

# The Lads



**Sean Michael McHugh**  
*Dance Captain*

Sean Michael McHugh started dancing at the age of three for the Kennedy School of Irish Dancing in Belfast. During his competitive career he was fortunate enough to win the (CLRG) Ulster, All Ireland, All Scotland, North American National, British National, Great Britain, European, and the World Championships twice. At the age of 16 he joined 'Lord of The Dance' and has been touring with the company for the last 13 years. The pinnacle of his career would be performing alongside Michael on London's West End & Broadway New York. He has also been privileged to dance in Titanic Dance, Prodigy: The Revolution, Taptronic, and Damhsa, and has performed on TV shows like Strictly Come Dancing, The View (USA), and The Late Late Show.



**Brennan McCarney**

Born and raised in Richmond, Virginia (USA), Brennan McCarney is a second-generation Irish dancer. Growing up in his mother's Irish dance school, Brennan quickly rose with success in competitions at the US and World level. As a professional Irish dancer, Brennan has performed in multiple productions throughout the United States. He is very excited that A Taste of Ireland marks his first visit to Australia.



**Gavin Shevlin**

Born and raised in County Donegal, Gavin started dancing at 5 years of age. Since then he has won numerous major titles including All Ireland, Irish National, Great Britain, All Scotland, European and World Championships. After winning his second world title Gavin proceeded to graduate as a mental health nurse and spent many hours working on the front line during the Covid'19 pandemic. Gavin has also been performing as a professional dancer on stages all across the world. Having performed globally with both 'Riverdance' and 'Lord of the Dance' Gavin is now delighted to be visiting and performing in Australia for the first time.



**Isaac Loxley**

Isaac began Irish dancing at the age of eight and is currently dancing for Scoil Ard Rince. During his dancing career, Isaac has won five QLD State Championship titles, an Australian National Championship, and one World Championship Recall Medal. He has also placed in the top five at the Australian International Oireachtas. Isaac made his performance debut in the 2020 A Celtic Christmas Queensland tour and is very excited for the opportunity to be involved in the A Taste of Ireland National Tour, especially so touring with his sister Abby.



**Abigail Loxley**

Abby has been practising the art of Irish dance since the age of five and now trains with Scoil Ard Rince. She has performed in a variety of dance styles including contemporary, Jazz, hip hop and musical theatre. Abby's successes include three-time runner-up State Champion, placing top 5 at the National Championships and competing at the World Championships in 2017. Abby participated in her debut tour in 2020 on the A Celtic Christmas Queensland tour. Abby is delighted to be returning as part of the cast for the A Taste of Ireland Australian 2021 tour alongside her brother Isaac.



**Brittany Pymm**

Brittany began Irish dancing at the age of six under the tuition of Glenalee Bromillow at WA Academy of Irish Dancing. While following in her mother's and sister's footsteps, her love and passion for Irish dance only grew stronger over time. Brittany has won four WA State Championships and consecutively placed in the top 10 at the Australian National Championships. She has also competed overseas, placing among the world's best at the North American Nationals, Great Britain Championships, All Ireland Championships and World Championships. Brittany was a cast member in the 2019 A Celtic Christmas by A Taste of Ireland tour and cannot wait to join the cast and crew in the 2021 National Tour of A Taste of Ireland.



**Dakota Courtney**

Dakota Courtney is a 23 year old professional dancer from Perth, Western Australia. Having started dancing at the age of 6, she has trained under the guidance of the O'Brien Academy in Perth, and most recently in Belfast, Ireland under World Champion Niamh Taylor. Dakota has had a decorated competitive career being the first Western Australian to place in the top 5 at the World Championships. During her competitive career she has also won multiple State championship titles, National championship titles and the All Scotland's, as well as placing 2nd at the All Ireland's. She has also featured on the cover of the Irish Dance Magazine in 2020. Dakota has since moved her focus to professional dancing where she has toured with Micheal Flatley's Lord of the Dance on multiple occasions as well as with A Taste of Ireland.



**Louise Hewitt**

Louise Hewitt is an eight-time State Champion and has placed in the top three at the National Championships multiple times. She has also had the privilege to represent Australia at the World Championships three times. Louise has also placed in the top five at the Australian International Oireachtas consistently. Professionally, she has had the opportunity to tour with A Celtic Christmas by A Taste of Ireland in 2019 and has performed in Pace Live Dance Company's 'Michael-The Show'. 'I love to perform on stage, so touring professionally has always been my dream and I am extremely grateful to have the opportunity to join the cast of A Taste of Ireland's 2021 Australian Tour.'



**Liam Fitzgerald**

Liam Fitzgerald began his dance training at the age of 3, learning Irish dancing at the Halloran Dance in NSW and also learning Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Hip-Hop, Contemporary and Musical Theatre at Sonja Dene Dance Studios. Liam has had a very successful competitive Irish dance career, becoming a multiple-time NSW State Champion and Australian National Champion, and competing internationally at the World Irish Dancing Championships and the North American Irish Dancing Nationals. Liam first stepped on stage with Pace Entertainment Group in 2018 and since then has performed in A Celtic Christmas, A Taste of Ireland, and Pace Live Dance Company's, Michael - The Show. Liam has also performed with Wayne Scott Kermond's 'Candyman', Regprom's '12 days of Christmas', Carnival Cruise line in the Caribbean, Disneyworld in Florida, at the MLB, and in numerous performances with OP Productions.



**Thomas Colangelo**

Thomas Colangelo is 19 years old and is from Donegal, Ireland. Having began dancing at age 5, he has since competed on an international level. Some of his most notable achievements include 4 Ulster Championship titles, top 3 placements at the Irish Nationals, and 8th at the World Championships. "Dancing in a professional show has been my dream since day 1 and I am so excited to start on this journey with A Taste of Ireland."



**Taylah Attwell-Gill**

Taylah Attwell-Gill, from South Australia danced under the guidance of Jackie Miller at the Miller School of Irish Dancing from the age of 6. Taylah has won 8 State Championship titles and has placed in the top 3 at the nationals on multiple occasions including being crowned National Champion in 2017. Internationally, she has competed at both the World Championships and North American National Championships bringing home 2 medals from America in consecutive years. In 2017, Taylah joined A Taste of Ireland and has since completed 175+ shows with A Taste of Ireland in New Zealand, Australia and the USA. Taylah is currently studying a Bachelor of Digital Media and cannot wait to get back on stage with A Taste of Ireland this year.



**Tyler Watkins**

Tyler Watkins has been practising the art of Irish dance for 21 years at the Watkins Academy of Irish Dance. She has been crowned Queensland State Champion six times and placed in the top ten nationally multiple times. She is currently ranked 7th in Australia in the prestigious Senior Ladies section. Tyler has been lucky enough to represent Australia at the World Championships five times and was rewarded with top 40 placings. Tyler completed her first professional tour with A Taste of Ireland in 2017 on the company's debut Christmas Tour, and has since participated in multiple tours with the company—including the 2019 Australia Tour—both as a backline and lead dancer. Tyler also took part in the Riverdance Summer School and was successful on her audition to join the renowned dance company.



# The Musicians



**Cormac Crummev**

Cormac Crummev, 23, hails from Belfast and has toured globally with several artists such as At First Light, Peter Corry, Lisa Canny, Cúig, 'The Young Irishlanders'. Cormac's main focus features a cutting-edge two-piece with BBC Scotland's Young Musician of the Year 2019, Benedict Morris. They released their highly acclaimed debut album 'Wavelength' in 2019. Cormac has also performed live on BBC at the highly coveted last night of the Proms at Proms in the Park 2019 with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra to thousands in Glasgow Green. In April 2020, Cormac released "Isolation Vol.1"—an innovative piece of music recorded remotely by over 30 artists across the world.



**Charlie Galloway**

Charlie Galloway, 24, is a multi-instrumentalist from Lancashire, UK, who has been performing traditional Irish music professionally across the globe for almost the entirety of his adult life. He has collaborated with some of the biggest names in Irish dancing, such as five-time World Champion David Geaney, and has showcased his talents to sold out audiences throughout Europe and beyond. In 2019, Charlie was part of the cast of A Taste of Ireland that performed over 150 shows across Australia and New Zealand. More recently, Charlie has been the banjo player and mandolinist for world famous Irish folk band The Fureys.

