

Blaggards



Photos by Tiffany Rea

Blaggards (no “the”, pronounced BLA’ GUARDS or BLA’ GHERDS, depending on where you’re from) formed July 2004 in Houston, Texas.

We play what we call Stout Irish Rock, traditional Irish music mixed with rock n’ roll, informed by everything from the Dubliners, the Wolfe Tones, and Elvis Presley to the Horslips, Thin Lizzy, and Black Sabbath.

As music critic John Nova Lomax puts it, “Their formula is straightforward: Take trad Irish music, combine it with rock and ratchet up the pressure till the rivets start to pop.”

Blaggards are lead vocalist/guitarist Patrick Devlin, bassist/vocalist Chad Smalley, drummer Kevin “Turbo” Newton and fiddler Heide Riggs. Patrick grew up in Dublin, Ireland, and tended bar in Irish pubs and music venues for many years before starting his first band.

Heide recently published “Fiddler’s Full Circle”, a book about her journey in learning and performing Celtic music, and style tips for playing traditional tunes.

Blaggards maintain a rigorous schedule, playing frequently throughout Texas and touring nationally several times a year, plus an annual tour of Ireland.

We have listeners all over the globe, with over 19 million streams on Spotify and over 69 million streams on Pandora.

Our version of the traditional sea shanty “Drunken Sailor” is hugely popular and has garnered nearly 35 million streams on Pandora alone.

Our original instrumental “Kerfuffleful” appears in the New Line Cinema motion picture *How to Be Single*. “Drunken Sailor” and “Big Strong Man” from our first CD, *Standards*, were both featured on the CBS series *The Good Wife*.

Blaggards released their latest album *BLAGMATIC* in July 2021, and our latest single release “Come Out Ye Black & Tans” hit streaming services on March 13, 2022.



BLAGMATIC, released July 2021.

Blaggards Online

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“H-town’s heir to the emerald throne of Phil Lynott and Shane MacGowan”

- John Nova Lomax
Houston Press

“Flogging Molly with six-shooters and a bottle”

- Frank de Blase
Rochester City Newspaper