

A short excursion to Newfoundland from where comes accordion player Tony O' Leary. There are few regions in North America, with the exception of Cape Breton, who can boast of as many traditional musicians as the Newfoundland and Labrador region. Handed down from the descendents of Irish and Scottish settlers of this region, this traditional music has endured through the centuries perpetuated by musicians like Tony O' Leary who have made it their life's dream. His love for music started at age seven, from the moment he had the ability to get his hands on the accordion, and this love has never left him. In later years he also studied the concertina, the mandolin, the guitar, and the bodhran. All instruments he gives you the privilege to hear on his album "Pump the box". With fifteen tracks on the cd, some well known Irish traditional music and songs are played. "The Star of the County Down," "Far Away in Australia," and "The Banks of the Lee". You will also hear two pieces by Tony himself, giving the album its title "Pump the Box". Some of the best musicians on the East Coast of Canada gave him a hand on the cd, Ian Chipman, Gerry Strong, Mike Doyle, Glen Hiscock and Rob Brown. A very interesting album.

Philippe Cousin    Review France

Le Peuple Breton    July and August 2007