

DAVE ROWE TRIO

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Band Biographies

DAVE ROWE was born in Lewiston, Maine on April 10, 1973. Though he grew up in a very musical environment with two parents who were professional entertainers as well as an uncle and both grandfathers, Dave did not have any musical aspirations as a child. It wasn't until he was a middle school student that he was persuaded by music teachers who were aware of his heritage to participate in the band (as tuba player) and in chorus. In a short time Dave began taking piano lessons from local legend and Juilliard graduate Vesta Orr, quickly moving from Three Blind Mice to cornerstones of the classical piano repertoire. Dave also studied pipe organ and music theory with Professor Marion Anderson at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. Before long Dave realized that he wanted to make music his life's work and began to broaden his experience from classical training into more diverse pursuits. Dave asked his Dad (the late Tom Rowe of Schooner Fare) for electric bass lessons. He soon began teaching himself to play other instruments including guitar, banjo, and mandolin. Within a year he found himself gainfully employed in the music business as the first bass player for the critically-acclaimed Makem Brothers (the sons of legendary Irish music performer, Tommy Makem).

Upon graduation from Edward Little high School, Dave left the Makems to study at the Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford, West Hartford, Connecticut as a music composition major. After a successful semester at Hartt, the call of the road proved too seductive, and Dave left Hartt to tour with rising Maine country music star, Don Campbell, collaborating on Don's second album, "Higher Ground," and co-writing some of Don's signature songs including Love is Blind and Rosalina.

In 1992, while still playing with Don, Dave and his Dad, Tom, formed the group Rowe by Rowe. The duo toured extensively for six years and released one self-titled CD in 1997. After three years with Don, Dave moved on to join forces with the popular award-winning country group, the Silver Dollar Band. He also broadened into performing as a solo artist and started his own Celtic music group, Murphy's Lawbreakers. Following the demise of the Silver Dollar Band, Dave and Tom chose to expand their duo. In April of 1998 they asked guitarist and singer-songwriter Denny Breau to join them. Together they became Turkey Hollow and released two CD's, "Turkey Hollow Consort" in 1999 and "Live Turkey" in 2001.

Following the death of his Dad in the winter of 2004, Dave rededicated himself to his music. He formed the Dave Rowe Trio, a high-energy, neo-celtic, newgrass band, during the production of Dave's critically-acclaimed CD of Celtic and seafaring selections titled *Big Shoes*. The Trio followed up *Big Shoes* with *Rolling Home* in 2005, *The Good Life* in 2006, and a live CD called *Three's a Charm* in 2007. When he is not on the road, Dave teaches guitar, piano, and voice and runs a recording studio. Dave lives in Raymond, Maine with Kimberly; son Kieran; and daughter McKenzie.

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KEVIN O'REILLY was born in Chitose, Japan on July 13, 1969. The son of an intelligence officer for the U.S. Army, Kevin bought his first bass guitar as a junior in high school. Drawn to rock and roll Kevin played in many bands playing various types of rock music through high school and college. Although now known for his work with the Dave Rowe Trio playing all styles of traditional folk music, Kevin has spent the latter half of the '90s and the 00s making solo music for the bass guitar. Kevin insists on exploring and learning different musical styles which has led to numerous strange journeys from his early days in the legendary unknown punk band, Wasted Sperm, to playing in church bands and exploring everything in between. This has included high school bands with Andy Sullivan (*The Internet is Changing Everything*), Jeremy Woodward (*Big Nazoo Puppet Theater*), and Seth Warner (*Music for Awhile*); college bands with Mark Rohman and Chad Walls (*Frotus Caper*); and playing the Portland, ME scene with David Karl Roberts (*Love Cactus, Killer Greens*). In the early '90s Kevin gained notoriety with *Love Cactus* for his furious rocker 'Divebomber,' "...one of the catchiest local songs these days" (*Portland Press Herald*). Kevin appeared on David Karl Roberts' album, *Cadillac*, as well as the *Bumstock '95* CD as part of the Bumstock House Band.

In 1995 Kevin began seriously exploring the idea of solo music which led to creating solo pieces for bass guitar. The discovery of Eberhard Weber and looping opened up vast new worlds to explore and eventually yielded the CD *Acidron*, released in 1998. Kevin followed that up with a second CD, *The View From Left Field* in 2000. 2009 promises the prog-rock/disco mashup CD, *Human Jukebox*. His work has been highly praised by a variety of magazines and online publications. *FACE* magazine proclaimed "O'Reilly makes you see through your ears."

Kevin currently works at Telstar Middle School as a school counselor following 13 years as a high school counselor at Dirigo High School and Telstar High School, having earned his master's degree in education in 1995. He is finishing up his term as Past-President of the Maine Counseling Association after two previous years as President-Elect and President which included a grueling all expenses paid trip to Hawaii for the American Counseling Association conference. He lives in Bethel with his wife Nancy and their two cats.

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ERIC MCDONALD was born in Boston, Massachusetts on July 11, 1987. Despite growing up in a musical environment, Eric came to music later in his teens: while working on a student newspaper with some friends, the group of young journalists set out on a mission to be cool, so naturally they started a band which they called Defenstrated. The group went on to play some of Boston's better-known rock clubs including Bill's Bar and The Palladium and were also WBCN contest winners. With a song in his heart and a guitar in his hands, Eric began frequenting some of the area's open mikes and began meeting some of the numerous Boston-area songwriters including Oen Kennedy and Don White, fostering a love and passion for acoustic music. At the tender age of 14, after joining an intergenerational folk chorus, Eric was persuaded to pick up the mandolin for one of the group's performances. Taking on the challenge, Eric found his stride right away, and discovered his love for the small stringed instrument. With only one month of preparation, he performed both accompaniment and solo duties for the performance on his new instrument and hasn't put it down since.

Three years later, Eric started a band called Jaded Mandolin. The young, tragically short-lived bluegrass band took the Boston acoustic music scene by storm, soon playing sold-out performances at venues all over the city, including the venerable Club Passim, and garnering much critical acclaim from the area's two major newspapers, the *Boston Herald* and the *Boston Globe*. All the while, Eric also performed special performances with Talaria (a duo with his sister Justine), as well as touring with some of New England's best singers and songwriters, lending his special touch on the mandolin to performances by Jess Yoakum, Patty Keough, Thea Hopkins, and others. In 2006 Eric also began performing frequently with the cello-fiddle duo, Ari & Mia Friedman. Recently Eric has also discovered a love for the instrumental folk music often heard these days at contra dances. "Fiddle" tunes adapted to the mandolin have become a mainstay of his musical life. He has been performing at dances around New England with his own contra dance band, *Matching Orange*, as well as sitting in with many other groups including Perpetual eMotion, comprised of John Cote and Edward Howe; Lissa Schneckenburger; and Nor'Easter, comprised of Jullie Vallimont and Cedar Stanistreet. Eric has attended Pinewoods Dance Camp and is a teacher at Maine Fiddle Camp at which he has met and been inspired by some of the country's best acoustic instrumentalists including Keith Murphy, Jeremiah McLane, Glen Loper, Ethan Hazzard-Watkins, Peter Barnes, Owen Marshall, Rushad Eggleston, and many others. In October of 2008 Eric joined and began touring with Maine's **Dave Rowe Trio**, replacing his friend, fiddler Edward Howe, in the trio's lineup.

When he is not gigging, Eric studies mandolin with John McGann at the Berklee College of Music and fills his calendar with musical events and endeavors around his native Boston. He was part of the Bard Squad at the ICONS Festival in 2008. Every Sunday night he can be found sharpening his skills with fellow musicians Sean Staples, Eric Royer, Dan Kellar, Tim Gearan, and Scott Corneille at a local watering hole in Somerville, MA known as The Burren, a mere block from his home.