

Shanneyganock

After eight years on the road any touring band worth their salt or sanity takes a good hard look at each other, whatever van they own and the path that lies ahead.

At this point a lesser band would collapse. For Shanneyganock it was a chance to take a deep breath, and step back into the ring with renewed vigor. Quite simply, Andrews and Hiscock are too stubborn to give up on music they love. Traditional Newfoundland songs had a tight hold on them since they were lads and so it goes.

With Newfoundlanders crossing the globe at an alarming rate, Shanneyganock simply decided "well if they can't get home – we'll get to them". And get to them they have. In the past two years the band has toured Alberta over eight times as well as sojourns to British Columbia, Ontario and all Maritime provinces. They are a favourite with Festivals across the country and continue to build a fan base of Newfoundlanders and non-Newfoundlanders alike.

From an early age, Hiscock has been ubiquitous in St. John's musical circles. He's been known as a master of the button accordion, a professional folk singer and player since he was in elementary school. Andrews started his first band while still wearing a uniform too, and his burly voice and muscular guitar playing have anchored many a stage ever since. Joined by bassist Bob Pike and percussionist Mike Clarke, they temporarily left George Street behind and took the band out west, developing a serious following among the ex-pats in the Alberta oil fields. When other acts abandoned rural Newfoundland, Shanneyganock dug their heels in and audiences big and small have been charmed by their stirring ballads, powerful shanties, and rib-rattling jigs and reels.

This fall they enlisted Great Big Sea stalwart Bob Hallett to produce a new album, one which makes a musical statement heard in every cove and every outport. Powerful patriotic songs of Newfoundland's past are balanced with contemporary calls to Newfoundland's lost young people. Some songs a deliberate nod to the band's past, while others a bold step into new musical territory.

Titled *Fling Out The Flag*, it represents a new era for Shanneyganock and a new era for Newfoundland traditional music.