

## HITCHNER

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Seeing this, John reached down for his button accordion case, took out his box, walked up to the man, and played some tunes for him. At first he was startled, as were several other pub patrons, but then the man broke into a smile while John played. Whatever weight was on that man's mind began to lift. Everyone in the pub applauded, including him. John resumed his conversation with me as if nothing happened.

I have never forgotten that moment, though I am sure John has. I know when he reads about it here, he'll scratch his head. When it's part of your

nature, your DNA, your life outlook and core values, such gestures never stick out -- except to those uplifted by them.

John Whelan will be performing at two upcoming benefit concerts: with fiddler and mandolinist Eamonn O'Rourke and singer, guitarist, and pianist Gabriel Donahue at 3 p.m., Sun., March 20, at Mahwah H.S., 50 Ridge Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430 (call 201-394-5940 or visit [www.marysfoundation.org](http://www.marysfoundation.org)), for the Mary Therese Rose Fund and Camp Acorn; and with his own band at 8 p.m., Sat., April 2, to raise funds for Notre Dame H.S., 220 Jefferson St., Fairfield, CT 06825 (call 203-372-6521 or e-mail at [marzik@notredame.org](mailto:marzik@notredame.org)).

## Win a copy of Black 47's new CD, A Funky Ceili

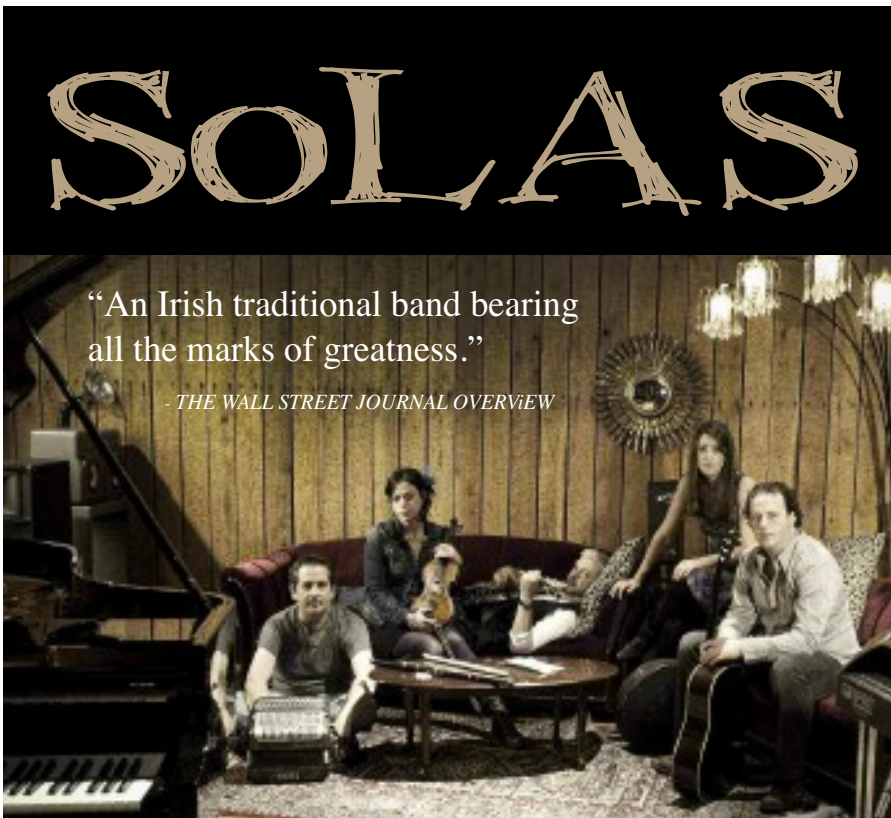


FUNKY CEILI is a CD featuring 18 of Black 47's well-known and rare up-tempo tracks from the earliest days to the present. These 75 manic minutes will be just the ticket for parties or long journeys. It will be sold in CD form only and available at gigs and online. Tracks include Funky Ceili, Maria's Wedding, The Bells of Hell, Losin' It, Paddy's Got a Brand New Reel, Staten Island Baby, Different Drummer, Izzy's Irish Rose, Oh Maureen, Bodhrans on the Brain, Who Killed Bobby Fuller, Uncle Jim, Black Rose, Five Points, Sadr City, Czechoslovakia, Those Saints, and I Got Laid on James Joyce's Grave.

To enter, send your name, address, and daytime phone number to Eileen Murphy at [emurphy@irishecho.com](mailto:emurphy@irishecho.com). Subject line MUST contain your first and last name, and the words "BLACK 47 Contest." You can also enter by sending your details by fax to (212) 482-6569, att: BLACK 47 Contest. Winners will be chosen from all completed entries, and will each win a pair of tickets to the show. One entry per person, per day, please. Deadline for all entries is Monday, March. 28, 2011, at noon.

No purchase necessary. Must be 18 years or older to enter. Prize has no cash value. No substitutions.

Catch Black 47's annual St. Patrick's Night show this Thursday at BB King's, 237 W. 42nd St., NYC. It's an all ages show, so feel free to bring the family. This is the band's 21st St. Patrick's Night gig, and judging by past shows, it's going to be epic! The music starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are available online at [www.bbkingblues.com](http://www.bbkingblues.com), or call Ticketmaster at 212-307-7171.



## MARCH 19th

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