



the Kings of Connaught

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT · 2026

Irish folk, ballads and trad — from Galway to wherever the road goes.

Mark Costello · Liam O'Grady · Thomas Ryan — folk, ballads and trad from Galway, Ireland, since 2012

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THE BAND

Songs that were old before we were born, played like they're new

Multi-instrumentalists The Kings of Connaught grew up in the west of Ireland, steeped in the tradition of Irish music. They have taken up the mantle of keeping the heritage and culture of Irish ballads alive and have been described by critics as “exciting young balladeers who sing with a rawness and emotion that is only comparable to the singing of The Dubliners”. Formed in Galway in 2012, the trio — Mark Costello (vocals, guitar), Liam O’Grady (vocals, banjo) and Thomas Ryan (whistle, mandolin) — have released two studio albums and a run of singles, and their Rocky Road to Dublin has been watched more than 16 million times. They have performed extensively across Ireland, the UK and mainland Europe, toured the United States three times — including Rockwood Music Hall in New York and a headline slot at Peoria Irish Fest — played the UAE, supported The Wolfe Tones at Semple Stadium and shared stages with Leo Moran of the Saw Doctors, Sharon Shannon, Zoë Conway & John McIntyre and the Julie Fowlis band.

16M

views of The Rocky Road to
Dublin

1M+

Spotify streams

2012

formed in Galway

IE · UK · EU · US
· UAE

toured

MEET THE BAND



Mark Costello

VOCALS · GUITAR

Mark is the voice and guitar of the group. His interest in folk music was lit at twelve, when he first heard a recording of Luke Kelly after a local singing session, and he has been captivated by all things folk ever since — forever broadening his repertoire of songs and ballads. The Kings were his first foray into live performance; these days he also plays locally with other bands and as a solo act. When not on stage, you’ll find him chasing up homework in the classroom.



Liam O’Grady

VOCALS · BANJO

Liam is a singer and long-neck five-string banjo player. Growing up in Ireland he developed a passion for folk music young and took up the banjo in his early teens. Alongside the band he works as a software engineer in London — and somehow keeps both plates spinning, touring with the Kings whenever the road calls.



Thomas Ryan

WHISTLE · MANDOLIN · GUITAR ·
HARMONICA

Thomas comes from Moylough, a small village in County Galway. He started the way most Irish musicians do — tin-whistle lessons in primary school — tutored by the well-known local traditional musician Matt Cunningham. He also plays guitar and harmonica with the band and performs regularly with other groups, a soulful player whose instrumentation lifts the room. Off stage he is a biomedical engineer.

Mark, Liam and Thomas have been the band since 2012 — three voices, guitar, banjo, whistle and mandolin. The Kings started in 2012 as a six-piece — with Macdara Connolly (mandolin, vocals), Robert Tully (tenor banjo) and Michael Tully (accordion) — before settling into the core trio.

THE STORY

Since 2012, one session at a time

Our journey began in 2012, playing local venues around Galway. A few years in we started recording, and over two years released two studio albums and a run of singles — including a Rocky Road to Dublin that has now been watched more than 16 million times since 2016.

After a quiet couple of years of restrictions we organised a sold-out charity Christmas concert at The Mall Theatre in Tuam in December 2022 — our first show together in over two years, and it felt great to be back. We carried that momentum into St Patrick's weekend 2023: thousands on the Grote Markt in The Hague, sharing the bill with Sharon Shannon, and a return to London. Then Bruges to headline the Zilleghem Folk Festival, and a three-week tour of the US — Rockwood Music Hall in Manhattan, the Mineola Irish Center on Long Island, The Burren Backroom and the Irish Cultural Centre in Boston.

We were back in the US and across Europe in 2024 and 2025, headlining shows and sharing stages with Zoë Conway & John McIntyre and the Julie Fowlis band, with the Netherlands and the United Arab Emirates among the stops. New singles followed — The Rare Old Mountain Dew, The Lonesome Boatman and The Banks of the Roses.

AUDIENCE

Who listens

YouTube viewers by country

United States	20.8%
United Kingdom	14.2%
Germany	7.8%
France	7.4%
Ireland	7%
Canada	3.8%

38.7K YouTube subscribers · 16M+ views of The Rocky Road to Dublin · 1M+ Spotify streams · 43K monthly listeners · core age group 25–34

YouTube geography, lifetime to Nov 2023; Spotify listeners skew US then UK, 28–34.

PRESS

In good company

IRISH STAR

Irish trad band The Kings of Connaught say they are 'very excited' to embark on first ever US tour

IRISH STAR

The Kings of Connaught get ready for first-ever US shows after success in Europe

TUAM HERALD

Joy and sadness as band reunite for charity concert

ATHLONE ADVERTISER

Kings of Connaught hold court at the Shearwater

GALWAY ADVERTISER

Listening in: The Rocky Road to Dublin

LIMERICK LEADER

Limerick sky high concert for down to earth cause — the Chris Hadfield 'Gig for Ghana'

"Exciting young balladeers who sing with a rawness and emotion that is only comparable to the singing of The Dubliners."

— Critics' notice, as carried by promoters in Boston and The Hague

LIVE

Pubs to theatres



SHARED STAGES WITH

- The Wolfe Tones (2013 and 2018, Semple Stadium)
- Leo Moran of the Saw Doctors — many times, and a great friend of the band
- Sharon Shannon (The Hague, 2023)
- Zoë Conway & John McIntyre
- The Julie Fowlis band
- Col. Chris Hadfield — who joined us on stage in 2017

TOURING

Three US tours — Rockwood Music Hall in New York, The Burren in Somerville, the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton, the John Boyle O'Reilly Club in Springfield, The Bur Oak in Madison and a headline slot at Peoria Irish Fest — plus the Netherlands, Belgium, the UK and the UAE. Shared stages with The Wolfe Tones and Leo Moran of the Saw Doctors.

EXPECT TO HEAR

The Rocky Road to Dublin · Whiskey in the Jar · The Irish Rover · Dirty Old Town · The Rare Old Mountain Dew · Right All Right · Fiddler's Green · The Streets of New York · McAlpine's Fusiliers · Beeswing

GIVING BACK

The band has raised money for and donated to Pieta House (suicide prevention), Jigsaw (youth mental health), Cancer Care West and Galway Hospice, and intends to keep doing so as a thank-you to the people who have supported the music.

TECHNICAL

Spec and stage plot

We bring our own DI boxes and pedals — we only need XLR leads. Wired IEMs preferred — we bring our own; otherwise a wedge. Subs where possible — our sound leans on low-frequency effects. Full input lists and stage plots: thekingsofconnaught.com/tech-spec

Line-up	Channels	Monitor mixes	Power	Spec
Three-piece — Trio	9 XLR	3	8 outlets	PDF
Four-piece — Trio + guest fiddle	11 XLR	4	9 outlets	PDF

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CONTACT

Book the band

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