustic guitar, he is constantly experimenting with the latest effects, producing a high level of skill and musical quality, along with an interesting and modern sound.

Aaron proved his compositional abilities and talent with the music to the ballet "Celtic Touch" which was performed in Komische Opera House, Berlin and Longford Theater, Ireland. Besides these songs he has also contributed to the three Midnight Court CD's. He also wrote songs for the ballet "Irish Soul" which made its first appearance in the Wiesbaden State theater in 2001. With his warm, yet strong voice of a unique and original style he continues to fascinate his audience right from the start.

**Bernd Lüttke**  
**Fiddle, Bouzouki, Bodhrán, Vocals.**

Born and grew up in West Berlin, he took already classical guitar lessons at the early age of nine. The influence of the English speaking radio stations AFN and BFBS with their folk and country music programs led to it that already with 16 years he played folk guitar and 5 string banjo. Soon he was active in several groups in Berlin, as well as in Bluegrass also in the Irish Folk branch.

At 17 he achieved a "young talent guitarist" award. His fast musical aptitude and skill led to it that he soon played tenor banjo, mandolin, bodhran and Irish bouzouki and was a very sought after group and studio musician. After his studies, he moved into the professional camp and played in many groups. His wish was always to play a lead melody instrument, so he began to learn the Irish fiddle through teachers and workshops in Ireland and Germany. Today when time permits, Bernd is active as a fiddle teacher and gives instruction in fiddle workshops.

With Midnight Court he brings interesting ideas into the arrangements of the songs and tunes and brings colour into the sound picture of Midnight Court with his clear harmony singing and excellent fiddle playing.

**Brian O' Connor**  
**Flutes, Whistles & Keyboards**

Brian was born in Dublin, Caple Street. At the age of four his family moved to the Navan Rd. area. His father, Dessie O'Connor, was a well known and respected traditional flute player. Brian grew up with many traditional musicians from this area such as Seán Óg Potts, Seán O'Broin, Paul McGrattan, Fiach O'Broin among others. He learned the music from many of the older musicians who were friends of his father. Through the encouragement of the late Paidí bán O'Broin and his son's the late Fiách O'Broin and happy to say the still living Seán O'Broin, Brian started playing the flute.

Thereafter he learned a lot of music, in particular from the great Sligo/Dublin flute player John Egan. He also learnt a lot of music from Seán Potts (ex Chieftains) and John Kelly among others. Brian's Mother is from Roscommon and through this connection he got to meet and play with Josie McDermot on many occasions.

Brian also played with the Dublin pop band "The Dadas", who's single and video were played repeatedly on MTV and Irish and English television. He also recorded the single "West in Motion" with the band "Bumble" which went into the top ten in the Irish and English dance charts, the first trad. Hip-Hop record to be successful in a commercial field.

In 1986 Brian joined the band Oisín and toured with them for five years throughout Europe. Thereafter he continued to play with Geraldine MacGowan as "Geraldine MacGowan & Friends", which is now going well with the release of their fifth CD "Through The Years".

## **Ravi Srinivasan**

Tabla, Vocal, Percussion

Ravi started his musical training as a child. He studied Indian classical percussion on the tabla under the tutelage of the master-drummer Pandit Kamalesh Maitra whom he has accompanied on tours worldwide. As a classical violinist he also played in the Radio-TV Symphony Orchestra in Malaysia and the Northern Symphony Orchestra in England.

Ravi Srinivasan performs as a percussionist in the fields of Indian classical music and dance, jazz, flamenco and avantgarde in Europe and Asia and composes for dance theatre. He has toured Europe as well as India, Malaysia and the GUS States. Ravi performed at various prestigious international festivals, to name a few: Binda Din Kathak Festival in New Delhi, Potsdam Jazz Festival 2001, Folk and Jazz Festival Rudolstadt, InnToene 2002 in Austria and the Berliner Jazz Awards 2001, Festival d'Imaginaire 2004 in Paris, Musica Vitale 2004 in Berlin, Creole World Music 2006.

As an accompanist he has performed with renowned artists like Pandit Jasraj, Abdourahmane Diop, Zam Johnson and Pandit Vijai Shankar. He has also provided music accompaniment at the Berliner Literature Festival for authors Kiran Nagarkar, Shauna Singh Baldwin and Namita Gokhale. This year Ravi played 44 concerts in Iceland and Greenland with the Hypno Theatre, a collaboration of six artists from different countries. In 2006 his Trio indigo won first price at the Creole World Music 2006 in Hannover.

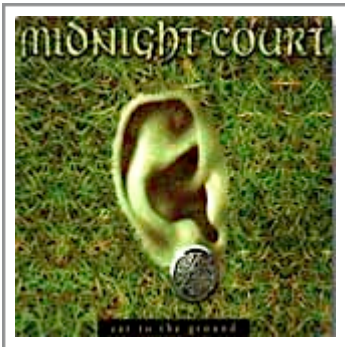
## **Ring the bell - run like hell**



1. As I Roved Out
2. Welcoming Paddy Home
3. Dancing Eyes/Goat in the Green/ Finbar Dwyers
4. Caleb Meyer
5. Omagh Town
6. The Templehouse/The Maid of Castlebar/ Paddy O'Brien's
7. Salonika
8. Outside Track
9. The Volunteer/Huckleberry Hornpipe
10. Handsome Molly

11. Farewell Mayo

**Ear to the ground**



1. Pride of the Springfield Road
2. Erin's Isle
3. Carrowclare
4. Cape Breton Set
5. Mug of Brown Ale Set
6. Step it out Mary
7. Rita Kilty
8. Controversial/Tom O'Dowd's/The Burren
9. Shady Grove
10. Chicken's Clicking/McGoldrick's/ Lománach Cross
11. Cape Breton Set-Remix by the band and
12. the seven drunken dwarf

**Half Moon Over The Mountains**



1. L&N Don't Stop Here Anymore
2. Bitter Sweet
3. Home to Antrim
4. Black Rogue/The Maid at the Well/ Kevin Griffin's
5. Welcome to Shetland/Cape Breton Reel
6. Belfast Mountains
7. Bachelor
8. Ship in Full Sail/Far From home/ Johnny McIljohn's No.1
9. Rocksalt & Nails
10. Willy Coleman's/April Fool/ The Rose in the Heather
11. Lock Keeper

## **CONTACT**

Aaron Shirlow

Tel./Fax: 0049 (0)30 326 06 277

Mobile: 0049 (0)176-96729244

Bernd Lüdtkke

Tel: 0049 (0)33201 44173

Mobile: 0049 (0)172-3824951

Noel Minogue

Tel: 0049 (0)30 6879760

Mobile: 0049 (0)173-3956369