

= Bell X1 (band) =

Bell X1 are a music group from Dublin , Ireland , known for their wide range of styles , powerful live performances , intelligent and witty lyrics and a dedication to touring . NPR says they deliver " a brilliant co @-@ mingling of electronic music and anthemic pop rock " .

Bell X1 are festival and arena headliners in their native Ireland and play to ever growing numbers on their regular North American and European tours . Aside from U2 , they are the Irish band with the most airplay in their native country and , according to Billboard , also the second biggest live performers .

= = History = =

= = = Juniper = = =

Most of the band were originally members of Juniper . Paul Noonan was Juniper 's drummer and Damien Rice was the lead vocalist ; guitarists Dominic Philips and Brian Crosby and multi @-@ instrumentalist David Geraghty completed the original line @-@ up . Juniper built up a strong live following in Ireland and enjoyed chart success with EP Manna and singles Weatherman and World is Dead (the latter two through Universal Records) but never released a full album . The band became a quartet with the departure of Rice over creative differences . Rice admitted in a 2002 interview with the Sunday Tribune that he had become upset after writing a song which the record company had disliked .

After a short break they reformed themselves as Bell X1 and Noonan became the new band 's frontman . The live line @-@ up , alongside original members Crosby and Philips , came to be completed by drummer Tim O 'Donovan , and trianglist Nesson Harpur , who also fronts electropop group Neosupervital .

Juniper 's original contract with Polygram Ireland was moved to Island Records UK . Bell X1 released three albums while with Universal / Island ; Neither Am I , Music in Mouth and Flock . Subsequent releases have come out on the band 's own BellyUp Records and its distribution partners at Warner Music , Redeye & The Orchard . Those titles are : Tour De Flock , Blue Lights on the Runway , Bloodless Coup , Field Recordings & Chop Chop .

= = = Neither Am I = = =

Neither Am I was released on 13 October 2000 . It was produced by Crowded House bass player Nick Seymour with whom members of the band have collaborated extensively since . It features a number of songs (Volcano and Face) that were previously played by Juniper and co @-@ written with Damien Rice. and achieved gold status sales . Pinball Machine and Man on Mir were released as singles . In late 2010 Bell X1 revisited and reprised the record on their sold @-@ out Irish acoustic tour .

= = = Music in Mouth = = =

Bell X1 's second album Music in Mouth fared better , garnering greater fan acceptance and critical acclaim . Reviewer Harry Guerin described the album as being one from a band " pushing themselves in different directions and coming up with a joy and sadness that prove as contagious as each other [...] a band thinking outside the a , b , c of guitar rock " .

Music in Mouth achieved double @-@ platinum sales in Ireland and four singles released from the album achieved top forty positions in the Irish Singles Chart . The Irish Independent 's John Meagher named it his fourth best Irish album of the 2000s . In early 2004 they led a tour of that year 's accession states of Eastern Europe as part of Ireland 's EU Presidency . In December 2004 , they performed their first major headlining show at the Olympia Theatre , Dublin .

The wider appeal of the band internationally was assisted by the use of the song " Eve , the Apple of My Eye " from Music in Mouth during an episode of US teen dramedy The O.C. ; it featured during a scene in which two of the show 's female characters shared a lesbian kiss . The show 's music supervisor Alexandra Patsavas chose to feature " Eve " and " In Every Sunflower " after listening to Music in Mouth , with " Eve " also being included on the series soundtrack . That opportunity led to Bell X1 's arrival in the United States . The Sunday Tribune 's Neil Dunphy and Una Mullally named it number 46 in their 2008 " ultimate playlist representing the top @-@ 50 Irish songs of all time " . In the same publication at the end of the decade Dunphy cited it as an example of how Irish bands had used television to their advantage . The band went on to record a live session for Nic Harcourt 's radio show on KCRW in Los Angeles .

= = = Flock = = =

Capitalising on the momentum generated by the success of Music in Mouth , Bell X1 took over a remote farmhouse in Co . Wexford to write Flock , this time working with producer Roger Bechirian . It went straight to number one in Ireland on its release on 14 October 2005 and to date has sold five @-@ times platinum in that country . RTÉ reviewer Katie Moten described the album as " an accomplished collection from a clever and inventive band , whose talent deserves heapings of praise " . Bell X1 returned to feature in a dedicated Rattlebag special presented by Myles Dungan on 18 October 2005 . Flock was subsequently released around Europe , prompting Noonan to describe 2005 as Bell X1 's " annus fabulosus " . On 31 January 2006 , they performed a sold out show in the RDS Main Hall , and appeared on the Main Stage at Oxegen 2006 that July . They would go on to perform even bigger live shows at Dublin 's Point Theatre and Malahide Castle over the next 18 months

" Bigger Than Me " , the first single to be released from this album , reached number sixteen in the Irish Singles Chart . They performed follow @-@ up single " Flame " on Tubridy Tonight on 14 January 2006 . " Flame " was later included in a collection of works giving a " sense of the noughties " put together by Vincent Murphy and broadcast on Morning Ireland on 31 December 2009 . A third single , " Rocky Took a Lover " , would be performed on the Late Show with David Letterman on 17 March 2008 . Bell X1 performed songs from Flock when they were one of the acts to appear on Other Voices in 2007 .

In February 2007 , it was reported that Bell X1 had parted company with their UK record label Island Records . Noonan later spoke of the artistic freedom which had resulted from this move ? " We have found owning our music and finding partners all over the world to put our music out really empowering " .

= = = Tour De Flock = = =

A live CD and DVD set called Tour De Flock was released on the band 's own record label , BellyUp Records , on 15 June 2007 . The set was the band 's first post @-@ Island release . It was a recording of their sell @-@ out performance at the Point Theatre in Dublin on 1 December 2006 .

On 30 June , two weeks after the release of Tour De Flock , Bell X1 played an outdoor show at Malahide Castle in Dublin , becoming the first Irish band to headline that venue . In July 2007 , they played a sell @-@ out show at Live at the Marquee in Cork , with Noonan two years later describing that show as , " Without doubt [...] one of the best gigs of our entire Flock tour . We had played venues like The Lobby , The Savoy and the Opera House , but being asked to play the Marquee was a crowning moment for us " .

On 15 March 2008 , the band 's tour bus burst into flames outside their hotel in Medford , Massachusetts . Noonan and Geraghty were on board the vehicle alongside their manager and a friend . Brian Crosby , Dominic Phillips , and Tim O 'Donovan were inside the hotel . Fire fighters were called to the scene shortly after 3 : 30 am and spent ninety minutes fanning the blaze , which started in the bus ventilation / air @-@ conditioning unit and caused an estimated \$ 50 @,@ 000 (? 32 @,@ 000) worth of damage . Talking to local newspaper the Boston Herald , the band 's

manager , Foye Johnson said : " The guys were basically around the bus , which was a good thing because we were able to get all the equipment and instruments out . " After a few hours of sleep , off they went in a replacement vehicle to New York City where the band played a sell @-@ out show in the Bowery Ballroom and appeared on the Late Show with David Letterman , Other North American television appearances during the early part of 2008 included MTV Canada , The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson and Late Night with Conan O'Brien . They would return to perform on the Late Show with David Letterman one year later .

They were the support act for Stars in the United States in September 2008 , their fourth time there that year . There were also several shows at events in Europe , and a homecoming appearance at Oxegen 2008 .

On 2 October 2008 , Brian Crosby announced his decision to leave Bell X1 following their 19 October Flock tour finale at the Panorama Festival in the Lebanon . They parted ways on good terms and the recruitment of at least one new member for live performances was planned . Their first show without Crosby was the opening night of an acoustic tour at the Pavilion in Cork two days after Panorama . By this time they were already performing material which was to feature on their fourth studio album , Blue Lights on the Runway .

= = = Blue Lights on the Runway = = =

Bell X1 released their fourth studio album Blue Lights on the Runway in Ireland on 20 February 2009 . It went to number one in the Irish Albums Chart . RTÉ reviewer Harry Guerin described the album as " a flight that you can actually enjoy from start to finish " . The Sunday Tribune 's Neil Dunphy selected it as his CD of the week , calling it " a wonderful exploration of a sound often derided for being in thrall to its influences " and commenting : " I don 't know why but Bell X1 used to make me cringe . These days their music feels like an old friend ; something solid and inspiring amid all the negativity " .

Blue Lights on the Runway was preceded by its lead single , titled " The Great Defector " . which became the band 's most successful single yet , peaking at number three in the Irish Singles Chart and going top 10 in America on the AAA Radio charts . The band were invited back to Tubridy Tonight to perform it and presenter Ryan Tubridy said it was his favourite song that year . Irish Independent journalist Eamon Sweeney described it as " happens to the best thing on the airwaves at the moment " . Marc Aubele on keys and Rory Doyle on drums featured during live performances , the former replacing Crosby in the band .

Blue Lights on the Runway was released in the United States through the band 's American label on 3 March 2009 . It appeared in the top twenty of that country 's Billboard Top Heatseekers Chart . When asked to describe touring for the first time without Crosby , Noonan said : " It 's good ? it 's all part of the journey " . The band received attention from prominent bloggers in the country and made appearances on public radio , said to be a " crucial showcase " for bands like them in the United States . The band recorded a Ukulélé Session with the newspaper Le Soir to support the release of their album in Belgium . In Spain they played the Festival Internacional de Benicàssim that year . Back home Blue Lights on the Runway was given an " honourable mention " by The Sunday Business Post 's Andrew Lynch in his end @-@ of @-@ year 2009 review of music .

" The Ribs of a Broken Umbrella " , a second single from Blue Lights on the Runway , was later released . Bell X1 was a support act for U2 during that band 's sold @-@ out Croke Park show on 27 July 2009 , part of the international U2 360 ° Tour . Other major Irish shows that summer included an appearance at Live at the Marquee in Cork and a headlining performance at Electric Picnic 2009 , with the band later returning to the United States for a tour which included a slot at the Austin City Limits Festival before coming home to perform two more sell @-@ out shows at the Olympia Theatre that November . They then reappeared on Other Voices , performing a live session in Dingle which was broadcast in early 2010 . Their only summer performance in Ireland that year was at Oxegen 2010 .

= = = Bloodless Coup = = =

The band released their fifth album *Bloodless Coup* on 1 April 2011 . The album was recorded by frequent Flood collaborator & PJ Harvey engineer Rob Kirwan at Grouse Lodge Residential Studios in County Westmeath , Ireland .

To celebrate the album release , Bell X1 performed a rooftop gig at Facebook 's European Headquarters with its founder Mark Zuckerberg .

The band also performed a special concert recorded for America 's National Public Radio at the Guinness Storehouse

A 4 Star review of the album by The Independent praised Bell X1 for being one of the few bands to lyrically tackle the " turbulent , uncertain times . "

The Sunday Times named *Bloodless Coup* its CD of The Week in a 5 star review saying the album is " a 10 track mish @-@ mash about growing old , living in a hopeless political landscape and nourishing lasting friendships . It turns out to be Bell X1 's most satisfying album to date . A beguiling achievement . "

The Boston Herald graded the album an " A " saying " the Songwriting and playing are superb . "

In support of the album the band headlined shows at Marlay Park , The Galway Arts Festival , Sea Sessions & The Cork Marquee in addition to touring Europe and North America extensively . On 17 December 2012 they organised a special midnight concert at The Olympia Theatre in Dublin to benefit the Capuchin Day Center and their work to help the disadvantaged and increasing numbers of " new poor " resulting from the economic crash . Brother Kevin Crowley of The Capuchin Day Centre was quoted in Hot Press " Our numbers get bigger and bigger , we have 200 people in the morning and nearly 500 in the evening for dinner . So the whole charity concert was a tremendous success , a huge boost . When Bell X1 came to present the cheque I was so impressed by their kindness and sensitivity . I would hope and pray , and I have no doubt , that they will be a huge success for years to come . " Hot Press reported that the show raised ? 20 @,@ 285 and the day Centre received a further ? 225 @,@ 000 due to the awareness raised .

= = = Field Recordings = = =

On 8 May 2012 , Bell X1 announced that they would be releasing a two @-@ disc collection of 21 live acoustic tracks & photographs titled *Field Recordings* . The recordings and photographs were captured by the band 's longtime engineer Phil Hayes . *Field Recordings* was only made available via the groups web shop and all physical editions quickly sold out .

= = = Chop Chop = = =

On 8 January 2013 , RTÉ announced that the band had begun work on a new album at Tarquin Studios in Bridgeport , CT with the longtime Producer of The National , Peter Katis & Thomas Bartlett from The Gloaming . On 19 February the band revealed on their website the name of the album : *Chop Chop* , and their intention to release it in Ireland on 28 June with a Premiere show at The National Concert Hall to follow on 29 June . Reviews for the album were strong . In a 5 star review , The Independent (UK) said " they 've created a wholly originally sound " . Other significant reviews included Q Magazine who referred to the album as : " a more stately , echo @-@ laden place hushed and expansive " , Magnet : " 4 Stars - a riveting album that finds Bell X1 pushing its established aesthetics in admirably new directions " , Mojo : " 4 Stars - " oozes zest and focus " , Irish Times : " 4 Stars - " the best album of their career -a superb album this way comes " , USA Today : " Stunner " , Express (UK) " 5 Stars - yes , its that good " & Daily Metro : " 5 Stars -they push things further than ever . " *Chop Chop* was Bell X1 's 3rd album to debut at No.1 in the Irish Charts & 4th album to be nominated for a Meteor Choice Music Prize for album of the year .

= = = Arms = = =

'Arms ' is the seventh studio album releasing in October 2016 . The album 's first commercial single

release is ' The Upswing ' . On July 6 , 2016 ' Out of Love ' was released .

= = Style = =

The BBC has described Bell X1 's music as " remarkably warm ? as if imported from the Caribbean via Dublin City " . Their style is said to be similar to that of Talking Heads , a fact noted by Noonan on the press release which accompanied their fourth album ? " I know , I know [...] it 's dangerously Talking Heads " . Noonan admitted in 2003 that he had been influenced by the music of Talking Heads and The Flaming Lips . The New York Times has compared Bell X1 to Radiohead , saying , " Paul Noonan 's writing will make you swoon " , while the Irish Independent 's Ed Power describes them as " Ireland 's pre @-@ eminent orchestral rockers " though " none of the band fit the stereotype of the debauched rocker " . John Meagher name @-@ checked Pink Floyd , Radiohead , Talking Heads and early U2 after witnessing a performance in the RDS in 2006 .

The Sunday Tribune 's Neil Dunphy has compared their sound to krautrock , new wave The Irish Independent 's Eamon Sweeney described one show where " two songs in and we 're already enjoying pleasing echoes of Radiohead and Animal Collective " . '

The band and individual band members have been involved in several charitable endeavours , including the recording of The Cake Sale and Sparks n ' Mind compilation albums .

= = Members = =

= = = Current = = =

Paul Noonan ? lead vocals ; guitar ; drums ; percussion ; kazoo

David Geraghty ? lead guitar ; banjo ; (electric) piano ; backing vocals ; occasional lead vocals

Dominic Philips ? bass guitar ; backing vocals

= = = Live = = =

Bill Blackmore ? Horns

Marc Aubele ? guitar ; keyboards (2008 ? present)

Rory Doyle ? drums (2008 ? present)

= = = Former = = =

Brian Crosby ? guitar , keyboards and backing vocals (1999 ? 2008)

Tim O 'Donovan ? drums

= = Discography = =

Neither Am I (2000)

Music in Mouth (2003)

Flock (2005)

Tour De Flock (2007)

Blue Lights on the Runway (2009)

Bloodless Coup (2011)

Field Recordings (2012)

Chop Chop (2013)

Arms (2016)

= = Awards = =

The Irish Times placed Bell X1 at number nine in a list of " The 50 Best Irish Acts Right Now " published in April 2009 , referring to them as " Irish rock 's most likeable band ? Probably " and " An all @-@ too obvious liking for Talking Heads notwithstanding (e.g. , single " The Great Defector ") , it seems that Bell X1 are refusing to give up . Likeable guys getting ruthless on our asses ? Bring It On " .

= = = Choice Music Prize = = =

Bell X1 's third album Flock was nominated for the Choice Music Prize in January 2006 . It was considered the favourite but failed to win .

The band 's fourth album Blue Lights on the Runway was nominated for the Choice Music Prize in January 2010 .

Bloodless Coup was nominated for the Choice Music Prize in January 2012 .

" Chop Chop " was nominated for the Choice Music Prize in January 2014 .

= = = Meteor Music Awards = = =

Bell X1 have been nominated for several Meteor Music Awards . They were nominated in the Best Irish Band category and Music in Mouth was nominated in the Best Irish Album category at the 2004 Meteor Awards . They were again nominated in the Best Irish Band category at the 2005 Meteor Awards .

They were nominated in three categories at the 2010 Meteor Awards : Best Irish Album , Best Irish Band and Best Irish Live Performance .

In addition the band have performed at the 2005 Meteor Awards on 24 February 2005 and at the 2006 Meteor Awards on 2 February 2006 .