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## Local Voices



[Josh Medcalf](#)

Writer, photographer, filmmaker...etc

## So Much Guinness, So Little Sleep

Posted on January 24, 2012 at 5:00 am

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Beginning last Thursday since they stepped off the plane straight from Dublin, I've had the unique experience of following around the *Irish House Party*, a supremely talented group of traditional Celtic All Ireland Champion musicians on tour here in Chicago for the next week.

Together with fellow filmmaker and cohort Evan Henderson, I will be producing a feature-length documentary on the band during that time. What exactly is the *Irish House Party* you ask? Currently they are nothing short of a sensation everywhere they go, blowing the roof off each local venue they visit. If that sounds vague, open up a new tab right now and check out their website: <http://www.theirishhouseparty.com/>

The Irish House Party is represented here this week by Declan Quinn, his brother Eugene, and Gerry Nolan, and joined by local musicians Isaac Alderson and Mary Hatfield. In the past few days they have played to standing-room-only pub crowds at such venues as the Carraig at Gaelic Park in Oak Forest and McNally's in St. Charles.

Over the course of their stay, and as I follow them around, pointing a videocamera all up in their business, I will do my best to update this blog with photos, video clips, sounds, and any other audiovisual experiences that seem appropriate. Or that I have time to rip out of my camera and throw at the internet. Because at the time of writing this, I've probably averaged no more than three hours of sleep a night and my hygiene is rapidly deteriorating.

But really, this is an experience that must be seen to be believed. So if you're a fan of Irish music, or really just excellent musicianship and a rousing good time in general, be sure to stop in for a pint at any of the following shows the band has lined up:

Jan 27 - [The Raue Center in Crystal Lake](#) at 7:30pm (tickets still available for \$20)

Jan 28 - Bridie McKenna's in Highwood at 8pm

Jan 29 - The London Club in Crystal Lake at 12pm; the Curragh in Edison Park at 6pm

And just to kind of tease what the lads are about, I've included a [podcast](#) of the band on the "Good Morning Ireland" radio show, recorded here in Chicago on Saturday, as well as a [clip](#) of their performance on Ireland's "Late Late Show" back in November.

Be sure to check for additional updates soon...

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