

## Frances Black – Bio

Frances Black was born in Dublin, Ireland on June 25<sup>th</sup> 1960. She has four siblings Shay, Michael, Martin and Mary. Her late mother, Patricia [d. 10/2003], had been a singer in the city's dance halls, while her late father, Kevin [d. 1990], who was raised on Rathlin Island, was accomplished on fiddle and mandolin. The Black children were raised in an environment where music was always being performed at home.

The five siblings cut their debut album **"The Black Family"** in 1986, and Frances sang the lead on "Tomorrow Is A Long Time" and the traditional "The Ploughboy Lads." When their second collection **"Time for Touching Home"** appeared three years later, Frances took the lead vocal on four tracks. Invited by Johnny "Ringo" McDonagh to join, Arcady, initially an eight piece traditional band, Frances remained with them for three years and appeared on their debut album **"After The Ball"** [1991]. During this period the band toured Europe, Iraq and the States. The album title track reached # 7 on the Irish Singles Chart, while the album peaked at # 6 on the Irish Album Chart. Black's final tour with the group took place in August 1992. Already mother to a couple of children, Frances decided to leave Arcady and concentrate on raising them.

Black did not however give up making music, and in partnership with Kieran Goss, she cut the self-titled collection, **"Frances Black And Kieran Goss,"** and the pair co-produced the recording. The same year she appeared on the mega selling **"A Woman's Heart"** compilation, and many of the contributors went on to tour Ireland and the U.K. In the Spring of 1993, Frances toured Australia and New Zealand as part of the Guinness Celebration of Irish Music Tour. Frances' debut solo single "All The Lies That You Told Me" reached # 3 in the Irish Singles Chart in February of 1994, and the album **"Talk To Me"** appeared a few months and remained at # 1 on the Irish Album Chart for eight weeks. It was issued in the U.K., Europe and the States, the following year. Later that year **"A Woman's Heart 2"** appeared and, like the original release, Frances appeared on two tracks. Black undertook her first solo tour of the States in the Fall of 1994.

The Spring of 1995 saw the release, in Ireland, of her sophomore album **"The Sky Road"** which reached # 2. Through November/December that year, Frances toured the States once more, and **"The Sky Road"** was issued there the following year. **"Talk To Me"** and **"The Sky Road"** were co-produced by Pearse Dunne and Arty McGlynn. The Black Brothers recorded **"What A Time"** in 1995, and Frances appeared on the majority of the tracks. Her third release on the Dublin based Dara label was titled **"The Smile On Your Face"** and her children, Eoghan and Aoife, sang backing vocals on the Mark Nevin song "Fear Is The Enemy Of Love." The album reached # 4 on the Irish Album Chart and scored a platinum disc on the day of its release. In 1995 and 1997 Frances won the award for Best Irish Female Artist.

Signed to Sony Records, Black's next album, **"Don't Get Me Wrong,"** appeared in Ireland in 1998. The disc was produced by Declan Sinnott, a musician who had previously worked with Frances' older sister, Mary. That year Frances performed at the Guinness Fleadhs in New York and Chicago. The new millennium saw the release of the retrospective **"The Best of Frances Black"** which featured solo material as well as songs from her days with Arcady and The Black Family. Returning to the Dara imprint, Black's first 21<sup>st</sup> century release to feature new material, **"How High The Moon"** was released in the Fall of 2003. It was co-produced by Black, Sinnott and Dunne.

Discography : **"Frances Black And Kieran Goss"** with Kieran Goss [1992] ; **"Talk To Me"** [1994] ; **"The Sky Road"** [1995] ; **"The Smile On Your Face"** [1996] ; **"Don't Get Me Wrong"** [1998] ; **"The Best of Frances Black"** [2000] ; **"How High The Moon"** [2003] :

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[635 words]