

Name: Damian Walsh

Family: Father is P.J., mother Mary, brother John and my sister Deirdre.

Occupation: Musician
Who are Na Fianna and how long are you together: We are a four piece band from Laois and Kilkenny who play Irish ballads and contemporary songs accompanying our own music for the past four years.

How long have you worked in the music end of things: I have been playing music for 16 years now with bands and also played on my own for four years.

How did you get into the music industry: I got a guitar when in First Year of school and learned songs with my cousins, forming a band and over the years have played in three bands; one rock and two ballad groups.

What's your favourite part of your job: I love taking a song and feeling the story behind it and trying to communicate its message to an audience.

What's it like to be part of Na Fianna: It is great to play music with friends. We all know each other very well and trust in our ability to entertain and it's always fun.

What is a typical day like for you or is there such a thing in the music industry: The beauty about music is that every day can be as different as you want it to be. All gigs are different and your work outside of gigging is dictated by your own drive to learn and move your band forward.

Your favourite gig: It was Oxegen in Punchestown last year. Our crowd were fantastic.
Your plans for the summer of 2011: Practice and gigging. Practice is for our USA tour in September and October.

Any dream gigs or venues you would like to play: We would love to play Slane!

What is the hardest part of the industry: Missing out on family/friends' parties and weddings - we are working when these are all on!

What's your favourite part of being in Na Fianna: We get to meet and work with some great people.

What tips would you give to someone who wanted to get into the music industry: Practice hard and go to gigs of people from all music genres and learn from the way they entertain you.

What is the secret of your success: Our success can be put down to hard work, the All Ireland talent show, our Manager Darren Farrell, Dolphin Records and a bit of luck too.

What are Na Fianna up to at the moment, tell us all the news from the Na Fianna camp: Presently we are busy writing our own material for our new studio album and also rehearsing for our two month tour of the United States. Lee bought himself a new car (now that the vat rate has gone down) for

Under The Spotlight

By Louise Coghlan

2.99 euro but has lost the receipt. Ross is contemplating another trip to Tramore with a strange family and John is heading to the Zoo!

Where can we see you in Offaly: As yet our gigs in Offaly have been sporadic. We have played in Hugh Lynch's, Tuillamore, and the thatch in Rahau.

How can we contact you: Our website is www.nafiannamusic.com and all details can be found on our site. Also to mention our new Double Live CD and DVD documentary are available to buy now in Tesco and all good music stores. Check out Na Fianna on facebook for up-to-date gig listings.

Have you any connections with the Faithful County, any relatives: We do indeed. I felt a few connections physically playing hurling and football against Offaly teams!! We have family in Cloghan - Joe and Betty Dolan and their children my cousins Sile, Sean and Michael. Also I used to teach with a good friend Laura Sullivan from Banagher. I went to school with Brian Carroll and hurled with him in Kieran's College. Kilkenny John also is friends with Derek Molloy an Offaly senior hurler. Also we have gotten to know one of Offaly's famous sons, Johnny McEvoy, over the years.

Any other bits you would like to add: Since finishing second in the All Ireland Talent show in 2010 we have gone from strength to strength. Darren Farrell took over our management. We recorded a live Album and live DVD which is available from our new online shop from our website and in music shops nationwide. In January 2011 we signed to a new record company Dolphin Music Group and in February 2011, they released their Debut single 'Last One' which is available now on iTunes. We plan a few trips over to America and Canada throughout 2012 and a European tour.

What kind of music do you enjoy: I have a balanced musical diet. Away from Irish ballads band-wise I love Muse, Coldplay, the Killers, Bell x1, U2, Oasis, Keane and Snow Patrol. I also listen to Declan O'Rourke, Bruce Springsteen and David Gray quite a bit too.

Who in the music world would you like to meet: Beyonce without Jay Z!!! I saw her in concert in The Point a few years back and I was blown away by her raw talent, grace and beauty.

Any concerts you have been to that you would recommend to others: That Beyonce was savage but the best band I have seen live is Muse at The Point in 2009. Also U2, Killers and Coldplay are up there too...with Na Fianna!!!!

Who would you admire in the music industry: I admire Bono for all the work he has done in highlighting poverty and third world debt. Now if he only would pay his Irish taxes.....

What radio station do you listen to? I love Midlands 103.

Favourite radio presenter: I find Ann Marie Kelly is the show for me as I try to peel myself from the bed!

What would be your favourite tv show: Has to be Mock the Week or The Inbetweeners.

What would be your favourite tv personality: Without a doubt Gráinne Seoige!

Favourite films: Braveheart, Hunger, Shawshank Redemption, The Wind that Shakes the Barley, In the Name of the Father.

Favourite actor: Daniel Day Lewis.

Favourite actress: Kate Winslet

Favourite food: Lamb and veg stirfry with mint and noodles!

Favourite restaurant: Saba, Thai Restaurant, Clarendon Street, Dublin—wow!

Tea or coffee: Coffee.

Favourite colour: Blue

Sporting interests: I love all sports, especially Gaelic games, soccer and rugby. I played all four sports to a high level winning a Leinster Senior Hurling Medal with St Kieran's College, Kilkenny and a Leinster Minor Football Medal with Laois. I also am proud to have represented Laois at Senior County level in hurling. I still love going to local club and county GAA matches. I am a big Celtic supporter and had a season ticket for four years at Celtic Park. I try to go to as many sporting occasions as possible and even travelled to the Rugby World Cup in Australia in 2003!

Dream Car: 2011 Honda Accord!!

Favourite place to holiday at home and why: I love Kerry, especially the Dingle Peninsula. The scenery and people are unique.

Favourite place to holiday abroad and why: Ko Tao in Thailand. Just you have to go there to believe its beauty.

Three words to describe yourself: Honest, caring, hungry!!!

Favourite Childhood memory: Scoring 3 goals and a point in my first ever Gaelic football match for Knock N.S. without my parents looking on!

What would you do if you won the Euromillions: Pay off as much of my personal debt as I could with the winnings!

If you could invite any 3 people to a party who would you invite: Michael Collins, Gráinne Seoige and George Best

Who would you like to be for a day and why: Bill Gates and give most of his multi million dollars to charities worldwide.

Who would you like to meet: Roy Keane

Who wouldn't you like to meet: Ian Paisley

Are you a reader: Yes but only biographies or historical books, I have no patience for fiction really.

Favourite Author/Book: I loved autobiographies of George Best and Paul McGrath, very emotional and honest.

What did you want to be when you were younger: A soldier until I was about ten, then a teacher.

Most useful invention:



Damian Walsh.

It's the wheel isn't it? Most useless invention: I am working on it!!!

Favourite thing about Ireland: Our sense of humour

Favourite thing about Edenderry: The friendly people and pints in The Four Sons!!

Concept of Hell: A car journey with David Mc Williams.

Concept of Heaven: A place where all people reunite under a banner of peace not prejudice.

Favourite Season: Summer of course!!

Do you think we do enough for the environment: No. On a local level, I hate seeing people destroying our countryside with rubbish, especially on roadsides, and it is becoming a greater problem now as bin charges etc are piling up.

What would you do if you were Taoiseach for a day: Reverse cutbacks in education and rise

taxes on people earning over €100,000 annually. **Do you like dogs and do you think they can be mans best friend:** On both counts, yes; especially my favourite dog Sandy, our Labrador at home.

A piece of advice or a motto: Laugh when you can. Apologise when you should. Let go of what you can't change. Kiss slowly. Play hard. Forgive quickly but don't be a walk-over. Take chances. Give everything, have no regrets. Don't judge too quickly but don't be naive. Educate yourself. Love all. Trust a few. Do wrong to none but be able for your enemy. You will be hurt by those closest, so decide who is worth the pain. Be loyal. Think outside the box. Be considerate. Walk up to that girl you like and tell her. Be genuine. Mind your manners. Show diligence and grace. A pretty face isn't everything - don't become shallow. Be respectful to your parents. Get rid of the people that drag you down. Don't waste energy - remember that to argue with a fool makes two. Work to live...don't live to work. Life's too short to be shy or sensitive. At some point, life will become difficult - remember "it could be worse somehow". Rock the dance floor, start to live it up.

Your favourite cartoon or tv programme from childhood: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

Your favourite magazine or comic from childhood: The Dandy

Anyone you want to give a shout out to: Gráinne Seoige - call me! I seem to have the wrong number as you never call me back!