



**The Immigrant Band** is the new recording by Irish heavyweights John Doyle and Eamon O'Leary, and stellar old-time musicians John Herrmann, Rafe Stefanini and Clelia Stefanini. Grammy nominated guitarist/singer/songwriter Doyle (Solas, Joan Baez, Mary Chapin Carpenter, and a host of others) produced this delicious collection of traditional old-time and Irish material with terrific originals in the mix. Long time musical friends, the group got together around the idea of recording some of the material they'd done on occasion - just for fun.

### **John Doyle**

Name many of the most notable recordings and/or performers in Irish music and it's a fair bet that John Doyle had something to do with them. Liz Carroll; Eileen Ivers; Karan Casey; Solas; Michael Black; Mary Black; - a veritable who's who of the greatest names in Irish music. These are just a very few of the stellar artists for whom John Doyle's signature guitar sound, singing or songwriting is essential. As a member of Solas, John performed to sold out audiences nationally and internationally as well as appearing on many national TV and radio programs: NBC's The Today Show, various programs for National Public Radio and Public Radio International, A Prairie Home Companion, Mountain Stage, E-Town and World Cafe as part of that critically acclaimed group, he also received three NAIRD awards and a Grammy nomination for the band's self-titled first recording.

In recent years, John has focused primarily on writing songs based on the varied experiences of Irish emigrants - his great grandfather on the torpedoed S.S. Arabic in 1915; famine victims on the coffin ships to Quebec; Confederate and Union Irish fighting against one another at Fredericksburg; an Irishman's journey through the First World War. In reviews, these songs on Doyle's 2012 release, "Shadow and Light" have been said "to be destined to be classics in the Irish folk music songbook. His talents as songwriter are rare and exquisite."

**Rafe Stefanini** has been at the forefront of the revival of traditional music from the rural south for over thirty years. His work on fiddle, banjo, guitar and song is represented in over 20 CDs, both as headliner and as guest. He has been a member of such influential bands as the Wildcats, Big Hoedown, The Rockinghams and lately Jumpsteady Boys (with Bruce Molsky, Joe Newberry and Mike Compton). He has been a teacher at many music camps on fiddle, banjo and guitar.

**Clelia Stefanini** has followed in her's father's footsteps quickly becoming outstanding on fiddle , guitar and vocals. She was first prize winner in fiddle at the 2013 Appalachian Stringband Festival in Clifftop, W. Virginia. She is also an accomplished teacher privately and at music camps.

**John Hermann** learned the Round Peak style of clawhammer from its original masters: Fred Cockerham, Kyle Creed, and Tommy Jarrell. He was also influenced early on by the playing of such contemporary old-time pickers as David Winston, Al Tharpe, Blanton Owen, and Steve Slottow. He was part of the Upstate New York old-time avant guard of the mid 1970s, and is responsible for many, now widespread, rhythmic innovations inspired by that style. John's specialty is playing with the fiddle. He has played all over the world - and in fact is known as the Father of Old-Time Music in Japan. He has performed and recorded with most prominent contemporary old-time fiddle players, including Dirk Powell, Tom Sauber, Rayna Gellert, Rhys Jones, Rafe Stefanini, and Tim O'Brien; he also toured widely with traditional fiddlers Ralph Blizard and Art Stamper. John has played and taught at most major festivals and music camps in the US. As a teacher, he specializes in getting people to play tunes they don't know, has developed many innovative teaching techniques, and is often credited for having both invented and created a name for "the slow jam."

**Eamon O'Leary** started playing Irish music while growing up in Dublin through his friendship with the Mayock family, traditional musicians from County Mayo. When he moved to New York City in the early 90's, he immersed himself in the city's traditional music scene and travelled widely, performing with many of the great players in Irish music. In 2004 he and fiddler Patrick Ourceau released the album *Live at Mona's*. Eamon has taught at many traditional music programs in the US and also records and performs original music. His last solo record, *Old Clump*, was released in 2012.