



Charged with youthful exuberance and musical excellence, the dynamic foursome that is Rigel blasted onto the Celtic music scene. With a formula all their own: one part Irish and Scottish traditional melodies and driving Cape Breton rhythm, and one part dynamic new compositions and eclectic arrangements. All of these elements are revved up a notch by powerhouse performances and the unmistakable passion of four musicians who love their music.

How did four young musicians from the Midwest come together to forge such an exciting eclectic sound? How is it that this sound transcends all age groups and manages to seamlessly tie together a plethora of regional, cultural and stylistic influences into a cohesive sound that captivates audiences wherever they plug in? The answer is found in Rigel's attention to the sound that they love and their ability to connect and compose pieces that pull from all of their musical backgrounds and talents. At Rigel's musical core is brother and sister duo of Shay and Evan Carlson. After their classical training took an unexpected turn into the Celtic realm, Shay and Evan quickly realized that their passion lay in this exciting and versatile genre. They soon started exploring everything they could find down that Celtic road of music and quickly discovered the sound they were looking for.

Shay draws inspiration from the Cape Breton fiddler Natalie McMaster. Attending a McMaster concert catalyzed Shay's passion for the gritty bowings and exhilarating tunes that have come to characterize Rigel's musical style. Evan who has always loved anything Celtic soon became captivated with the idea of putting together a Celtic band that would explore new and exciting versions of traditional pieces. They soon found a kindred spirit in mandolin guitar player, Mark Bilhorn. Shortly thereafter they found the missing percussion link in drummer David Steinweg. Within a few short months the group cut their first CD and within their first year garnered a coveted invite to perform at the "North America's largest" Irishfest in Milwaukee, WI.

Again and again their performances end with hearty standing ovations. Whether performing a large stage show to a crowd of hundreds or entertaining in a more intimate setting, Rigel rouses audiences to their feet and leaves a lasting impression with a demand for more.