

= Republic of Loose =

Republic of Loose were an Irish funk rock band from Dublin . Formed in 2001 , the band formerly consisted of lead vocalist Mick Pyro , bass guitarist and vocalist Benjamin Loose , keyboardist Darragh , guitarists and vocalists Dave Pyro and Darach O ' Laoire and drummers and percussionists Andre Lopes . Additional percussion and vocals are provided by Orla La and Emily Rose

With a self @-@ described musical style of " the stuff your dad likes " , the band signed to Big Cat Records in 2003 , recording their debut album This is the Tomb of the Juice which was released in 2004 . They were named " Hope for 2004 " at the 2004 Meteor Awards . In 2005 , the singles " Comeback Girl " and " You Know It " received significant airplay on Irish radio . Republic of Loose 's second album Aaagh ! , released in April 2006 , reached number two in the Irish Albums Chart , achieving platinum sales and a Choice Music Prize nomination in the process . It spawned several more successful singles , including " Break " which achieved notoriety in South Africa where a radio station banned it following complaints regarding its allegedly explicit lyrics . Vol IV : Johnny Pyro and the Dance of Evil , Republic of Loose 's third album , was released in 2008 . That album produced their highest chart performer to date , " The Steady Song " , which peaked at number twelve and stayed in the Irish Singles Chart for thirteen weeks . Bounce at the Devil , the band 's fourth album , was released in 2010 .

Having earned the admiration of several musicians , including members of Snow Patrol and U2 , as well as Sinéad O 'Connor ? with whom they recorded , released and performed a duet at the 2008 Meteor Awards ? , the band have had their music played on radio stations in Africa , Asia , Europe and North America . The Irish Times placed them at number thirty @-@ seven in a list of " The 50 Best Irish Acts Right Now " published in April 2009 , referring to them as " one of Ireland 's most original bands " led by " the gruff singer with the extraordinary soul voice [...] simultaneously channelling the spirits of James Brown and James Joyce in one fell swoop . " Aside from U2 and Bell X1 , they are the Irish band with the most airplay in their native country . In August 2014 , vocalist Mick Pyro confirmed that the band had split .

= = History = =

= = = Formation = = =

Mick Pyro performed with self @-@ described " rubbish rock bands " for several years before the formation of The Republic of Loose . During this time , he was , according to himself , " depressed out of my brains " and listened to artists such as Manic Street Preachers . Experiencing what he termed " a huge metaphysical overturning of my value system " , Pyro had developed a fascination with musicians such as James Brown and The Rolling Stones , or " the stuff your Dad likes " . This change of musical interest prompted him to create Johnny Pyro , an alter @-@ ego , who , according to Pyro , " disassociated himself from the normal lifestyle of an Irish bourgeois kid " . This alter @-@ ego would later develop into Johnny Pyro And The Rock Coma (Mik Pyro , Dave Pyro , Coz Noleon , Mark Dennehy and Emmet Cole) . The band recorded an EP , which featured four of the songs that later appeared on the Republic of Loose 's first album , ' This Is The Tomb Of The Juice . ' Following the departure of guitarist Emmet Cole (who wrote the song " Black Bread ") and bassist Mark Dennehy " To Texas and Ringsend , " respectively , Johnny Pyro and Rock Coma split .

About a year later the Republic of Loose was formed . Benjamin Loose studied theology in Trinity College , Dublin before performing in a country band with Mick Pyro . Dave Pyro used to play guitar with Brez and Deco joined them to play keys . The name Republic of Loose was settled upon in 2001 when Dave and Mick , combined with Brez , Deco , Coz Noleon , who had been Mick 's schoolfriend , and Benjamin Loose .

= = = This is the Tomb of the Juice = = =

The band 's break , according to Mick Pyro , came as a result of ten days recording time they won in " some competition or something , some fucking battle of the bands " . In 2003 , Republic of Loose signed to Big Cat Records . The single " Girl I 'm Gonna Fuck You Up " , released in late 2003 , was largely ignored by daytime radio in Ireland , with Mick Pyro commenting in an early Hot Press interview : " We were never going to be the type of band that Larry Gogan or Ian Dempsey would play anyway , regardless of the lyric " . The band 's debut album , This is the Tomb of the Juice , was partially recorded in the ten days studio time they had won in the aforementioned competition . This is the Tomb of the Juice was recorded in 2003 then released in 2004 . 2004 was also the year in which Republic of Loose débuted at Oxegen (on the New Band Stage) , a festival at which they have since regularly performed . Singles " Comeback Girl " and " You Know It " were released in July and October 2005 respectively , both achieving significant airplay on Irish radio and entering the top thirty of the Irish Singles Chart . By 2006 the band had toured Ireland , the United Kingdom , where they performed at festivals such as Glastonbury and T in the Park , and France , where they performed at Furia Sound Festival , Nice Jazz Festival and Les Transmusicales . They also performed alongside veteran rock band Lir at Vicar Street in January 2006 .

= = = Aaagh ! = = =

At a cost of ? 70 @, @ 000 to make , the band 's second album , Aaagh ! was released in 2006 . Sunday Tribune journalist Una Mullally called it " one of the most original and progressive Irish albums ever made " . Aaagh ! reached number two in the Irish Albums Chart , going platinum in the process , received regular airplay on Irish radio and produced five singles , including " The Idiots " , a song about Mick Pyro 's former girlfriend which also features her on vocals . " Break " , a top ten single in Ireland and top forty single in South Africa , was temporarily banned by South African radio station 5fm when a female DJ declared on air that it promoted anal sex without contraception , a comment which led to several complaints from listeners . The band 's 2006 summer tour included a performance where fans danced outside despite " the lashing rain " at Oxegen 2006 , with the Irish Independent 's Larissa Nolan saying " their scheduling on the main stage was a testament to just how big their army of fans is " , and Castlepalooza . In 2007 , Republic of Loose performed at several festivals in Ireland and the United Kingdom , including Reading and Leeds Festivals , Cois Fharraige and a headline slot at Indie @-@ pendence . Aaagh ! was released in the United Kingdom on 15 October 2007 . In January 2008 , Republic of Loose were one of the acts who recorded " The Ballad of Ronnie Drew " at Dublin 's Windmill Lane Studios ; the sessions led to a meeting with Sinéad O 'Connor , with whom the band recorded and released a duet which was then performed live at the 2008 Meteor Awards the following month .

= = = Vol IV : Johnny Pyro and the Dance of Evil = = =

On 27 March 2008 , Republic of Loose announced the tracklist and title for their third album . Vol IV : Johnny Pyro and the Dance of Evil was released in May 2008 , featuring contributions from Sinéad O 'Connor , rapper Styles P and hip hoppers Millionaire Boyz . In the run @-@ up to the release , the band uploaded free downloadable songs to their MySpace profile , including b @-@ sides , live tracks and songs from Aaagh ! . Vol IV : Johnny Pyro and the Dance of Evil spent more than three months in the top thirty of the Irish Albums Chart , spawning the successful singles , " I Like Music " and " The Steady Song " , the latter their highest chart performer to date , having peaked at number twelve and stayed in the charts for thirteen weeks . Mick Pyro has described Vol IV : Johnny Pyro and the Dance of Evil as the first album the band feel proud of .

In support of the album 's release , the band embarked on a small national tour and received an invitation to perform a sell @-@ out month @-@ long residency at The Dublin Academy for four consecutive Fridays , thus ending their habit of playing Dublin only once per year . This involved two @-@ hour sets featuring new material and duets with Sinéad O 'Connor ? on her song " Nothing

Compares 2 U " ? and Damien Dempsey ? on the Thin Lizzy song " Dancing in the Moonlight " . The Academy residency led to a Meteor Award nomination for Best Irish Live Performance the following year and they would return for another performance at the same venue that September . A couple were engaged as part of a BBC television series prior to the Sunday evening appearance of Republic of Loose on the O2 Stage at Oxegen 2008 ? a performance which also featured collaborator Styles P ? whilst the band also performed for several journalists backstage . They performed a DJ set at Castlepalooza before headlining Solas Festival on 17 August 2008 . Republic of Loose featured on Today FM 's The Ray D 'Arcy Show 's charity album Even Better Than the Disco Thing released in December 2008 , finishing off the year with three shows in Cork .

Republic of Loose were one of several acts to perform cover versions at a show in The Academy titled " Inspirations " , held in honour of the actor Paul Newman 's Irish charity in February 2009 . In June 2009 , the band were part of a collaboration of musicians calling themselves The Troublemakers who recorded a cover version of the Horslips song " Trouble with a Capital T " for charity . The recording session was part of The Raw Sessions and the song was performed by The Troublemakers on The Late Late Show . The band performed on the Heineken Green Spheres Stage at Oxegen 2009 before supporting U2 during one of their U2 360 ° Tour concert dates at Croke Park in July 2009 . Republic of Loose participated in the international celebration of the 250th birthday of Guinness ? known as Arthur 's Day ? which took place on 24 September 2009 .

= = = Bounce at the Devil = = =

In July 2010 , Republic of Loose returned to Oxegen . Their fourth album , Bounce at the Devil , was released later that year and led to an appearance on The Late Late Show . The album , recorded in Baltimore , " blends a myriad of influences -- from plastic soul to the sort of ' big hair ' rock of the 80s " , according to Irish Independent reviewer John Meagher . Entertainment.ie 's Jenny Mulligan describes it as good craic but occasionally bordering on obnoxious .

= = Influences , praise and style = =

Republic of Loose 's genre has been defined by various sources as blues , funk , metal , R 'n'B , pop , rock and soul . They are influenced by acts such as Bobby Brown , James Brown , Al Green , Howlin ' Wolf , Michael Jackson , Prince and The Rolling Stones . They perform as a six @-@ piece band complete with backing singers . The chant , " Loose ! Loose Loose ! " , is commonly heard from the crowd during their performances .

Republic of Loose have earned the admiration of several musicians . Damien Dempsey called them the " best band in Ireland " after performing alongside them . Sinéad O 'Connor , in an e @-@ mail to the Irish Independent , asked to become a member of what she described as " simply the best Irish band ever " . Bono has described them as " sophisticated soul bootboys " , " trailblazers " and proclaimed that " the Celtic Twilight turned into Celtic soul with Van Morrison , then Republic of Loose grabbed the Celtic Tiger by the tail , swung it around their heads and threw it out the window into the cosmos " . Snow Patrol 's Gary Lightbody , who called them " the best band in the country this year [2007] and for many years to come " . Snow Patrol have also remixed " Comeback Girl " . Praise has come from other musicians too , including Jake Shears of Scissor Sisters . Marcus Russell , manager of Oasis , is reported as having called Republic of Loose the " most exciting new band " since Oasis . Novelist Irvine Welsh has referred to " Comeback Girl " as " one of the greatest songs ever recorded " . Actress Mischa Barton is also a fan .

Paul Lester , writing in British newspaper The Guardian in July 2007 , described Republic of Loose as an " Irish OutKast " to be filed next to Danny Wilson , Hall & Oates and N.E.R.D and least likely to be compared to The Pogues . John Meagher , writing in the Irish Independent in April 2008 , said the band were " out of step entirely with prevailing trends [...] almost like they stopped listening to music after hearing the young Prince and early Dexys Midnight Runners " . Vocalist Mick Pyro has commented that there are very few musicians performing " authentic modern soul " and that the band 's aim is to " combine the energy of the New York Dolls with the funk and soul qualities of The

Roots " . When writing a piece on The Script in August 2008 , Brian Boyd of The Irish Times claimed that they were " as un @-@ Irish sounding as The Republic of Loose [sic] " . Internationally , they have established fan bases in London and New York and have achieved regular airplay on Los Angeles radio in the United States , as well as France , Indonesia and the Philippines . Bunim / Murray Productions has licensed their music for use on American television . They have , however , refused several indie contracts in the United States .

= = Members = =

= = = Current members = = =

Mick Pyro ? Lead vocalist
Dave Pyro ? Guitar , vocalist
Andre Lopes ? Drums , percussion

= = = Additional members = = =

Esosa Ighodaro ? Backing vocalist
Darragh - Keyboards
Darach O 'Laoire - Guitar

= = = Previous members = = =

Benjamin Loose ? Bass guitar , vocalist
Coz Noleon ? Drums , percussion , Backing Vocals
Mark Dennehy (Bass)
Brez - Guitar , Vocalist
Deco ? Keyboards
Eve Ill Jones ? Backing vocalist
Gargos ? Percussion
Emily Rose ? Backing vocalist
Orla La ? Backing vocalist
Kieran J. Sims ? Live Bass (2008)

= = Discography = =

= = = Albums = = =

= = = Singles = = =

From " This Is The Tomb of the Juice "
Girl I 'm Gonna Fuck You Up
Hold Up
Tell More Lies
From " Aaagh ! "
Comeback Girl (IRE # 19)
You Know It (IRE # 22)
Shame (IRE # 20)
Break / The Translation (IRE # 29)
The Idiots

From " Vol IV : Johnny Pyro and the Dance of Evil "
I Like Music (IRE # 41)
The Steady Song (IRE # 12)
The Ritual
Awful Cold
From " Bounce At the Devil "
The Man
99 (feat . Bo Starks)
The Blah Bounce
Non @-@ album singles
They Pay For Love (2012)
Thinking of You (2013) IRE # 16
The Punishment (2013)

= = Awards = =

= = = Choice Music Prize = = =

Republic of Loose 's second album Aaagh ! was nominated for the Choice Music Prize , an award won by The Divine Comedy for the album Victory for the Comic Muse . The band performed at the award ceremony in Vicar Street on 28 February 2007 . Surprise was expressed within the industry when they were not nominated again for the 2009 award .

= = = Meteor Music Awards = = =

Republic of Loose won the Hope for 2004 award at the 2004 Meteor Awards . They were nominated in the Best Irish Band category at 2007 Meteor Awards .

Republic of Loose were nominated in the Best Irish Band and Best Irish Live Performance categories at the 2009 Meteor Awards . They lost to The Script and The Blizzards in those respective categories .

In addition to this , they have performed at both the 2006 and 2008 awards ceremonies , the latter of which involved a duet with Sinéad O 'Connor on the Curtis Mayfield song " We People Who Are Darker Than Blue " .