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ALBUM REVIEW: PADDY MURPHY- 'Rams Rebels Goats And Girls' (2020)

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If you want to indulge in Celtic Folk Rock, you will definitely take pleasure in Paddy Murphy. Homesickness, the struggle for freedom, sailor's yarns, love of the odd drink and the rebellious Irish spirit coming together in a musical whirlwind from Austria!



With the popularity of Celtic-Punk in Germany second to none it's perhaps no surprise that this love should have spread to their next door neighbours in Austria. Still it's not a country particularly well endowed with bands with only Scotch from Weyer in Upper Austria making a mark upon the scene (their fantastic debut EP Last In The Bar is still available for free download (<https://wp.me/p3Huvn-306>)). In common with the bands from Germany Paddy Murphy (a band not a fella!) don't just perform straight up Celtic-Punk but rather their own interpretation. An individualist streak that flows through the scene that manages to stop bands being too samey.



In common with Scotch Paddy Murphy also hail from Upper Austria in particular the town of Steyr and though they not be particularly well known this side of the English channel in Europe they have a strong pedigree of touring going back well over a decade. Paddy Murphy have been taking their brand of Irish Speed Folk Rock as they describe it themselves to a multitude of festivals across Germany, France and Switzerland in particular and headlined to tens of thousands at festivals in Italy in Padova and Rasa. Founded in 2008 Rams, Rebels, Goats & Girls is Paddy Murphy's third studio album after 2012's Dog's Dinner and 2014's Coffin Ship. Both of which you can hear (<https://www.paddymurphy.at/kopie-von-media>) on their Web-Site. They also released a handful of singles and EP's

over the last few years (all with absolutely stunning artwork most featuring their logo of a goat!) which has boosted their popularity with a great selection of covers and original material.



Paddy Murphy from left to right: Florian Aufreiter – Drums * Franz Höfler – Acoustic Guitar, Banjo, Mandolin, Irish-Bouzouki, Harp, Vocals * Ingolf Wolfsegger – Bass, Vocals * Hermann Hartl – Fiddle, Vocals * Oliver Loy – Electric Guitar, Vocals

Rams, Rebels, Goats & Girls was released in early March and came out on ATS Records. It's been sitting round LCP Towers ever since and due to a mix up over who was going to do it it never got the review it deserved at the time. Still hopefully this will make up for it! Fourteen songs (the CD has a extra two live tracks) in total that comes to just under a hour about that green island, women, whiskey and Guinness! The album begins with 'We Hoist The Sail' and bursts with energy out of the speakers and if its top quality Celtic-Punk you are after then you have come to the right place my friends. Echos of fellow German bands The O'Reillys And The Paddyhats and The Feelgood MacLouds but this band have their own style. A great opener and vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Franz Höfler certainly knows his history of Ireland in a song that even uses the popular Irish term 'Amerikay'. 'My Dark Foamy Friend' is a song that has a dual meaning of the sea or the pint but I know which one is preferred! Released as a single it reached over 20,000 listeners within a few weeks on Spotify. I have to say that the fiddle on this album is absolutely brilliant so hats off to Hermann Hartl for his incredible work. It is seriously some of the best fiddle I have ever heard on a Celtic-Punk album and i Happy to hear it used extensively throughout the thirteen tracks. 'Black Ones Brown Ones Blond Redhead' is another dual song meaning beer and this time women and this time they prefer women to beer! Fast and energetic and whats that I hear its the harmonica one of my favourite instruments and criminally underused in Celtic-Punk. When

I first played this album the next track stood out on its own. Paddy Murphy like their own stuff but are not averse to the odd cover and their 'Basket Case' by Green Day done Irish style and it is an absolute belter of a song! Give it a listen and be hooked.

Paddy Murphy - Basket Case



Very clever and highly original it is a great choice of song and makes a change from 'I'll Tell Me Ma'. If I've played this song once I've played it a 1,000 times. Another couple of drinking songs follow telling the different sides of life 'Just One Drink' is a jaunty wee number while 'Time to Make Some Changes' sees a life in turmoil on a visit to Ireland. Slow, sad and swirling in that traditional Irish way that makes you want to put your arms around a complete stranger (even in these strange times!). Who said Celtic-Punk can't do emotional? We do it better than fecking anyone! Time for a famous song and they don't come more famous than 'The Irish Rover'. Known to everyone and covered by just about everyone too. They make a decent job of it nothing particularly special but you know if you heard this down the pub you'd be banging on tables and shouting your lungs out along to it. The Country influenced 'At Least for Tonight' is catchy as hell. What I call a thigh slapper.

"Get up and dance and drink all night"

'American Dreams' is the album's longest song heading towards six minutes and not for one second outlives its welcome. Franz again opens up and his aching vocals make for a great song. Irish themes abound and one of the standout things about this album is the quality of the lyrics. Pure poetry and proper story telling whether it's a pub song or a Punk-Rock thrasher. We in Pop-Punk territory next with 'You'll Never Bring Us Down' with the Celtic competing with the Punk. The song ends with being both and will be a real dance floor filler once we're allowed back on the dance floor that is.

You'll Never Bring Us Down



So we've had quite the album so far that has taken us around the Celtic-Punk scene and it's many influences and they may have almost gone ballad in places they deliver it next with 'The Cliffs of Grey'. A beautiful and touching yet haunting ballad whose depth will shock those here only for the drinking songs. After that the aptly titled 'Gloomlifter Jig' shows Paddy Murphy have even more left in their arsenal with a perfect traditional Irish that soon enough sees the electric side of the band coming in and we end up with a song that would have graced any Horslips album. Another catchy as hell number on a album where there is absolutely no filler at all. Each song is of an incredibly high standard and it's no surprise why when you trawl their photos on Facebook their live gigs are always packed out. The work for Rams, Rebels, Goats & Girls began a whole year before its release and the hard work shows. 'Epic Scene of Life' is a perfect example of their sound.

Epic Scene of Life



Uplifting and bursting with energy and at all times refreshing in a scene that as I said can be a bit samey. The curtain comes down on the album with a amazing version of Scottish singer-songwriter Eric Bogle's 'No Man's Land', probably better known as 'The Green Fields Of France Written in 1976 it's message is ever lasting sadly and here Paddy Murphy perform one of the best versions I have ever heard. Bagpipes add to the songs emotional roller-coaster and is the perfect way to see the album out.

Irish and Celtic music appeals to people of all ages and nationalities. That is what is really special about it and Paddy Murphy are immersed in that sound and this Austrian Irish Folk-Rock Band is committed to continuing that tradition! Celtic-Punk is often derided or misunderstood by Irish Folk ~~snebs~~ purists who think the artists are more influenced by Sid Vicious than Matt Molloy but this is a direct descendant of the music played in Ireland 100's of years ago. That they can keep that tradition while also throwing in the Punk/Rock sound they have is testament to the bands outstanding musical ability. Fiddle, banjo, mandolin, acoustic guitar, bodhran, drums, electric bass, electric guitar and five male voices have made this album what it is and it would be a act of criminal negligence for the Irish music scene and its fans to pass it by.



Buy Rams Rebels Goats & Girls – CD- *FromTheBand* (<https://www.paddymurphy.at/store>). *ATS Records* (https://www.ats-records.de/contents/en-us/p503_Paddy_Murphy_-_Rams_Rebels_Goats_Girls.html).
Download- *AppleMusic* (<https://music.apple.com/de/album/rams-rebels-goats-girls/1499705963>).

Contact Paddy Murphy – *WebSite* (<https://www.paddymurphy.at/>). *Facebook* (<https://www.facebook.com/Paddy-Murphy-168778501368/>). *Instagram* (<https://www.instagram.com/paddymurphyband/>). *YouTube* (<https://www.youtube.com/user/PaddyMurphyFolkRock/videos>).

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