

**Country:** *Northern Ireland*  
**Name:** *Different Drums of Ireland*  
**Artistic Medium:** *Music*

**Contact:**

Roy Arbuckle

[roy@differentdrums.co.uk](mailto:roy@differentdrums.co.uk)

<http://www.differentdrums.info/index.htm>

**Objective:** By adding traditional representational instruments to original and traditional songs, the band hopes to improve community relations in Northern Ireland between Catholics and Protestants.

“Different Drums of Ireland” is a music group comprised of both Protestants and Catholics who use the indigenous drums of Ireland, the Lambeg and the Bodhran, together in performances. The drums are perceived as representing the Unionist (Protestant) and Nationalist (Catholic) cultures respectively. Bringing together other traditional instruments to play traditional and original songs creates a unique sound that celebrates cultural diversity and the history of the island. The group performs all over the island but increasingly has been asked to perform at interventionist conferences, or at private functions.

In addition to performing and recording, Different Drums also holds workshops for groups of all sizes. The most popular of these comprise discussion with performances. As Roy, the founder of the group explains his involvement:

“It started in 1991 as a deliberate exercise in community relations. I was asked to do something in the community using arts as a vehicle. I came up with the concept of 'different drums' .... We became a musical metaphor for a peace process that was happening at the same time [Referring to the Good Friday Agreement]”

