

# The Boston Globe

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CD Pick

## Black 47

**TROUBLE IN THE LAND**

*Shanachie*

**T**he musical traditions of Ireland are approached with hard-edged, punk-like intensity by Black 47. With its latest album, the New York-based sextet delivers its most dynamic session yet. Heavily brogued lead vocalist Larry Kirwan and uilleann



pipes/bodhran/tin whistle player Chris Byrne set the pace, while also propelled by the power-driven horn lines of trombonist Fred Parcella and former Dexy's Midnight Runners saxophonist Geoffrey Blythe. This is an album that hits the jugular. Kirwan is an effective lyricist, using each tune as a springboard for his leftist views. The title track is a bitter condemnation of white supremacists and anti-Semites, while "Susan Falls Apart" and "Delirious" take harsh looks at the misfortunes of the working class. "Bobby Kennedy" mourns the loss of the socially committed senator and claims that there's now "weasels in the White House singing a Democratic tune." Kirwan's sarcastic humor is exemplified by "I Got Laid On James Joyce's Grave." While he sings of committing the deed in hopes of having Joyce's "genius rubbing off on me," his dreams dissolve when "all I got was a kick in the head from the caretaker who discovered me."

— CRAIG HARRIS