

North Belfast native Pat McGarvey is the vocalist and banjo player with one of the most exciting folk bands around, Southern Tenant Folk Union. The award-winning band, who are based in Scotland, release their new album *Hello Cold Goodbye Sun* on February 4. Named the Americana Artist of the Year 2010 at the British Country Music Awards, the band return for a nine date Irish tour starting on February 7. For full tour dates visit [www.southerntenantfolkunion.com](http://www.southerntenantfolkunion.com)

# Keeping it country after Floral dance

## Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born in Belfast at the Royal...we lived on Floral Gardens (in amongst other red brick houses just to the side of M2 near Cave Hill/Zoo) until I was three years old and then we moved to Formby in Merseyside/Lancashire

## Where did you go to school?

Our Lady's Primary/Junior School – Formby, Holy Family High School – Crosby, St Gregory's RC High School – Kenton, London and finally Queen Mary's Sixth Form College – Basingstoke, Hants

## What is your earliest memory?

Floral Gardens actually – I can picture playing outside – I think I ate a piece of dried poo and got in trouble (I think I'd worry if my three year old daughter ate something similar – we're on constant 'jobbie' alert here in Leith in Edinburgh – it's everywhere)

## What did you want to be when you were a child?

Definitely a spaceman...or the screenwriter for Dr Who (when Tom Baker was doctor)

## What are the worst and best jobs you have ever had?

Worst job was working in a plastic moulding factory where you just opened a machine, put something inside, closed it, pushed a button and then took it out and put it in a box. I don't remember the other people there being friendly either. Also worked at a box making factory – that might've been even more boring. Best job is what I do now, being a self-employed musician

## Who is your most inspiring person?

Argentine jazz pianist and movie score composer Lalo Schiffrin. Just for the breadth and depth of his amazing creativity. Anything is possible in music and Mr Schiffrin (I've not met him so maybe shouldn't call him Lalo) demonstrated that over and over again

## What is your favourite book, film, and band?

My favourite book is Easy Rider's Raging Bulls which takes a look behind the scenes of 60s and 70s 'new Hollywood' movie making – I actually might read that again soon. Film-wise it has to be Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner* – I've seen it loads of times and it never gets dull. For the band I have so many favourites but will pick Tangerine Dream (it's today's favourite at least) as I've been digging their soundtrack to the film *Sorcerer* recently

## Who would play you in a film of your life?

John Cusack – we're a similar age and from a distance look a bit the same (kind of on a side angle).

## Do you have a favourite joke or quote?

I like my Dad's old line (he's from Tyrone and lived and worked in Belfast for a few years after finishing at Queen's University) that I think he picked up working in bands in the clubs around Belfast in the late 60s. He would always introduce one song in each set as "This next one's called 'Please don't sit on the bacon slicer baby, we're getting behind in the orders'"

## What is your most treasured possession?

If we're not including my lovely wife (Debs) and two kids (Johnny and Elsie Belle) then it's either my banjo (a 30th birthday present from all my friends) or my signed *The Beyond* VHS cover. It's on my desk in front of me and has the autographs of director Lucio Fulci, actors David Warbeck and Catriona McColl plus composer Fabio Frizzi on it. A great Italian zombie horror film and one of all time favourite films after *Blade Runner*

## What is your greatest fear?

The eternity of infinite nothingness that awaits me on my death. I guess I won't know about it of course but I hate the fact it'll all just suddenly end – that's why I've got a few songs about living inside a computer. It's one of my hopes to save me from this fate; though the songs manage to point out the downside of that theoretical existence

## What are you very good at?

Arranging music and drinking real ale

## What are you most proud of?

Johnny and Elsie Belle and their wonderful sense of humour and energy. Our kids are amazing (like everyone else's) and me and Debs feel very lucky

## What place would you like to visit before you die?

The Arctic maybe – or somewhere quite far north where I could see the Northern Lights and some giant icebergs shear off into the sea

## What is the last text message you received?

My mother in law checking if the kids would be alright sleeping there tonight without their soft toys blue bear and doggy (I forgot to take them over there when I dropped EB off this morning)

## If you were a politician what is the first thing you would do?

Complete financial transparency – personal pay and taxation plus (and especially) corporate/business openness. It won't hurt competition if everyone has to do it.

## If you won the lottery what would you spend it on?

Some more LPs



## Who would be your five guests (dead or alive) for the perfect dinner party?

Lalo Schiffrin, Fabio Frizzi, Lyndon Johnson, John Carpenter and a very good multi-lingual translator (someone cheap if I haven't won the lottery yet)

## How do you want to be remembered?

I don't think it matters really (if meant after I'm dead). If it's how I want to be remembered by people I meet it would be as someone polite and nice that they instantly and constantly forgive for forgetting their name over a period of minutes, months or years.

## What do you most like about North Belfast?

Personally it's the Docks area – as an adult I've great memories of playing at The Rotterdam Bar and as a child it was coming over on the ferry from Liverpool to visit my relatives there – I'm into the beauty of rusted former heavy industry

## What would you change if anything?

I probably would've taken some of the jalapeno peppers off the top of the pepperoni pizza I had in Brighton in 2002 if I could've had my time again. They made me very sore