

Mozaik – Bio

The Mozaik line-up is composed of two of Ireland's finest, nay legendary, folk musicians, namely Andy Irvine [vocals, bouzouki, mandolin, harmonica] and Donal Lunny [backing vocals, bouzouki, guitar, bodhren], then there's Bruce Molsky [vocals, fiddle, five-string banjo] from the United States, plus Hungarian Nikola Parov [gadulka, gaida, kaval, tin whistle, clarinet, guitar, kalimba] and Dutchman Rens van der Zalm [backing vocals, fiddle, mandolin, guitar]. According to Andy Irvine the idea for this truly international aggregation came to him on a December morning while driving between Deniliquin and Jerilderie in New South Wales, Australia. Irvine was touring the continent at the time.

Irvine worked with Parov and van der Zalm midway through the nineteen-nineties in his East Wind Trio. Parov subsequently performed in the Riverdance stage show. As for Molsky, Andy had got to know him during a 'picking session' at the American musician's then Atlanta, Georgia home. Back in the mid 1980's, as well as having been members of Planxty, Messrs. Irvine and Lunny performed in a band called Mosaic, which was composed of musicians from a number of European countries. With no dissent from the musicians Irvine sought and soon recruited, life was painlessly breathed into the five-piece Mozaik, an aggregation that performs music from a wide array of cultures.

The group undertook its world debut by touring Australia during early 2002, and the five musicians got together for six days of intensive rehearsals in the coastal town of Rye, Victoria in late February. Irvine and der Zalm had been performing in New Zealand and Australia earlier in the month, while the other players flew in from Dublin [Lunny], Budapest [Parov] and Brooklyn [Molsky]. The band played its first gig, of an almost month long tour, at the Micawber Park Tavern in Belgrave which is located on the eastern fringes of the city of Melbourne in the state of Victoria. The group's debut recording "**Live From The Powerhouse**" was recorded at Brisbane's Powerhouse Centre for the Live Arts on 30th/31st March and the album was released in Ireland two years later by Hummingbird Records, and Stateside by Compass Records. The sextet's first studio recording "**Changing Trains,**" recorded at TOM-TOM Studios in Budapest during 2005, produced by Mozaik, was released in Ireland by Claddagh Records during early November 2007. Compass Records released the disc during January the following year. A mix of traditional and original material – songs and tunes - Uilleann piper Liam O'Flynn [Planxty] who has also worked extensively with Irish composer Shaun Davey, makes a guest appearance on the recording.

Discography : "**Live From The Powerhouse**" [2004] ; "**Changing Trains**" [2007] :

Arthur Wood

Kerrville Kronikles 01/08.

[425 words]