

# Diablos

Who are The Diablos? Only the winners of Best Original Song at the 2008 British Country Music Awards, that's who! The Diablos hail from Brighton and play all original Country rock. If you want slavish renditions of famous Country tunes, put a nickel in the jukebox. If you want to dance the night away or just sit and listen to a full band really play, then let The Diablos do it for you. They will.

The band already have two albums under their belts so far. As with the first cd, the latest album features original songs which have been honed on the road before venturing into the studio to attempt to capture some of that sound. Welcome To The Club features much more of the pedal steel guitar which has become an integral part of their American-influenced but still very British sound.

They have been together, through a series of personnel changes, for over 10 years. In spite of this time, three of the five original Diablos are still playing together. No mean feat. One of the defining moments of the Diablos' history came when François asked long-time friend Danny if he knew of anyone who might like to take over lead guitar from the original guitarist. Danny asked if he might have a crack. Funny how you can know someone for 20 years and still be surprised. The Diablos are:

## François Deville

Pedal steel, acoustic guitars and backing vocals



It's the quiet ones you want to watch out for! François is the co-founder of the Diablos and has seen it through a number of personnel changes - not the least of which involved his own move from bass player to steel player. He is also the principal songwriter and The Diablos' modern Country has provided a natural home for his bitter-sweet musings on life, love and the pursuit of happiness!



His love-affair with the pedal steel guitar has led to him being asked to play at the Irish Steel Guitar show in 2009 and, perhaps better, being asked back for 2010.

## Chris Nieto

Lead vocals and acoustic guitar

In 10 years as a professional vocalist he has



been a solo artist and front man for numerous covers' and originals' bands, performing everything from jazz and swing (The Night

& Day Band), pop, rock and funk (Up The Funktion) and, of course, Country (Smoke & Mirrors Duo, Coral Reefers Band and now, The Diablos).

## Danny O'Loughlin

Lead guitar and vocals



Danny O'Loughlin is a familiar name amongst musicians in his adopted home town of Brighton, having played there most of his life. His career has taken him all around the world - most particularly the United States, which he loves. It was with his first band at the tender age of 14 that he was offered a recording deal with Chas Chandler, Jimi Hendrix's manager. Since then he has played and recorded with many different styles of performers such as Steve Ellis (Love Affair), Vivian Jones, Johnny Wakelin and classical artists Amici Forever.

## Geoff Ansell

Drums



Geoff's first gig with a band was when he was 16, over 25 years ago. Since then, he has played and recorded

constantly with bands as diverse as a reggae band, a Mexican busking band and even two years as a session player with The Piranhas. He joined his first Country band, The Blue Hearts in 1989 and also played with Guitars & Cadillacs, the Southern Drawlers and Coral Reefers.

## Terry O'Loughlin

Bass and backing vocals



Terry picked up the guitar at age nine when brother Danny started learning it at school. They played all the time with

sister Janis singing and cousin Jon Marter (later to become a top rock drummer - Mr Big, SAS band etc). They had regular gigs at the Chelsea Odeon by the age of 12 and after a trip to London, Chas Chandler (Jimi Hendrix's manager) offered them a contract that their dad turned down (he thought they were too young!)

The chance to play bass with The Diablos arose after a personnel change and it was time to break the axe out of its case, dust off that old cowboy hat, (well, get a new one as he no longer had the slim head of a 16 year old!) and get back in the saddle!