

Dan Ar Braz *Made In Breizh*

Celtic Music...

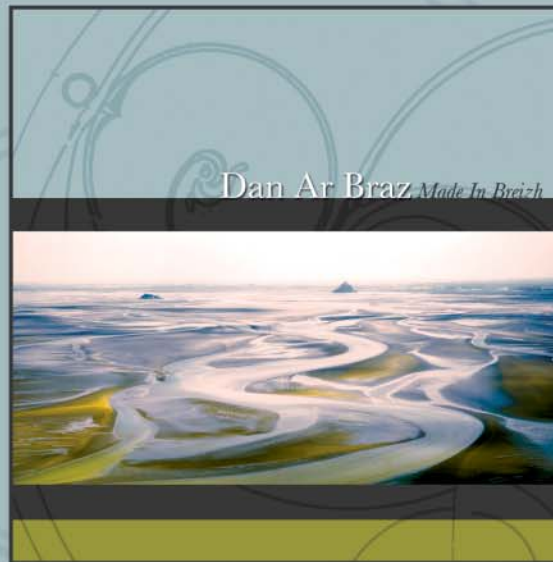
The Celts, 2000 years B.C. had already traveled across Europe, the Balkans and Asia Minor. The Celtic tribes were linked only by language, the druidic religion and a deep love of art. Eventually the Celts had settled in Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, the Isle of Man, Brittany and Galicia, all land bordered by salt and sand.

Today, some of the best known musicians and singers from the Celtic countries gather around the guitarist Dan Ar Braz and producer Donal Lunny to share their amazing musical heritage with us.



Track Listing...

01. *Borders of Salt* 4:18
02. *Spike Island Lasses* 3:08
03. *Green Lands* 3:44
04. *King of Laois* 3:47
05. *Scottish Suite* 2:13
06. *Call To The Dance* 3:16
07. *Broken Prayer* 2:48
08. *Evit Ar Barz* 4:32
09. *Left In Peace* 4:43
10. *Finisterres* 3:39
11. *Diwanit Bugale* 4:18
12. *Faces of Spain* 4:02



artist: **Dan Ar Braz** title: **Made In Breizh**
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Dan Ar Braz *A Closer Look*

The Music of Dan Ar Braz

"Made In Breizh" features a selection of music compiled from the albums, "Héritage Des Celtes", "Finisterres" and "La Mémoire Des Volets Blancs". The album features 70 of the finest musicians and singers from Brittany, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, and Galicia all reunited to celebrate the spirit and the diversity of Celtic Music.

Dan Ar Braz, a lifelong native of Quimper, in Brittany, is recognized throughout the world as an outstanding musician but was relatively little known until the success of Héritage des Celtes.

Dan discovered the guitar through so called "rock and folk" with people like Hank Marvin, Bert Jansch, Rory Gallagher, Steve Stills and Donovan... When he joined Alan Stivell in the early '70's, acoustic and electric guitars were his tools. He acquired a style, which has made him one of the very best and respected guitar players in the world.

In 1976, as Stivell stopped touring for a while, Dave Swarbrick from Fairport convention asked him to join the famous folk rock band. The same year Dan started to write his own music and got ready to record his first acclaimed solo record "Douar Nevez" (New Land). When that Fairport line up broke up at the end of '76, Dan went back with Stivell until February of '77. Then he started up a solo career and toured widely around Europe and the USA while recording albums between '84 and '94.

On July 24th, 1993, the man who's since become his manager, Jacques Bernard, asked him to federate 75 musicians from all the Celtic countries for what turned out to be a legendary concert at the close of the 70th Festival de Cornouaille in Quimper, Brittany. Dan organized the program from his musical heritage, pop music, folk music and traditional roots. It pleased all generations that turned out and was a great success.

Never before in Brittany had such an ambitious project been conceived. "Heritage des Celts", Dan's first album for Sony France, was produced by Donal Lunny, includes the addition of Sharon Shannon, Maire Ni Chathasaigh, Carlos Nunez...

Recorded by Brian Masterson at Windmill Lane studio in Dublin, which has hosted U2 and the Rolling Stones, this session produced 12 exceptional tracks. Released in autumn of 1994, the album has exceeded all expectations and sold over 300,000 copies in France alone.

The live recording which followed, was awarded the "Victoires de la Musique" award for the Best World Music Album. The success of both of these albums has lifted Dan Ar Braz to a platform of international recognition in the company of Donal Lunny, Bagad Kemper, Karen Matheson, Elaine Morgan and many others involved.

This even more diverse choice of musicians has resulted in an album of outstanding beauty and emotional performances which undoubtedly will lead to further international acclaim.

Chronology of Dan Ar Braz

- 1949 - Born in Quimper (French Brittany).
- 1972 - After playing in dance-bands, and later for Jacques Higelin, guitarist Dan Ar Braz (whose name was then spelled Dan Ar Bras) joins Alan Stivell's group with whom he'll tour for five years.
- 1976 - Dan leaves Stivell to join Fairport Convention, the legendary English folk group which will later make the cover of Melody Maker.
- 1977 - Homesick for Brittany, Dan comes home and releases an instrumental album, "Douar Nevez".
- 1978 - Dan's new album "Allez dire à la ville", sung in French, strikes the Breton microcosm like a thunderbolt. That same year, he spearheads a collective album to help raise funds for the Amoco Cadiz oil spill victims and their families. He also features on a Malicorne album.
- 1979 - His new instrumental album "The Earth's Lament" is a true electric symphony: Dan even manages to make his guitar sound like bagpipes at times.
- 1980-1990 - The somewhat indifferent reception Breton music gets in France sends Dan touring abroad, especially in the US and Great-Britain. During these struggling years, he records an album for Keltia (an indie Breton label): "Acoustic" (1985).
- 1991-1994 - Convinced nonetheless that Celtic music does have a future, Dan perseveres and records 3 more albums: "Les Iles de la Mémoire" (1991), "Dan Ar Braz sings Xavier Grall" (1992), and "Themes For The Green Lands" (1994). At the 1993 Festival de Cornouailles in Quimper, he performs with 70 musicians, thus forming the group L'Héritage des Celtes (Celtic Heritage). A year later in Rennes, Dan and his group are so successful that they are signed on by Columbia/Sony. Recorded in April, "Dan Ar Braz: L'Héritage des Celtes" is mixed in May/June at the mythical Dublin Windmill Lane studio where U2 and Sinéad O'Connor also work.
- 1995 - The CD reaches a wide audience, far beyond the geographical limits of Brittany, and leads to a long tour, culminating in a blaze of glory at the Zénith in Paris.
- 1996 - Recorded in Rennes, the "Live on Tour" album - another smashing success - is awarded a Victoire de la Musique (Traditional Music Category).
- 1997 - New studio album, "Finisterres" with the Celtic Heritage group. Another tour with a grand sold-out finale at the Zénith, and another Victoire de la Musique.
- 1998 - Double live CD and live video recorded at the Zénith.
- 1999 - French Tour - Dan takes part in "Bretagnes", together with Alan Stivell, Tri Yann, Gilles Servat and Armens. The venue of this mammoth St.Patrick's Day concert is Bercy. A live CD "Bretagnes" follows shortly afterwards.
- 2000 - Concerts in Brittany (at the Lorient Interceltic Festival) New album recorded in Dublin.
- 2001 - Releases a solo album, "La Mémoire Des Volets Blanc".
- 2002 - New album, "Made in Breizh" featuring selections from "Héritage Des Celtes", "Finisterres" and "La Mémoire Des Volets Blancs"

