

# Irish Music Visuals

A study of The Irish Visual System  
Within Vinyls

Explaining the significance of Irish music is anything but brief but can be introduced in one iconic saying “Erin go Bragh” meaning “Ireland forever”. Ireland as a country has been through war, desieas, invasion, occupation and starvation with no hinder to their integrity. Music in any culture is used as a means of expression and exploration. Thousands of years of history in Ireland result in traditional music, Celtic punk, slip jig, country irish, irish rebel and more. Before electricity the island of Ireland had music and storytelling to carry their heritage and traditions. As of 1531 the symbol of Ireland is an Irish harp, one of the many iconic irish music instruments. Visually, Ireland is tightly bound to the Book of Kells, one of Ireland's finest national treasures. This book's masterful work is found widely in irish music covers from its scripture to the complex symbols such as the Celtic Knot.





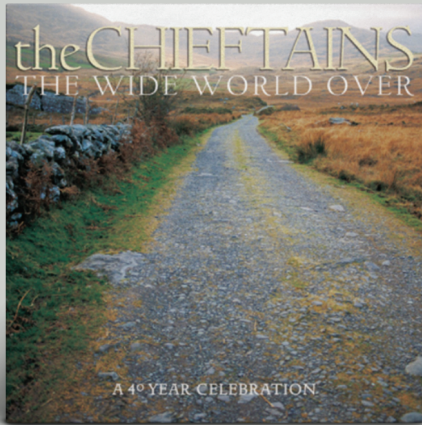
The cover uses different design elements such as, Irish scripture, a silhouette illustration of Ireland, a complex Celtic knot bordering the scene and a blue and gold representative of Ireland's national colors: Azure blue and a yellow, brown or gold Irish harp.





The color blue is associated with Saint Patrick that is understood to begin in the 1780s. This color was adopted as the color of the Anglo-Irish order of St Patrick.





Features of Ireland's recognizable landscapes such as stone walls, pebble roads and soft hills as well as a serif font representative of a Celtic or Gaelic script.

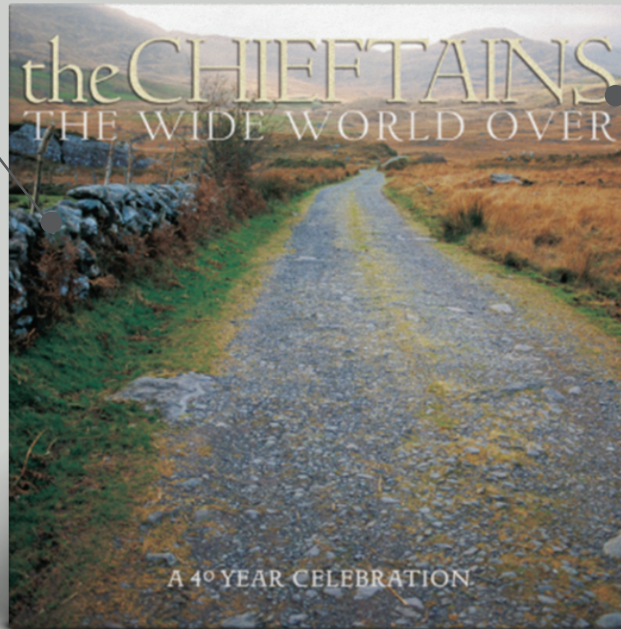




While stone walls are most common in the west of Ireland they are used everywhere for many reasons.

The stones you mostly see are carboniferous limestone and have been around since the Ice Age.

In fact, Ireland's soil is not considered the best because of the labor required to remove stones from fields. This abundance of naturally round stones resulted in many different iconic uses such as stone castles, houses, roads and walls.





This vinyl consists of a script fonts, representations of Ireland and national colors. As well as many traditional Irish instruments, such as the harp, banjo, guitar, violins or fiddles, accordion, Irish bouzouki and different sized bodhran drums whose history begins in Ireland.





The specific instruments in this illustration are capable of communicating the genre of the album. All the shown instruments have historical value and can be seen as tools, for sharing their history. The most famous is the harp dating back to 16th century and more recently being a symbol for Ireland being a free state as of 1922.







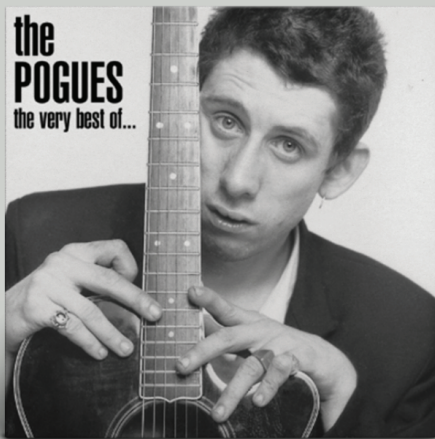
This vinyl is a personal favorite because of its correlation to the song itself. For context the song is within the rebel category and, addresses the history of Ireland's conflict with England. The cover has what appears to be members of the I.R.A (Irish Republican Army), scripture and lastly the color green.





Wolfe  
Toys

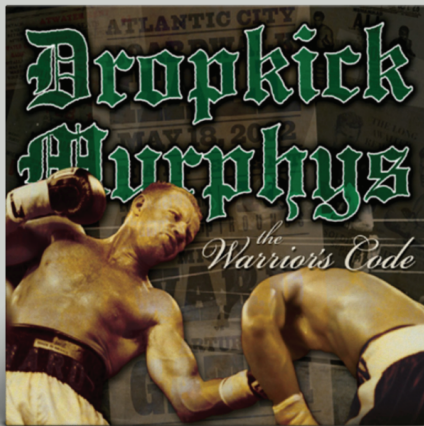
RIFLES  
OF THE  
I.R.A.



This cover by the pogues is more subtle only consisting of the artist and a stringing instrument the guitar.







The Dropkick Murphys vinyl album has a scripture font in green as well as a reference to Atlantic City.





This font used by the Dropkick Murphys is a modern recreation by the artists Rick Mueller called Black Castel.





This vinyl has blue and yellow focusing on a bodhran. A historical Irish Instrument that is believed to originate in the 17th century. The bodhran did not gain wide recognition till the 1960s when Irish traditional music became internationally legitimate.



The Bodhran drum is native to Ireland and around 35 - 45cm. Made of wood, goat skin and metal. These drums can even be loosened or tightened depending on the atmospheric conditions and setting.





Another subtle design and reference to Irish design. Using a representative font alone can be effective in communicating the genre of the album.





# The Dubliners



25  
years

# Celebration



This image on the cover is the high kings on the coast of Ireland. Ireland is well known and attracts tourists for its natural beauties. Some of these amazing sights are, The Cliffs of Moher, Slieve League and Giants Causeway. On top of the landscape they are holding traditional instruments within Irish music such as the guitar and flute.



The only way of truly understanding the significance and beauty of Ireland's coasts is the music it inspires. I have had the pleasure of visiting many ends of the Island of Ireland but no pictures or words can describe it as perfectly as the residents' music.



Another example of how effective a single element such as the scripture will help identify the vinyls genre.







No better way of sharing this book's personal value other than sharing my own grandfather's album from DATE. Consisting of Irish scripture, Irish instruments, Irish scenery and Irishmen.



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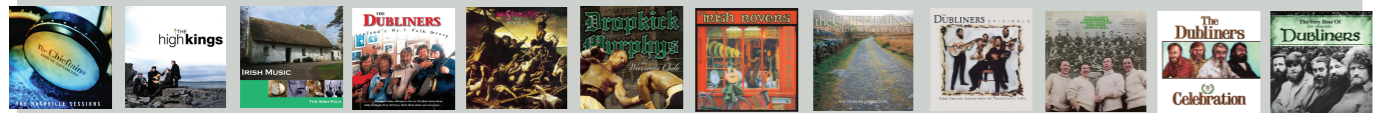
by  
Conor Campbell





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Irish  
Music  
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About

This visual study presents many different Irish music vinyl covers intending to provide the viewer with why these similar visual strategies are significant. This booklet is directed to any and all interested in Irish and musical culture. With a simplistic, formal design strategy Irish Music Visuals is a recourse for Irish music design and taste.

by

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