

THE WEE HEAVIES

So be Easy and Free
When you're Drinkin'
wi' me...



JAY HARKEY • PETER MERIDETH • STEVE NEALE • AARON SCHILTZ

*An off-the-wall a cappella band dedicated to music from and influenced by Celtic traditions. . .
and whatever they feel like singing next*

BIO (SHORT)

The Wee Heavies (Jay Harkey, Peter Merideth, Steve Neale, and Aaron Schiltz) began singing together in 2013. Dedicated to music from and influenced by the Celtic tradition, the mostly a cappella band sings mainly their own arrangements in an eclectic mix that runs the gamut from the traditional to the modern. The group, based in St. Louis, MO, has been steadily making a name for themselves over the past few years. Whether singing at major festivals or at more intimate gatherings, their ability to connect with their audiences immediately and in a meaningful way is notable. The rapport of the group brings humor to their shows, and their musical storytelling combined with the fine blend of their voices makes their singing memorable. The band has released two albums: a self-produced self-titled first album, and "Times Long Gone" their second album, produced by Brian McNeill.

BIO (LONG)

The Wee Heavies* began singing together in 2013 after observing a distinct lack of a cappella Celtic music at charitable events. The all male mostly-a cappella band specializes in (but are not limited to) folk music from Scotland, Ireland and England. And maybe Wales at some point...though some of those words are awfully tricky to pronounce. They hit all of the lyrical touchstones of Celtic folk music-- namely Drinking, Women, Fighting, and the manly pursuit of Whaling. In their personal lives, they tend to stick to just Drinking and Women. They are all happily married, so don't get the wrong idea about the Women thing. Their wives (The Wee Hotties) are the only women for them. They do, however, hold no loyalties or covenants when it comes to Drinking.

While famous for harmonies so close you couldn't slip a shilling between them, they are also quickly becoming well-known for their hilarious unscripted banter between songs. Audiences erupt with laughter one minute and then are next moved to tears by the Heavies' original arrangements and moving interpretation. They will have you stomping your feet, singing at the top of your lungs, and raising a glass with them at their next show. You'll think you're in a Glasgow pub wi' yer mates! Slàinte!

*The Wee Heavies (pronounced "Wee" and then the plural of a thing that is heavy) are named after a variety of Scottish beer that they unanimously don't recommend trying. It makes a great band name, though.

*"Having the opportunity to hear such fine singing is a treasure and these lads have a very bright future indeed."
-Brian McNeill, Internationally Acclaimed Scottish Singer,
Songwriter and Performer*

*"On record, The Wee Heavies' approach can be reverent or ribald. . .tender and sonorous. . .whatever the mood of the song, the voices blend warmly and in harmonic accord."
-Christian Schaeffer, The Riverfront Times*

*"With their great sound and original arrangements, The Wee Heavies offer the freshest take on Scottish music we've heard in years." -Diane McCullough, Artistic Director,
Scottish Partnership for Arts and Education*

*"The Wee Heavies' harmonies are an enhancement rather than a detraction; their voices are full, sure, and gorgeous. These guys follow the noble tradition of a cappella groups such as the Voice Squad and the Watsons, letting the songs and the voices work together for the best advantage of both. The Wee Heavies love their songs, know where they come from, and get them **out there**, for the delight of folk and classical audiences as well. A Wee Heavies performance is alternately fun, moving, awe-inspiring and a true delight."
-Judy Stein, artistic director of The Focal Point*

PAST PERFORMANCES INCLUDE:

- The Sheldon Concert Hall, St. Louis, MO 2017
- The Focal Point, St. Louis, MO 2015/16
- Festival of Nations, St. Louis 2013/14/15/16
- Missouri River Irish Festival 2015/16
- St. Louis Scottish Games 2014/15/16
- On tour in Scotland, June, 2014

OFFICIAL WEBSITE

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