

Ladenburg: The Irish band Blackwater plays big time in the 'Kaiserkeller'

Celts and Romans are having a Party



The SPD hosted an Irish evening in the Kaiserkeller. 150 listeners came and were enthusiastic over the band 'Blackwater' which rocked the house.

"The Blackwater", a river in the south of Ireland, "gave us our name. But perhaps it was also the one or the other pint of our national drink of similar color", says Christy O'Neill with a twinkle, the voice and guitar of the Blackwater Band. The 5 musicians, all amateurs, harmonize perfectly and they are nothing short of brilliant with their instruments. They simply carry their audience away. Right from the beginning the band created a top mood in the 'Kaiserkeller' and the 150 visitors who followed the invitation of the SPD were fascinated from the first song on (remark: SPD is a political party in Germany).

Irish Folk means drinking and love songs that tell of more or less happy relationships, of jealousy but also of the anguished history when England still ruled the country. But Irish folk means also jigs, reels and hornpipes. These are quite vivid dance songs and nobody can sit still when they are played. Consequently the 'Heidelberg Irish Dancers' tried a step or two - not so easy in the packed cellar.

On their webpage the Blackwater Band is promising to be 'the best traditional Irish music band you will have heard in a long time'. Quite a full-bodied sentence, but not promised too much. Five musicians who truly master their instruments and who let you feel their joy of playing. The listeners by all means were simply enthused and the encores didn't want to end.

Christy O'Neill, the head of the band, runs a pub in Dungarvan, the 'Marine Bar', where they play on a regular basis every Monday night. The brandnew, just released CD 'Live from the Kitchen' was also recorded there. The CD booklet says: 'If music be the food of life, welcome to the kitchen!'. Even after many years of playing together, the five never lost the fun in music. Christy O'Neill rather seems to feel sorry, that a day has only 24 hours to make music. With Caroline King, Michael "Finn" Flynn, Michael McKenna and Nicky Power Christy O'Neill is following an invitation to China in January 2009 and in March, on the national holiday St. Patrick's Day the Blackwater Band is playing in the Lebanon. And what's about Ladenburg? It looks like they will return to here too!