

# MacNamara's Hurrah – a Celtic Band

**The Band:** 4 piece Celtic band – MacNamarra's Hurrah

**Performances:** Acoustic sets (no PA) and/or sets with PA – either is fine depending on venue needs and facilities

**Workshops:** We currently can offer the following as an adjunct to our performances – we normally suggest that workshops be an hour long

- a) **Bodhran** (Chuck Spano) – Beginners and/or Intermediate
- b) **Fiddle** (Katie Waller) - Beginner/Advanced fiddle
- c) **Recorder/Whistle** (Jenn Weidley) – Beginning Pennywhistle and/or Recorder
- d) **Songwriting** (Joe Waller – Jenn Weidley) – Songwriting
- e) **Harmonizing** (Joe Waller-Katie Waller-Jenn Weidley) – Harmonizing basics
- f) **Percussion** (Chuck Spano) – Simple Percussion for Non-Musicians
- g) **Percussion** (Chuck Spano) – Introduction to Cajon/Djembe/Darbuka (in a single workshop)
- h) **Join The Band** (all band members) – Primarily for the younger crowd – we play a number of Celtic and/or Old Time tunes and have them join in with some rhythm instruments, etc. Moms and dads welcome!

**Sessions:** We are always happy to lead/facilitate sessions, typically in a circle jam type setting with Celtic, Old Time, or Folk tunes and songs

**Dances:** We're always happy to accompany Celtic dancers (we can do other genres as well of course) with a mix of slides, jigs, reels, or whatever the dance company (or Ceilii/Ceilidh) needs

**Our Performances:** There is a tremendous amount of music, both songs and tunes, from the Celtic genre – we do a LOT of vocal tunes which is so often missing from many Celtic festivals – we perform a variety of old/traditional material along with some newer/contemporary and original compositions from Jenn Weidley and Joe Waller – many of the songs we perform are seldom, if ever, heard on this side of the Atlantic and we love introducing some of the most beautiful of these to new audiences. We'll often debut some new/never heard songs at major Celtic festivals – and of course we'll throw in just the right mix of up-tempo/rollicking tunes and songs to keep everyone's toes tapping! – if you'd like a list of our typical tunes just let us know.

**For specific info, questions, etc., please contact:**

**Chuck Spano – (386)-852-5436 (cell) – (386)-672-4533 (office)**

**Email: [chuck@macnamarrashurrah.com](mailto:chuck@macnamarrashurrah.com) or [yoda2@bellsouth.net](mailto:yoda2@bellsouth.net)**

**Website: <http://www.macnamarrashurrah.com>**

**Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/macnamarrashurrah>**

**YouTube Channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZT3xn\\_05fLP5C7sHSNk8NA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZT3xn_05fLP5C7sHSNk8NA)**

## Staging Requirements (as available)

- a) Number of Vocal Mics? **3**
- b) Number of Instrument Mics? **0**
- b) Number of Direct Inputs? **4 possibly – 3 definite, 1 is a “maybe” (for bodhran)**
- c) Other Sound Needs? **Chair w/o arms or std height stool (Chuck Spano)**
- d) A/C Power strip – NO, not required

### Names of performers/instruments and stage placement (Back of Stage)

Chuck Spano - bodhran  
Chair (no arms)  
1 SM58 (pref) or SM57 or  
equiv on boom stand  
XLR cable only (have own  
DI) - need phantom pwr

Jenn Weidley – standing  
Vocals – Fiddle - Guitar  
1 Vocal Mic (will use  
vocal mic for whistle as  
well)  
2 DI's (guitar & fiddle)

Katie Waller – standing  
Vocals - Fiddle  
1 Vocal Mic (will use  
vocal mic for fiddle as  
well)

Joe Waller – standing  
Vocals – Guitar  
1 Vocal Mic  
1 DI (guitar)

### FRONT OF STAGE/AUDIENCE

**Note:** For Chuck Spano/bodhran – may use a condenser mic (mine) so would just need an XLR cable into MY DI – will need phantom power

## Miscellaneous Biographic Info (Short Version)

***MacNamarra's Hurrah*** is a unique group of friends and musicians who have played together and separately in a variety of other groups for many years now - the group recently elected to pool their talents under the moniker of "MacNamarra's Hurrah" which is named after Joe Waller's original song referencing the emigration of an Irish man to America, seeking a better life.



***Joe Waller*** is a prolific singer-songwriter with one of his tunes being the namesake of the band. Joe and Katie (below) produce two music-oriented festivals per year at the Pioneer Settlement in Barberville, FL, one in April and another in the fall (November.) His strong vocal capabilities take the listener from the heart of a Celtic ballad to the fun of a tune about a pony! Joe's focus is on bringing the audience into the performance with sing-alongs and shared musical reminiscence. Joe is also the founder and leader of Jackson Creek String Band, [www.folkfiddle.com](http://www.folkfiddle.com) where he and Katie (below) share songs ranging from those of Celtic origins and stylings to folk and even some mild bluegrass to with the possibility of a touching lament of the Texas cowboy thrown in for good measure. Their recent CD "I wish I was..." was just honored with "Traditional Folk Album of the Year 2013" by the National Traditional Country Music Assn. in Le Mars, Iowa. Joe and Katie also produce two music-oriented festivals per year at the Pioneer Settlement in Barberville, FL... one the first weekend of November each year and another in the Spring.

***Katie Waller***, fiddler, was classically trained on the viola and violin, but for a long time now she has been a full time fiddler! She enjoys playing various fiddle styles from Celtic, to folk, to old-time. Katie regularly teaches workshops and fiddle classes at the Sunshine State Acoustic Music Camp, Florida Folk Festival, Will McLean Festival and more. Her "Training Wheels in D" CD is popular with beginning fiddlers and mandolin players nationwide.



***Jenn Weidley*** is a singer/songwriter who has performed in Central Florida and up and down the East Coast area for many years. Performing in many venues including coffee houses, pubs, festivals and concerts, she has written a wide variety of Celtic inspired original and traditional songs and tunes. She was in the band JENRIC with her late husband Rick, the Central Florida Celtic Folk band Bardic Rose and the Irish Traditional Band Banished Misfortune. Her first Solo CD came out in 2007 and is entitled "Home with the Girls in the Morning". Jenn's latest CD is "A Momentary Echo" produced in 2012. In September, 2012, Jenn traveled west for the first time, to Sedona, Arizona and Southern Utah. Jenn, her partner Ron and percussionist Chuck Spano traveled to Ontario Canada in August, 2013 to perform in the Tall Ships Festival as the trio 'Hard to Port'.



Jenn has written and arranged over 250 songs and tunes and is an accomplished guitarist, fiddler and Irish Whistle player. She plays and sings original songs, traditional ballads, pub tunes and sea shanties. When not playing and touring, Jenn is the owner/operator of Green Fiddle studio, an intimate studio which caters to the acoustic musician.

Learn more about Jenn on her website at [www.jennweidley.com](http://www.jennweidley.com) or find her on CDBaby.com!

#### Discography

- King Arthur Came Home - Bardic Rose
- Traveler - JENRIC
- Listen - JENRIC
- Out on the Ocean - Bardic Rose
- Home with the Girls in the Morning - Jenn Weidley
- A Momentary Echo - Jenn Weidley

**Chuck Spano** is a Florida-based percussionist who has had the good fortune to have played with some of the best musicians from around the world in a variety of genres, both here in the USA and overseas. He'll usually play with multiple groups, on a variety in instruments, at various festivals. His primary interest is in the realm of Traditional Celtic songs and tunes, especially "indigenous" arrangements and tunes/songs from Scotland and Ireland which seldom make it across the pond to America. Spano has taught the various percussion workshops at the Florida Folk Festival (and others) for the past many years and is especially interested in teaching beginners and playing for various dance groups as well as experimenting with a variety of percussive instrumentation in the Celtic fusion, Afro-Celtic, and New Age/Classical arenas. Chuck is also the musical director for the Ormond Beach Celtic Festival in April of each year (Ormond Beach, FL) and produced a concert series for over twenty years featuring national and international touring artists - he plans to soon start development on a series of percussion and accompaniment videos covering a variety of instruments, in conjunction with Frank McGuire of Glasgow and possibly some other well-known European artists. Chuck is a past Florida state percussion champion.

