

SWITCHBACK

FUN FACTS

- 1) Switchback has had two songs featured on national television, Pour Me for NBC's "Grimm" and Climb That Mountain for Chevy Blazer.
- 2) Before there was a Switchback and before there was a "Riverdance," Brian and Marty played for Michael Flatley when he was an Irish step dancer from the South Side of Chicago.
- 3) Brian and Marty are from large Irish families. Brian's family has nine siblings and Marty's has ten. Both are middle children and perhaps that is why they get along (or not).
- 4) Marty once had to perform a six minute duet with Chicago Mayor Jane Byrne during her election campaign. They sang The Town I Love So Well. It was the longest six minutes of Marty's life.
- 5) Brian's family owns FitzGerald's Nightclub in Berwyn, IL. The club has been seen in movies like "The Color of Money," "Backdraft" and "A League of Their Own."
- 6) Since 2004, Switchback has conducted more than fifteen tours to Ireland. If one averages the number of people who have joined them, it comes to almost 500 friends who have visited the Emerald Isle with the lads.
- 7) Brian and Marty put over 35K miles on their touring van each year and fly almost as many miles around the world, and still get home to mow their respective lawns.
- 8) The most watched Switchback song on YouTube is the version of Danny Boy that has garnered over 100,000 likes on the Switchback Channel.
- 9) Brian was not going to be a guitarist when he first started music. He learned to play drums at a young age on a set made of tin coffee cans.
- 10) Marty started performing at age four. His first show was at a nursing home in Deerfield, IL. He was so short they put him on top of a table and he sang Silent Night.
- 11) Brian and Marty of Switchback have written over 300 songs and have memorized an equal number of Irish, Swing, Jazz, Country, Rock, Classical and Blues covers.
- 12) The farthest Switchback traveled to reach destinations was from Gronigen, Netherlands to Honolulu, Hawaii, with a show in between in Minoqua, WI. All in all, that is over 7250.2 miles in air travel alone!
- 13) Switchback has had two specials that have aired on PBS stations around the country. Both specials, the "Celtic Sessions" and the "Americana Sessions" were recorded at the famous WTTW Chicago Soundstage.
- 14) Considered by critics as the "mandolin players' mandolin player," the famous Jethro Burns of the act "Homer and Jethro" taught Brian how to play the mandolin in Evanston, IL.
- 15) Switchback has rubbed elbows and shared the stage with some famous people, including the Moody Blues, Leon Russell, Lee Greenwood, Beausoliel and Mitch Ryder to name a few.
- 16) The lads have played in over ten countries outside of the United States.
- 17) Switchback has appeared onstage at the Bluebird Cafe in Nashville three times.
- 18) Marty met Pope Francis at the Vatican in Rome, shook his hand and presented him with the Hibernian Mass CD.

