

John McCane

& Last Of The Breed

Manchester based John McCane & Last Of The Breed are an award winning band on the British Country music scene who draw their inspiration from self penned songs and quality covers. The criteria of their shows is the quality, both in choice and presentation, much in the style of the Irish show bands of the past, hence the band's name, Last Of The Breed.

John McCane is of first generation Irish extraction who spent part of his childhood as a pupil at the prestigious Manchester School Of Music because of his natural ability with musical instruments and singing. In his youth John took the path of many talented youngsters of working class origins in and around the Manchester area when he formed a band with his mates to entertain in youth clubs and social clubs around his home.

He soon found himself on the Irish show band circuit as a bass guitar player and harmony vocalist which in turn led to session work. Along the way John developed his songwriting ability which brought the need to get his talent in front of people. Recordings of a couple of John's own songs, Only A Fool and Know The Dance gained respect and bookings at the Pontin's Country Music Festivals and Mill At The Pier in Wigan. Later John went on to form Last Of The Breed and won the prestigious People's Country Music Award Band of the Year in 2001/2002 and the following year the UK Country Radio Award Single of the Year 2002/2003. The awards continued with Album of the Year and Song of the Year in 2003/2004. The following year saw them winning Listeners Choice 2004/2005.

John's sophomore release, You Get The Lights on Echo Park Records recorded in 2001 followed by Area Code 0161 in 2004, sold very well. His latest album Straight From The Heart has also just been released to John's high standards.

Other members of Last Of The Breed are Pete McDonald, keyboard, piano, vocals. Amongst other accolades he has toured with The Dakotas and has made many tv appearances. Pete has also worked as an extra on tv and as a comedy scriptwriter - freelance and commissioned - for the Two Ronnies, Les Dawson, Russ Abbott and Brian Conley, etc. He is also a fine artist/cartoonist and keeps a comic book record of the band. He is also a qualified teacher.

Mike Foley, lead/rhythm guitar and vocals started singing in the pubs and clubs in 1965 around the Manchester area. He began playing the guitar and formed a rock 'n' roll trio. He turned professional in 1972 and then in 1973 took a job playing in a notorious Manchester strip club six nights a week. He then joined Victor Brox Blues Train and played with them on and off for six years in between working with other bands in both Britain and Germany. He has played in



Germany, Holland and England and at one stage worked with Tommy Bruce and P J Proby.

In 1984 he met John McCane for the first time and joined him in a band called Country Comfort. He played with various Manchester band's until giving music up to become an English teacher. He's now out of teaching and back into music.

Martin Clooney, drums and vocals has played with every type of band in and around the Manchester music scene. In the past he has played with Stockton Wings, Rattle & Reel, Toss The Feathers, Cullainn and Barry James Band. He has supported many of the major acts including The Pogues, Van Morrison, Bob Dylan and Chris Rea as well as touring most of Europe.

Gerry McLaughlin, lead/slide guitar and vocals was raised in Leeds and has been playing guitar since the age of 10 cutting his teeth around the folk clubs and studied at Manchester University alongside contemporaries Rik Mayall, Ade Edmondson and Ben Alton. Gerry was a founder member of Gags, a famous Manchester band who became residents at The Band On The Wall throughout the 80s. He later played with The Valley Band, Pete MacLaine & The Clan, The Removal Men and Newcastle rockers Archie Brown and the Young Bucks. Gerry is also a qualified IT teacher and also a music tutor.

John McCane has three songwriters in the band and three qualified teachers .

Let's hope he finds even more success with Straight From The Heart and it takes him into the international marketplace.