

## Johnny Logan - Irishman in America (2008)

Written by bluelover

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1 *Rocky Road To Dublin* 2 *The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down* 3 *Belle Of Belfast* 4 *Dancing With My Father* 5 *This Land Is Your Land* 6 *Piece Of My Heart* 7 *The Alabama Song* 8 *Bridges Of My Heart* 9 *Sorry* 10 *Paddy On The Railway* 11 *Waxies Dargle* 12 *Irishman In America* + 13 *Why Me*    Accordion – Peter Dencker Arranged By – Johnny Logan (tracks: 1 to 8, 10 to 12) Bass Guitar – Jacob Skytte Dobro, Banjo, Mandolin – Wanda Wick Drums, Percussion – Jesper Andersen Fiddle – John Sheahan, Wanda Wick Guitar – Michael Sherrard, Pauli Andreasen, Wanda Wick Harmonica – Charlie McCoy Pedal Steel Guitar – Lloyd Green Piano, Organ [Hammond] – Andreas Linse Pipe [Uilleann Pipes], Flute [Irish] – Tommy Keane Vocals, Producer, Arranged By [Backing Vocals] – Johnny Logan Whistle [Irish], Recorded By – John Sheahan Backing Vocals – Heidi Trolle, Peter Dencker, Adam Sherrard, Fionn Sherrard, Jack Sherrard, Johnny Logan

Johnny Logan is building a lot of bridges on his album "Irishman in America". A bridge between Ireland and America. A bridge between past and present. A bridge between those of us who are still alive and those of our dear ones who have crossed to the land of the dead. Johnny Logan takes us down many roads and has many ambitions with his album. It comes as a continuation of the album called "The Irish Connection". The recordings practically sent Logan on a journey around the globe. He recorded the rhythmic section - that is drums and bas - in Denmark together with his Danish band. Then he went to Germany to record all the keys, among others keyboard and piano, then he went to Nashville, USA to record the stringed instruments, pedal guitar and steel guitar, dobro, banjo, and the American fiddle – that is the violin. "There is not a single electric guitar on the album. Everything is made with acoustic guitars", Johnny Logan explains in a voice reverberating with pride. From the USA he had to go back to Ireland to record the Irish fiddle and the characteristic Irish tin whistle. Beyond "Irishman in America" Logan has also written the songs "Sorry", "Bridges of my Heart" and "Dancing with my Father". The latter is also building a bridge to the beloved dear ones who have passed away, as it goes in the first lines of the chorus: "So I go/ dancing with my father/ through the streets of yesterday....". The American link which Logan is making is connected to the history of Ireland, which saw thousands of men and women crossing the Atlantic Ocean to the land on the other side. Along they brought a musical tradition that has influenced the music which arose in the

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USA. "Thus bluegrass and the Cajun music have been strongly inspired by Irish music", says Johnny Logan. But it is neither bluegrass nor Cajun songs that Logan has chosen for the album from America's enormous backlist. He has chosen songs that in one way or another have meant something to him. And they are all very different. Right from "This Land is your Land", which is an old American traditional, to "Piece of my Heart", which is one of the biggest hits from the folk-rock-queen Janice Joplin. "It was important for me to find some songs which had a groove which touched me. They are all songs that were popular in the USA in the 70'ies, because I was very attracted to the country in those days and to everything on the music stage then. For example I simply love Janice Joplin, so it was only natural for me to include one of her songs". Yet another bridge between the USA and Ireland - and between the USA and the Logan family - is the bridge that was built when Johnny's dad, Patrick O'Hagan sang for the three American presidents, Lyndon B. Johnson, John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon. But otherwise it is mainly musically that Johnny Logan wishes to build bridges. He does that by allowing the two musical traditions to blend in untraditional arrangements where for example the Irish and the American fiddle are practically battling in the same tune. But, of course, quite true to Johnny Logan's heart – a mainly friendly battle. ---Rie Nielsen, easytell.dk

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