

BALTIC CROSSING



Photo: © Ronni Kot Wenzell

The band was founded in January 2004 and consists of young musicians from Finland, Denmark and UK:

Ian Stephenson [UK] guitar & button accordion

Graduated from the degree course Folk and Traditional Music Degree Course at the Newcastle University, now he's teaching at the same place. Besides Baltic Crossing he is known from playing in **422**, **Kathryn Tickell Band** and other bands. A very active musician and starter of many initiatives, among that he's one of the organizers behind the Windy Bottom Folk Festival.

Andy May [UK] Northumbrian – and uilleann pipes & piano

Widely respected player and carrier of the tradition on the Northumbrian pipes. He won his first piping competition at the age of 10, since that he's won many more and now he's most often behind the judge's table at the competitions. Andy is also teaching and building pipes and actively playing and touring with **Jez Lowe Band** and his own **Andy May Band**.

Antti Järvelä [FI] double bass & mandolin

Grew up in the famous folk music village Kaustinen. He plays in some of the most well-known Finnish folk music bands, such as **JPP**, **Troka** and not the least **Frigg** which he started and is now running successfully. Antti has participated on a lot of albums with both his own groups and for other musicians. Now he's studying folk music at the Sibelius Academy of Music, as well as being an active teacher himself.

Esko Järvelä [FI] fiddle & viola

Is Antti's cousin and he also comes from Kaustinen, where his father, Mauno Järvelä, is one of the most honoured musicians and important promoters of the local musical tradition. Esko also plays in **Frigg**, as well as **Tsuumi Sound System**, **Töttersön**, his own **Es&Co** and other groups. Just like Antti, he's also studying folk music at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki.

Kristian Bugge [DK] fiddle

In 2004 he received the "Radium Award" of The Danish Radio. That included a CD contract and his debut album was released in June 2005. The year after Kristian was rewarded with two Danish Music Awards, "Folk debut of the year" and "Folk instrumentalist of the year"! **Baltic Crossing** is featured on 7 seven of the tracks from that CD. Kristian also plays with **Habadekuk**, **Jensen & Bugge** and **Wenzell & Bugge** among others.

These five busy, young musicians are meeting often to play and tour together, with each others music in each others countries and the rest of the world. During the first days of January 2008 they recorded their debut CD in Helsinki, Finland. The CD was released by Go Danish Folk Music in March (www.gofolk.dk). They have already been touring six times last year and much more is coming in 2009! **Baltic Crossing** are lately also featured as the backing group on Norwegian singer, Helene Bøksle's new CD which was released on January 12th 2009 by Universal Music Norway. (www.myspace.com/helenebksle)

Antti, Esko and Kristian also play together in the trio, **Kings of Polka** (www.myspace.com/kingsofpolka)

Baltic Crossing performs with a strong energy and it is clear to everyone how they enjoy playing together. In combination with a very high technical and musical level this gives the audience an extraordinary experience. It's hard to sit down to their music and they have also been playing for all imaginable kinds of dancing. The musicians in **Baltic Crossing** are travelling a lot, when they play they invite the listeners to come along on an exciting journey through the Scandinavian and Celtic countries and musical traditions.

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