

Dublin Station

Arrivals and Departures in Celtic & American Traditional Music



Dublin Station:

- ✦ ...is Lauran & J. Oscar Bittinger
- ✦ **Lauran plays accordion**, whistle, flute, keyboard
- ✦ **J. Oscar plays guitar** and percussion
- ✦ Singing they both do
- ✦ Americans married in Ireland on a bluff above the *North Sea*
- ✦ On stage at: *The Ark, MaMa's Coffeehouse, One Trick Pony, Grand River Folk Arts Society, Wealthy Theatre, Crooked Tree Arts Center* - live radio performances on WYCE & WLAV
- ✦ *A combination of Celtic and American tunes and songs that is, on one hand, familiar enough to be comforting and entertaining, yet energetic enough to be fresh and engaging*
- ✦ Performed with: *The Milroys, Annie & Rod Capps, Ralston Bowles, Drew Nelson, Dave Boutette, Iowa Rose, Floyd King and the Bushwackers*

DUBLIN STATION bring destinations home.

Where the driving engine of Celtic music hooks up to the long train of American songwriting you'll find **Dublin Station**. Arriving on the twin rails of rhythmic tunes and smart songs, **Dublin Station** tell of arrivals and departures, journeys begun or done, and lives unexpectedly intertwined. And the recent year's journey has forged new connections between the traditional and contemporary with new tales to tell and more powerful, and personal, ways to tell them.

Raised in an immigrant family, **Lauran** sang four part harmony with parents and siblings around dinner tables and in chapels. Lessons on antique pianos led from playing in church, to school and eventually to the barroom. Her skill on flute won her a scholarship to the sought-after *Interlochen* summer program. Then, at a yard-sale she spied... an accordion....

A love for politics and the gift of gab were the hallmarks of **J. Oscar's** Scotch Irish heritage, though the family long-settled in the rolling hills of Ohio. On wide family porches and after church suppers he connected to the Celtic ancestry in the bluegrass fiddle tunes played along with country-blues and gospel. Stories told in crayon drawings led to literary studies; but when he discovered the guitar, he found the best way to tell a tale was to carry it on a tune.

In the mid-90's, searching for a place to wed, **Lauran and J. Oscar** took a long ramble across Ireland. Many evenings were spent by the sweet smoky incense of peat fires in pub and parlor sessions trading American songs for Celtic tunes. Drawn in by the lively storytelling, wry humor and shared jars of brown, the hidden connections to favorite songs and tunes began to appear. When they returned home, they dreamed of a way to share the *craic* (good times), the stories and the feeling of their traveling experience.

DUBLIN STATION bring destinations home, to you!