



Info

After having met coincidentally for the first time at a musical session in an Irish pub in 1996 Oliver Peters (vocals, guitar, bass guitar) and Marc Hoper (vocals, guitar, bass guitar) would never have thought that this encounter could ever turn out to create one of the best booked Irish Folk bands in Western Germany.

They spontaneously „founded“ the two-piece band „The Plästic Pädies“ in 1997 and were soon promoted as an insider tip in the local acoustic music scene.

In 2001 Thorsten Kahlert (Uilleann pipes, whistles), a previous member of the well-acclaimed German Ska band „The Frits“ joined them and the band was renamed to **An Spiorad**. From this time their musical style turned into a more traditional Irish direction which made them play numerous gigs at folk music festivals and as supporting acts for a couple of well-known bands in the scene.

As a three-piece **An Spiorad** started playing several tours throughout Ireland and made their mark in the local traditional music scene. Amongst others, they made friends with the popular trad. band Dervish. The Irish daily newspaper „The Meath Chronicle“ once even stated „**An Spiorad** - Irish like the Irish“.

After several crew changes regarding the melodic fraction, Henning Nugel (fiddle, whistles, flutes), Pascal Junker (vocals, Irish bouzouki, banjo) and Jens Okrent (drums, percussions, vocals) joined the band and mark the long-desired completion of the **An Spiorad** line-up ever since.

In September 2018 **An Spiorad** released a full-length album called „Dord na Mara“, a concept album dealing with the topics sea-faring, wanderlust and piracy. For the first time, the band almost exclusively presents originals, topped with two traditional Irish songs and one cover. The album eventually appears to adhere more elements of rock music than its prequels, but retains the band's famous all-acoustic sound.

„Dord na Mara“ was written, recorded and produced in less than 6 months and got its mastering by the legendary Pete Maher who already collaborated with international super stars like The Rolling Stones, U2, Shane MacGowan, the Gallagher brothers, just to name a few.

An Spiorad is well-established for their enormous scope of musical styles spreading from Irish/Celtic songs including emotional folk ballads to folk rock. The likable lads display a congenial delight of playing their music that is instantly transferred to their audience. They thrill with vocal and instrumental harmonies that bring goose bumps to every particular listener. Their interpretation of Celtic music is unbelievably authentic and delivers the Irish spirit into each and every concert hall.

References

Irish Tourist Board Germany, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Guinness Brewery Germany, Murphys Brewery Germany, and many more...

Recent Line-up and Key-facts

Oliver Peters:

(lead vocals, guitar, bass-guitar)

- composer and lyricist
- long-term experience in musical productions (rock / blues)
- medieval bard in live-action role plays all over Europe
- expert in interpreting ballads in **An Spiorad**
- founding member of **An Spiorad** (1996)

Marc Hoper:

(lead vocals, guitar, bass-guitar)

- composer and lyricist
- long-term experience in musical productions (folk / rock / punk / alternative)
- the rough/rock-style vocal part of **An Spiorad**
- cover art expert
- founding member of **An Spiorad** (1996)

Henning Nugel:

(fiddle, whistles, flutes)

- composer
- classically trained, professional musician
- contract composer and musician, creating and producing music for video games, adverts and corporate movies
- long-term experience in musical productions (folk / rock / classical / orchestral)
- joined **An Spiorad** in 2007

Pascal Junker:

(vocals, Irish bouzouki, banjo)

- composer and lyricist
- long-term experience in musical productions (folk / metal)
- joined **An Spiorad** in 2013

Jens Okrent:

(drums, percussions, cajon, backing vocals)

- long-term experience in musical productions (drummer / percussionist in brass, rock, pop, punk and folk music)
- multiple German champion as brass band drummer
- joined **An Spiorad** in 2013

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