

From the band's point of view, it was a great commitment, the other members who had not played Celtic music before including guitarist David Ekh found it a worthwhile experience. "I found it very interesting, I was kind of a blank card as regards the Irish tradition although we had been looking at some of the songs back in Sweden but looking at how to play those tunes on guitar was a new experience. I only play pop and rock music in Sweden so I am adding some of the pop thing to the band." "All of us come more or less from a Pop background", Martin elaborates "but Jenny and I have dug deeper into the Celtic tradition but we all come from that point of view."

While they have played in Sweden and Europe, among their favourite memories of touring is the time they spent in Ireland. Was the band surprised by the level of interest from Ireland in West of Eden's music? I inquired of fiddler player Tobias Everdson, "No I didn't think that surprised me at all because I think there is a musical connection between Scandinavian countries and Ireland. I think that people here are more open minded towards a blend of folk rock and traditional music and that is what we have at home. We weren't surprised and it felt good because people accepted us as we were and were not trying to get us into a certain genre, so that was great. I was here in 1990 playing on the streets

and it was just for fun and to see sessions and travel with a friend." What was his first reaction to a session? "It was nothing you found back home, not on a daily basis and I think it's wonderful that music is such a part of life on a daily basis."

More recently Martin and Jenny Schaub have branched out and issued their own album 'Kite High'. Playing all the instruments himself behind Jenny's lush vocals, Martin has created some appropriate arrangements

To get an authentic handle on Traditional Music the band attended the Blás summer school in Limerick and the result of those two weeks is our duo album 'Kite High'

for songs including the traditional 'Flower of Magherally', 'Paddy's Lamentation', English traditional ballads 'The Snow it melts the soonest' and 'Poor old Horse' as well as some fine original material. This is the pulse of West of Eden unplugged. "We had learned some songs from when we were last in Ireland and they didn't seem to fit West of Eden and Martin had written some material that was more traditional in nature so it felt like there was no need for

the electric guitar. Its more intimate and acoustic, we played it for ourselves and it is released in Sweden and its also nice to have those songs recorded to get gigs of another nature. Sometimes people think, 'oh you're just a pop band' and its nice to have this record as well to show that we can sound like this too'. Jenny Schaub explained. "It's nice to do a mix of acoustic shows and band gigs. You get different things from different gigs. We are playing in churches and also some big festivals and for the acoustic shows we have three or four members and on a big gig with the band you get a lot of energy."

West of Eden are also working on their fourth album, "We have studio time booked for November and we will take it easy this time recording and put it together over time; as we all have families now and we would prefer to take our time recording and get it absolutely right. What we want to do is make an album that covers everything that is part of West of Eden so far."

Along with releasing three classy albums, West of Eden is represented on several compilations, alongside artists such as Mary Black, Clannad and Sinead O'Connor. Definitely, something special West of Eden is unique. They play the melodic Celtic Pop game with poise, originality, and style. One thing they have is buckets of integrity and Sweden once again shows the rest of the world how to produce a fine album.



"The Ulster Scots Folk Orchestra have not just opened our eyes to another wonderful and enriching music and dance culture of this island, but have also challenged us to redefine ourselves as musicians and our music as all our music." Professor Micheal O'Sulleabhain  
Irish World Music Centre, University of Limerick.



The full Folk Orchestra will support 'Nae Goat's Toe' in the structured stage show 'Fae Lang Syne' at Belfast Festival at Queens on November 2nd - A portrayal of the history of the Ulster Scots people through music, song, dance and spoken word. Venue - Lyric Theatre. Admission £12 (€17.50) and €9 (€13).  
Contact festival booking office 028 90972626.

For details on other performances check website

[www.ulster-scots-folk.com](http://www.ulster-scots-folk.com)



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