

# The Grinning Barretts

The Grinning Barretts are a 5 piece, bagpipe strangling, vocal chord mangling, Riot Brewing imbibing, Vancouver Island Celtic punk rock frenzy. They've taken Celtic sounds & mashed them up with gritty punk rock passion to create a wild ride of originals, tradionals & additionals that will move your feet into jig formation & bring out your inner rabblrouser.

With 4 fierce singers and an epic arrangement of instruments, this eclectic band is made up of:

- Pat Westmacott – Lead Guitar, Vocals, Production
- Aaron Bergen – Bagpipes, Flutes/Whistles, Vocals
- Jeremy Fiddy - Drums
- Dave Greig – Guitar, Banjo, Vocals
- Cara McCandless – Bass, Vocals



**For Fans of:** The Real McKenzies, Pouges, Pennywise, Drop Kick Murphys, Good Riddance, Flogging Molly, Frank Turner



Starting in a basement in 2016 with one song dedicated to his grandparents, Pat set to work on a vision. Since then, after weathering a few hiccups and a global pandemic, they've emerged stronger than ever.

July 2023 saw the release of the new 11 track LP "Bottle Hymns" via Outhouse Records and Productions. With 7 original songs, and 4 re-imagined traditional numbers, ready for radio spins this album has tracks that will appeal to all listeners. All with the Barretts signature mashup of bagpipes, banjo, and fiddle laid over a bedrock of blistering punk. From the haunting intro to the final good night (and joy be with you all) the pit, and the pipes are calling. The band has released 2 previous Eps "The Riot EP" and "The St Padraig's EP".

With recent shows across Vancouver Island, Vancouver and elsewhere, the band has a lively, but organized and professional stage show. A Stage Plot and input list is available. Past shows have included some great bands including The Real McKenzies, Modern Terror, The Dreadnoughts, Wise Youngblood, Daniel Wesley, The Corps, The Steadies, and Helletones. The band has an active social medial presence, including great collaborative videos with Alli Bean, The Foul English, Citizen Rage, and Matt Carter.

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BandCamp: <https://thegrinningbarretts.bandcamp.com/>  
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/thegrinningbarretts/>  
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@patbarrett2829>  
Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/artist/2B3VsFFo0Zole3AXXS5rh1>  
Tiktok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@thegrinningbarretts>







## **PAT WESTMACOTT**

### **Lead Guitar/Vocals/Production**

Coming at us from Street Prophets Union, The Kiltlifters, Sedition Choir, & Hats And Black Ties, Pat has earned his place as the Captain of the Grinning Barretts. We're always checking this boat for holes, but he hasn't sunk us yet.

Having opened for rad acts like Great Big Sea, Dreadnoughts, GOB, & The Real McKenzies, we figure he's learned how to patch a hull by now.

Pat's also the king of being in the right place at the right time, having sang with Pennywise, gambled with The Mighty Mighty Bosstones & partied with The Interrupters.

When he's not shredding frets or mixing noise, you can find Pat hiking the mountain with Murphy, the owner of the mountain.

## **AARON BERGEN**

### **Pipes/Flutes/Vocals**

Piper Aaron Bergen brings the sexy(?) to the crew by having proudly played with his own pipe for the large majority of his life.

As the band's resident windbag he holds the title of once playing in an AC/DC cover band and brought his pipe playing to BC, Washington, Oregon, Scotland, Ireland and Continental Europe. Despite keeping one foot in the traditional, he hates to keep things the same and supports bagpipes in all forms of music, even punk and metal. Because bagpipes are more metal than guitars and Europe was not liberated by french horns.

By day he is a steam engineer, by night, a kilted madman who passes out at 9 (even napping mid show on occasion. Yes, it HAS happened). When he isn't blowing his bag you can find him searching his soul for inner peace, and the meaning of life, at the bottom of a pint at the local brewpub.





## DAVE GREIG

### Frets/Vocals

Dave is our Swiss Army Knife; gear repair guy extraordinaire, sound man to local slayers, & when The Barretts call for further frets, whether electric, acoustic or banjo, he's our man.

Starting from covers & working his way up to heavy metal & now into the claws of Celtic punk, he's accumulated a mosaic of experience across areas of musical creation, including the release of his own single, Animal. He's opened for Daeodon, Signal Static, Moths and Locusts, & more.

When Dave isn't filling out the Barretts guitar section, he can be found banding metal with Big Flakes, or running live sound, or tinkering with gear. He has done guitar tech work for bands like Towers and Trees, and PIGS (Floyd Tribute). Pedal boards are his jam.

## JEREMY FIDDY

### Drums

Our buddy Fid comes to us from an extensive percussion background. Holding a music degree from Uvic, he was formally trained on skins & sticks of various types & has worked with badasses like Sal Ferreras, Bill Linwood, Alex Cuba, Adonis Puentes & Hugh Fraser.



On land, has opened for the likes of Great Big Sea & many others; on the sea, he has entertained guests on various cruise lines, including Royal Caribbean, Princess Cruises & Norwegian Cruise Lines.

This guy has played with so many bands, & appeared on so many recordings, we're so lucky to be in his current circle of noisemakers. When he's not jamming with the Barretts, you can find Fiddy with his other band, A Farkin Conspiracy, because this man literally never stops drumming.





## **CARA MCCANDLESS**

### **Bass/Vocals**

Cara brings the bass, and some true Scottish fire to the Barretts (Robbie Burns is her great, great, great, great, great, great, great grandfather!!). A music festival brat who followed her banjo playing father around to many events, Cara picked up the bass by default in The McCandless Family Band, because no one else wanted to learn to play it!!

A prolific singer and songwriter, Cara has also played in PixElle, Shake Shack, The Femme Fatales, as well as singing with Dan Hill, Jeff, Plankenhorn, and Yellowbelly. She also has a YouTube channel where she has uploaded an original song EVERY Wednesday for almost 2 years! <https://www.youtube.com/@caramccandless>. She was also one of the winners of Rocktoria 2000 with 100.3 The Q.

When not rocking out with The Barretts, or her solo work, Cara is a music teacher (she really pretty much never stops playing music!!), a tattoo collector, and awesome lightning-in-a-bottle friend to many!!

## **MURPHY**

### **Helping**

Newest Barrett of them all!

Likes food, people, chasing Alli's braid, his mountain, food, toothpaste, food, people with food, the occasional sock, firewood, food, his mountain, showing off his kennel, food, being a jackass with his brother Frankie, food, blankets, firewood, loves his couch best place to sleep ever, food, cardboard and food.

Still hasn't figured out what it means to dog....oh hey food!!

Photos by Colin Smith Takes Pics



