Making an audience feel special and inclusive is one of the strengths of the Claddagh performance. The ability to quickly read an audience, develop a rapport through audience participation and ensure the performance of a repertoire that will engage and please the audience is the stand-out strength of the Claddagh show. This ability is what has Claddagh returning to repeat appearances at festivals and shows on a regular basis. It is what held Claddagh as the resident Sunday band for fifteen years at The Mercantile Hotel in Sydney and a regular feature act at the National Celtic Festival in Portarlington for ten years.

The Claddagh line up is:

**Mark Butler**, lead singer and guitarist with Claddagh has been playing the folk music circuit for over thirty years in Ireland and Australia, delighting audiences with his powerful voice and easy-going stage presence. His unique ability to make an audience feel at home and a part of the show is the strength of the Claddagh performance. The set-list is often thrown to the wind and the audience is asked to request their favourite songs. He has an extensive repertoire and rarely gets stumped on a request! This unique strategy ensures no two shows at a festival are ever the same, the audience leaves each show feeling like they have been well-entertained and have heard a mix of songs and tunes that perfectly suited them.

**Mary McEvilly Butler** hails from the west of Ireland, with a very strong family tradition of playing irish music. Mary has played the fiddle since early childhood and has travelled extensively playing in music groups, sessions and festivals around Ireland, the UK, the USA, Australia and New Zealand. She forms a central role in Claddagh, delivering beautiful music that complements the folk songs and provides wonderful tunes to keep the feet tapping!

**Leon Delander** from Gunnedah, NSW has been playing bass and trumpet in the music circuit and bands around Sydney and NSW, for over thirty years. Aside from playing in club bands, Leon has always enjoyed playing in a number of popular Irish bands throughout NSW. He has appeared in many music festivals as part of these bands and is an integral member of the Claddagh line-up. He delivers a strong distinctive voice and superb harmonies.

**Jacinta Adamson**, based in Sydney is Claddagh’s keyboards and piano player and backing singer. Jacinta is a high-school music teacher by profession and has held a strong passion for Irish folk music since an early age. Her entire family are musicians and have been playing in Irish bands for many years. Jacinta joined Claddagh to replace her sister, Joanne, who emigrated to Ireland with her family. Jacinta’s sensitive arrangements and vocal harmonies are the back-bone of the Claddagh performance.