**BENNY MCCARTHY (Brief Biography)**

Benny is from Deelish in Co.Waterford. He began his musical voyage at the age of 13 and was mentored by none other than accordion legend *Bobby Gardiner*. Like most musicians he travelled all over Ireland to sessions and festivals meeting and playing with musicians from all regions and styles. His influences include Bobby Gardiner, Jackie Daly, Mairtin O’Connor to mention just a few. Benny was Oireachtas champion on both Button accordion and 10-key Melodeon in 1994.

He teamed up with some friends in 1995 to form the now Iconic band *Danú*a group he still performs with and manages to this day. Benny has featured on over 30 album releases since he began his professional career in music. He has performed/recorded with many leading internationally renowned artists over the years including Liam Clancy, John Sheahan, Donovan, Donal Lunny, Tom Paxton, Seán Ó'Sé and many others. Theatre Projects over the years include collaborations with Comedian/Actor Jon Kenny and the Irish Arts Theatre hit show Teac A Bloc created by Des Dillon. Benny has also been part of some trade/state delegations to USA, India, Bulgaria and Europe with the Irish President and Irish Government over the years. Benny has recorded and produced many albums and theatre soundtracks in his own studio in Co.Waterford. He is regularly featured with his various groups and projects on Irish National TV & Radio (RTE. RnaG & TG4) as well as internationally on BBC, CBC, PBS etc.