



## FRED

### *history/bio*

FRED began life as a hobby for three teenage lads (Jamie, Emmett and Liam) from Tralee, County Kerry Ireland. A move to Cork city for college saw FRED grow to a six-piece as the lads recruited three Corkonians: Joseph, Justin and Eibhilin.

After a series of fitful stops, starts and misadventures, FRED launched themselves in earnest with the release of their debut album, *Can't Stop I'm Being Timed* (2002). Released independently with no proper distribution or coordinated marketing or PR push, FRED were overwhelmed by the response to it. Their hard work and reputation as one of the most exciting live bands in the country helped them to sell their debut outing.

Their string of achievements based on this first tentative step was remarkable by any standards. The press response was glowing. They received airplay on all the national radio stations (highlights include performing live on Tom Dunne's "Pet Sounds," The John Creedon Show on Radio 1 and BBC's "Across the Line"). They also made their first appearances on TV (RTE 2's ID, TG4's Cula 4, BBC). The record was described in the print media as 'Wonderful' 'Amazing' and 'Superb'.

Their reputation on the live performance scene also went from strength to strength after the release of their first record, with the highlights including two successful tours of Central Europe, as well as filling the Witness Rising tent to its heaving point at the prestigious Witness Festival in the summer of 2003.

Different commitments forced a line-up change in summer 2003. So as Emmett and Liam departed, Jamin O'Donovan from Limerick was drafted in. One man to replace two is an onerous task indeed, but O'Donovan rose to the challenge admirably and FRED have now become the tight knit five piece they are today.

September 2006 saw FRED play their debut show in London's famed Hope & Anchor to a sell out crowd, all by word of mouth. Their 'Cult Status' as the Irish media so often refers to, is really another way of expressing that FRED has the strongest grassroots fan base any Irish band have ever achieved. Without any formal publicity campaigns in Ireland, Fred continue to play sold out shows around the country. Shows that are now often described as quite theatrical events, with no two the same.

In April 2007 Fred accepted an invitation to play at a college music conference in Boston, where they again managed to steal the show. After the conference they traveled down to New York City to play a showcase gig at Arlene's Grocery. They arrived back in Ireland two days later with a worldwide publishing deal and an invitation to come and play on "The Music From Ireland" showcase at this year's CMJ music marathon in New York.

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