

THE DEFINITIVE VOICE OF IRISH MUSIC WORLDWIDE

MUSIC

IRISH

WWW.IRISHMUSICMAGAZINE.COM

Issue No. 350 June 2025 Edition
Price €10 Euro £8.50 Stg

 Follow us on Facebook
[@www.facebook.com/TRADIMM](https://www.facebook.com/TRADIMM)



BELFAST TRADFEST 2025



CASSIE AND MAGGIE



GERARD FAHY

SUBSCRIBE @ WWW.IRISHMUSICSHOPPING.COM

GEAROID MCCARTHY

NEW
ALBUM
COMING IN
OCTOBER

TOUR DATES

August

Sat 23rd Riverside Park Hotel Enniscorthy

October

Sat 4th Carrickdale Hotel Dundalk

Fri 10th Imperial Hotel Cavan

Sat 1st Abbey Hotel Donegal

Sat 18th Woodford Dolmen Carlow

Sat 25th Clayton Hotel Cork

November

Sat 8th Royal Theatre Castlebar

Fri 21st Rhu Glenn Hotel Waterford

Fri 28th Arklow Bay Hotel

More dates to be added

Tickets available on
ticketmaster.ie

MUSIC

www.irishmusicmagazine.com

Issue No. 350 June 2025

FOREWORD

HALF A CENTURY AND COUNTING

To say traditional music is a long game might seem a tad obvious. We all know tunes such as *Hardiman the Fiddler* and *Sergeant Early's* have lasted for over a century, but you'll find on reading this issue that musicians themselves are in the tradition for the long haul.

Tom Cussen recalls discovering music in London in the early 1970s and how that passion evolved into the Shaskeen Céilí Band who are celebrating 55 years in 2025. Not far behind them is PJ HERNON, who did at one time play with Shaskeen; his latest album with his brother Marcus marks 50 years of making music. Some artists are prolific. If you are committed to touring, then a fresh album every 18 months is a good strategy. Others, such as Ailbe Grace leave a bit of a gap between recordings. In fact Ailbe's second album *Across The Glen* has just been released, 25 years on from his debut.

Venues and festivals, especially in the summer months, give players a platform to perform, whether they are emerging artists like *On the Lash* or established acts. And being June, we have previews of festivals and summer schools from Dungarvan to Minnesota to the University of Limerick's Blas to the South Sligo Summer School, to Belfast TradFest, amongst others.

Once you start playing and loving traditional music, it will be with you for life, and whether you are 8 or 80, enjoy a summer filled with tunes and camaraderie.

Slán

Seán L

22



24



28



30



COVER STORY

22 SHASKEEN FROM THE START TO THE FUTURE

Seán Laffey talks to Tom Cussen, the Clarinbridge banjo maker, who founded the Shaskeen band 55 years ago.

FEATURES

24 GOLD & COAL IS A DOUBLE DELIGHT FROM CASSIE AND MAGGIE

Seán Laffey in conversation with siblings Cassie and Maggie MacDonald on route to play at Tampa Bay Irish's Moonshine Celtic Concert in Dunedin, Florida.

25 ACROSS THE GLEN : AILBE GRACE & LIAM FLANAGAN & MICK O' CONNOR

Accordion player Ailbe Grace talks to IMM's Seán Laffey about making an album that has been described by Custy's Music as "such sweet, entrancing music on fiddle and accordion which you could happily listen and tap to for as long as the musical dream lasted".

26 GERARD FAHY and THE WILD ATLANTIC ORCHESTRA

Seán Laffey talks to piper and composer Gerard Fahy about his musical roots and his new album with the Wild Atlantic Orchestra.

28 PJ HERNON CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MUSIC MAKING

For a man who is in his seventh decade, PJ HERNON is remarkably energetic. His talk is animated and exciting, he exudes a passion for music and the craft of the musician. I wondered why? writes Seán Laffey.

30 DON "BANJO" SMITH CELEBRATES HIS LONG CAREER

Mark Lysaght in conversation with Don "Banjo" Smith for Irish Music Magazine.

58 ON THE LASH

John O'Regan writes... The debut 5 track EP *Fireside* from *On The Lash* entered my consciousness with alarming results. Their vivacity and kinetic energy is highly contagious and hugely enjoyable.

Publisher : Robert Heuston
Editorial : Seán Laffey
Design : John Barrett
Text Editor & Production : Emma Meade

For Editorial, News, CD Reviews, Tours & Advertising Enquiries Contact:
Select Media
c/o Irish Music Magazine
4-5 Burton Hall Road, Sandyford
Dublin 18, Ireland
Tel: 01 6622266
Email : info@selectmedialtd.com

Contributors:
Aidan O' Hara (RIP), Melissa Ward, Deirdre Cronin, Grainne McCool, Anne Marie Kennedy, Reidin O' Flynn (RIP), John O' Regan, Edel McLaughlin, Paul Keating, Michael Lange, Mark Lysaght, John Brophy, Philippe Cousin, Alex Monaghan, Johnny McEvoy, Nicky Rossiter, Caroline Tatem, Chris Keenan, Frank Greally, Fergal Woods, Anita Lock, Bruce S. Victor, Mary Beth McCormack, Dave McNally, Austin Comerston, Michael Walsh, Heather Laffey, Maryann McTeague Keifer (RIP).

Distribution:
eM News, eMND NI
Available in Print and Electronic format by Subscription worldwide

For Print and Electronic Subscription Enquiries Contact:
Email : info@selectmedialtd.com or
www.irishmusicmagazine.com/subscriptions

ISSN-1393-211X

All material contained in this edition is copyright of Irish Music Magazine 2025 and may not be reproduced or electronically stored or transmitted without the permission of the Publisher. All rights reserved © Irish Music Magazine.

MUSIC

that the
call
clay
flower
each every
None can compare with
wild Irish Rose
My wild Irish Rose, the
flower that grows.

MILWAUKEE IRISH FEST

ACADEMY OF IRISH MUSIC • ÁTHAS • ATLANTIC WAVE • BARRY DODD • BEGLAN ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE
BELLATOR ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE • BLACKTHORN FOLLY • BOG BODIES • CASHEL ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE • CAT AND HARE
CÉILÍ NIGHTS • CEOL CAIRDE • CHERISH THE LADIES • CHICAGO REEL • CONOR MALLON • THE COSMIC OTTERS • CREAM CITY CÉILÍ BAND
DEREK BYRNE AND PADDYGRASS • DROPS OF GREEN • DUBLIN O'SHEA • ELIAS ALEXANDER • EMMA LANGFORD
ENDA REILLY • FIDDLE IN THE MIDDLE • THE FIDDLER OF ORIEL • THE FITZGERALDS • FROGWATER
GADAN FT. ENDA SCAHILL AND SPECIAL GUEST HILLARY KLUG • GARDINER BROTHERS • GARRON NOONE • GERRY O'CONNOR
GINGER • BRETT LIPSHUTZ AND ASHER GRAY • THE GLEASONS • GLENCASTLE IRISH DANCERS • GOULD AND JAEGER
GRAY, GOSA, LANGBY • HEARTHFIRE • HERMITAGE GREEN • THE HOWLEY BROTHERS (OF WE BANJO 3) • IAN GOULD
KÍLA • KIM ROBERTSON • KINSELLA ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE • LEAHYS LUCK • LÉDA • THE LIMERICK PARTNERSHIP
MARY ANN MILLER • McNAMARA MCCARTHY SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE • MILWAUKEE IRISH DANCE
MILWAUKEE IRISH FEST SCHOOL OF MUSIC • THE MCGOLDRICK FAMILY • MUSIC6S • NIALL MCCABE
NIALL MCCABE, MICHAEL MCGOLDRICK, AND NOLLAIG CASEY • THE O'BRADYS • PROVIDENCE CÉILÍ BAND
RADIATION • RED HOT CHILLI PIPERS • REILLY • SKERRYVORE • SLIABH NOTES • THE STEPCREW
STRANGE BOY • SUPERCÉILÍ • TARA BREEN, PÁDRAIG RYNNE, AND JIM MURRAY
TRINITY ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE

AUGUST 14-17
IRISHFEST.COM

MILWAUKEE
IRISH FEST

FESTIVALS

36 A selection of wonderful Festivals and Summer Schools from Ireland and abroad.

34 BELFAST TRADFEST

Celebrating Traditional Music, Song & Dance in the Heart of Belfast.

48 THE ALL IRELAND FLEADH IS COMING BACK TO WEXFORD

Seán Laffey talks to Eimear Kennedy from Wexford County Council. She tells us about the preparations that are underway for the All Ireland Fleadh, which will be held in the town from August 3rd to 10th, 2025.

50 SOUTH SLIGO SUMMER SCHOOL 2025

Anne Marie Kennedy spoke to Seána Haughey about its history and achievements.

52 BLAS PROGRAMME AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

Mark Lysaght spoke with Blas co-directors Breandán de Gallaí and Conor Caldwell to find out more.

54 THE SPARTA CELTIC MUSIC FESTIVAL

Gráinne McCool discovers that the Sparta Celtic Music Festival is a free, family-friendly event, celebrating the seven Celtic nations: Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, the Isle of Man, Brittany, and Galicia. The festival's motto, "One Village - Seven Nations", highlights its commitment to honouring the full spectrum of Celtic culture.

55 TUNEFEST DUNGARVAN

Seán Laffey talks to Valerie O'Gorman about this June's Dungarvan TuneFest.

56 PASSING ON THE TRADITION AT THE MINNESOTA IRISH MUSIC WEEKEND

Anne Marie Kennedy in conversation with Norah Rendell for Irish Music Magazine.

REGULARS

32 HELLO MUM

We continue our series of stories, songs and poems titled *Let The Memories Be*, brought to you by the legend of Irish Music that is Johnny McEvoy.

61 GUITAR TECHNIQUE with Cillian Ó'Dálaigh

Brought to you in association with the Online Academy of Irish Music (OAIM).

66 STORY BEHIND THE SONG

My Lagan Love : Gerard Fahy has created a contemporary version of the song on his latest album *Gerard Fahy and the Wild Atlantic Orchestra*, writes Seán Laffey.

LIVE REVIEWS

60 MICK HANLY FINDS HIS TRUE VOICE

Mick Hanly received a warm reception from a large crowd of dedicated fans at his concert on January 24th at the Millbank Theatre in Rush, County Dublin - one of the events in the excellent TradFest 2025 programme. Frank Greally reports.

CD REVIEWS

62 Another selection of CD Reviews from the International World of Folk and Traditional Music.

SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

Subscribe to Irish Music Magazine and have each issue delivered to your doorstep over the next 12 months. Irish Music Magazine is available in PDF download format to your Computer, iPhone and iPad. See www.irishmusicshopping.com for details.

MUSIC

The Award Winning Music Shop



We are Acoustic Instrument Specialists

Banjos Ukuleles
Guitars Melodeons
Harmonicas
Books Mandolins
DVDs Accessories
Beginners Instrument Packs

Plus much more online & in-store


- * Worldwide #1 Deering Banjos Dealer
- * Tanglewood #1 Independent Dealer
- * Martin Guitars Centre
- * Seydel/Hohner/Suzuki Main Dealer
- * Eastman Acoustic Instrument Dealer
- * Free Premier Instrument Setup
- * Run by Musicians for Musicians
- * Price Match Promise
- * Beginners Packs for many Instruments



DEERING **Ohana** **Tanglewood**
QUALITY BANJOS **Martin & Co.** **GOLD TONE**
MADE AND UKES **Leader** **Rockville**
Faith **SIGMA** **PISGAH BANJO** **Eastman**
Schertle **SEYDEL** **HOHNER**

We have thousands of 5 star customer reviews ★★★★★ 4.9 / 5


View our full range of instruments & accessories at
www.eaglemusicshop.com
Visit our shop at Armitage Bridge, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, UK
Open 9:30am to 5pm Mon to Fri, 10am to 4pm Sat
Call +44 1484 661460



Clareen
www.banjo.ie

*Irish Handmade
Quality Banjos*

Tel: +353 91 796156



CARBONY CELTIC WINDS

www.Carbony.com

Carbony Celtic Winds offer musicians innovative musical instruments that blend the advantages of modern carbon fiber technology with the time-tested designs of traditional craftsmen. This unique carbon fiber process has a lay-up perfected to match the fiber structure and density of African Blackwood, proving a warm resonance. The aviation grade material is stable in all temperatures and climates creating an instrument that stays in tune and needs no settling or warmup.

Our designs are recreations of some of the best traditional instruments ever made. All the critical geometries are molded not reamed so the repeatability and surface finish are perfected. With derived equations for establishing the frequency relationships, we offer a full line of whistles and flutes in all keys. We also specialize in close hole spacing. With our angled chimney technology, we create instruments that are easy for everyone to play. Custom work is also a specialty, so if there is a project or an instrument that needs carbon fiber replication, Carbony Celtic Winds can help. The selection of the material also creates flutes, whistles and pipes that are virtually indestructible so all instruments come with a lifetime warranty. Carbony Celtic Winds are used by professional musicians around the globe.

Check out the full line of products at www.Carbony.com and shots of our appearances at www.facebook.com/CarbonyCelticWinds

ON THE LASH'S DEBUT EP, *FIRESIDE*, IS OUT NOW!

<https://onthelashbandofficial.bandcamp.com/album/fireside>

The development of this work is inherently tied to our roots, not only as individual musicians, but as collaborators in this powerful quartet known as OTL. When we formed the band in 2022, each of us brought to the table a unique set of talents, experiences, and influences. From classical technique and precision, to a host of folk and pop musical endeavours, to a creative hunger for the new and original, our goal in joining together was to deliver a project that would both encapsulate the breadth of our musical journeys and honour the influences that brought us here.

Every tune on the album is an adaptation from a band, writer, or player who has, in some way or another, shaped our musical direction and

development. Naturally, most of this music is derived from the traditional Irish heritage, which has been our primary aim and influence. However, much like the diversity of our backgrounds, we haven't been afraid to branch out into a variety of world styles. Throughout the process of arranging, performing, and refining these tunes, we've sought to maintain the integrity of the music we so highly respect, while at the same time allowing it to be moulded by our unique experiences into a work never seen before.

We're now ready to share with the world the fruits of our labour in making this album, painting a beautiful picture of where we've been individually, where the band has taken us together, and offering a sneak peek to where the music promises to take us moving forward.

***Fireside* is available for purchase**

at <https://onthelashbandofficial.bandcamp.com/album/fireside>

Sign up for performance updates and new releases

at <http://eepurl.com/i-hULU>

ODETTE MICHELL REACHES NEW HIGH WITH '*LOWLANDS*' ALBUM

www.odettemichell.com

Award-winning folk singer-songwriter Odette Michell has been hotly-tipped as "one to watch" since releasing her debut album *The Wildest Rose*, dubbed "one of the stand-out albums of 2019" by *iRoots Magazine*.

Now, comes Odette's much anticipated second studio album *The Queen of the Lowlands* which boasts an enviable line-up of guest musicians – notably top-flight fiddlers Phil Beer (Show of Hands) and Chris Leslie (Fairport Convention, The Albion Band).

Released on June 13th on the Talking Elephant Records label, it unveils ten evocative, self-penned tracks weaving together both personal and historical story songs, songs of the sea and extraordinary people.

These are fresh, contemporary compositions, but Michell blurs the lines so successfully you could easily believe some songs come straight from the traditional canon.

Yorkshire born with an Irish heritage, Odette mixes clear, engaging vocals with deft bouzouki and guitar-playing in an album sharply but sensitively produced by Megson's gifted Stu Hanna.

In *The Queen of the Lowlands* it is evident that Odette's songwriting has



A Haven for Traditional Irish Music
in The Netherlands

Mulligans
IRISH MUSIC BAR AMSTERDAM

Nestled along the picturesque
Amstel River, Mulligans Irish Music Bar
stands as a beacon for lovers
of traditional Irish music and culture...

Regular Music Events Include:
Every Sunday: Open Irish Session Traditional from 19:00
Every Wednesday: All-style session from 20:00
Gigs: every Friday & Saturday from 21:00

Visiting musicians are always welcome.
Please get in touch through our website

www.mulligans.nl
f Mulligans Irish Bar Amsterdam
@mulligans_irish_bar_amsterdam_



bodhrán-info

ALL ABOUT THE IRISH FRAME DRUM



Your one stop shop for all things bodhrán:

- large info section: history of the bodhrán, buyer's guide and much more
- High-quality Hedwitschak bodhráns – premium partner
- ExpressConfigurHEDor – configure your high quality bodhrán (vegan option!)
- Large selection of high-quality tippers, hotrods and brushes by Stevie Moises
- Cases, tipper cases, learning material, accessories and CDs



Individual advice based on my experience of 30 years of professional bodhrán playing and teaching.



www.bodhran-info.com

*All major credit cards accepted No VAT for customers outside the EU
(automatically deducted on check out).*



mōses
handcrafted woodturning

become more sophisticated, her craft more polished. Says Odette of the driving title track: "I first saw a painting of the steam ship hanging on a Hertfordshire pub wall and was captivated by the true but little-known story of the 'hero ship', recommissioned to repatriate war-weary troops back to their home shores. I wanted to write a song that highlighted the huge part she played."

The Queen of the Lowlands is available to pre-order now at www.odetteemichell.com

HANNAH HARRIS : AT THE CORE

<https://hannahharrisceol.com>

At the Core is the latest release from Michigan-based fiddler/singer Hannah Harris, and marks her second full contribution to the Irish traditional music scene. The album was inspired by a literal gut feeling — that feeling at a session when the music and camaraderie is so tight you can feel it in your core.

Each of the musicians contributing to the album have been a part of these types of sessions. It all started with Randy Clepper (bouzouki) playing polkas late into the night at Tune Junkie weekend, then continued on with Jacob McCauley (bodhrán) at the O'Flaherty Irish Music Retreat. Soon after Harris set down new roots in the Detroit area, she met Ciarán O'Connell (button accordion) visiting from Limerick and teamed up with Alberto Whitmer (guitar), who she now plays with regularly in their duo, Shannon Lee.

For the tracks, Harris continued her theme from her first album, *Tea for Tunes*, combining old favourites from time spent studying in Cork City, tunes she's composed, and still more tunes collected from mentors and other workshops. Harris weaves her humour in and out of the arrangements, playing ("Cousin") Charlie Harris' as both a polka and a reel, offering 2 key interpretations of a well-known Paddy Fahy jig, and introducing a new hop jig, *The Dog Who Chased the Ducks*, which was inspired by an amusing scene witnessed from the ferry deck about to depart Beaver Island.

Listen to Harris' full discography on bandcamp at <https://hannahharrisceol.bandcamp.com/>

IRISH MUSIC CAFÉ RADIO SHOW PROVIDES WORLDWIDE PLATFORM FOR IRISH MUSIC

www.CRBRadio.com & www.IrishMusicCafe.com

The Irish Music Café Radio Show based near Detroit Michigan is providing a worldwide platform for Irish music and artists. The Irish Music Café plays all genres of Irish music from the legends of Irish music as well as Irish singers and songwriters that are just beginning their professional musical careers.

"As an Irish musician in Detroit, the Irish Music Cafe is a great resource for getting my music out into the world. The welcome in-studio is second to none with great fun and banter from hosts Pat, Erin and Dave. It's always great craic. The genuine love of Ireland and our culture is palpable and like a great Irish pub it's a place to hear the news, connect with friends and listen to the music." - Enda Reilly.

The Irish Music Cafe Radio Show plays a great mix of Irish songs and tunes including weekly interviews with the artists, singers and songwriters from Ireland and beyond.

Please submit your music for airplay consideration to pat@irishmusiccafe.com

Listen live every Monday 9–11 pm (Irish time) and 4–6 pm (US ET) on www.CRBRadio.com and www.IrishMusicCafe.com with podcasts available anytime on www.IrishMusicCafe.com. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/irishmusiccafe

MULLIGANS IRISH MUSIC BAR, AMSTERDAM

A Haven for Traditional Irish Music in The Netherlands www.mulligans.nl

Nestled along the picturesque Amstel River, Mulligans Irish Music Bar stands as a beacon for lovers of traditional Irish music and culture. Established as the oldest and most authentic Irish pub in Amsterdam, Mulligans offers a unique blend of live music, friendly atmosphere, and a diverse selection of drinks.

Mulligans is renowned for its vibrant live music scene, featuring performances by both local and international musicians. The bar's intimate setting allows for an up-close experience with talented artists, making every visit memorable. Whether you're a fan of lively jigs, soulful ballads, or spirited reels, Mulligans has something for everyone.

In addition to its musical offerings, Mulligans boasts an impressive selection of Irish, Belgian & Dutch beers on tap, including Guinness, Kilkenny, and Magners. The bar also offers a wide range of Irish whiskeys,

Across the Glen New Album Out Now

Available in Custys Music Shop Ennis & Ryan's Music Shop Tipperary town
Coming to Bandcamp shortly

"Such sweet, entrancing music on fiddle and accordion which you could happily listen and tap to for as long as the musical dream lasted"
- Custy's Music Shop

AILBE GRACE & LIAM FLANAGAN

with special guest Mick O'Connor



Across the Glen

BURNISHED



AMELIA HOGAN

NEW FULL LENGTH ALBUM APRIL 1 2025

FOR PREVIOUS ALBUMS VISIT
AMELIAHOGAN.BANDCAMP.COM

<https://ameliahogan.com>

altan

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF THE BEST IN IRISH MUSIC!

"Thought by many to be the finest traditional Irish combo working today, Altan seamlessly blend dazzling instrumental prowess and the gorgeously delicate vocals of Mairead Ni Mhaonaigh" —**Chicago Weekly**

"The appeal of Altan centres on the fact that they see no differences or divisions in music. As such, they have managed to cross the all- important cultural barriers between folk and world and rock music" —**The Sunday Tribune, Dublin**

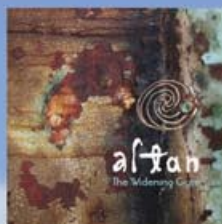
"Altan's special strength is the clarity and coordination of its textures" —**The New York Times**



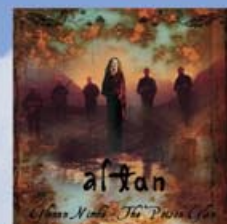
Donegal



The Gap of Dreams



The Widening Gyre



The Poison Glen



25th Anniversary Celebration



Local Ground



The Best of Altan



Island Angel



Harvest Storm



The Red Crow



Horse With A Heart



Altan

SEE ALTAN LIVE:

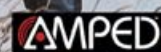
May 8 - Donegal Fleadh, Dungloe, Co Donegal
May 10 - Baltimore Fiddle Fair, Baltimore, Co Cork
May 24 - Féile Binn Eadair, Howth, Co Dublin
June 7 - The Lark, Balbriggan, Co Dublin
July 11 - Early's Bar, Aranmore Island, Co Donegal
July 13 - The Marquee, Bruckless, Co Donegal
July 18 - Loon-Plage, France
August 8-9 - Sion Festival, Switzerland

September 25 - Clifden Arts Festival, Co Galway
September 26 - Féile Átha Léim, Black Sod, Co Mayo
September 27 - Irish Cultural Arts Centre, Hammersmith, London
October 3-4 - Laval, France
October 10 - 40th Anniversary Concert, Guildhall, Derry, N Ireland
October 11 - 40th Anniversary Concert, Mandela Hall, Belfast, N Ireland
Nov 20-Dec 21 - Austria/ Switzerland/ Germany Tour
January 17 - Boston Folk Festival



compassrecords.com

Distributed by:



(An Alliance Company)



spirits, wines, soft drinks, and snacks such as the famous Tayto crisps!

The welcoming staff at Mulligans are known for their professionalism and friendliness. This camaraderie extends to the bar's patrons, creating a warm and inclusive environment where long-lasting friendships are formed.

For those who enjoy sports, Mulligans broadcasts Irish sports such as Gaelic football, hurling, camogie, and rugby on multiple screens throughout the bar.

Visit Mulligans Irish Music Bar at Amstel 100, 1017 AC Amsterdam. For more information, check out their website at www.mulligans.nl, follow on Facebook at Mulligans Irish Bar Amsterdam, and on Instagram at @mulligans_irish_bar_amsterdam.

Contact: Email: michael@mulligans.nl Phone: +31 (0)20 2335543

Regular music events include: **Every Sunday:** Open Irish Session Traditional from 19:00; **Every Wednesday:** All-style session from 20:00; **Gigs:** every Friday & Saturday from 21:00

Experience the magic of traditional Irish music and hospitality at Mulligans Irish Music Bar – where every night is a celebration!

HORSLIPS : AT THE BBC

www.horslips.com

Few bands have left as distinct a mark on the musical landscape as Horslips. Emerging in the early 1970s, they more or less created 'Celtic Rock', drawing from Irish traditional music and British/American rock, crafting a sound that was both timeless and radical.

The BBC captured the band in the 1970s and again during their unexpected Indian summer return in the 2010s. *At The BBC*, the new 5-disc Horslips set from Madfish, brings together nearly 50 years of essential recordings into one definitive collection.

Disc 1 (1973–74) – Live BBC performances from Radio 1 In Concert, Old Grey Whistle Test, and John Peel Show, capturing Horslips' early energy and innovation.

Disc 2 (1979–2019) – A 1979 Radio 1 In Concert set, a 2010 unplugged session, and their final 2019 recording, *Sideways to the Sun*.

Disc 3 (2011) – The BBC Radio Ulster mix of their orchestral concert with the Ulster Orchestra, featuring *The Táin*, *The Book of Invasions*, and *I'll Be Waiting*.

Disc 4 (1979 Bonus Disc) – Unreleased Short Stories, Tall Tales studio mixes from Windmill Lane.

Disc 5 (DVD) – Old Grey Whistle Test clips, 1974 documentary footage & 2011 fan-shot concert videos.

Presented in a deluxe hardback book package with rare photographs and extensive liner notes by band biographer Mark Cunningham, legendary BBC producer Jeff Griffin and curator Colin Harper, *At The BBC* is a celebration of a band whose influence still echoes through the decades. The mastering is shared by Eroc in Germany and band associate Cormac O'Kane, who mastered the acclaimed 2023 Horslips box set *More Than You Can Chew*.

Horslips – *At The BBC* will be released on Madfish on 30th May 2025. Pre-order at <https://horslips.lnk.to/BBC>

Follow Horslips: www.horslips.com / facebook.com/horslips

ERIN RUTH

<https://erinruthfolk.com/>

"There's New World enthusiasm in Erin's voice here, a different take on the ballad than we'd know at home. Her Irish songs come with a dash of California sunshine." – *Seán Laffey of IMM*.

"There's a rich purity to Erin's voice. A room-silencer, confident and earthy, her style is self-assured. She takes confident ownership with vocal ease and versatility." – *Anne Marie Kennedy of IMM*.

"Erin sings with an alluring exuberance that allows her to interpret an Irish ballad's lyrics with meaning, insight, sentiment and historical perspective." – *Roots Music Report*.

Erin Ruth Thompson arrived in San Francisco from Tucson, AZ in 2012 with a background in performing, sight-reading, & auditioning both her voice & clarinet. She also possesses ability with piano, guitar, saxophone, & songwriting. Erin's mother is Scots-Irish American, and her father is a Spaniard. During childhood, Erin's mother brought home Celtic films & albums, along with Flamenco music. Upon moving to SF, she gained further exposure to Celtic music – and began performing alongside artists such as The Black Brothers, The Gas Men, & Culann's Hounds.

Erin released a self-funded album of Irish & American classics in 2020, with limited outlets for exposure during the pandemic. She will release a 2nd self-funded album later this year. It will brush on Irish, Scottish,

2025 CONCERTS

AT THE IRISH CULTURAL CENTRE



<p>FRI 30 MAY - SUN 01 JUN 2025 IARLA Ó LIONÁIRD TOUR DOORS 7.30PM FRI & SAT, DOORS 7PM SUN FROM €22</p>  <p>FRI 06 JUN 2025 THE 4 OF US DOORS: 7.30PM €25</p>  <p>FRI 13 JUN 2025 KEVIN BURKE IN CONCERT DOORS: 7.30PM €15/€13</p> 	<p>SUN 15 JUN 2025 CARA DILLON DOORS: 7PM €30/€28</p>  <p>FRI 20 - SAT 21 JUN 2025 DANÚ: CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF MUSICAL BRILLIANCE DOORS: 7.30PM €27/€25</p>  <p>SAT 28 JUN 2025 DIARMUID Ó MEACHAIR TRIO DOORS: 7PM €15/€13</p> 
--	---



Irish Cultural Centre
 5 Blacks Road,
 Hammersmith, London
 W6 9DT

Irishculturalcentre.co.uk

Follow us @myicclondon & @IrishCulturalCentre












WWW.OIDEASGAEL.IE

Ireland's language and culture





Oideas Gael

1984

COURSES FOR ADULTS
 Irish Language (all levels),
 Hill Walking, Archaeology,
 Environment, Geology,
 Language & Landscape,
 Painting, Weaving, Singing,
 Flute & Whistle, Harp...

Tel: +353 (0)74 97 30 248
oifig@oideasgael.ie
Co. Donegal, Éire




Presented by Veridian Credit Union



IOWA IRISH FEST

DOWNTOWN WATERLOO



SKERRYVORE
FRIDAY HEADLINER



DOOLIN'
SATURDAY HEADLINER

Join us for

IOWA'S BIGGEST CULTURAL CELEBRATION!

JAM PACKED WITH ENTERTAINMENT ALL WEEKEND LONG



THE ELDERS



SCREAMING ORPHANS



THE BYRNE BROTHERS



SEO LINN



AOIFE SCOTT



COLM & LAURA KEEGAN



**MICHAEL DARCY AND
THE ATLANTIC TRAMPS**



BERNADETTE MORRIS

The 19th annual Iowa Irish Fest is jam-packed with entertainment all weekend long! You don't want to miss the Celtic musicians and groups that travel from all over the world to dazzle Fest goers with their talent. With six stages throughout the Fest grounds, you can jam out all three days of the Fest!

Check out the 2025 Iowa Irish Fest Spotify playlist by scanning the QR code!



IOWAIRISHFEST.COM



VISIT OUR
WEBSITE



AUG. 1-3, 2025



American, Celtic-Galician, and original songs. Erin contributes a good deal of her own piano & guitar for the album. She is particularly excited that the project will also engage a variety of revered Bay Area musicians - including Kyle Alden, David Brewer, Cormac Gannon, Tom Luekens, Darcy Noonan, Sara Remington, Autumn Rhodes, Malcolm Robertson, & Jesse Torre. Additionally, Erin is elated at the opportunity to use her mother Debbie's artwork as the album cover.

Watch Erin's website, below, for further updates.

<https://erinruthfolk.com/>

ADRIENNE O'SHEA : *THREADS OF GOLD*

<https://adrienneshea.bandcamp.com/album/threads-of-gold>

Born in Dublin to a family steeped in Irish culture, and immigrating to a unique Irish pocket in St. Paul, MN, Adrienne sought and soaked up her traditional roots. An avid musician, dancer, and singer, Adrienne has spent her life immersed in tradition and culture culminating in her debut release, *Threads of Gold*.

Threads of Gold includes a handpicked variety of songs from sean-nós to Appalachian "that moves, challenges, and reveals a singer who would seem to revel in the stories behind the songs as much as she does the songs themselves." - *Daniel Neely, The Irish Echo*. Adrienne's musicality reveals a transcontinental experience, seeped in old-world style and infused with young, modern energy. She uses a clear voice and mature musicality to communicate the delicacy and complexity of traditional song.

Arranged in collaboration with Brian Miller, and Dáithí Sproule, these expert singers, accompanists, and masters of tradition helped give life to Adrienne's performance of these songs. Recorded at the Hideaway Studios in Minneapolis, MN, *Threads of Gold* was produced by artist Danny Diamond and was released in June, 2023.

Threads of Gold is a comprehensive and unique album put forth by a new and bold young voice in Adrienne O'Shea. "This is a very high quality and quite mature sounding album from a young singer that I think fans of traditional music, and traditional song in particular, should pay close attention to." - *Daniel Neely, The Irish Echo*.

Threads of Gold is available on Bandcamp, iTunes, Spotify, Apple Music, and YouTube.

BERNADETTE MORRIS : FOLK & TRADITIONAL IRISH SINGER-SONGWRITER

www.bernadette-morris.com

Born and bred in County Tyrone, folk and traditional Irish singer-songwriter Bernadette Morris is an engaging performer, who takes audiences on an emotional journey, and has a repertoire of songs that speak from and to the heart. With a captivating story to introduce every number, Bernadette draws in and charms her audience – a gift that is matched only by her wonderful voice once the song begins.

Bernadette is not only an extremely talented singer, performer, fiddle player and entertainer, she is also an exceptional songwriter. Ten years on from the release of her critically acclaimed debut album, *All the Ways You Wander* at the CQAF, (Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival), Bernadette launched her latest album, *To the Well for Water*, recorded with Ben McAuley. The recording has an array of talented musicians including Seán Óg Graham and Gerard Thompson on guitar. The album is a stunning mix of self-penned songs and co-writes with Johnny Brady, Declan Sinnott, Cormac Neeson and Matt McGinn, amongst others.

The new album came after 4 singles launched in 20/21, including co-writes with stellar members of the Irish music scene Eleanor McEvoy, Ríoghnach Connolly and Arborist's Mark McCambridge. These garnered radio play nationally and internationally including Playlisting on RTE Radio 1, and plays on the Mark Radcliffe Folk Show on BBC Radio 2 and BBC & TG4 television appearances. Bernadette was named by Hotpress Magazine as 'One to Watch', and rightly so.

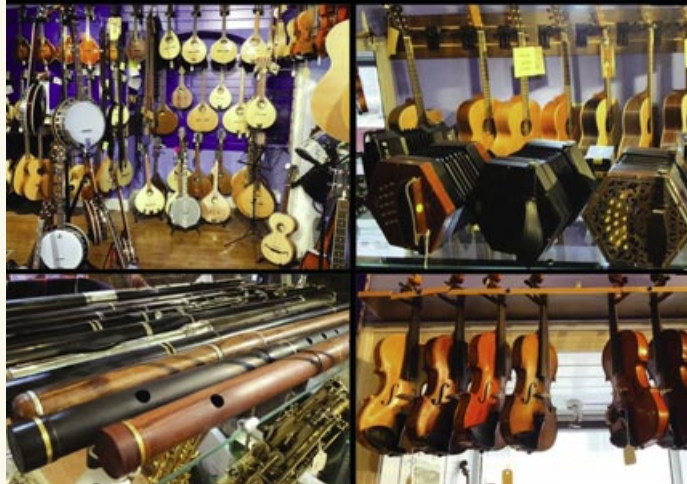
"Bernadette's sweet pure voice rings clear above the rich and diverse arrangements, on a well-chosen collection of songs, both traditional and contemporary" - *Paul Brady*.

"Bernadette Morris is an amazing artist, She is a powerful voice, and a powerful female voice in Irish music" - *Ralph McLean BBC*.

Bernadette is fresh from playing an Official Showcase at the International Folk Alliance in Montréal, and is very much looking forward to playing at the Iowa Irish Fest this August, with other 25/26 dates in the US filling up fast.

For more info go to www.bernadette-morris.com

MOLONEY
QUALITY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS



17 High Street
Galway
Phone: +353 (0)91 566488
WWW.MOLONEYMUSIC.COM

CLEFS OF MOHER



Photo credit: Gryphon Hudson Photography

Not since I first heard "Moving Hearts" in the early 80's have I been so juiced by a new sound - from the Clefs of Moher!

~ Mark O'Brien
Celtic Salmon Radio

Follow us on  and 
CD available  MUSIC   Spotify

www.clefsofmoher.com

The Irish Concertina Company

Quality Instruments Handcrafted in Dublin, Ireland

Introducing The Highest Quality Irish Made Concertina



The Eirú GOLD €4500
Clamped Brass Concertina Reeds
with Inside Angle.
(Similar reeds to Suttner)



The Eirú SILVER €4000
Clamped Brass Concertina Reeds.
(New Concept: Clamped Reeds made
without inside angling for a more
budget friendly top of the range option.)



The Vintage €3500
Steel Ends
Riveted Brass Concertina Reeds.
(Similar reeds to 7mount)



The Vintage €3500
Hardwood Ends
Riveted Brass Concertina Reeds.
(Similar reeds to 7mount)



The Clare €2500
Walnut & Cherry Ends
Handmade Accordion Reeds
(Similar reeds to Claddagh, Morse)



The Clare €2500
Steel Ends
Handmade Accordion Reeds
(Similar reeds to Claddagh, Morse)

ANDY COONEY'S ANNUAL CRUISE OF IRISH STARS cruiseofirishstars.com

Andy Cooney's annual Cruise of Irish Stars will happen February 14-22, 2026. Next year's cruise will be for 8 nights! Almost 700 people are signed up and we only have room for 1000, so now is the time to book your place on this round trip cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida to the Eastern Caribbean that promises to have you dancing and singing along to the best of Irish entertainment!

"This will be my 27th Cruise of Irish Stars and I feel so blessed to have been a part of this amazing annual event first held in 1998," says Andy Cooney. "There's a bit of something for everyone on the Cruise of Irish Stars. If you like to dance and party, you've come to the right place! My band along with several other bands will do just that."

"If you're fond of céilí dancing or group dancing, The Catskills Ceili Band led by All Ireland Button Accordion Champion John Nolan and caller Ron Bruschi will take care of that! You'll also enjoy some great concerts in the theatre with Ronan Tynan. We're excited to announce that the fabulous Kilkenny's will be with us this cruise along with a couple of new performers, Meadhbh Walsh and The Auld Brigade. At the end of the day, we are one big family that looks forward to seeing everyone year after year."

Check it all out at cruiseofirishstars.com or call Travel Professionals at 845-651-4441.

AMELIA HOGAN : TRADITIONAL SINGER, INSTRUCTOR New album: *Burnished* <https://ameliahogan.bandcamp.com>

Available Apr 1 on Bandcamp, iTunes, Spotify, Alexa, YouTube, and other streaming services. For bookings, enquiries, performances, workshops, interviews, instruction, and tour dates visit <https://ameliahogan.com>

On *Burnished*, Amelia Hogan sings with lilting grace and subtlety, reviving songs both old and new, giving them a fresh, polished feel. The 14-track album features one original, *Rolling in the Gold* and a number of traditional, public domain songs and interpretations of songwriters including Dominic Behan, Gordon Bok, Karine Polwart, and Trevor Peacock, with sources from Ireland, Scotland, Canada, England, and America.

Produced by Hogan at Foxtail Sound in Dixon, CA, *Burnished* explores the deep connections between people and the places they inhabit within the living world. The album highlights familiar, often overlooked folklore about real places, sharing the hidden magic found in connecting with the natural world and its spirits of place, or Genius Loci. Through this, she encourages us to approach our relationships mindfully - with people, nature, and the world we co-inhabit.

This is Hogan's third solo project. Her previous albums include the critically acclaimed 2023 release *Taking Flight* and her first solo album, *Transplants: From the Old World to the New*.

FAI #3 song, *Burnished's* pre-release, *Home by Bearna*, March 2025 and a top ten global folk charting artist with a top 40 album for *Taking Flight* in 2023. Hogan's star is rising and she is taking bookings now. Hogan's collaborations include: The Flight Crew, Molly's Revenge, Richard Mandel, Noctambule, Niamh Parsons, Shay Black, and more.

<https://ameliahogan.bandcamp.com> & <https://ameliahogan.com>

ICC LIVE MUSIC EVENTS & MORE (MAY – JUNE 2025)

Early Summer Music at The Irish Cultural Centre

www.irishculturalcentre.co.uk/whats-on

The Irish Cultural Centre in Hammersmith, London is excited to announce a vibrant lineup of events this Spring, showcasing the finest in Irish music and featuring iconic performers.

The **Elis Kennedy Trio**, featuring Elis Kennedy, Jeremy Spencer, and Matt Griffin, delivers an enchanting evening of music on 17 May, blending rich tradition with contemporary artistry.

From 30 May to 01 June, legendary sean-nós vocalist **Iarla Ó Lionáird** returns to the ICC, joined by Cormac McCarthy, Aoife Ní Bhriain, Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh, and Tim Edey, in a captivating three-night tour de force.

On 06 June, Irish rock-folk legends **The 4 of Us** take the stage, celebrating 30+ years of musical excellence.

Kevin Burke, one of the world's great fiddle players, gives an intimate solo concert on 13 June.

The iconic **Cara Dillon**, revered for her crystalline voice and storytelling, performs a rare London show on 15 June.



AT THE CORE
Hannah Harris

New album release



Bernadette Morris

Bernadette Morris is not only an extremely talented Irish folk singer, fiddle player and entertainer, she is also an exceptional songwriter. An engaging performer who takes audiences on an emotional journey with a repertoire that speaks from and to the heart.

For more information go to www.bernadette-morris.com or email risingtidearts@gmail.com

LIONS' HARBOUR PARK IN GODERICH, ONTARIO, CANADA
THE THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL

GODERICH CELTIC ROOTS 2025

Festival
August 8-10

Celtic College & Kid's Camp
August 4-8



@GoderichCeltic



@GoderichCelticRoots

Our festival grounds are a smoke-free environment.
No cigarettes, marijuana, or vaping is permitted.

MacMaster Leahy Family

Appearing for One Night Only on Saturday, August 9, 2025

Celtic Festival August 8th to 10th Performers include:

Alan Reid • Benoit Bourque • Conor Mallon Band • Fiárock
Friends of Fiddler's Green • James Keelaghan • Rachel Davis & Darren McMullen
Rachel Hair & Ron Jappy • Ryan Young • Sophie & Fiachra • The Kane Sisters
The Young'Uns (*Celtic College only*) • Zach White & Caleb Christopher Edwards

...and more to come!

Sunday Exclusive with Shane Cook and Joe Phillips honouring Brian Pickell

WWW.CELTICFESTIVAL.CA

Celebrating 30 years at the forefront of Irish traditional music, acclaimed ensemble **Danú** performs over two nights on 20 and 21 June, bringing their high-octane sound to the ICC stage.

On 28 June, the virtuosic **Diarmuid Ó Meachair Trio**—featuring Brian McGrath and Michael McCague—bring their masterful musicianship to London audiences.

Rounding off the summer, **Maccara Yeates** launches his debut solo album *Traditional Singing from Dublin* on 04 July, following his recent nomination for “Best Folk Singer” at the RTÉ Radio 1 Folk Awards 2025.

Book early to avoid disappointment—many events are expected to sell out quickly. The Irish Cultural Centre has been offering the most extensive and diverse Irish Culture programme to the UK and beyond for 30 years. **For full listings and tickets, visit: www.irishculturalcentre.co.uk/whats-on**

For media enquiries, contact:

Emma Byrne emma@irishculturalcentre.co.uk /

William Foote william@irishculturalcentre.co.uk

Browse our Events Programme: <https://irishculturalcentre.co.uk/whats-on/>

EXPERIENCE LA FAMILLE LeBLANC'S MUSICAL HERITAGE AT ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

musique@agenceresonances.com

La famille LeBlanc, a celebrated six-generation family band, invites you to experience their unique blend of Celtic and Acadian music through their latest YouTube video. The video, filmed at the historic St. George's Anglican Church in Bathurst, N.B., showcases the band's performance of four captivating tunes, starting with a reel from local fiddler Edmond Savoie from Évangeline, N.B., followed by an old Acadian song called *Fille que moi*, and concluding with two crooked reels played by the amazing Acadian fiddler, Firmin Mallet.

St. George's Anglican Church, built between 1864 and 1873, is a prime example of Gothic Revival architecture. Designed under the guidance of John Medley, the church embodies the Carpenter's Gothic style with its wooden structure, reminiscent of medieval Gothic churches in England. The heritage value of this local historic place adds a rich, aesthetic backdrop to La famille LeBlanc's performance.

This video not only highlights the musical prowess of La famille LeBlanc but also allows viewers to appreciate the stunning Gothic architecture of St. George's Anglican Church. The combination of historical ambiance and traditional music creates an immersive experience that transports listeners to a bygone era.

Join us in celebrating this unique cultural heritage by watching the video on their YouTube channel 'La famille LeBlanc' and enjoying the beautiful synergy of music and architecture.

For more information, please contact musique@agenceresonances.com and connect with “La famille LeBlanc” on social media!

DON “BANJO” SMITH

www.donbanjosmith.com

In the spring of 2016, Don “Banjo” Smith set out to make a follow up album to *The Rose Sessions* that he and Marty “Moonshine” McKernan released the year before, not necessarily of the same vein, but of the same quality. In order to achieve that goal, he again recruited Marty as his Co-Producer/multi-instrumentalist, and song contributor, and Bob Both (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob_Both), of Twain Recording Studio in New Jersey, as Recording Engineer and Co-Producer.

The album is/was to be a Concept Album, similar to the one Earl Scruggs did in the early 70's (Earl Scruggs with Family and Friends), whereas Don would be featuring many of the very talented people he has performed with over the years. This has proven to be quite an undertaking with so far up to 14 different musicians, and several have been lost over this time, before they could be brought to the studio to record for this album. There are one or two more Don would have liked to have brought in, but you can't have everything.....

Don features the likes of frequent collaborator Marty McKernan, Jack Driscoll, Mike Griffin, Randy Shenise, Greg Jowaisas, Terry Kane, Jeanie Cassels, et al, playing a variety of instruments on a variety of songs, many of them Irish in origin, but also some original songs (all really good!) by Marty, Randy, Jeanie, and Greg, and a few by some well-known songwriters. It was slated to be finished in early winter 2019, but a break was taken in late Feb. to start playing during the busy season, and then Covid struck, and everything came to a grinding halt.

We got back to work in the autumn of 2020, and all the mixing and overdubbing was finished by summer of 2021, and just recently the artwork was attended to, and we launched the new album just before Saint Patrick's Day, 2025.

I believe that the results will have been worth the wait!

Find Don at www.donbanjosmith.com

CASSIE AND MAGGIE : GOLD AND COAL

Available May 2nd

cassieandmaggie.com

After years of touring stages across North America and beyond, acclaimed Nova Scotian duo Cassie and Maggie return with *Gold and Coal*—an album that boldly bridges the time-honoured traditions of their Celtic heritage with a striking modern edge.

Long-anticipated by fans and followers of their dynamic musicianship, *Gold and Coal* is a deeply personal and conceptual record. It explores duality—between past and present, darkness and light, coal and gold—through a tapestry of original and traditional songs arranged with artistic sensitivity and fearless innovation.

“We see tradition as a living, breathing thing,” say the sisters. “This album is about honouring what came before us, while daring to challenge and reshape it with our own voices.”

The album features poignant reinterpretations like the haunting *I Long to Return* (adapted from Gaelic poet Hugh F. MacKenzie), stirring narratives such as *Dear Imogene* and *Nancy*, and bold originals including *Fool's Gold* and *Blue Monday*. There's a moving tribute to their Cape Breton fiddle mentor in *Dougie's Set*, and a heartfelt nod to Nova Scotian Country legend, Hank Snow with *The Gold Rush is Over and I'm Moving On*.

Gold and Coal was thoughtfully crafted under the direction of a clear and cohesive artistic vision. You can hear in the rhythms the influence of the drive of the miners—steady, relentless, and full of purpose—echoing



Odette Michell
'THE QUEEN OF THE LOWLANDS'

THE NEW ALBUM AVAILABLE TO PRE-ORDER NOW!
From WWW.ODETTEMICHELL.COM/STORE
Also available on all online platforms!

“An absolute masterclass in how to deliver a traditional song”

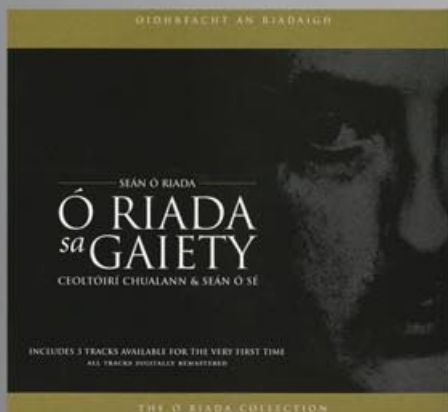
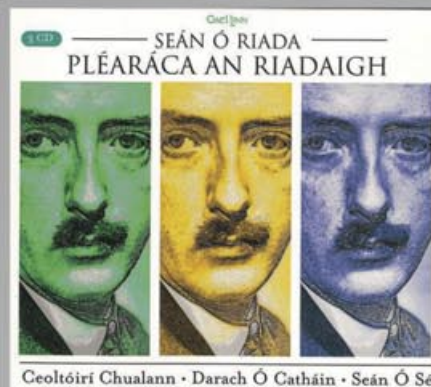
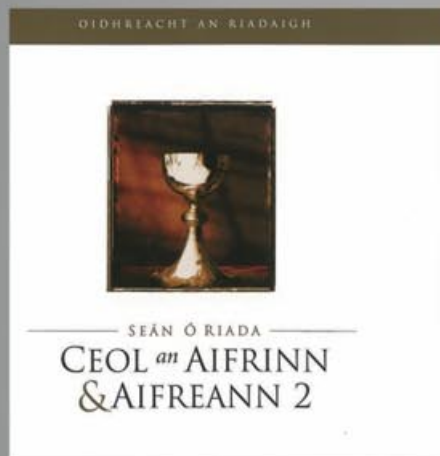
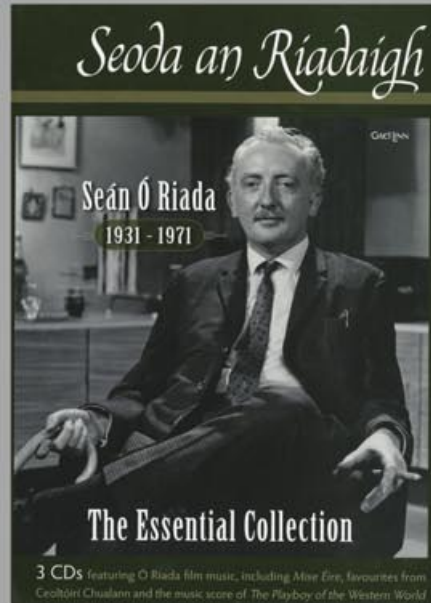
NORTHERN SKY ★★★★★
MAVERICK ★★★★★
RNR MAGAZINE ★★★★★

For tour dates and album launch details please visit:
www.odettemichell.com/tour

Seán Ó Riada (1931-1971)

Ar lipéad Gael Linn, gheobhaidh tú togha agus rogha de cheol an Riadaigh.

The music of **Seán Ó Riada** led to a new understanding of the richness of our musical tradition. He popularised the music of O'Carolan and revived an interest in the Irish harp. With Ceoltóirí Chualann, he used ensemble-playing to bring out the complexity of Irish music. **Seán Ó Riada's** film scores struck a chord with the Irish nation, a chord which continues to resonate today. Choose from our range of releases, all of which are illustrated and accompanied by comprehensive notes.



Gael Linn

www.gael-linn.ie

Also available for streaming and downloading on Spotify, iTunes and other digital platforms.

through every arrangement and lyric.

With sweeping harmonies, cinematic instrumentation, and lyrical themes rooted in resilience, hope, and heritage, *Gold and Coal* is a landmark release in Cassie and Maggie's career—a bold statement that confirms their place at the forefront of today's folk revival.

Out May 2nd on all major platforms
cassieandmaggie.com

THE 19th STREET BAND <https://19thstreetband.com/>

Known for their high-energy and strong harmonies, The 19th Street Band brings together a constellation of Americana, hillbilly, gypsy-rockin', good time music sure to captivate every crowd. This joyous group consists of husband-wife duo Caolaidhe, pronounced "Cally", (guitar/ harmonica/ vocals) and Meghan Davis (fiddle/mandolin/vocals) with the rockin' rhythm section of Chris Brown (bass) and Patty Dougherty (drums).

The 19th Street Band has entertained crowds at US festivals such as DelFest, Charm City Bluegrass Festival, National Cherry Blossom Festival, The Washington Folk Festival, Iowa Irish Festival, and Maryland Irish Festival. Overseas, they have been featured as a regular artist at the Open House Festival in Bangor, Northern Ireland and the Dunmore East Bluegrass Festival in Co. Waterford and recently showcased at Your Roots Are Showing in Killarney. The band tours Ireland/UK every year and brings 40+ American fans along for the ride. This year they will be rocking their 'Baps to Baguettes' Tour from Belfast to France.

Catch them this summer!

Jul 26 The Spirit Store, Dundalk w/ support from Cathryn Craig & Brian Willoughby

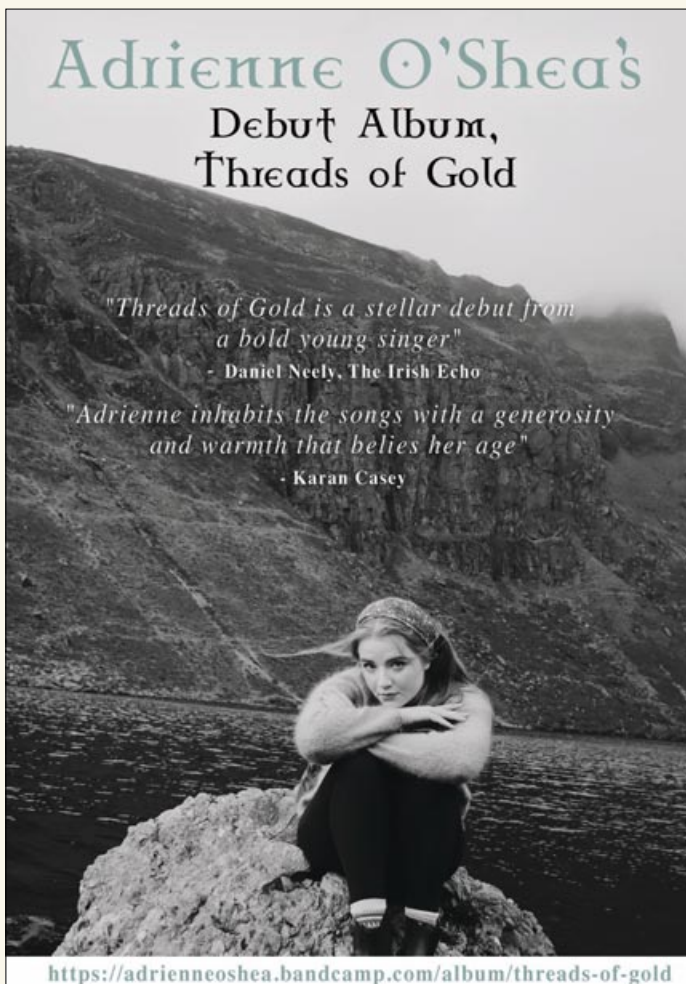
Jul 31 The Sound House, Dublin

Aug 1 The Empire Music Hall, Belfast w/ support from Revue

Aug 3 Ward Park, Open House Festival, Bangor

<https://19thstreetband.com/>

Facebook & Instagram: @the19thstreetband



THE CLEFS OF MOHER FROM KITCHENER, ONTARIO, CANADA www.clefsofmoher.com

Canada's newest and hottest Celtic Jazz ensemble hails from Kitchener, Ontario. The Clefs of Moher was founded by leader and saxophonist Tim Moher in 2014. The group has garnered a strong following over the years and with their newest release in 2022, they are bound to catch the attention of many Celtic Jazz fans globally. At the core, they are a 7-member ensemble that includes Uilleann pipes, fiddle, saxophone, keys, guitar, bass and drums. For larger presentations they expand to a full 11-piece band including French horn, cello, trumpet, and percussion, with Celtic dancers joining in for some of the toe-tapping pieces.

The past few years has been a whirlwind of artistic expression by Tim and his co-writer and producer, Rick Hutt of Cedartree Recording Studio. The Clefs of Moher's second CD focussed on bringing in some of the amazing traditional Celtic tunes including *Toss the Feathers*, and *McBrides*. In addition, many original compositions express the same fiery spirit. To see them in action at one of their most recent live events, check them out here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqofKaAkcyQ>

This past spring the Clefs of Moher performed with the Stratford Symphony Orchestra in Stratford, Ontario. Here is a link to a few of the concert highlights:

Clefs of Moher with the Stratford Symphony Orchestra
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k5hF3Dvu9ql>

A MODERN VOICE FOR IRELAND : ENDA REILLY'S SUMMER FESTIVAL TOUR BRINGS ANCIENT SOUNDS TO NEW AUDIENCES

www.endareilly.com

Award-winning Irish singer-songwriter Enda Reilly is set to enchant audiences across the United States this summer with his powerful blend of traditional Irish ballads, original songs, and cultural storytelling. Recently named "Male Vocalist of the Year 2024" by Sharon Iberle Smith of *Ireland Tonight* on WDCB Radio Chicago, Reilly is bringing his unique brand of modern Irish balladry to some of the biggest Irish festivals in the country.

Experience Enda Reilly at: Motor City Irish Fest (MI), Penn-Mar Irish Festival (PA), Iowa Irish Fest (IA), Milwaukee Irish Fest (WI), Peoria Irish Fest (IL), Kansas City Irish Fest (MO), Beaver Island Irish Festival (MI)

Reilly's live performances weave threads of Irish culture, language, and history into a rich tapestry of song. Audiences can expect not only music but meaningful context through Reilly's celebrated cultural heritage programs, including:

- **"Singing Yeats"** – a lyrical journey through W.B. Yeats' poetry set to Reilly's own hauntingly beautiful melodies.
- **"Unveiling Irish Language Songs"** – an intimate exploration of traditional and original Gaelic songs.
- **"Songs and Stories of Irish Folklore"** – a collection of songs steeped in myth, legend, and oral tradition.
- **"The Rocky Road to Dublin: The Geology of Ireland"** – a one-of-a-kind presentation where science and song collide in a story of Ireland's ancient landforms.

Known for his engaging stage presence and soulful voice, Dublin-born Reilly has earned acclaim for bridging the gap between past and present. Whether performing in English or Irish, his music resonates with both heartfelt authenticity and fresh innovation.

For bookings, interviews, or more info: www.endareilly.com
endareilly@gmail.com

Follow on social: YouTube: EndaReilly Facebook: EndaReillyMusic Instagram: @endareillymusic

TAKE A HOLIDAY IN 'GLEANN an CHEOIL' www.oideasgael.ie

Le breis agus 40 bliain anuas, tá Oideas Gael ag cur cúrsaí Gaelige agus laethanta saoire cultúrtha do dhaoine ar fásta ar fáil in iardheisceart Chontae Dhún na nGall. Tá clú agus cáil ar Ghleann Cholm Cille as saibheas an traidisiúin cheoil atá sa

Tá an Fleadh ag Teacht



© Comhaltas
Fleadh Cheoil
na hÉireann
2025 Wexford

cheantar, go háirithe an amhránaíocht agus an ceol fidile. Is ann a bhíonn Seachtain na bhFidiléirí, scoil samhraidh iomráiteach de chuid Cairdeas na bhFidiléirí, gach bliain. Cuireann Oideas Gael ceol na hÉireann chun cinn trína chuid cúrsaí ar an chlárseach agus ar an fheadóg mhór agus trí chlár ceolchoirmeacha samhraidh gach bliain.

For more than 40 years, Oideas Gael has provided adult Irish language courses and cultural activity holidays in southwest Donegal. Gleann Cholm Cille is renowned for its rich musical tradition, particularly in the domains of singing and fiddle music. It is the venue for Seachtain na bhFidiléirí—Fiddle Week—the annual summer school of Cairdeas na bhFidiléirí, recent recipients of a Gradam Ceoil TG4 Outstanding Contribution Award. Oideas Gael promotes Irish music through its educational programmes and its summer concert series.

This year, our Flute & Whistle Playing course, taught by Claire McGrattan, is offered in both week-long (19–26 July) and weekend (24–27 October) formats. A week-long course in the Irish Harp, delivered by Elizabeth Counihan, will take place 28 June–5 July. All courses are suitable for both beginning and improving players, and the small-group format of each courses ensures that they cater to individual learners’ needs.

Find out more at www.oideasgael.ie and donegalfiddlemusic.ie

DABILLA NAMED AS ONES TO WATCH BY IRISH INDEPENDENT
www.dabilla.ie

Named as one of Ireland’s rising stars and a top talent on *The Irish Independent*’s “Ones to Watch for 2025” list, Dabilla has been making waves with the release of their debut album, *The Hound of Boann*, in March 2024.

Hailing from Drogheda, this dynamic duo has already bagged supports to some of Ireland’s most celebrated artists, including Sharon Shannon, The Tumbling Paddies, Ceol, and George Murphy.

They’ve also secured a headline slot at the Gorey Market House Festival and will take the Main Stage at this year’s Fleadh Cheoil—an incredible milestone for the band.

Their music is earning high praise, with Joan Hanrahan calling the album “very new and very innovative”, while *The Irish Independent* describes it as “wonderfully expressive.” *JOE.ie* goes even further, raving about their live performances as “insane—the best band around.”

Deeply inspired by Irish mythology, Dabilla is on a mission to fuse the ancient with the modern. Their sound is a seamless blend of tradition and innovation, with Darragh Ó Héiligh on uilleann pipes and whistle and Oisín Dillon on guitar and vocals.

“The uilleann pipes are at the heart of this album,” says Darragh. “We’ve explored new and innovative ways to push the instrument’s potential—bringing the regulators to the forefront and blending them with modern effects to create an incredibly rich soundscape.”

“With this album, I wanted to hear what trad and folk would sound like if they were played by The Cure or remixed by Burial,” adds Oisín. This unique fusion of folk and electronic elements shines through in their singles *I Don’t Want to Know* and *The Mist Covered Mountains*—tracks that evoke both dramatic and cinematic soundscapes. Dabilla is redefining the boundaries of folk music, proving that tradition and innovation can exist in perfect harmony.

In June, Dabilla will release a full-length music video featuring Georgina Donovan of ‘Prodijig’, adding movement and storytelling to their sonic journey. This summer will see the band play festivals all over Ireland before embarking on a tour of Germany in the autumn.

Find out more at www.dabilla.ie

JOANIE MADDEN’S 2026 CRUISE – THE BEST FESTIVAL ON THE HIGH SEAS!

www.joaniemaddencruise.com

Pack your instruments, your dancing shoes, your voice and your love for adventure — Joanie Madden’s Folk ‘N Irish Cruise is setting sail again on January 25th, 2026, and you’re invited for a 7 day outing to the biggest and best Irish party on the high seas! Departing roundtrip from lively New Orleans, the ship cruises straight into the heart of the Western Caribbean onboard the Norwegian Escape — visiting the beautiful sandy beaches of Cozumel (Mexico), Harvest Caye (Belize), Roatán Bay (Honduras) and Casta Maya (Mexico).

Legendary entertainer Joanie Madden has once again gathered an all-star lineup that reads like a “who’s who” of Irish music and dance: Cherish the Ladies, Lúnasa, Dervish, Don Stiffe, Kevin Burke, Ger O’Donnell & Trevor Sexton, Rory Makem, George Murphy, The Kane Sisters, The Swallow’s Tail Céilí Band, Donál Murphy, Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones, Jimmy Higgins, Donnchadh Gough, Patrick and Conor O’Sullivan, Kathy Durkin, McLean Avenue Band and many more — and that’s just the beginning! Get ready for jaw-dropping performances, wild sessions, foot-stomping céilís, and heart-lifting sing-a-longs around every corner.

You’ll be mesmerized by world champion step dancers David Geaney, Annemarie Keaney, Gavin & Niamh Shevlin, Noel Spillane, Nathan Pilatzke and Donny Golden, while County Kerry’s Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald celebrates daily Mass for those who wish to attend. Set Dancing, ceili dancing, line dancing, step dancing classes and toss in a golf outing, lively instrument workshops, lectures, and good old-fashioned craic — and you’ve got one unforgettable week.

From morning sets to midnight sessions and ballads, this cruise will fill your soul and leave your feet tapping. Grab your friends (and make some new ones) — Joanie’s 2026 Folk ‘N Irish Cruise is where memories are made, laughter is endless, and the music never stops!

For more information, visit www.joaniemaddencruise.com

Enda Reilly

Male Vocalist of the Year 2024
Ireland Tonight Radio Award WDCB Chicago



2025 Irish Fest Schedule

- Motor City Irish Fest June 8th
- Penn Mar Irish Fest June 21st
- Iowa Irish Fest Aug 1st
- Milwaukee Irish Fest Aug 16th
- Peoria Irish Fest Aug 22nd
- Kansas City Irish Fest Aug 29th
- Beaver Island Irish Fest Sep 5th



Irish cultural heritage programs include:
Songs And Stories of Ireland
themes - Folklore, Christmas, Geology;
Singing Yeats poetry; Unveiling Irish
Language Songs, plus original music.

Contact Enda - endareilly@gmail.com +12692247377
www.endareilly.com



JOANIE MADDEN'S FOLK *N IRISH CRUISE



January 25th - February 1st, 2026

**7 NIGHT WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE SAILING FROM NEW ORLEANS
ABOARD THE NORWEGIAN ESCAPE ALONG WITH JOANIE MADDEN'S LEGENDARY ENTERTAINMENT
THE BEST IRISH FESTIVAL ON THE HIGH SEAS!
OVER 85 WORLD CLASS ENTERTAINERS**



**CONCERTS
WALTZING & JIVING
MUSIC SESSIONS
SET DANCING
SING-A-LONGS
WORKSHOPS
DANCING LESSONS
LECTURES, GOLFING
DAILY MASS
THE BEST CRAIC EVER!**

**PORTS OF CALL: NEW ORLEANS (LOUISIANA), COZUMEL (MEXICO), HARVEST CAYE (BELIZE)
ROATÁN BAY ISLANDS (HONDURAS), COSTA MAYA (MEXICO), RETURN TO NEW ORLEANS**

**Price Includes: Unlimited Open Bar Package, Free Unlimited Wi-Fi,
All Meals - Including Two Specialty Dining Restaurants, Prepaid Gratuities**
Inside Cabins Start at \$1570 pp | Balconies Start at \$1970 pp | Solo Cabins Sold Out
Rates are based on double occupancy plus additional taxes and fees of \$249 pp

YOU MUST BOOK YOUR CRUISE DIRECTLY WITH US TO ATTEND OUR PRIVATE EXCLUSIVE EVENTS!

To Book, Contact Elite Cruisers Email: book@joaniemaddencruise.com

Phone: +1-305-900-6147 | WhatsApp +1-954-612-2834

For More Information Visit: www.joaniemaddencruise.com

SHASKEEN FROM THE START TO THE FUTURE

Seán Laffey talks to Tom Cussen, the Clarinbridge banjo maker, who founded the Shaskeen band 55 years ago.



Although Tom is now firmly established in Galway he is actually from Broadford, County Limerick. We reminisced about Dromcolliher and James Wall's shop, a needle to an anchor sort of place where James wore a brown engineer's coat as was the retailer's fashion in the 1960s.

In 1967 Tom's move to Galway to work was key to his subsequent musical adventures, and led to his burgeoning banjo business which he opened in 1979 (now in the capable hands of his son Fintan). And of course over half a century of playing with Shaskeen.

"When I left school I got a job as a trainee technician in the Biochemistry Department at University College Galway. It was a great start and I stuck at it for a year. In late 1968 I decided to better myself in education and job prospects and moved to London. I spent over 3 years in London and bought my first banjo shortly after arriving in London, from a pawn shop.

"I had a reel-to-reel tape recorder which I had bought with my apprentice wages in Galway and I'd taken it with me to England. I'd record musicians playing their tunes in order to learn new material. I did not realise it at the time, but I arrived in England during a golden age of Irish music there. Raymond Roland, Roger Sherlock, Martin Byrnes, Julia Clifford, Johnny Clifford were all playing, although I did not know who they were at the time, but it wasn't hard to find a session in the city. I had a good job and a little spare cash to buy more tape for the recorder, which means I now have an archive of material from that golden age of Irish music.

"I've kept diaries of all our gigs over the years and I suppose they will be an interesting archive in the future. In some regard they show the clanging nature of music in Ireland. When we started out, there was a big demand for céilí bands and cabaret style presentation in pubs in particular. We were very busy; up to the mid-1980s was the best time for that type of dancing and cabaret in pubs and so on.

"Things changed as we moved into the new millennium and we had a decision to make. We re-oriented ourselves into more of a concert band, incorporating more songs and singers into our sets, so that we became popular with sit-down audiences. We were lucky because as a touring band we could see the changes coming down the road, and we were flexible enough to adapt to the shifting tastes in live entertainment."

Let's go back to London around 1968, Tom takes up the story. "I was mad for tunes and would ask to sit in in sessions as often as I could. There was regular music at The Sugawm Kitchen in the Balls Pond Road and The Oxford Tavern in Kentish Town, and the Blarney Dance Hall in Tottenham Court Road and dozens of other places too. I remember

meeting Bobby Casey in one of those pubs on the Holloway Road and I asked him could I play a tune with him. I said I was only starting out and didn't know many tunes. He asked me did I know the *Sally Gardens*? I said yes. 'Right then,' he said, 'we'll play it as often as you like'. He was so kind. It was a wonderful welcome into the traditional music community in the city."

Another critical encounter came along when he met fiddler Maureen Minogue and her husband Johnny who played box. "They had emigrated to London in the late 50s, early 60s and were very generous with their time and music. I would visit their home on a Saturday morning and Maureen would play a tune or two for me into the tape recorder.

"I'd ask her would she ever think of making an LP because her playing was really exceptional; she hinted that it might happen one day. Sadly she never did record anything in a professional studio, but I had a couple of hours of her playing on tape. Recently, in conjunction with her family, we released a commemorative CD to mark her legacy and the deep gratitude I owe her for getting me on the right road. It was recorded in her kitchen in March 1969. Now 55 years later it is out on CD: *Maureen Minogue Browne Ceól sa Chistín*. We launched it at the Hill Bar, Kiltormer, County Galway, on Friday, March 28th. It was given the official seal of approval by Maureen Fahy from Ballinakill and Trad on the Prom fame."

How did Shaskeen actually form? "I had lots of musical associates in London and we'd play in pubs around the city particularly in the North London area. There were good paying gigs and if I was stuck for a fiddler or a box player, there was a bunch of lads I could call on to fill in. Shaskeen's first incarnation was in The Oxford Tavern in Kentish Town on the first Friday in May 1970 and every Friday night for one year. Then in 1971 came my opportunity to move back to Galway and take up my job once again at UCG. So there I was, walking down the street in Eyre Square, Galway when I bumped into Benny O'Connor, who I knew from the London scene as we played in the Shaskeen there. He told me he had returned home for good and we got talking; the thought came to mind of reforming Shaskeen. I suppose our big break came in 1973 when we played our first Céilí House on Radio Eireann as it was then, that got us noticed nationally."

Notoriety (in a good way) translated to gigs. At one point they were playing 20 nights each month, and that was hard work driving the rural roads in pre-motorway Ireland. They made their debut album, simply called *Shaskeen* on Release Records in 1974. The band at the time was: PJ Hernon (chromatic accordion), Eddie Maloney (concert flute, tin whistle and fiddle), Paddy McMahon (fiddle), Tom Cussen (banjo), Benny O'Connor (drummer), John Dooley (guitarist and singer), and Carl Hession (piano).



Tom has an encyclopaedic memory. There have been over 100 players who have passed through the ranks of the Shaskeen band over the years and Tom can remember each one of them. "I would like to take this opportunity at this time to remember all the musicians and singers who have made Shaskeen a household name in traditional music and song over the last 55 years. These are members who have played in the band, on recordings, on tours, on gigs, concerts etc etc..

"Starting with the present line-up: Patsy McDonagh (Accordion), Eamon Cotter (Concert Flute), Mary Liddy (Concertina & Vocals), Johnny Donnellan (Bodhran & Vocals), Deirdre Scanlan (Vocals & Guitar), Dave Sanders (Fiddle, Mandolin, Viola & Vocals), Tom Cussen (Banjo & Mandolin), and Alan Wallace (Guitar & Bass) and helping out at this time Yvonne Flynn (Fiddle).

Past and associated members who have made a major contribution: Geraldine Cotter (Piano & Whistle), Benny O'Connor (Drums & Bodhran), John Dooley (Vocals & Guitar), PJ HERNON (Accordion), Mark Gregory (Fiddle, Vocals & Guitar), Connie Murphy (Accordion), Johnny Walsh (Accordion), Charlie Harris (Accordion), Conor Keane

"The new girl in the band is Deirdre Scanlan, originally from Monagea, West Limerick but now residing in County Clare. Her love of the culture, music and language encouraged her to study Performing Arts/Folk Theatre Studies in Tralee Institute of Technology in conjunction with The National Folk Theatre Siamsa Tire. Following this Deirdre travelled extensively for a number of years as the main vocalist in a number of shows including Booley house, Sessions from the Hearth, Hup na Houa and has performed on a number of occasions with The Kilfenora Céilí band and many more. Deirdre is thrilled to be joining Shaskeen and is looking forward to bringing her own style to some old ballads and traditional songs. In fact we now have four singers in the band and our song repertoire is rich in material both in Irish and English."

As you can imagine, this is very much an abridged version of our conversation, which was packed with anecdotes and memories of a lifetime of playing with Shaskeen.

Tom concludes with some hot news. "We will celebrate 55 years on the road at a special Fleadh concert at Whites of Wexford Hotel on

"Our big break came when we played on Céilí House on the radio in 1973"


(Accordion), Conor McCarty (Accordion), Mike Fahy (Vocals & Guitar), Sean Conway (Concert Flute, Whistles, Vocals & Guitar), Kevin Rohan (Fiddle & Vocals), Colie Moran (Vocals & Guitar), Don Stiff (Guitar & Vocals), Katie Theasby (Vocals, Concert Flute & Whistles), Martin Glynn (Concert Flute), Sean Keane (Vocals & Concert Flute), Mary McMahon (Piano), Sean McDonagh (Concert Flute), Paddy Costello (Concert Flute), Carl Hession (Piano), and Rev Garry Hastings (Concert Flute), Jack Talty (Concertina & Piano), and Brian McGrath (Piano & Banjo).

"Past members no longer with us who are gone to a higher musical world: RIP Pat Costello (Guitar, Banjo & Vocals), Pat Broderick (Uilleann Pipes & Whistles), Tony Howley (Saxophone & Concert Flute), Sean Tyrell (Vocals & Mando Cello), Maureen Minogue Brown (Fiddle), Johnny Minogue (Accordion), Eddie Moloney (Concert Flute & Fiddle), Paddy McMahon (Fiddle), Paul McNerney (Bodhrán), Aodán Moynihan (Accordion). I am sure I missed out on a few people, if so I apologise. Thank you all for your contributions.

August 9th. Other gigs coming soon are Monroe's Live, Galway on the 9th May, Coleman Irish Music Centre, Gurteen on the 10th May. We go to Stiúideo Cuan, An Spidéal, Co. Na Gaillimhe to record and play a concert for future video and new album number 20. And Shaskeen will play at the Electric Picnic Sunday 31st August, it is our 4th year in succession at the festival."

For more on Shaskeen go to www.shaskeen.net and www.facebook.com/shaskeen/





1000+

Tutorials

60+


Courses

34

Tutors

14

Instruments




Learn traditional Irish music online with our proven system

from €19/month UNLIMITED (6 months plan)

Start Today!

14-Day Free Trial



Scan me

www.oaim.ie

GOLD & COAL IS A DOUBLE DELIGHT FROM CASSIE AND MAGGIE

Seán Laffey in conversation with siblings Cassie and Maggie MacDonald on route to play at Tampa Bay Irish's Moonshine Celtic Concert in Dunedin, Florida.

They were well into their 24 date USA tour schedule and a few minor time zone changes. We linked up on Friday night Irish time as the sisters were about to continue their USA tour, which will conclude on Friday May 9th at Kansas City Irish Center, Missouri.

Cassie and Maggie MacDonald are from Nova Scotia, currently living in Halifax but with roots in Antigonish, one of the prettiest towns in the Province, and a regular stop if you are ever heading from Halifax to Cape Breton for Celtic Colours.

Cassie mentions their grandfather, Hugh A. MacDonald of Antigonish, he was known as the Polka King of Nova Scotia. "He passed before we were born, he was a major pioneer of Nova Scotian Traditional music. He was the first fiddler from the province to record traditional music; in 1935 he took the train to Montreal and recorded six 78RPM records. Back home in Antigonish he was in demand for dances, kitchen parties and the like. Cape Breton's most famous fiddler, Winston Scotty Fitzgerald said: 'When you go to Antigonish you've got to play lots of polkas, probably because they were so used to dancing to Hugh A's polka sets'."

Cassie and Maggie's early recordings featured many traditional instrumentals. However, over the past number of years they have included more songs into their live shows, which leads us to *Gold and Coal*, where songs predominate.

Cassie talks at length about the duality of the album. "*Gold* in one respect looks to the future and our contemporary ideas and hopes about traditional music and folk song. *Coal* references an older tradition, there are songs about mining and the legacy of coal communities in Nova Scotia and beyond. The duality of *Gold and Coal* echoes our process of making the album. Moreover it is where we are in our creative journey as artists. The *Gold* pieces were recorded when we lived in Toronto for five years, and the *Coal* elements came together when we returned to Halifax."

There's an honesty about that artistic and personal duality. They



on our US tour. We play our show and talk about the songs and the tunes, we build a conversation and rapport with the audience on the night. Afterwards we meet them and they are welcome to purchase the CD. Obviously not everyone has access to a CD player right now. We have included a code in the liner notes, so that once they have the CD they can play the music as stream on their devices, such as the Bluetooth in this car." Cassie Laughs.

"The duality of *Gold and Coal* echoes our process of making the album, and is where we are in our creative journey as artists"

are at once tradition bearers playing authentic Nova Scotian music, fiddle, guitar, piano, step dancing and singing in Gaelic – these are exciting elements in their live sets. Then there is a thoughtful consideration of the zeitgeist and how song can hold up a mirror of what it feels like to be alive and creating Celtic art now. The big surprise is that some of the songs on the album that seem so new and relevant today, are in fact, old. Cassie says Maggie is happy to delve into song and poetry archives, and there are times when an ancient verse talks directly to us.

Cassie explains how the new album is being received by audiences. "In a way we are bucking a recent trend; the physical copies of *Gold and Coal* are out before the streamed version. It's an old school approach and one that has been successful so far

I finish our chat with a mention of the design of the album's liner notes; all the lyrics of the songs are included, a bonus for anyone hoping to learn them. The design mixes type face font with handwritten notes, sometimes within one line of lyrics. "Yes," says Cassie, "the handwritten text represents our own original lyrics and the type face represents material we've sourced from traditional verse and/or other historical authors."

Cassie and Maggie have made an exceptional album of songs in English and Gaelic, with stunning contemporary Celtic arrangements that will sit prominently in the traditional and folk canon of Nova Scotia for many years to come.

Follow the sisters online at www.cassieandmaggie.com

ACROSS THE GLEN : AILBE GRACE & LIAM FLANAGAN & MICK O' CONNOR

Accordion player Ailbe Grace talks to IMM's Seán Laffey about making an album that has been described by Custy's Music as "such sweet, entrancing music on fiddle and accordion which you could happily listen and tap to for as long as the musical dream lasted".



Myself and Ailbe met at Nellie's Bar in Bansha, County Tipperary. The village is the natural entrance from the south to the Glen Of Aherlow, which features on the album's cover and lends its name to the recording.

"When Liam Flanagan and me were thinking for a name for the album, we realised that whenever we met, at his or my place, one of us had to cross the Glen to get there. The idea stuck and the photographer, John Russell from Bansha Castle, drove to the northside of the Glen and took a picture of the famous Christ the King statue that looks south to the Galtee Mountains."

That's one reference to distance, another might be the time it's taken for Ailbe to make his second album, twenty five years in fact on from his debut album, *Irish Grace Notes*. He hasn't been idle in the intervening period; he's a regular at Donnchadh Gough's pub 'The

"That idea of balance between instruments is what I wanted on this album..."

Local in Dungarvan' and also McGann's pub in Doolin, where you'll find him playing his accordion on alternate weekends. His day job is with Tipperary County Council. Looking after The Rossadrehid Water Treatment Plant, serving a population of over 20,000. "It is 600 feet above sea level and can get pretty exposed. We had 5 feet of snow there this winter." A lonely spot perhaps, but that isolation makes all his music making with friends so much sweeter.

Which brings us to another instance of distance. Some of the tracks were recorded live not in Doolin but in London. "We visited Mike and Marie McCarthy's pub, The Prince Albert in Twickenham, which has some lovely Irish sessions, including a very late Friday session with the banjo player Mick O'Connor. There are two tracks on the album from those live sessions."

The main album was recorded at Benny McCarthy's Doon studio in Waterford, in the foothills of the Comeraghs. "We brought over Mick

from London and we were joined by Jack Talty (piano), Eddie Costello (guitar) and Billy Sutton (bodhrán and drums). As you know, Billy is from St. John's Newfoundland and Billy did some mastering at Pipetrack Studio and Jason Whelan did the others at Sound Solution, in St. John's."

I asked Ailbe had he a formative experience that has helped shape his musical taste. "Without doubt it was seeing DeDannan play in 1978. Frankie Gavin was recreating the Flanagan Brothers sound, that he had discovered when he played at the US Bicentennial in 1976. They had two singers at the time, Maura O'Connell and Dolores Keane and Jackie Daly was their box player - I just thought he was the best I'd ever heard."

I suspect there will be young accordionists today who will gravitate to *Across The Glen*, as Ailbe's playing is so smooth and so well balanced. "That idea of balance between instruments is what I wanted on this album, and working with Benny was ideal because he gets it. The accordion could dominate an album, it's louder than the fiddle. Benny's production and the Newfoundland boys' mastering has resulted in an album where you can hear every note from every instrument."

"In terms of tracks, there are some old ones, such as the slip-jig *Hardiman The Fiddler* named for the librarian of University College Galway who died in 1855. We have Mike Goldbrick's *Farewell to Whalley Range*, it's a suburb of South Manchester where Phil Lynott's mother once ran a pub; a hauntingly beautiful slow tune *Fare Well To The Catskills* by Joanie Madden and *Caledon Line* by Zoe Conway. There are two marches on the album, *Down the Brae* which I learned from my father and the other is by Mick O'Connor, that he composed for the Thatch Céilí Band when they entered the 1988 All Ireland Céilí Band competition in Kilkenny. They had won the previous year in Listowel, but even this new march wasn't enough to get them first place in '88."

Nevertheless Ailbe, Liam, Mick and the team have hit gold on *Across The Glen*. It's taken 25 years for his second album but it was more than worth the wait.

The album is available from www.custysmusic.com

GERARD FAHY AND THE WILD ATLANTIC ORCHESTRA

Seán Laffey talks to piper and composer Gerard Fahy about his musical roots and his new album with the Wild Atlantic Orchestra.



Gerard was steeped in music from his cradle days. “My mother and father Bridie and Martin were a wonderful musical influence in our lives at an early age. My mother was reared in a house full of music herself, with her father Tommy, being a founder member of the Ballinakill Ceili band. They toured England in the 1930s and recorded many 78 records, it was only the outbreak of WW 2 that halted their travels. Having a family pub drew a lot of travelling musicians from all over the country. On occasion The Kilfenora, Tulla Band and Stockton’s Wing would call to our house before playing Ballinakill hall.

“I had my first tin whistle when I was 4 and went on to win my first of 5 All Irelands on the tin whistle. I have a vivid memory of the morning my first set of pipes arrived in the post and the excitement that ensued when I opened the parcel. A couple of days later my aunt Aggie Whyte and my mother Bridie began my initiation into the world of piping, starting with a lot of groans and squeaks coming from those new set of pipes.

“Later I was tutored by the great Willie Reynolds, a founding member of the Pipers Club. There I learned the finer skills of piping and learned many of the tunes of the Old Ballinakill Céilí Band, and even winning an All Ireland with their *Old Bush* reel. Looking back on our childhood, we were privileged to have experienced the supporting hands and encouragement from Bridie and Martin.”

His new album is almost entirely made up of original works. “When I was eleven I won an All Ireland for newly composed tunes. When I was fourteen I composed *Magh Seola*, a slow soulful melody named by my Dad Martin, depicting the site of an ancient Celtic battle. That tune has been recorded by many artists including the Boston pops, Eileen Ivers, Joanie Madden and many more. Since then I have composed the score for *Tara*, a Celtic musical and *Lord of the Dance Dangerous Games*.

“Originally I used to compose with a tin whistle and blank sheet of paper. Now I hum a melody and play chords on piano and use a Dictaphone. When I am happy with the melody I record to Digital performer or Protools in midi form and then audio. The result is a simple melody track on whistle and chords. From here I can arrange the track further.

“Over a two year period John Byrne and I worked closely together and we developed a close bond based on trust and musical creativity. John arranged and orchestrated my melodies. John also played solo soprano sax on my track *Imagine* and throughout the album he features playing piano. He took my music in an exciting and innovative direction under the guidance of Joe Egan Producer.”

And what of The Wild Atlantic orchestra? “It is an occasional collective for the moment. Over the years I have had the pleasure of performing the musical *Tara* (written by my brother Terry and I) with members of the RTÉ Concert Orchestra. I have also recorded and orchestrated tracks for *The Lord of the Dance Dangerous Games*. This new album features my original compositions accompanied by the Macedonian Orchestra and Sofia Radio Orchestra.”

Gerard explains the significance of the most personal piece on the album. “Originally I had planned only to orchestrate and record my new composition *Bridie’s Road Home* in remembrance of my mother, who passed suddenly in 2016. I composed this piece and I arranged chords and structure to my pipes melody as my first draft. I then sent this to John Byrne. This was my first project with John and having listened to his first arrangement I was excited to have this recorded with the Macedonian orchestra. John contacted the orchestra and the rest is history.”

“I composed *Bridie’s Road Home* in remembrance of my mother, who passed suddenly in 2016”

Guest vocalists on the album are; Chloe Agnew, Sibéal Ni Chaisaide, Paula Kilmer, Zena Donnelly. “The last track is a song I composed last year entitled, *Tell Me Why*; this is one of my favourite songs but demands a particular voice and I was delighted to be introduced to Zena Donnelly, a wonderfully talented vocalist from Dublin who was delighted to record this track. All three vocalists were a pleasure to work with in studio. At the moment I am in the planning stages of touring the album and look forward to bringing this to audiences very soon.”

Visit Gerard’s informative website at www.gerardfahymusic.com



A black and white photograph of a man with grey hair, wearing a dark jacket, looking intently at his work. He is holding a large, circular wooden object, possibly a drum or a wheel, with a mallet. The background is a workshop filled with various tools and equipment, creating a sense of traditional craftsmanship.

**Belfast
Tradfest**

**DERVISH
MOXIE
NOTIFY**

KINNARIS QUINTET

IARLA Ó LIONÁIRD & TIM EDEY

RÍOGHNACH CONNOLLY & THE BREATH

MATT MOLLOY & JOHN CARTY

CHRIS STOUT & CATRÍONA MCKAY

JULIE FOWLIS, ÉAMON DOORLEY,

ZOË CONWAY, JOHN MCINTYRE

with THE ULSTER ORCHESTRA

MICK MCAULEY & JOHN DOYLE

BELFAST HARP FESTIVAL

TEMPEST

GOITSE

FLUTOPIA

TITANIC CÉILÍ

27 JULY - 3 AUGUST 2025

BELFAST TRADFEST

SUMMER SCHOOL

Five days tuition including a full programme of afternoon events.

ACCOMMODATION

7 nights Belfast city centre accommodation from as low as £23 per person, per night.

GROUP BOOKINGS

Discounts available for group bookings.

For more info contact
info@belfasttradfest.com

belfasttradfest.com

PJ HERNON CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MUSIC MAKING

For a man who is in his seventh decade, PJ HERNON is remarkably energetic. His talk is animated and exciting, he exudes a passion for music and the craft of the musician. I wondered why? writes Seán Laffey.



PJ is a cancer survivor and at his age he knows the clock is ticking. “I get things done these days,” he tells me, adding that every day is a bonus, “so why not make the most of it?” That sentiment is one of the driving forces behind his new CD *P.J. agus Marcus HERNON Ceilriúradh 50 Bliain*. A celebration of 50 years of the brothers’ music making together.

We chatted over the phone whilst PJ was taking a break with his grandson and family in Sligo. The west of Ireland has been the centre of PJ’s musical world right up to the current recording at Tom Doherty’s Currinara studio in Béal Easa, a few miles north of Foxford, County Mayo. What then was the impetus to record the new album?

“It’s 50 years ago that I first made a recording. My brother Marcus, who plays the flute had been in the studio a couple of years before me. I had some standing in the traditional music community, having won an All Ireland in 1973, playing the melodeon, and I came to the

“I was lucky to have started out on the melodeon before I switched to the two row button box”

attention of Gael Linn. I was lucky to have started out on the melodeon before I switched to the two row button box. The mechanics of the melodeon mean you really have to be in control of the tune’s rhythm. For me there’s no better master of rhythm than Bobby Gardner; he has been an inspiration to me since I took up playing, and I’d urge young players to seek out Bobby’s music.”

PJ has spent the last 50 years as a professional musician, bringing out a small clutch of highly respected recordings, but possibly more importantly teaching music. PJ was smitten himself as a youngster. In fact he was just four years old when his father, also a box player, took him to see Séamus Ennis at Damer House in Dublin, an evening which in hindsight shaped the course of PJ’s life.

PJ has previously taken a relaxed approach to making albums, it was back in 2002 that himself and Marcus released *Rabharta* on his own Feenish Label. “In 2024 I thought maybe it’s time to record again, and given our ages it’s unlikely we’ll have another break of 22 years.” He chuckles to himself. “Marcus was up for the project and I reached out to Carl Hession, John Carty, Benny O’Connor and Marcus’s son Breandan to see if they could join myself and Marcus and they all agreed.” There’s a continuity at work here too, as both Carl and Benny recorded with PJ on a Shaskeen album in 1974 and Marcus was on PJ’s first solo album, released in 1978 on the Gael Linn Label.

PJ was thrilled when Cló Iar-Chonnacht backed the project. “They are a wonderful recording label to work with,” he says and he is full of praise for the company’s Deirdre Ní Thuathail. They went into the studio in September and the album was launched in spells in Beallach a’ Dóirín in December 2024, with a launch at Féile Joe Éinniú in Carna on Sunday 4th May.

When it comes to the album itself, I said I heard a distinctive céili DNA in the playing. PJ agrees, telling me that they wanted “an old style recording with solid tunes that have stood the test of time.” The liner notes are detailed, as you’d expect from a musician who has been teaching the tradition for fifty years. Indeed he knew and played with some of the musicians who have left their mark in tune names that are session favourites today.

Looking back PJ says he’s had a blessed life, he’s enjoyed every minute of his music, has played with some of the greats of the tradition including his own brother Marcus, a stint with the Shaskeen Céilí Band and a recording with the late Arty McGlynn. His recent album might just be the last one he records, but his musical well is anything but dry and: “Living in Sligo there’s always an opportunity to have a tune or two with friends and family.” Music is a constant celebration of life and PJ is happy to play and pass on the living legacy of the tradition he loves.

Find out more about the album at www.cic.ie



Garvey Accordions



Garvey Tam 2 €1200

- 21 Button Swing -
- 23 Button Tremelo -



Garvey AAA Beginner €700

- Red, Grey Blue -

We Stock A Great Selection Of Accordions



DON "BANJO" SMITH CELEBRATES HIS LONG CAREER

Mark Lysaght in conversation with Don "Banjo" Smith for Irish Music Magazine.



Photo : Harold Hellman

Don "Banjo" Smith has been a stalwart of the US East Coast Irish traditional and folk scene for well over forty years now, and has been given the additional part of his name as a nod to the instrument with which he is most closely associated, the banjo. Mark Lysaght spoke with Don via Zoom.

Ballad of St. Anne's Reel, recorded by Gary Oleyar (playing guitar, fiddles, Bass, and mandolin) in 2017, with me on vocals."

The album includes some perennial favourites such as *Raglan Road*, *No Man's Land* by Eric Bogle (better known as *The Green Fields of France* in Ireland, beautifully sung by Peggy McKenna Greene), *Hard Times* and *The Rattlin' Bog*, as well as original material by Jeanie, Greg, Randy and Marty (one of his contributions is an affectionate song called *Danny's Banjo!*). "Rockin' Randy" contributes three of his songs, two of which are very personal accounts of real-life experiences. He also adapts a poem called *El Dorado* by Edgar Allen Poe to music. Greg opens the second disc with *The World Is One Big River*, while Jeanie's song *The Ballad of Dan Murphy* is a tribute to her grandfather.

This is a compendium of luminaries of the East Coast folk scene, with each performance offering something a bit different, whilst Don is a constant throughout, and his son Ronan, himself an accomplished singer and musician, is lead vocalist on two Stan Rogers songs, *The Mary Ellen Carter* and *Fogerty's Cove*; he also plays concertina on the album. There's no doubt that Don provided the unifying force for the whole project.

"I grew up in north New Jersey but I was totally unaware of the Irish music scene until I was 24," Don explained. "When I was young, my favourite bands were The Irish Rovers and Johnny Cash, and as a kid, I heard a lot of Irish music via the father of a friend of mine, Bill McCarthy, and the album includes a dedication to him. I was singing from a young age, but only started playing the banjo seriously in my 20s, and I just took it one step at a time, eventually ending up going professional in the 1980s."

"The idea started about 20 years ago, years ago... and I'm so pleased that it has finally been completed"

Don sings and plays a variety of other instruments (mandolin, concertina, tin whistle and tenor guitar), but his affection for the banjo goes back to his childhood. His most recent release is the double CD, *Don Banjo Smith and Friends*.

"I wanted to make a record along the lines of what the great Earl Scruggs released (*Earl Scruggs with Family and Friends*) in the 1970s, with people I've worked closely with throughout my time playing music," said Don. "I've had the idea to do this for at least 20 years, the actual start of the project was nearly ten years ago, April, 2016. The recording went on regularly for over nearly four years when Covid hit, and though nearly done, it ground to a halt."

Don's main partner in this project was his long-time friend Marty McKernan. "Marty and I were never actually in a real band together. However he was and is a mentor, and we did an awful lot of collaboration and recording together."

Marty is a multi-instrumentalist, singer, songwriter and producer with whom he had already released an album called *The Rose Sessions*. Recording was facilitated by engineer and co-producer Bob Both at Twain Recording Studio in New Jersey. Don then enlisted a number of musicians to contribute to the new project, including Jack Driscoll (his partner for 20 years), and Mike Kobetitsch, both fine singers/guitarists, singer Mike Griffin, singer/songwriter Randy Shenise, Greg Jowaisas on banjo, Terry Kane (guitar, mandolin and vocals), and Jeanie Cassels on guitar and vocals.

"Some recordings were already completed and were included in the compilation such as *Rare Old Mountain Dew/Hills of Connemara*, captured live in an Episcopal Chapel in 2000, and *The*

Don mentioned the encouragement he received from the Lambe family in Kiltel, County Kildare when he visited in 1987, telling me, "I got a banjo lesson from Davey Arthur on that trip, who lived in Kiltel at the time. My experience of hanging out with and travelling Ireland with the Lambes encouraged me to expand my repertoire and continue to perform."

Don has visited Ireland many times since then, and has plans to return later this year. His journey has been quite remarkable, and he can look back on his long career with great satisfaction, with this collaborative album as a testament to strong musical friendships.

For more details www.donbanjosmith.com



Don and Marty in Callicoon NY

HORSLIPS AT THE BBC

EXPERIENCE THE ENDURING LEGACY OF HORSLIPS WITH THIS NEW 5 DISC (4CD + DVD) SET

Captured by the BBC in the 1970s and again during their unexpected Indian summer return in the 2010s, *AT THE BBC* gathers these vital recordings, including live performances, BBC TV footage and rare archival material spanning nearly 50 years into one definitive collection. Presented in a deluxe hardback book package with rare photographs and extensive liner notes by band biographer Mark Cunningham, legendary BBC producer Jeff Griffin and curator Colin Harper.

DISC 1 (1973–74)

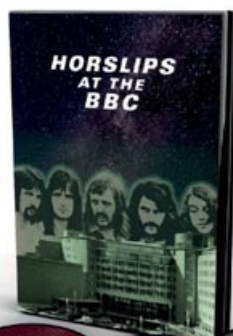
Live BBC performances from Radio 1 In Concert, Old Grey Whistle Test, and The John Peel Show.

DISC 2 (1979–2019)

A 1979 Radio 1 In Concert set, a 2010 unplugged session, and their final 2019 recording, Sideways to the Sun.

DISC 3 (2011)

BBC Radio Ulster mix of their orchestral concert with the Ulster Orchestra, featuring The Táin, The Book of Invasions, and I'll Be Waiting.



DISC 4 (1979 BONUS DISC)

Unreleased Short Stories, Tall Tales studio mixes from Windmill Lane.

DISC 5 (DVD)

Old Grey Whistle Test clips, 1974 documentary footage & 2011 fan-shot concert videos.

30TH MAY



Also available:

HORSLIPS MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW

50TH ANNIVERSARY – 35 DISC DELUXE BOX SET

The ultimate collection of their recorded work

Spanning more than 500 audio tracks on a staggering 33 CDs and 2 DVDs of filmed performances.

Over 250 previously unreleased tracks and 4.5 hours of unreleased video.



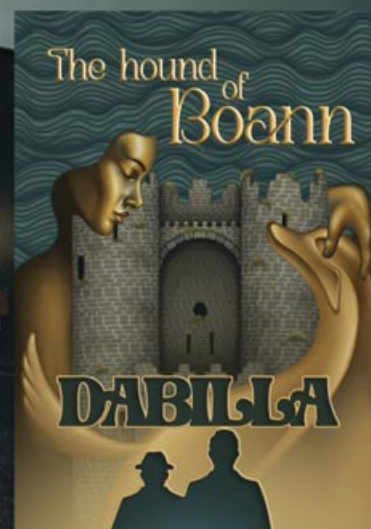
CELTIC NOTE Madfish.
madfishmusic.com

DABILLA

Darragh Ó Héiligh & Oisín Dillon

Album **The Hound of Boann** Out Now

www.dabilla.ie



HELLO MUM

We continue our series of stories, songs and poems titled *Let The Memories Be*, brought to you by the legend of Irish Music that is Johnny McEvoy. Images courtesy of Johnny McEvoy



Hello Mum!
 Somehow, I knew it was you, Mum.
 I suppose you're waiting for the bus, as usual.
 What gave the game away was the old shopping bag hanging from your arm.
 You still have it, I see.
 However you don't have as much to carry in it anymore.
 There's no need, now, I suppose.

I hope you get enough to eat where you are.
 You were never a big eater, but you still have to keep your strength up.
 I hope you take time to rest. That's important.
 Mum, you were always one for fussing about, running up and down the stairs, chasing dust motes in the air, setting mouse traps in the kitchen.
 And dusting down the statue of the Virgin who stood upon the kitchen mantelpiece, for years, and years, and years!

But who knows, Mum, though our house has been lying vacant for a long time, she may still be there, standing alone and forgotten, watching and listening. for your return!

Oh, you were always a bit of a worrier!

I remember the many times you would say: "Your dad is late tonight, and I worry about him so much!
 After all, he is getting on in years now, and the job is getting harder for him to cope with.
 Younger men are always waiting in the wings.
 I suppose I shouldn't fret!
 After all, he probably went for a bottle of stout in Ashton's, after work.
 Ah sure, he'll come home in his own good time!"

Until the night he didn't.
 They said it was his heart.

I remember how you used to say how much he looked like Gary Cooper.
 Sure, we all knew how much you loved or adored him.

I wonder whether he ever realised how much you did.
 In his odd country man's ways, I know he loved you too.
 But, in his time, love was a word a country man found hard to say!

He and I were always a bit distant too.
 We seldom spoke to each other and I always got the feeling that he thought I was a bit strange.
 I remember when he died, how grief-stricken I was, and full of regret for the things I had never said to him, like how much I loved him and all that!
 Whatever chance I had had of saying it then, was now gone forever!
 So, if you ever meet him, tell him I said hello!

I'm sure you recall the afternoons when you returned from the hairdresser's in Ranelagh, all permed up, with the scent of *Parfum de Paris* drifting through the kitchen.
Parfum de Paris?
 At least that's what the chemist called it.
 I would tell you how beautiful your hair looked, and how divine you smelt!

Sometimes I seemed to take you for granted: I am sorry for that!
 But you know that wasn't true. Maybe I was just preparing to move on...I was at that age...
 I admit the sky is not quite as bright as it was before your leaving.

Do you remember the tranquil moments we spent in your wonderful wildflower garden at the back of the house?
 When winter pansies, wallflowers and magnolias looked like Joseph's coat of many colours spread out on the ground?
 Or, on an autumn coloured evening, when we'd gaze in wonder, as the swallows gathered on the telephone wires, preparing for their winter journey to the sun?
 Sometimes, you would close your eyes, as if listening to the gentle autumn breeze whispering prayers in your ears.

Sadly, your magic garden now lies fallow, and the chrysanthemum and winter pansies have long since faded and gone.
 In springtime, the blackbird no longer sings his love song in the crab apple tree.



The tree also is gone, Mum, falling victim to the developers' axe and saw.
 Some other times, we would gather the wind falls from under the apple tree to prepare them for your delicious apple-tart.
 Was it a crab apple that tempted Adam?
 I wonder!

Once, I caught you staring at the lonely sky, as the winter evening was drawing in.
 I saw your eyes were glistening with tears reflecting the stars as they gazed down on you, through the gloom.
 I knew you were thinking of another time back, when you were a young mother, with

your two baby girls lying close to your breast, like two delicate angels.

"They arrived too soon," the kindly doctor said, "There was nothing that could be done!"

"They stayed for so short a time," you cried, "then were gone, as quiet and uncomplaining as the whisper of a breeze!"

Then you would add, as a shadow passed across your eyes: "But not all children are happy and carefree, for their lifetime can be short too, and their suffering can be long!"

Mum, I like your new coat: it's well you may wear, as they say!
Did you buy it in Cleary's?
It suits you down to the ground!

There were other times, Mum, when my heart would burst with my love for you, when you returned from your shopping trips to Ranelagh, on the number eleven bus.

You would always have a *Penny Black Toffee-bar* in your pocket or a fizzing *Fizz-bag*, just for me.

Never in my life would I ever again get such wonderful gifts given to me with so much love and tenderness!

I always thought your smile was likened to the sun breaking through the clouds on a wet Monday morning.

I see you no longer wear your glasses, Mum; I suppose you don't need them where you are now.

Your eyes are as bright as the dog star on a Christmas morning, when, in east Galway, as a child, you'd gaze at the frost burned fields.

"I admit the sky is not quite as bright as it was before your leaving"

I think you are looking younger now, and your step is as light as when you danced *The Blackbird* on the kitchen floor, on party nights, to the cheers of old friends.

You may often think of those happy times, for the furrows on your brow are gone, and your earthly worries are now no more. God knows you had your fair share of them!

But that's done with now, Mum!

I can hear the angelus bell ringing from across the Dodder, and I see you're getting fidgety and anxious to be on your way.

Still, I'd like you to stay just a little while longer.

But I know that can no longer be.

Here comes your bus, rattling down the Clonskeagh road, amid a cloud of black smoke and brimstone.

"T' will ruin the washing on the line!" I can still hear you say... Now, off you go, be careful and mind the step and hold tight to the rail!

Mind your handbag too, with your little pack of Gold Flake cigarettes hidden deep inside!

"They're only to soothe the nerves!" you would claim.

"But we'll keep that to ourselves!"

That's it for now!

You'd better be on your way!

Bye Mum!



Johnny McEvoy



BRITAIN'S FOLK & ACOUSTIC SPECIALISTS

YOUR LOCAL MUSIC SHOP

BUY ONLINE OR VISIT OUR UK SHOPS

We stock all kinds of acoustic & folk instruments from Britain and around the world. Visit or contact us for friendly, free advice from expert staff.









Banjoes, violins, whistles, bodhrans, mandolins, music books, bouzoukis, ukuleles, guitars, flutes, accordions, melodeons, harps, recorders, pipes, accordions, concertinas, tenor guitars, resonators, hand-pans, djembes, samba percussion and more

Musical instruments bought & sold

Repairs, Advice, Orders & Collections

Student discounts available on selected items.

FIND US IN BIRMINGHAM | BRIGHTON
BRISTOL | CANTERBURY | LEEDS
EDINBURGH (SCAYLES) | LONDON
MANCHESTER | SOUTHAMPTON
Order online or call 0333 800 9500
www.hobgoblin.com

BELFAST TRADFEST

Celebrating Traditional Music, Song & Dance in the Heart of Belfast.



Photo : Claire Loughran

Jiggy Belfast TradFest 2024

This summer, from **July 27th to August 3rd, 2025**, the vibrant streets, pubs, and cultural venues of Belfast — a UNESCO City of Music — will once again come alive with the pulse of reels, jigs, song, and dance during **Belfast TradFest**.

Now entering its 7th edition, the festival has rapidly grown to become Northern Ireland's premier festival of traditional music and Ireland's fastest growing Summer School of Traditional Music, drawing traditional musicians and enthusiasts from across the globe to experience the unique soundscape that exists in Belfast, and in celebration of traditional music, song, and dance from across these islands.

At the heart of this eight-day festival is the **Summer School of Traditional Music**, delivered in partnership with Ulster University. Designed to offer participants a deeply immersive experience, the Summer School attracts learners of all ages and skill levels — from absolute beginners just picking up an instrument, to seasoned musicians seeking to refine their style. Over five intensive days, attendees can take part in masterclasses, interactive workshops,

insightful talks, live demonstrations, instrument clinics, and curated film screenings, all led by some of the most highly respected and innovative names in the world of traditional music.

This year's impressive roster of tutors reads like a who's who of traditional music excellence: **Kevin Burke**, legendary fiddler from The Bothy Band; **Catriona McKay**, the groundbreaking Scottish harpist; global vocal phenomenon **Iarla Ó Lionáird**; **Cathy Jordan**, the powerhouse voice behind Dervish; **Stephanie Keane**, acclaimed Limerick-born dancer; smallpipes hero **Brighde Chaimbeul**; Shetland fiddle wizard **Chris Stout**; and revered instrumentalists including **Louise Mulcahy**, **Mary Bergin**, **John Doyle**, **Zoë Conway**, **Caitlín Nic Gabhann**, and **Ronán Eastwood**, Belfast's very own set dancing master. Whether you're brushing up on ornamentation, learning a new dance step, or simply looking to connect with others passionate about the tradition, the Summer School is an unparalleled opportunity for inspiration.

New for 2025, the Summer School will debut **afternoon masterclasses**, allowing participants to broaden their learning by



Photo : Claire Loughran

Students Performance



Belfast TradFest



Belfast Summer School of Traditional Music

attending multiple sessions each day. This flexible approach aims to allow more room for attendees to explore different instruments, traditions, or aspects of performance. To make the experience even more accessible, **affordable accommodation packages** are available in the heart of Belfast city, with seven-night stays from just £349 — an incredible offer whether you're attending solo, with friends, or as a family.

As night falls, the city transforms into a stage for electrifying live performances, fiery pub sessions, and late-night festival clubs that span traditional roots and contemporary expressions. Artistic Director Dónal O'Connor has assembled another incredible **concert series** featuring an exciting and diverse line-up including traditional music sensations **Dervish**,



The Breath

Belfast powerful trad ensemble **Tempest**, which features flute player **Brendan Mulholland** as well as high energy groups like **Kinnaris Quintet**, **MOXIE**, **Goitse** and a once-in-a-lifetime collaboration between **Julie Fowles**, **Éamon Doorley**, **Zoë Conway**, **John McIntyre**, and the **Ulster Orchestra**.

What truly sets Belfast TradFest apart is its deep commitment to

“At the heart of this eight-day festival is the Summer School of Traditional Music, delivered in partnership with Ulster University”

the genre-blending group **NOTIFY**, the majestic **Irish Concertina Orchestra**, pianist-composer **Cormac McCarthy** and the **MGCE Concert Orchestra**, **The Breath** led by the soulful voice of **Ríoghnach Connolly**, founder of *The Gloaming* **Iarla Ó Lionáird** performing with guitar maestro **Tim Edey**. The programme also features duos and ensembles such as Scottish artists **Chris Stout & Catriona McKay**, the unstoppable **Mick McAuley & John Doyle**, the legendary trio **Matt Molloy, John Carty & Brian McGrath**, new



Dervish

community engagement, cultural inclusion, and the nurturing of future talent. The festival partners with local schools, arts organisations, and community groups to ensure the joy of music reaches people of all backgrounds and ages. This inclusive ethos has helped to ignite a growing passion for traditional arts among younger generations and has played a vital role in sustaining Belfast's vibrant status as a UNESCO City of Music.

One of the festival's most impactful initiatives is its **Bursary Sponsorship Scheme**, a program that opens doors for aspiring young musicians to attend the Summer School through financial support from individuals, businesses, and cultural organisations. These bursaries ensure that talent is nurtured based on potential and passion, not financial means. Those interested in supporting the next generation of traditional musicians can learn more about sponsorship opportunities at belfasttradfest.com.

At its core, Belfast TradFest is far more than just a festival. It is a celebration of heritage, creativity, and the unifying power of music. It is a living, breathing testament to the richness of Irish and Scottish traditional culture, and its ability to adapt, connect, and resonate with audiences of all kinds. As the festival continues to grow in scale and ambition, it remains grounded in its mission: to honour tradition while embracing innovation, to build community, and to share the magic of music with everyone.

Whether you're a long-time trad fan, a curious newcomer, or someone simply looking for unforgettable experiences this summer — Belfast TradFest promises a week full of some of the finest traditional arts, unforgettable moments and life-long connections.

To find out more and book today, visit belfasttradfest.com

IMDL 2025 Events irishmusicinlondon.org

Accordion whizz, Damien Mullane returns to London (and Oxford) to launch his second album *Evoke* with 'The Lads' (Seán O'Meara (guitar and vocals), Conor Broderick (keys) and Ben Wanders (Percussion)) in concert: Wednesday 21 May at The Isis Farmhouse (Oxford) and Thursday 22 May at Kings Place (London).

June brings IMDL's 'Irish Hooley in Bloomsbury Theatre' with Frankie Gavin and De Dannan, plus support by The Trad Gathering, on Thursday 26th June plus a second date tba.

July sees IMDL hosting a special concert evening in tribute to North Leitrim musician and renowned Irish music teacher in London, Tommy Maguire at the London Irish Centre. The Concert will take place on Friday 18th July and will feature a number of Tommy's students.

IMDL's continued collaboration with Music Network brings Connemara's Caoimhe (fiddle/ vocal) and Séamus (harp/ vocal) Ó Flaharta with Tyrone's Ryan Molloy (piano/ fiddle) to the Irish Cultural Centre, Hammersmith on Friday 26 September.

London's annual Festival of traditional Irish music, song and dance returns for the 27th time from Friday 24th – Monday 27th October. Return to London Town is based at The Crown Hotel, Cricklewood and other local venues – Check the website now for initial line up, early bird tickets and festival hotel rate announcement.

The year's programme comes to an end with an album launch concert for Dublin's fiddler, Aoife Ní Bhráin debut solo, with Cormac McCarthy (keys) in Hall Two of Kings Place.

For more information about all of these events and more, see irishmusicinlondon.org

THE CENTER FOR IRISH MUSIC, ST. PAUL MN, PRESENTS THE 17th MINNESOTA IRISH MUSIC WEEKEND

June 5th – 8th, 2025 <http://www.centerforirishmusic.org/mim/>

Presented by the Center for Irish Music, Minnesota Irish Music Weekend is a unique festival that pairs world-class traditional Irish musicians and teachers with learners of all ages for a weekend of workshops, lectures, sessions, and concerts.

Each of our visiting artists is recognized for their musical mastery and will offer insights and techniques to help learners tap into the deep roots of traditional Irish music. This year's featured artists include musicians Mick Conneely – fiddle, bouzouki; Pauline Conneely – banjo; Sorcha Costello – fiddle; Mary McNamara – concertina; Brian Mullen – song; Conal O'Grada – flute; Danny O'Mahony – accordion; and Dáithí Sproule – guitar, song!

The 2025 weekend includes a rousing **Kick-Off Celebration** at a local brewery. **The Great Session Experience** is free and open to all! Featuring all visiting artists, the much anticipated **Master Artists Concert** is a must-see event that will also be broadcast live. Programs include:

- Irish Trad Immersion Camp for 9-12 year-olds
- Intermediate-Advanced Teen Program
- Adult Workshops, Lectures & Classes for intermediate to advanced-level students

Workshops are offered in accordion, banjo, bouzouki, concertina, fiddle, flute, harp, whistle, uilleann pipes, and song, along with fascinating in-depth talks and lectures with visiting artists on the Irish musical tradition.

Lecture, workshop, and concert prices range from \$10 to \$250 for a weekend package. Find more information at <http://www.centerforirishmusic.org/mim/>

The Center for Irish Music, 836 Prior Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104. Telephone: +1 (651) 815-0083. www.centerforirishmusic.org

MOTOR CITY IRISH FEST CELEBRATES 15TH YEAR OF SHARING IRISH HERITAGE THIS JUNE

June 6th – 8th, 2025 www.motorcityirishfest.com

Music and Cultural Festival brings in top entertainers from Ireland and regionally. The Motor City Irish Fest (MCIF) will celebrate the 15th Anniversary at Greenmead Historic Park in Livonia, Mich this June 6 – 8, 2025. One of the premier Irish-themed events in Southeast Michigan, the festival features a stellar music lineup, including headline bands from Ireland, in two music venues.

For the 15th Anniversary year, festival organisers are not holding back. Headline performers include The Kilkennys, a top folk / ballad foursome that are ranked among the top trad groups, alongside the likes of the Dubliners and the Clancy Brothers. Returning this year, and also from Ireland, Sina Theil will bring her dynamic performing style to the stage. Sina is more than a talented musician, she is truly one of the finest entertainers to grace an MCIF stage. The event features a third headliner, Elias Alexander. From Oregon, Alexander is a singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who blends traditional instruments with pulsing electronics to weave a tapestry unlike any other for an Irish festival.

Also on stage are many world-class local musicians, such as Dubliner Enda Reilly, now living in Michigan, and the ever-popular Blackthorn. Fan favourites like Brother Crowe, The Codgers, McSpillin, Wakefire, Ironwood, Crossbow, The Lepracons and more will perform in two music tents over the weekend.

For a full list of bands, visit the event website, www.motorcityirishfest.com

TUNEFEST DUNGARVAN

A Weekend of World-Class Trad, Lively Sessions & Cultural Celebration

June 20th – 22nd, 2025 Tunefest.ie

Now in its fifth year, TuneFest has established itself as a welcoming and authentic gathering for musicians, singers, and dancers from across Ireland and beyond. Over the course of the weekend, the town will come alive with concerts, open-air performances, pub sessions, and workshops, offering something for everyone—from seasoned players to those simply drawn to the captivating power and heart of live traditional music.

This year's festival welcomes a remarkable gathering of musicians, including the internationally acclaimed Cherish the Ladies, marking their 40th anniversary, alongside Danú who are marking their 30th year, and award winning talents Talisk, and The Rising. These celebrated artists bring a deep respect for the tradition, a wealth of experience, and a powerful connection to their music and have amassed a large and loyal fanbase.

But TuneFest is more than just a series of performances—it's a living, breathing celebration of the Irish tradition, where the best music is often found in the informal pub sessions that spill out onto the streets. Grattan Square in the centre of town will once again be the heart of the festival, with the outdoor gig rig hosting free performances, while Dungarvan's renowned pubs will welcome players from near and far for impromptu, spirited sessions.

At its core, TuneFest is about passing the music forward. On Saturday, June 21st, at Ard Scoil na nDéise, aspiring musicians will have the opportunity to learn from some of the country's finest players in workshops covering fiddle, concertina, whistle, banjo, accordion, and bodhrán. These workshops will culminate in a tutor and student concert, offering a unique opportunity for participants to perform alongside their mentors. Meanwhile, the town itself will be buzzing with youthful talent, as the festival's busking competition invites young musicians to showcase their skills on the streets of Dungarvan.

TuneFest Dungarvan is more than a festival—it's a gathering of people who share a love of traditional music. Whether you're settling in for an intimate session, joining the crowds at an open-air performance, or playing tunes late into the night, this is a weekend that captures the true spirit of Irish music.

For more details on tickets, workshops, and the full festival schedule, visit Tunefest.ie

23rd ANNUAL PENN-MAR IRISH FESTIVAL SET FOR JUNE

June 21st, 2025 PennMarIrishFestival.com

The Penn-Mar Irish Festival returns June 21 with a new layout as the festival moves to Pheasant Run Greenhouse & Garden Center.

This volunteer-run celebration of Irish heritage features traditional and contemporary Irish music, dance groups, cultural talks and living history exhibits, Irish food, a free children's activity area, and a variety of quality vendors offering Irish gifts, clothing, jewellery, music, books, pottery, photography, stained glass, and more.

Enjoy fantastic entertainment all day with Albannach, Cas Ceol, Cassie and Maggie, Clann Redmond, Diddley Idols, Enda Reilly, Runa, and Tartan Terrors, along with Susquehanna Pipes & Drums,

McGinley School of Irish Dance, Ni Riain School of Irish Dance, and Oh! Gills Irish Dancers.

New this year is the "Blazing a Trail: The Lives and Legacies of Irish Diaspora Women" exhibit, courtesy of EPIC, The Irish Emigration Museum, highlighting the lives and legacies of 21 Irish diaspora women in the fields of politics, humanitarianism, women's suffrage, the arts, the sciences, and sport.

Some festival seating is provided, but lawn chairs and blankets are welcome. Pets and smoking are prohibited.

Pheasant Run is located in southern York County, Pennsylvania, near I-83 Exit 8. Look for parking signs along Susquehanna Trail and visit the website for a map and parking info. Shuttles will run a continuous loop between two nearby off-site lots and the venue. Handicapped parking available on site.

Festival hours are 10:30am-9pm. For discounted advance tickets and details, visit PennMarIrishFestival.com.

Follow social media (#PennMarIrish) for updates. For all inquiries, email PennMarIrish@gmail.com.

CRAICEANN 2025 : THE BODHRÁN SUMMERSCHOOL

June 30th – July 4th, 2025

Inis Oírr, Aran Islands www.craiceann.com

The Craiceann Bodhrán Summerschool returns to the beautiful island of Inis Oírr from Monday, June 30th to Friday, July 4th, 2025. Celebrated as one of the most immersive and inspiring gatherings for bodhrán enthusiasts worldwide, Craiceann once again promises a week full of rhythm, learning, and tradition. We are thrilled to announce our outstanding 2025 tutorial team, featuring some of the most respected names in the bodhrán world: Aimee Farrell-Courtney, Niamh Fennell, Brian Morrissey, Jim Higgins, Dermot Sheedy, Kieran Leonard, and Andy Kruspe.

This year's programme includes two exceptional concerts:

- The first concert features Aimee Farrell Courtney and friends. Our long time tutor Aimee Farrell Courtney has assembled a band especially for this night not to be missed.
- The second concert showcases The Mainlanders featuring All Ireland Champion Peter McKenna on pipes, Micky Fearon on guitar and vocals, Aaron Glancy (another All Ireland champion!) on accordion and Sean Breen on bodhrán.

Our daytime workshops and lectures will delve deeper into the tradition and evolution of the bodhrán:

- Micheál Ó hAimhain, one of the founding forces behind Craiceann,
- Madeline Earp & Aimee Farrell-Courtney - *Celebrating the women of the bodhrán world*
- Gary Fortune - *21 Years of the Craic at Craiceann*

As always, we're delighted to welcome Stevie Moises, who will be on-site with his mobile lathe and a range of woods—ready to craft custom tipplers to your specifications. He'll be working throughout the week and is happy to chat all things tipper-related.

Bodhrán maker Christian Hedwitschak will also be present with a fine selection of his handcrafted drums and available throughout the event.

Whether you're a seasoned player or new to the instrument, Craiceann 2025 promises an unforgettable week of music, community, and culture.

For more information and registration, visit www.craiceann.com

McPEAKE AT SCOIL SAMHRAIDH WILLIE CLANCY

www.scoilsamhraidhwilleclancy.com

On Saturday afternoon, 12th July, Francis McPeake the 1V will present a performance-based lecture on the history of the remarkable musical family from Belfast. The family were one of the few Irish groups that predated the ballad boom era of the 1960s, coming into prominence in the late 50s when they began to attract media attention as the McPeake Family or the McPeakes.

They were recorded in the 1950s by Peter Kennedy for the BBC, toured the US in 1965, won the Eisteddfodau on several occasions, played the Albert Hall, were admired by emerging folk singers of the period like Bob Dylan, and had their songs recorded by the Clancys, the Byrds and Van Morrison.

Francis McPeake the 1V, who has inherited the family's piping tradition, will trace their musical lineage from the founder, Francis the 1, through Francis the 11, and Francis the 111, who established the



UPCOMING EVENTS

www.irishmusicinlondon.org

DAMIEN MULLANE AND THE LAADS

WED 21 MAY 2025
The Isis Farmhouse, Oxford. £15 / £7 U18s
THU 22 MAY 2025
KINGS PLACE, N1 9AG
DOORS 7.30PM | £20/£10



TOMMY MAGUIRE TRIBUTE CONCERT

LONDON IRISH CENTRE, NW1 9XB
FRI 18 JULY 2025
DOORS 7.30PM | £15/£7 U18s



MUSIC NETWORK TOUR: CAOIMHE AND SEAMUS O FLAHERTY WITH RYAN MOLLOY

IRISH CULTURAL CENTRE, W6 9DT
FRI 26 SEP 2025
DOORS 7.30PM | £15



IRISH HOOLEY IN BLOOMSBURY THEATRE WITH FRANKIE GAVIN AND DE DANNAN

SUPPORT BY THE TRAD GATHERING BLOOMSBURY THEATRE
THU 26 JUNE 2025
DOORS 7PM | £22.50 / £7 U18s



CONCERT AT KINGS PLACE: Aoife Ní Bhriain and Cormac McCarthy (album launch concert)

KINGS PLACE, N1 9AG
THU 11 DEC 2025
DOORS 7.30 | TICKETS TBA



Return to London Town Festival 2025

RETURN TO LONDON TOWN FESTIVAL 2025
THE CROWN HOTEL, NW2
FRI 24 OCT - MON 27 OCT
EARLY BIRD TICKETS AVAILABLE IN APRIL - RETURN.TOLONDONTOWN.ORG



RETURN TO LONDON TOWN
Friday 24th - Monday 27th October 2025
LONDON'S 5TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF
TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC, DANCE AND DRINK

Find out more about what we do, who we are, and upcoming events on our websites:

www.irishmusicinlondon.org

www.returntolondontown.org

@IMDLEvents

@Irishmusicdancelondon

@IMDLEvents

@IMDLEvents

Irish Music and Dance in London

@IMDLEvents

IMDL would like to thank its current funders, sponsors and partners for supporting their work throughout the year



influential Francis McPeake School of Music in Belfast, to the present The family group, now known as McPeake, who have an established identity on the Irish and international folk music scene. Explaining the name McPeake for the current line-up of performers, Francis the 1V says:

"The reason I changed it to McPeake was not only because I'm Francis McPeake but because the main players in the band were influenced by the Francis McPeake School of Music, just as I was...Not in a million years would I have called it the McPeake Family because that's what they were in the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s. So McPeake seemed to be the appropriate name.....I cannot perform the music the way the McPeake Family did in the 60s. I don't believe they could have performed it how my grandfather performed it in the 40s or how my great-grandfather performed it in 1915."

www.scoilsamhraidhwillieclancy.com


CATSKILLS IRISH ARTS WEEK

July 13th – 19th, 2025 <https://www.mjquirishcentre.com>

The Catskills Irish Arts Week enters its 31st year as a week-long summer school devoted to the preservation and promotion of Traditional Irish music and dance under the auspices of the Michael J. Quill Irish Cultural and Sports Centre in East Durham, New York, the heart of the Irish Catskills. The CIAW will take place July 13-19 with classes scheduled Monday to Friday and a closing day-long festival on Saturday, July 19, 2025. Of special interest this year we will open the CIAW on Sunday evening, July 13 with a special Catskills Concert presentation marking 40 YEARS of CHERISH THE LADIES led by founding members Joanie Madden and Mary Coogan with Mirella Murray, Nollaig Casey and Kate Purcell and special guests at the Quill Festival Grounds. Later in the week we will also welcome the return of The Yanks who formed at the Catskills Irish Arts Week.

Our Irish teachers and performers include Mary Bergin, Gerry O'Connor, Mirella Murray, Nollaig Casey, Kate Purcell, Jack Talty, Dan Gurney, John Paul Reynolds, Bryan Murphy, Keelan McGrath, Deirdre Cronin for creative writing, Vincent Woods for poetry and Padraig McEneaney for the Sets and more to be confirmed.

Stateside staff features Joanie Madden, Mary Coogan, Rose Conway Flanagan, Brian Conway, Siobhan and Willie Kelly, Larry Nugent,



The Catskills Irish Arts Week is a week-long summer school devoted to the preservation and promotion of Traditional Irish music and dance under the auspices of the M. J. Quill Irish Cultural and Sports Centre in East Durham, New York, the heart of the Irish Catskills.

We will open the CIAW on Sunday evening, July 13 with a special Catskills Concert presentation marking 40 YEARS of CHERISH THE LADIES led by founding members Joanie Madden and Mary Coogan.

Our Irish teachers and performers include Mary Bergin, Gerry O'Connor, Mirella Murray, Nollaig Casey, Kate Purcell, Jack Talty, Dan Gurney, John Paul Reynolds, Bryan Murphy, Keelan McGrath, Deirdre Cronin for creative writing, Vincent Woods for poetry and Padraig McEneaney for the Sets and more to be confirmed.

Stateside staff features Joanie Madden, Mary Coogan, Rose Conway Flanagan, Brian Conway, Siobhan and Willie Kelly, Larry Nugent, Eileen Clune Goodman, Pauline Conneely, Jackie O'Riley, Isaac Alderson, Eimear Arkins, Eileen Gannon, Annmarie Acosta Williams, Patty Furlong, Loretta Egan Murphy, Brendan Dolan, Margie Mulvihill, Michelle Bergin, Alan Murray, Colin Harte, Regan Wick, Brenda Dowling, Aoife Griffin, David Healy Dowling, Caitriona Fee, Sean Earnest, David McKinley Ward, Ivan Goff, Katie Linnane and Erin Loughran (Children Program Coordinator) with more to come.

Morning and Afternoon Classes daily from Monday July 14 to Friday July 18 along with late afternoon topical lectures from the staff, Evening Concerts and Barn Dance on the Quill Festival Grounds, Ceilithe all week in the famed Shamrock House with Fear A Tí Padraig McEneaney with nightly Irish Pub Sessions Galore in famed Irish resorts and roadhouses. Finale Festival on Saturday July 19th on the Quill Festival Grounds from noon to 7pm.

Registration available at <http://www.mjquirishcentre.com>
For more information contact Paul Keating, CIAW Artistic Director at paulkeating@aol.com or phone 001-201-965-6598

Logos at the bottom include: 25th Anniversary of the Quill Festival, Culture Ireland, The Quill Festival, Government of Ireland, and the Quill Festival Grounds.

Eileen Clune Goodman, Pauline Conneely, Jackie O'Riley, Isaac Alderson, Eimear Arkins, Eileen Gannon, Annmarie Acosta Williams, Patty Furlong, Loretta Egan Murphy, Brendan Dolan, Margie Mulvihill, Michelle Bergin, Alan Murray, Colin Harte, Regan Wick, Brenda Dowling, Aoife Griffin, David Healy Dowling, Caitriona Fee, Sean Earnest, David McKinley Ward, Ivan Goff, Katie Linnane and Erin Loughran (Children Program Coordinator) with more to come.

Morning and Afternoon Classes daily from Monday July 14 to Friday July 18 along with late afternoon topical lectures from the staff, Evening Concerts and Barn Dance on the Quill Festival Grounds, Ceilithe all week in the famed Shamrock House with Fear A Tí Padraig McEneaney with nightly Irish Pub Sessions Galore in famed Irish resorts and roadhouses. Finale Festival on Saturday July 19th on the Quill Festival Grounds from noon to 7 pm.

Registration available at <http://www.mjquirishcentre.com>

For more information contact Paul Keating, CIAW Artistic Director at paulkeating@aol.com or phone 001-201-965-6598.

SOUTH SLIGO SUMMER SCHOOL

July 13th – 19th, 2025 www.southsligosummerschool.com

As the days lengthen the anticipation is building for the 39th Year of the South Sligo Summer School in Tubbercurry, 13th to 19th July 2025. Bookings are filling fast for all workshops and the programme of events for the week is now available to browse through and print or download on the summer school website www.southsligosummerschool.com where a link is also provided to online enrolment and ticket booking for all seven céilithe as well as our two main concerts, the Tribute to mother and daughter Bernie & Holly Geraghty on Monday 14th July and the Grand Traditional Concert, featuring a host of tutors, local and visiting musicians, singers and dancers, on Friday 18th.

Both concerts start at 8 pm and will be held in The May Queen, in the heart of the town centre, across the Square from St Brigid's Hall, the main dancing and meeting point hub for the week.

With classes and workshops as well as practice sessions to suit all ages and levels of experience, there literally is something for everyone. Our Afternoon Talks and Presentations are bookended this year with two local areas featured – on Monday 14th at 2.30 pm father and daughter Colm & Siobhán O'Donnell will give us a flavour of the rich musical heritage in their extended family around Kilmactigue at the foot of the Ox Mountains, while on Friday 18th musical friends, fiddle player Declan Folan & flute and whistle player Fr James McDonagh will share their musical memories and influences growing up in the Killavil and Bunnanadden area.

These are just a few snippets of a packed programme. Bígí linn!

www.southsligosummerschool.com

BELFAST TRADFEST

July 27th – August 3rd, 2025 www.belfasttradfest.com

Belfast TradFest, the pinnacle of world-class traditional music concerts, fiery pub sessions, and Ireland's fastest growing summer school of traditional music, is set to celebrate its 7th edition this July across Belfast UNESCO City of Music. The internationally renowned festival will mark this milestone with its most ambitious programme of music yet between Sunday 27th July – Sunday 3rd August 2025.

Featuring Dervish, Matt Molloy & John Carty, Ríoghnach Connolly & The Breath, Iarla Ó Lionáird & Tim Edey, Chris Stout & Catríona McKay, Notify with Cormac McCarthy & MGCE Orchestra, Mick McAuley & John Doyle, Julie Fowlis, Éamon Doorley, Zoë Conway and John McIntyre with the Ulster Orchestra, Moxie, Kinnaris Quintet, Flutopia, Seán Maguire Fiddle Concert, Belfast Harp Festival concert, the annual TITANIC Céilí which attracted 10,000 to the Titanic Slipways last year and which the festival hopes to build towards a Guinness World Record attempt during a future Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in Belfast.

The week-long Summer School of Traditional Music which takes place in the stunning Ulster University campus in Belfast city centre, this year features tutors of the calibre of Louise Mulcahy, Brighde Chaimbeul, Iarla Ó Lionáird, John Doyle, Cathy Jordan, Kevin Burke, Stephanie Keane, Mary Bergin, Sinéad McKenna, Caitlín Nic Gabhann, Conor Caldwell, John Carty, Gráinne Hambly, Padraig McGovern, Brian McDonagh, Aimée Farrell Courtney, Tom Morrow & many more...

Also featuring one of Ireland's premier session trails with the best musicians from all over the country, a solo highland piping competition, lectures, talks, céilís, film screenings and taster sessions.

22nd Annual O'Flaherty IRISH MUSIC RETREAT

October 23-26

HOBLITZELLE CAMP AND
CONFERENCE CENTER
MIDLOTHIAN, TX
(30 MILES SOUTH OF DALLAS)



Calum Bell
Flute/Whistle Fundamentals



Peter Erica
Singing



Darragh Carey-Kennedy
Mandolin/Tenor Banjo Fundamentals



Joanna Clare
Fiddle Fundamentals



Anna Colliton
Bodhrán



John Coyne
Bouzouki



Francis Cunningham
Concertina



Liz Doherty
Fiddle



Mickey Dunne
Uilleann Pipes



Danielle Enblom
Sean-Nós Dancing



Nicole Fig
Bodhrán Fundamentals



Caoimhe Ó Fhiatharta
Fiddle



Séamus Ó Fhiatharta
Harp



Cliona Bailey
Concertina Fundamentals



Brian Hughes
Whistle



Finn Magill
Fiddle



Adrian McAuliffe
Tenor Banjo



Sean McComiskey
Button Accordion



Gerry O'Connor
Fiddle



Conal Ó Grada
Flute



Richard Osban
Mandolin



Daini Sproule
Guitar



Grace Broadhead
Melody Player



Evan Powell
Melody Player

The Retreat opens with a Texas BBQ Dinner followed by a Kick-Off Concert on Thursday evening October 23rd. Classes begin October 24th.

Online enrollment begins June 14th, 9am CST.

Classes Offered for

Fiddle, Singing, Guitar, Uilleann Pipes, Anglo Concertina, Tenor Banjo, Mandolin, Flute, Harp, Bodhrán, Bouzouki, Whistle, Button Accordion, and Sean-Nós Dancing.

Also: Enrichment Classes • Informances • Workshops

**Five Classes and Workshops Offered Daily • Instrument and Song Sessions Nightly
Instructor Concerts Each Night • Special Guest Concerts During Meals
Vendor Booths and O'Flaherty Retreat Store**

Major Sponsor:



**Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme**

**\$350 for Adults Ages 18 & Older • \$250 for Youth Ages 12-17 by Invitation Only
On-site and Off-site Motel Rooms, Dorms, Cottages
Official Retreat Hotel: Courtyard by Marriott Midlothian**

O'Flaherty Irish Music Retreat is produced by the Traditional Irish Music Education Society (TIMES)
For more information, call (469)215-1840 or e-mail to info@oflahertyretreat.org or visit www.oflahertyretreat.org

There's something for everyone from beginners and seasoned listeners to professional musicians.

Sign up now for fantastic accommodation offers of £349 for 7 nights in Belfast city centre. Group bookings are also available.

More information at www.belfasttradfest.com

DUBLIN IRISH FESTIVAL

Dublin, Ohio, USA August 1st – 3rd, 2025

<https://dublinirishfestival.org/>

Save the date to attend the 38th Dublin Irish Festival this summer, August 1-3. Explore one of the top Irish festivals in the U.S., drawing over 90,000 guests to Dublin, Ohio each year with seven music stages, 60 acts, and more than 800 performers. This year, the Dublin Irish Festival has been named the "Best Cultural Festival" by USA Today Readers.

The 2025 Festival promises an extraordinary lineup of performers, Irish dancers and cultural experiences. This year's headliners include: Gaelic Storm, Solas, Skerryvore, Tannahill Weavers, The StepCrew, Gadan featuring Enda Scahill & Special Guest Hillary Klug, Open the Door for Three, The Jeremiahs, Ally the Piper, Cassie and Maggie, PoulaPhuca, Drowsy Lads, The Narrowbacks, Allison Lupton Band, Bastard Bearded Irishmen and Bracken.

Kick off your weekend with the Dublin Irish Festival 5K and end it with the Festival Finale, in-between there is something for everyone. There are a variety of learning experiences available for every guest who attends. Learn about Irish history, genealogy, instruments or Irish language. Animal lovers have the opportunity to meet Irish breeds and their owners at the Celtic Canine area. Bring your own instrument and find the sessions tent to play a reel with other aspiring musicians. Children have their own area at the Festival featuring crafts, games and entertainment. The Festival is complete with over 90 shopping vendors and 30 food vendors.

Save some green and buy your tickets before the price increase on July 19.

Visit <https://dublinirishfestival.org/> for more information.

COMHALTAS FLEADH CHEOIL NA hÉIREANN 2025

Wexford August 3rd – 10th, 2025 <https://fleadhcheoil.ie/>

Comhaltas Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann returns to Wexford Town this

August 3rd - 10th for yet another spectacular session of traditional Irish music, song and dance. Hot on the heels of the wonderful success of Fleadh 2024 where some 650,000 people descended onto the banks of the river Slaney in Wexford to enjoy what has been regarded by many as one of the greatest Fleadhanna ever. The people of Wexford, in August 2025, will once again open their doors and open their arms to the people of the world who will visit the ancient and historic Viking town for what promises to be another hugely successful instalment in this festival of fun, tradition and talent.

Competitors, supporters and visitors from Ireland and beyond will be treated to another spectacle of excellence from traditional Irish music performers from across the globe.

The people who experienced Fleadh Wexford in 2024 were certainly of the view that this wonderfully located town was the perfect venue to host one of the biggest events of its kind in the world. Fleadh 2025 will be no different.

The Fleadh Executive Committee look forward once again to welcoming lovers of traditional Irish music, song and dance to Slaneyside to enjoy and revel in what promises to be yet another wonderfully joyful experience.

We look forward to the sun shining once again in Wexford and bringing the experience of traditional Irish music to a new level. We look forward to welcoming you all to the second instalment of FLEADH FOR ALL.

Bígí Linn! Loch Garman Abú!

Find out more at <https://fleadhcheoil.ie/>

IOWA IRISH FEST

August 1st – 3rd, 2025 IowaIrishFest.com

Experience the magic of Ireland in downtown Waterloo, Iowa at Iowa Irish Fest, the state's largest Irish cultural celebration! Get ready for a weekend packed with non-stop entertainment, featuring some of the best Celtic musicians from around the world. Friday's headliner, Skerryvore, is a three-time winner of Scotland's 'Live Act of the Year' award. This powerhouse group brings an electrifying blend of bagpipes, fiddles, accordions, whistles, guitar, drums, keys and vocals, creating a unique fusion of folk, trad, pop and rock.

SCOIL SAMHRAIDH WILLIE CLANCY

Miltown Malbay, Co Clare

**53rd Annual Willie Clancy
Summer School
5th - 13th July, 2025**



Photo: Éamon McGivney

Tuition on a large range of instruments and on Set Dancing, Old-Style Step Dancing and Conamara Sean-Nós Dance.

Seminars/Workshops on the Irish and English language song traditions.

Dúchas an Cheoil/The Scope of Irish Music: a week-long Course on the history of Irish traditional music, song and dance. Accredited through the University of Limerick. For further information on the Blas-UL and Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy accreditation programme see www.Blas.ie and Scoil Samhraidh website.

Read Music the Trad Way. A pioneering Course offered in partnership with I Teach Trad and designed for traditional musicians and primary teachers. Certified by the Royal Irish Academy of Music and recognised by the Dept of Education for EPV purposes. Sign up at readmusichetradway.com. For further information contact liz@iteachtrad.com.

Lectures, Recitals, Concerts, Céilithe

Online Registration now open

Information on Programme: 086-8773747 / 087-9500006 / 087-9264256 / scoilwclancy73@gmail.com

On Registration: 087-6196539 / d.mcdermottlk@gmail.com

On Accommodation: 089-2320498 / kilduffmg@gmail.com

WWW.SCOILSAMHRAIDHWILLIECLANCY.COM

38th International Feakle Festival of Traditional Irish Music

Feakle Co. Clare **Festival**
Our 2025 Festival takes place this August to celebrate our 38th festival from Wednesday 6th to Monday 11th

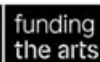
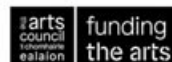
Discover the heart of Irish culture at the Feakle Festival in Co. Clare!
Immerse yourself in six incredible days of music, song, and dance, featuring unforgettable concerts, lively céilís, workshops and sessions. Explore the richness of poetry, storytelling, and captivating talks, while children enjoy their own magical events.

Whether you're a seasoned performer or a curious listener, the Feakle Festival offers something for everyone. Don't miss this extraordinary celebration of tradition and creativity in the surroundings of Feakle!

**Tel: Gary Pepper 00353 61 924322
& 00353 87 9678020
or Tina Nelson 00353 87 6473537**

www.feaklefestival.ie

E: feaklefestival@gmail.com





YOUNG DUBLINERS
SLAINTE
O'JIZO
KATIE JANE BAND
CUL AN TI'
BILL MULLEN
COMING UP THREES
DANIEL ROONEY
HANK CRAMER
OCKHAM'S RAZOR
SEAN DALY & THE SHAMS
SEATTLE IRISH DANCERS
SHANNON SISTERS DANCERS
THAT IRISH GUY
THEWHISKEYDICKS
SEAN WILLIAMS
CURLIN'S CALL
WICKED TINKERS

GALWAY BAY IRISH PUB

OCEAN SHORES, WA

www.galwaybayirishpub.com



MANY MORE TO COME!

**7 DAYS
THREE VENUES**

**20
BANDS** **10
STAGES**



Their high-energy performances showcase the very best in contemporary Scottish traditional music.

Saturday's headliner, Doolin', is France's premier Celtic band, renowned for their powerful and emotional performances. Having toured some of the biggest festivals across the U.S. and Canada, Doolin' continues to captivate audiences with their dynamic sound. Their latest album, *Circus Boy*, highlights their incredible talent and cements their place in the global Celtic music scene. The Fest also features performances by The Elders, Screaming Orphans, The Byrne Brothers, Michael Darcy & The Atlantic Tramps, Seo Linn, Aoife Scott, Colm & Laura Keegan and Bernadette Morris.

Join us for the 19th annual Iowa Irish Fest and experience a weekend filled with music, dance and rich Irish traditions.

Follow Iowa Irish Fest on Facebook for the full band lineup and event details.

Mark your calendars for August 1 through 3 and celebrate with us in downtown Waterloo—it's an event you won't want to miss!

GODERICH CELTIC ROOTS FESTIVAL

August 4th – 10th, 2025 <https://www.celticfestival.ca/>

Now in its 33rd year, the Goderich Celtic Roots Festival is an annual celebration of the music, craft, and culture of the seven Celtic nations. The Celtic Roots Festival has grown to include a week-long school of music, dance and craft art for adults, known as the Celtic College, and a parallel school for children called the Celtic Kid's Camp, along with the traditional outdoor festival held in beautiful Lions' Harbour Park on the shores of Lake Huron, in Goderich, Ontario, Canada.

With five stages, varying from small intimate performances to the high-powered Main Stage, the Festival is a unique musical experience in Canada and on the world-wide stage. Fresh local food, high-quality craft artisans, art demonstrations, children's activity area, and over 60 hours of live music – make this an unmissable weekend in Goderich.

The MacMaster Leahy Family are joining the Goderich Celtic Roots Festival lineup for ONE NIGHT ONLY – Saturday, August 9th! With decades long careers, extensive world tours, platinum recordings, multiple awards including JUNOs and the Order of Canada, Canadian fiddle royalty Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy share a special

night on the stage with their 7 children. To see and hear this family together onstage is an experience that leaves a lasting memory.

We also welcome for the week of teaching and to the Festival: Alan Reid, Benoit Bourque, Conor Mallon, Fiárock, Friends of Fiddler's Green, James Keelaghan, Rachel Davis & Darren McMullen, Rachel Hair & Ron Jappy, Ryan Young, Sophie & Fiachra, The Kane Sisters, Shane Cook and More!

We hope you will join us for a full week of events including classes, nighttime concerts, Ceili dancing, sessions, and our weekend festival, in Canada's prettiest town, Goderich, Ontario. August 4-10, 2025

Website: <https://www.celticfestival.ca/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/goderichceltic>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/goderichcelticroots/>

Email: festival@celticfestival.ca

38th INTERNATIONAL FEAKLE FESTIVAL OF TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC

August 6th – 11th, 2025 www.feaklefestival.ie

The 38th International Feakle Festival of Traditional Irish Music will take place from Wednesday the 6th to Monday the 11th of August 2025, bringing the village of Feakle alive with the spirit of Irish music, dance, and culture.

This year's festival promises to be one of the most vibrant yet, with a rich and diverse programme of concerts, CD launches, workshops, music sessions, céilís, singing sessions, conversations in music, festival walks, children's puppetry, film screenings, lunchtime concerts, and much more – offering something for everyone.

Festival-goers will enjoy live performances from some of the most respected names in traditional music, including Martin Hayes, Brian Donnellan, The Kilfenora Céilí Band, Caitlín Nic Gabhann and Ciarán Ó Maonaigh, Andrea Palandri and Ruairí McGorman, Charlie Harris, Eva Carroll & Seán Lyons, The Conor Crimmins Band, Sorcha Costello, Cáit Ní Rian, and many more to be announced.

Dancers will have the chance to take the floor at céilís with the Star of Munster and the legendary Tulla Céilí Band. As well, there will be workshops led by renowned traditional musicians, singers, and dancers that will run throughout the week.

23rd ANNUAL

PENN-MAR IRISH Festival

June 21, 2025
YORK COUNTY, PA

NEW LOCATION FOR 2025!
Pheasant Run
Greenhouse & Garden Center
#PennMarIrish

TRADITIONAL and CONTEMPORARY IRISH MUSIC & DANCE

IRISH VENDORS • CULTURAL TALKS
FOOD • CHILDREN'S AREA



Albannach
Cas Ceol
Cassie & Maggie
Clann Redmond
Diddley Idols
Enda Reilly
Runa
Tartan Terrors

Susquehanna Pipes & Drums ~ McGinley School of Irish Dance
Ni Riain School of Irish Dance ~ Oh! Gills Irish Dancers

Discounted advance tickets available online

PennMarIrishFestival.com

June 5-8, 2025

Minnesota Irish Music weekend

Featuring world-class traditional musicians

Mick Conneely - fiddle & bouzouki • Pauline Conneely - banjo
Sorcha Costello - fiddle • Mary McNamara - concertina
Brian Mullen - song • Conal O'Grada - flute
Danny O'Mahony - accordion • Dáithí Sproule - guitar, song and more!

Music Programs for Teens, Children and Adults
KICK-OFF CELEBRATION • Thursday
GREAT SESSION EXPERIENCE • Friday
CONCERT • Saturday

Early bird registration discounts available.
www.centerforirishmusic.org



THE CENTER FOR IRISH MUSIC
836 Prior Avenue North, St. Paul, MN 55104

Sponsors include:




This activity is funded, in part, by appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the State's general fund, and its arts and cultural heritage fund that was created by a vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

MICHIGAN IRISH

MUSIC FESTIVAL

September 11 - 14

Heritage Landing
Muskegon, MI
michiganirish.org

featuring



Also featuring

Seamus Kennedy ✕ **Goitse** ✕ **Runa**
The Langan Band ✕ **Ally the Piper**
Síomha ✕ **One for the Foxes** ✕ **Colm Keegan**
Blackthorn ✕ **Elias Alexander** ✕ **CrossBow**
The Peelers ✕ **Barley Saints** ✕ **Ironwood**
Conklin Ceili Band ✕ **Toby Bresnahan** ✕ **Whorled**
Ruth & Max Bloomquist ✕ **Shannon Lee** and more!



With its warm community atmosphere and deep musical roots, the Feakle Festival continues to celebrate the heart of traditional Irish culture.

Stay tuned for further programme details and updates. For more information, visit www.feaklefestival.ie or follow @FeakleFestival on Instagram and Facebook.

SPARTA CELTIC FESTIVAL

**August 8th – 9th, 2025 www.spartacelticfest.org
<https://www.facebook.com/SpartaCelticFestival>
<https://www.instagram.com/spartacelticfestival/>**

The 15th Annual Sparta Celtic Festival will take place on Friday, August 8th and Saturday, August 9th, 2025. The event began in 2009 with five hours of local talent on a Saturday in August with about 500 people in attendance. This year they will celebrate 15 years as a Festival.

Over the years, there have been many challenges in the growth of the event. In both 2011 and 2022 the village of Sparta was hit by severe storms that pretty much shut down the events. Of course in 2020, the festival was cancelled like all events due to the Covid Pandemic. Through all of this, the Sparta Celtic Festival Board, their 200 volunteers, their amazing sponsors and the surrounding communities, have continued to attend, support, and help grow this Cultural Music Festival to regional, national and international fame as a great family friendly, free entry event. The Sparta Celtic Festival now boasts eight amazing Celtic music acts and another eight dance performances from artists from Ireland, Scotland, Canada and all over the state of Michigan. Attendance has jumped from the original 500 attendees, to hopefully as many as 4,000 people over the now, two day event. The fest has garnered wide recognition nationally and internationally as the “little festival” that shines like the big ones!

Follow them on their website and Facebook page for entertainment announcements and information.

MILWAUKEE IRISH FEST ANNOUNCES ELECTRIFYING ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP

August 14th – 17th, 2025 irishfest.com

Experience the magic of Milwaukee Irish Fest at the Henry Maier Festival Park August 14-17! Nestled along the shores of Lake Michigan,

the four-day festival boasts over 16 stages of nonstop music, dance, and entertainment.

This year's lineup blends the best of traditional music with the contemporary sounds of Ireland and Scotland today. Cherish the Ladies, Skerryvore, Red Hot Chilli Pipers, The Fitzgeralds, Emma Langford, and more will headline Milwaukee Irish Fest. And don't miss the return of Gadan with banjo virtuoso Enda Scahill. They'll be joined by renowned bluegrass fiddler and dancer Hillary Klug, together creating a fusion of traditional Irish, folk, bluegrass, and Appalachian music.

Milwaukee Irish Fest is proud to spotlight emerging talent, giving festivalgoers a chance to discover the rising stars of the Irish and Celtic music scene. Viral social media sensations the Gardiner Brothers, comedian and musician Garron Noone, and traditional Irish music duo LÉDA are just a few of the many artists making their Irish Fest debut. Continuing its partnership with Dublin's renowned TradFest, Irish Fest will also welcome TradFest artists Bog Bodies and SuperCéilí to Milwaukee, further bridging the musical connection between Ireland and the Midwest.

Don't miss this unforgettable celebration of Irish music and culture. Make plans to attend Milwaukee Irish Fest this August.

View the full festival lineup and secure your tickets today at irishfest.com. Get ready for a live and legendary experience!

MASTERS OF TRADITION FESTIVAL

August 20th – 24th, 2025 www.westcorkmusic.ie

Masters of Tradition takes place from 20 – 24 August 2025 in Bantry, Co. Cork. Its mission remains the same as every other year – to journey to the heart of Irish music and provide a platform where subtle elements of the music can be heard.

As ever, the Festival is headlined by its Artistic Director Martin Hayes, the fiddler from East Clare, whose distinctive touch and extravagant virtuosity has brought the tradition to new levels.

Martin Hayes will be joined at this year's festival by Dave Flynn, Inni-K, Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh, Peter Browne, Des Geraghty, Nuala Kennedy, Eamon O'Leary, Lucia & Maria, Pádraig Ó Tuama, Brian Donnellan, Kate Ellis, Carlos Sweeney McCartin Trio, Brian Conway, Brendan Dolan, Colm O'Donnell, Siobhán O'Donnell, Eimear Coughlan, Francis Cunningham, Aoihe Kettle, Maria O'Connor,

THE 39th YEAR



2025 JULY

13th to 19th

TUBBERCURRY, CO. SLIGO, IRELAND

SUMMER SCHOOL OF IRISH TRADITIONAL MUSIC, SONG & DANCE

Ar ais arís! Bígí linn!

Face-to-Face Classes, Workshops, Céilíthe, Concerts, Talks, Practice Sessions & much more

Fiddle (including Sligo Style), Flute, Whistle, Uilleann Pipes, Harp, Banjo, Button Accordion, Concertina, Traditional Guitar, Traditional Singing & Lifting, Sean Nós Singing, Bodhrán, Sean Nós & Set Dancing, Mixed Melody Instruments for Adults

Information, Registration & Pre-Payment: www.southsligosummerschool.com

Enquiries to: anse0@southsligosummerschool.com or 089-6111375 / 086-0566383
















IRISH FOX CITIES FEST

SEPTEMBER 19TH & 20TH

APPLETON, WI

PRESENTING SPONSOR



SKERRYVORE BOXING BANJO
THE DROWSY LADS
 COLM & LAURA KEEGAN
 SEAMUS KENNEDY
 IAN GOULD & LUKAS JAEGER
 THE GLEASONS & MORE!

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
 RETAIL & FOOD VENDORS
 CULTURAL AREA
 IRISH DANCERS
 CELTIC CANINES
 GUEST SPEAKERS
 GUINNESS
 AND MUCH MORE!





IRISHFESTFOXCITIES.COM

Niamh Varian-Barry, Jane Walls and Nada Ní Chuirrín.

Masters of Tradition Friends' booking opened 16 April.

Masters of Tradition is generously supported by the Arts Council and Cork County Council.

Full programme is now online at www.westcorkmusic.ie

PEORIA IRISH FEST

August 22nd – 24th, 2025 www.peoriairishfest.com

www.facebook.com/peoriairishfest/

Peoria Irish Fest is all about the music. Yes, and the dance. And the culture. But first and foremost, our event is a music festival. We offer a cross section of music, from traditional pub songs and session tunes to genre bending performances highlighting the many ways in which artists are expanding on traditional forms.

This year the Fest is excited to welcome The Red Hot Chilli Pipers, The Kilkennys, Gadan, The Byrne Brothers, Conor Mallon/Unearthed, Síomha, Colm & Laura Keegan, RUNA, Hadrian's Wall, Elias Alexander, Enda Reilly and On the Lash. And, we are always proud to showcase our local and regional bands – Turas, The Bogside Zukes, The Roundstone Buskers, Broken Brogue, Skibbereen, Still Shine, The Morning Larks, Barry Cloyd and The McDowell's.

A unique feature of our Fest is our unplugged stage. Our touring artists are invited to perform, demonstrate, talk, or teach in a small-scale setting, and each year the result is pure magic.

We also present a variety of Irish and Scottish dance, an ever-changing lineup of cultural exhibits and interactive events, sessions, highland games, sheep herding, a children's area, storytellers, whiskey tastings, Gaelic lessons, axe throwing, a 5K race and more.

The Fest is held at the Peoria Riverfront Park, on the banks of the Illinois River, in downtown Peoria, Illinois. Free parking is available. Gates open at 4:00 p.m. Friday, noon on Saturday and 10:00 a.m. Sunday for Mass.

www.peoriairishfest.com www.facebook.com/peoriairishfest/

MICHIGAN IRISH MUSIC FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES ARTIST LINEUP FOR 2025 September 11th – 14th, 2025 michiganirish.org

The Michigan Irish Music Festival, presented by Family Financial

Credit Union, is excited to announce the lineup for 2025. This year's incredible list of artists features Skerryvore, Socks in the Frying Pan, Lúnasa, & Old Blind Dogs. *Skerryvore* is a Scottish band that blends traditional folk with contemporary influences, creating a sound that is both epic and intimate. Skerryvore has become one of Scotland's leading forces in live music, winning Scotland's *Live Act of the Year* three times.

Socks in the Frying Pan is a multi-award winning trio hailing from County Clare on the West coast of Ireland. Their dynamic vocal harmonies, virtuosic musical ability and onstage wit has captivated audiences worldwide.

Lúnasa is one of contemporary Irish music's leading groups, celebrating nearly 30 years as an "Irish music dream team". The band has performed more than 2,000 shows across 36 countries, including prestigious venues like Carnegie Hall and The Hollywood Bowl.

Old Blind Dogs were formed in Aberdeen in 1992, blending eclectic musical influences with the rich tradition of songs and tunes from North East Scotland. Known for their high-energy live performances, Old Blind Dogs are one of Scotland's top traditional music acts.

Join us September 11-14, 2025 at Heritage Landing in Muskegon, Michigan. Tickets are sponsored by Lascko Services. Early online sales start May 1, 2025!

For information about the full lineup, including band bios and performance times, visit michiganirish.org

BOYNE TRADFEST

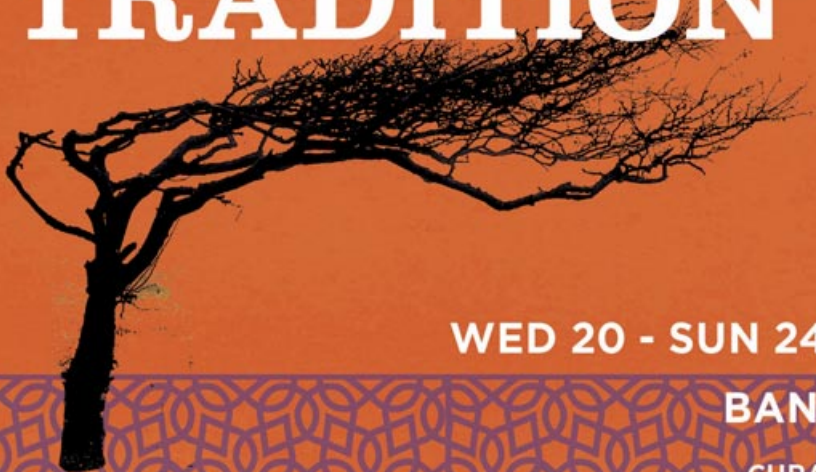
September 19th – 21st, 2025 www.boynetradfest.ie

Boyne TradFest takes place in the historic town of Drogheda, Co. Louth from Friday 19th to Sunday 21st September 2025. Visit Ireland's Ancient East, a short 35-minute drive from Dublin Airport and immerse yourself in traditional Irish music & song with over 20 events across 3 days!

Boyne TradFest features a vast programme of music to suit children, teens, adults & families over the weekend, with a primary focus on teaching, learning & participation.

Catering to music enthusiasts of all ages, Boyne TradFest welcomes visitors from around Ireland and further afield to learn from Ireland's master tutors on fiddle, concertina, harp, flute, tin whistle, banjo,

MASTERS *Since of 2003* TRADITION



west | cork | music

Featuring

MARTIN HAYES
CAOIMHÍN Ó RAGHALLAIGH
DAVE FLYNN • INNI-K
PETER BROWNE
BRIAN CONWAY
NUALA KENNEDY
EAMON O'LEARY
LUCIA & MARIA
BRIAN DONNELLAN
KATE ELLIS
DES GERAGHTY
EIMEAR COUGHLAN & MORE

WED 20 - SUN 24 AUGUST 2025

BANTRY, CO. CORK

CURATED BY MARTIN HAYES



www.westcorkmusic.ie



button accordion & guitar. Due to demand, we are excited to include composition & arrangement workshops as part of this year's programme! Early booking is advisable across all workshops as availability is limited and likely to book out.

Some of our festival highlights include our official festival launch, stage entertainment by the Boyne, Saturday evening concert and session trails throughout the weekend - a weekend not to be missed!

Running alongside Culture Night & the Boyne Valley Walking Festival, there's plenty of arts, culture & heritage to experience in Drogheda.

Visit our website, follow us on Instagram & Facebook or email info@maynestage.ie for more information. Looking forward to welcoming you to Drogheda! Mark those diaries!

IRISH FEST OF THE FOX CITIES (APPLETON, WISCONSIN)

September 19th – 20th, 2025 www.irishfestfoxcities.com

Irish Fest of the Fox Cities will be celebrating its fifth anniversary this year on September 19-20 in Jones Park in Appleton, Wisconsin! This celebration of Irish music, culture, and history has grown each year, and we expect 2025 to be our largest and best festival to date. Some highlights include, Skerryvore, Boxing Banjo, The Drowsy Lads, Cassie & Maggie, Colm & Laura Keegan, Derek Byrne & Paddygrass & more!

Along with international headliner bands, Irish Fest Fox Cities features a robust schedule of workshops, lectures, and interactive events providing attendees with an opportunity to learn about Irish language, dance, music, food & drink, genealogy, and sport.

Check the schedule on our website: www.irishfestfoxcities.com

For inquiries, contact Mark Hudson, Executive Director, at mark@irishfestfoxcities.com

CORK FOLK FESTIVAL 46th EDITION

October 2nd – 5th, 2025 www.corkfolkfestival.com

The Cork Folk Festival is preparing for a spectacular 46th edition 2-5th October, here is a rundown of what to expect.

This year's festival will feature Flook with Brian Finnegan, Sarah Allen, Ed Boyd and John Joe Kelly. The band are celebrating 30 years on the road, their music is typified by extremely fast, sometimes percussive, flute and whistle. Also playing at the festival will be The Irish Concertina Orchestra conducted by Cormac McCarthy and NOTIFY featuring Pádraig Rynne, and Tara Breen.

Jackie Daly & Matt Cranitch will be performing at the festival again this year, Jackie will be celebrating his 80th birthday while Matt will be celebrating his Gradam Ceoil TG4 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Two formidable artists will also feature, Lisa Knapp & Gerry Diver. Each are highly respected for their contributions to the folk genre, drawing from the deep well of Irish and English folk song and music traditions.

Other acts confirmed are Belfast Band Craobh Rua, Seamie O' Dowd, Leonard Barry & Andy Morrow, Mary Greene with Gals at Play and the legendary band Shaskeen. The festival will feature concerts, sessions, walking tour, lectures, classes, Céilís and openair events and a Rising Sons Brewery gig trail.

The Book 'Reeling down the Years' Cork Folk Festival 1979-2024 by William Hammond will be on sale over the festival weekend.

The festival is offering a Spáilpín Season Ticket for 75 Euro, it includes all An Spailpín Fánach Concerts.

**More details available at www.corkfolkfestival.com
cfolkf@gmail.com phone 087 2759311**

CELTIC COLOURS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

October 10th – 18th, 2025 celticcolours.ca

Celtic Colours International Festival is a celebration of music and culture that takes place on Cape Breton Island during nine days each October. Featuring dozens of concerts and hundreds of cultural events in communities all over the Island, Celtic Colours is more than just a music festival or a cultural event, it is a testament to the resilience of the Island's living Celtic culture.

Since its introduction in 1997, Celtic Colours has grown to become one of Canada's premiere musical events, and a cultural highlight of



**BOYNE
TRADFEST**
19TH – 21ST SEPTEMBER 2025
DROGHEDA, CO. LOUTH

A festival of traditional Irish music and song in the heart of Ireland's Ancient East - 35 mins from Dublin Airport!

**INSTRUMENTAL WORKSHOPS | SESSION TRAILS
COMPOSITION & ARRANGEMENT MASTERCLASSES
CONCERT | RECITALS | AND MORE...**

VISIT WWW.BOYNETRADFEST.IE

 **EMAIL: info@maynestage.ie**



**PEORIA
IRISH FEST**

AUGUST 22, 23 & 24
PEORIA, ILLINOIS • ON THE RIVERFRONT

with live performances from:
**RED HOT CHILLI PIPERS
THE KILKENNYS**

GADAN FT. ENDA SCAHILL • THE BYRNE BROTHERS
CONOR MALLON/UNEARTHED • SÍOMHA
COLM & LAURA KEEGAN • RUNA • HADRIAN'S WALL
ELIAS ALEXANDER • ENDA REILLY • ON THE LASH
and more

PeoriaIrishFest.com
VISIT OUR SITE FOR MORE INFO



Nova Scotia's fall season, collecting accolades ranging from regional music awards to national and international tourism recognition. Visitors come from across Canada, the United States, and 18 other countries to revel in the music and engage in the atmosphere of the Festival while livestreamed concerts are enjoyed by thousands of people around the world nightly.

The beloved, world-renowned festival is held during Cape Breton's most spectacular season, fall, when the vibrant reds, yellows, and oranges of autumn take over and bring the breathtaking scenery to life. As festival-goers make their way from event to event, their travels may take them around the pristine Bras d'Or Lake, designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2011, or along the Cabot Trail, often called North America's most scenic drive. Wherever you go on Cape Breton Island at this time of year, you are bound to find amazing scenery around every turn.

The 29th Celtic Colours International Festival is scheduled for October 10-18, 2025. The full lineup of artists and schedule of events will be released June 23 with tickets going on sale July 8.

For more information visit celticcolours.ca

GALWAY BAY'S CELTIC MUSIC FEIS

October 13th – 19th, 2025 www.celticmusicfeis.com

2025 will herald the 22nd year of Galway Bay's Celtic Music Feis, celebrating Irish songs, ballads, players and bands that will be flooding Ocean Shores, WA with music and fun for six days this October.

Again this year the festival begins: Tuesday October 13th, 2025 and lasts until Sunday, October 19th, 2025. An eclectic mix of Irish bands, choirs and dancers hailing from throughout the United States, Canada and, of course, Ireland will be rounding out this year's entertainment.

Check out our music line-up on our website listed below.

Buy tickets at www.celticmusicfeis.com. Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GalwayBayIrishPubOS.

Galway Bay Irish Pub - 880 Point Brown Ave NE - Ocean Shores, WA 98569 - 360-289-2300.

O'FLAHERTY IRISH MUSIC RETREAT

IRISH MUSIC IMMERSION October 23rd – 26th, 2025

oflahertyretreat.org

The 22nd Annual O'Flaherty Irish Music Retreat, organized by the Traditional Irish Music Education Society and supported through a grant from the Government of Ireland Emigrant Support Programme, will be held October 23-26, 2025 at the Hoblitzelle Camp & Conference Center in Midlothian Texas. The retreat is internationally renowned for instruction in Irish music and dance by highly respected teachers from Ireland and the United States.

Students can choose from a wide range of courses on acoustic instruments, singing and Sean-nós dancing. Additionally, workshops explore topics ranging from Irish music history to music theory. At every meal there are guest concerts and each evening instructor concerts followed by sessions. A céilí is held on Friday evening.

The instructors for this year's retreat are: Calum Bell – Flute/Whistle Fundamentals; Peter Brice – Singing; Darragh Carey-Kennedy – Mandolin/Tenor Banjo Fundamentals; Joanna Clare – Fiddle Fundamentals; Anna Colliton – Bodhrán; John Coyne – Bouzouki; Francis Cunningham – Concertina; Liz Doherty – Fiddle; Mickey Dunne – Uilleann Pipes; Danielle Enblom – Sean-Nós Dancing (Advanced); Nicolle Fig – Bodhrán Fundamentals; Caoimhe Uí Fhlatharta – Fiddle; Séamus Ó Fhlatharta – Harp; Clíona Halley – Concertina Fundamentals; Brian Hughes – Whistle; Finn Magill – Fiddle; Adrian McAuliffe – Tenor Banjo; Sean McComiskey – Button Accordion; Gerry O'Connor – Fiddle; Conal Ó Gráda – Flute; Richard Osban – Mandolin; and Dáithí Sproule – Guitar. Our melody players for the accompaniment classes will be fiddler Grace Broadhead and flute player Evan Powell.

Tuition is \$350 for participants 18 and older and \$250 for youth 12-17 years old (admitted by invitation only). Meals and lodging are separate.

For more information and to register, go to oflahertyretreat.org

TUNE FEST

DUNGARVAN, CO. WATERFORD

JUNE 20TH-22ND

Tune
Fest

PUB SESSION TRAILS
STREET BUSKING
CD LAUNCHES
RECITALS
CONCERTS
OPEN AIR GIG RIG
WORKSHOPS

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON
WWW.EVENTBRITE.IE
WWW.TUNEFEST.IE



FRIDAY 20TH & SATURDAY 21ST JUNE
CHERISH THE LADIES



SATURDAY 21ST JUNE
TALISK & THE RISING



SUNDAY 22ND JUNE
DANÚ & TAOBH NA MARA CÉILÍ BAND

THE ALL IRELAND FLEADH IS COMING BACK TO WEXFORD

Seán Laffey talks to Eimear Kennedy from Wexford County Council. She tells us about the preparations that are underway for the All Ireland Fleadh, which will be held in the town from August 3rd to 10th, 2025.



Photo : Terry Byrne



Photo : Alan Mahon



Photo : Ella Rae Foley

Seán: "How was Fleadh 2024 for Wexford?"

Eimear: "The 2024 Fleadh was a huge logistical exercise for all the agencies involved in putting it together. Never before have we held an event of the scale or size within the county – where you effectively close down a fully working town to hold an event over a period of 8 or 9 days. It was a fantastic opportunity for the statutory, and voluntary agencies to work together and build on the already excellent relationships we have. The success of Comhaltas Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2024 is a testament to the professionalism and expertise of the organisations working within our county on a daily basis.

"For 2025, we will build on the lessons learned from 2024. In terms of things like traffic management, our roads team worked alongside an Garda Síochána on an hour-by-hour basis to work with the traffic flows and amend the traffic management accordingly. It was a very agile environment, and the personnel involved were extremely responsive to the evolving situations."

Seán: "What business partnerships have you in place?"

Eimear: "We are working with the local stakeholders including transport companies, the Chamber of Commerce, the voluntary

"It's really important to note that most people only want a few days' accommodation – the Thursday to Sunday, in time for the competitions, so people should be aware that if they can only offer a room or a place for a full week, it may be harder to book it. It will be much easier to get bookings for the longer weekend."

Seán: "What venues do you have in place for competitions and for concerts?"

Eimear: "We will move the location of the Senior Céilí Band competition, but most other competition venues are the same as last year. As much as possible everything is very much within walkable distance of each other."

Seán: "Are there any special performances/concerts in the pipeline for the weekend?"

Eimear: "We have some amazing artists performing over the weekend – Frankie Gavin and De Dannan, Garadice, Shaskeen, Perfect Friction, National Folk Orchestra, 3 on the Bund, Tulua are all currently booked to play during the Fleadh."

Seán: "How has music in the county of Wexford benefited from hosting the Fleadh?"

"I think this is a phenomenal legacy of the Fleadh – to bring people back in touch with their roots"

sector to ensure the event in 2025 runs smoothly. We set ourselves up as the Walking Fleadh in 2024 to try to manage the traffic situation in the town, to allow business to continue to flow as freely as possible, while also allowing for the safe access and egress of about 650,000 people over the course of the week."

Seán: "Accommodation is always a major element of any Fleadh, how are you preparing for extra bed nights in the town?"

Eimear: "We are expecting 650,000 people in the town for the week of the Fleadh – a portion of those people will be local but lots and lots of people travel internationally and from across Ireland and will need a place to stay. We are asking people if they have a room, a granny flat, anything that might accommodate someone for a few days, to let us know! People can register their accommodation at www.Fleadhcheoil.ie, and this is also where you can come to find accommodation in the county.

Eimear: "The anecdotal evidence is that we have a lot more people taking up traditional musical instruments since the Fleadh last year. Also, lots of people have gone back to improve their Irish language. I think this is a phenomenal legacy of the Fleadh – to bring people back in touch with their roots."

Seán: "Are there any legacy projects that will support traditional music in the country?"

Eimear: "One of the visible legacies we hope to achieve from the Fleadh is the new art installation, the Harp, on Wexford's Quay front. We had a model harp installed for the duration of last year's Fleadh and this year we are having a more robust, oak harp created, to be installed in time for the Fleadh. It was a huge photographic icon last year and the new, permanent installation will be an amazing addition to the Wexford skyline."

Check out what's on offer at the Wexford All Ireland Fleadh by visiting www.Fleadhcheoil.ie

motor city irish fest

www.motorcityirishfest.com

www.facebook.com/motorcityirishfest



FRIDAY JUNE 6 - SUNDAY JUNE 8
GREENMEAD HISTORICAL PARK - LIVONIA MI

FROM IRELAND!



LOCAL AREA IRISH BANDS AND
FEATURING YOUR FAVORITE
AREA IRISH DANCE SCHOOLS



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme

An Buidéal Ceilidh Eacshacha
Department of Foreign Affairs

2025 Presenting Sponsor

FELDMAN
AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

TWO IRISH MUSIC STAGES!
A FAMILY FRIENDLY FEST!



SCAN FOR INFORMATION



AUGUST 8 & 9, 2025

FAMILY FRIENDLY - FREE ENTRY - CELTIC MUSIC FESTIVAL - EXPLORE YOUR HERITAGE

- ROGERS PARK & BALLYEAT FIELD - DOWNTOWN - SPARTA, MI - USA -
FRIDAY, AUG. 8 - ROGER SPARK ONLY ~ SATURDAY, AUG. 9 EXPANDS INTO BALLYEAT FIELD

FOOD COURT
BEVERAGE TENTS
CELTIC GOODS VENDORS
WHISKEY SAMPLINGS

CELTIC MUSIC ACTS
IRISH & SCOTTISH DANCERS
CULTURAL & HERITAGE TENTS
STROLLING PERFORMERS

AND ON SATURDAY:
CELTIC CAR SHOW
HIGHLAND GAMES
SHUTTLEBUS PARKING



SOUTH SLIGO SUMMER SCHOOL 2025

Anne Marie Kennedy spoke to Seána Haughey about its history and achievements.



Holly & Bernie Geraghty – the musicians (and tutors) being honoured at our Tribute Concert this year.

This year, 2025 is the 39th year of the South Sligo Summer School, Tubbercurry, with plans well advanced to celebrate the 40th Year in 2026.

“Musicians from all corners of the globe have always found their way to Tubbercurry,” she began, “coming for the quality of tuition, the personal touch, our community and the excitement of meeting their musical heroes. We are deeply committed to keeping the focus on learning and passing on the tradition while also giving opportunities to former students to return as tutors. We introduce new, exciting, challenging, rewarding and innovative musical

a row to spend the week at the summer school and in 2011 we celebrated Sligo supergroup Téada on their tenth anniversary. They were joined on stage by the late, great west Kerry musician and singer Seamus Begley who regaled our audience with his wonderful witty banter and mighty music and song, the list goes on...”

With an elite array of inspiring tutors, Seána says the summer school is always delighted to showcase local talent and this year they welcome back three young local musicians and former students, Sinead & Aoife Johnston and Conor McDonagh, who taught beginner banjo, whistle and flute respectively last year with great success. We are also delighted to honour two of our stalwart teachers, the mother-daughter team that is Bernie and Holly Geraghty, at our warmly anticipated Monday night Tribute Concert this year. From Ballindine in south Mayo, Bernie teaches concertina while Holly teaches harp. As well as teaching music, Holly is also a renowned composer, having recently launched her first solo harp album to wide acclaim, to follow on from her duet album on concertina with box player Jonathan Roche. Bernie, meanwhile, a constant and stellar supporter of the summer school, has taught countless numbers of students throughout Mayo and further afield. She is a hugely respected session player of the highest calibre with a vast repertoire of traditional tunes, much celebrated for her playing style on fiddle and concertina.

“I should also mention the support we receive locally which cannot be underestimated. Known locally as ‘Music Week’, the people of Tubbercurry take great pride in the fact that the summer school is a well-established annual event and an integral part of their summer. Local businesses appreciate the extra injection of activity and increased footfall. The entire community here is behind us, pulling together to ensure that everything summer school related is memorable for all and a resounding success.”

The organizing committee acknowledges the support of the Arts Council of Ireland & Sligo County Council Arts Service as well as Regional Festival & Events funding in association with Sligo County Council & Fáilte Ireland.

“We are deeply committed to keeping the focus on learning and passing on the tradition”

elements to our programming year on year. With a full schedule of classes, concerts, céilís, recitals, lectures, practice sessions and more, the core structure of the summer school remains consistent. Participants are confident in knowing they will be well looked after and experience a week of total immersion in all that is best about our traditional, music, song, dance and culture when they come to Tubbercurry.”

Talking about the various highlights from down the years Seána remembers the late fiddle player Andy Davey’s broad smile as he cut the cake in the convent kitchen after the inaugural Tribute concert in his honour in 2002. “There have been magical musical combinations and collaborations at concerts and recitals where spontaneous pairings and groupings form organically; the first ever farewell session on the square is a standout memory; musicians who were playing in one of the local hotels joined in the fun, one on double bass surrounded by tutors, students, local musicians, visitors and the townspeople. We’ve had a marriage proposal at a céilí in St. Brigid’s Hall, the Tubbercurry Lancers was danced regularly in The May Queen back in the day and Connie Ryan’s set dancers were a brilliant spectacle on the streets in the early hours of one morning. We’ve had a couple sail from downtown Manhattan several years in

All relevant information is on www.southsligosummerschool.com, where you’ll find links to book your place at workshops in fiddle, flute, whistle, harp, uilleann pipes, concertina, button accordion, banjo, traditional guitar, bodhrán, traditional singing, liling, sean nós singing, set dancing, sean nós dancing and mixed melody instruments for adults. Concert and céilí tickets can also be booked in advance. For accommodation, email nualamull@gmail.com



Local Musicians



46th Cork Folk Festival 2nd-5th October 2025

The line-up so far

Flook with Brian Finnegan, Sarah Allen,
Ed Boyd & John Joe Kelly

The Irish Concertina Orchestra conducted by Cormac
McCarthy & NOTIFY with Pádraig Rynne, Tara Breen,
Davie Ryan, Adam Taylor, Rory McCarthy & Hugh Dillon

Jackie Daly & Matt Cranitch

Shaskeen

Lisa Knapp & Gerry Diver

Craobh Rua

Seamie O' Dowd, Leonard Barry & Andy Morrow

Mary Greene & Gals at Play

Éimhear Flannery, Trish Reilly

Plus

Cork Singers' Club Galician Piper Club Ceoil Ballyphehane Douglas Comhaltas

Plus

Concerts in Box, Fiddle, Whistle & Flute

Céilí Mór, Set Dancing, Music Workshops, Songs@6, Trad sessions,

Walking Tour, Trad in the Fort, Rising Sons Brewery Gig Trail.

www.corkfolkfestival.com infocorkfolk@gmail.com



BLAS PROGRAMME AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

Mark Lysaght spoke with Blas co-directors Breandán de Gallaí and Conor Caldwell to find out more.



Directors of Blas: Dr. Conor Caldwell & Dr. Breandán de Gallaí



Launch of Blas

Breandán is a highly respected professional Irish dancer and academic who was the lead dancer and dance director in *Riverdance* for many years; Conor is an acclaimed fiddle player and academic.

Founded in 1994 by Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin, the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance is the centre of academic performance excellence at University of Limerick (UL), Ireland. Two years after its founding, a summer school called “Blas” was established, and has been running very successfully ever since. The literal translation of this Irish word is “taste”, and it aims to provide students with an immersive environment of masterclasses, lectures, recitals and recreational activities over a two-week period (late June to early July) each year.

“Blas could be described as a micro-festival, but by keeping the numbers low, we can provide a much better tailored experience for each student,” Conor told me. “Class sizes are small for workshops and tutors will change too, so for example, for fiddle students, we can provide a range of styles from a number of different tutors.” He mentioned that the range and scope of courses are reviewed and amended each year to stay as relevant as possible

and Irish language, lectures, lunchtime recitals, screenings of documentaries and films, evening concerts, céilís and other social events. Those additions to the core programme encourage everyone to make the most of the full Blas experience.

This year the artist-in-residence is acclaimed uilleann piper and flute player Louise Mulcahy who will be teaching both instruments, and other confirmed tutors include many well-known musicians, such as Siobhán Peoples, Bríd Harper, John Carty, Chris Stout, Niall Keegan, Steph Geremia, Alan Colfer, Conal O’Kane, Marty Barry, Macdara Ó Faoláin, Alannah Thornburgh, Lauren O’Neill, Alec Brown, Ryan Molloy, Conor Broderick, Jim Higgins, Lorraine Ní Bhriain, Derek Hickey, Diarmuid Ó Meachair, Brendan McCarthy, Fiachra Meek, Sandra Joyce, Róisín Ní Ghallógligh and Enda Scahill.

Dance is an important element of Blas, and Breandán explained that masterclasses are an integral element of the approach taken. “We offer two masterclasses each day, using different tutors so that participants get exposure to a variety of teaching styles; we focus on Irish step-dancing but have also featured other forms such as sean-nós dancing.” He is especially

“This year the artist-in-residence is acclaimed uilleann piper and flute player Louise Mulcahy”

to changing needs. For example, this year, former *Riverdance* lead dancer James Greenan will be in residence at Blas, in particular to provide guidance to younger attendees who may be actively considering a professional career in dance. A cello option is also being added on the music side.

Anyone aged over 18 is eligible to apply, and Conor mentioned that over 30% of attendees are retired people, and there is a wide range of age groups each year. A reasonable familiarity with the chosen specialist area(s) is expected; applicants are assessed during the screening process to ensure that they can cope with the demands of the course. However, every effort is made to accommodate people who may have specific requirements. On-campus rooms are available, and attendees can also choose to stay locally outside UL. There are options to attend for either a single week, or for the full two weeks. Another option is to combine one week at Blas with a Scope of Traditional Music course run by Paddy Glackin and Cathal Goan, held at Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy in Miltown Malbay.

For any attendee, there is a range of activities each day. As well as the masterclasses in their specialist area, there are optional modules in yoga

excited to welcome James Greenan to Blas this year. Breandán is keen to emphasise that the Dance programme includes people of varying abilities, and it is not intended to exclude anyone who may feel that limitations could be a barrier. He ensures that participants are prepared for Blas by encouraging them to prepare physically before attending.

Both Breandán and Conor are Course Directors at UL – Conor runs the MA in Irish Traditional Music Performance, while Breandán directs both the BA degree in Irish Dance and the MA in Irish Traditional Dance Performance. Both are keen to emphasise that Blas provides attendees with a wonderful opportunity to familiarise themselves with the various academic options available at UL, and many have progressed from Blas to complete degrees there. Blas can also be accredited as part of a university undergraduate degree.

Blas is accepting applications up to end of May for residential attendees, and up to mid-June for non-residential applicants. More information available at: www.ul.ie/irish-world-academy/events/blas-international-summer-school-of-irish-music-and-dance

IRISH *Adventure* AWAITS

AUGUST 1-3, 2025



MUSIC. ARTS. CULTURE. DANCE.
DUBLINIRISHFESTIVAL.ORG


dublin[®]
IRISH FESTIVAL

Dublin Irish
Festival is
presented by


City of
Dublin
OHIO, USA

THE SPARTA CELTIC MUSIC FESTIVAL

Gráinne McCool discovers that the Sparta Celtic Music Festival is a free, family-friendly event, celebrating the seven Celtic nations: Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, the Isle of Man, Brittany, and Galicia. The festival's motto, "One Village - Seven Nations", highlights its commitment to honouring the full spectrum of Celtic culture.



Held annually on the second weekend of August at Roger's Park in Sparta, Michigan, the festival features music, food, drinks, and vendors, all centred around Celtic themes. George 'Doc' Freeland, President of the Board of Directors of the Sparta Celtic Festival Inc. tells us more about it.

Gráinne: "What is it that motivates you to run this festival annually?"

George: "Having a deep passion for my Scottish heritage and for keeping that passion alive in others. I experience a deep sense of

grown to where we are able to help the other events in town with equipment we have acquired over the years. On the weekend of our festival, local businesses have shown a minimum of a 25% increase in sales. Obviously Sparta would still exist without the Celtic Festival, but it just wouldn't be as much fun!

"Our Highland Games competitors travel from at least three other states to compete, we often see families plan their summer vacation around our festival weekend every year. While the majority of our guests come from about a 45 mile radius, which includes Grand Rapids and Muskegon (home of the Michigan Irish Music Festival in September), we do get many visitors from the Detroit area, more than two hours away."

Gráinne: "What bands will be performing this year?"

George: "Besides Colm and Laura Keegan, we have Sparta Celtic Festival favourites The Steel City Rovers returning from Canada, and local favourites The Leprecons, CrossBow, On the Lash, Ironwood, and our traditional Saturday opener, The Mona Shores Fiddlers."

Gráinne: "Like any festival, regardless of size, a team of volunteers is needed. Do you have a good team of such behind you?"

George: "We like to think OUR festival has the BEST volunteers in the industry, but then doesn't every event! It takes nearly 200 volunteers over our two day event, and dozens of our volunteers help throughout the year with both the planning and the many

"We have all the things the other festivals have, but in a small, home town setting"

satisfaction when the festival runs smoothly. Hearing and seeing that people are enjoying themselves and knowing that I lead the team responsible for running such a quality event, brings a great feeling of pride and accomplishment."

Gráinne: "What activities aside from music are taking place this year?"

George: "Our unique location, in the heart of down town Sparta, Michigan allows us a beautiful park setting for a variety of family-friendly activities over our two days. There's a wonderful playground located near our main stage, with plenty of space for a food court, beverage tents, gift and craft vendors, as well as an area for clans, heritage organisations, and cultural groups. On Saturdays, we expand into a second adjacent park for an amazing Car Show and Highland Games. We have strolling artists, workshops and a special children's area too."

Gráinne: "Is there a 'headline' event and if so, what will it be?"

George: "For our 15th Annual Fest we are bringing in our first act based in the Celtic Nations! Colm and Laura Keegan, who met while touring with Celtic Thunder, will be headlining on Saturday, August 9th. Colm, originally from Dublin, and Laura from Glasgow, will bring their combined heritage and music to our main stage, along with the seven other musical acts and eight different Irish and Highland dance groups over the two days."

Gráinne: "How important to Sparta is this festival?"

George: "Our Village Manager, referencing the quality of the Celtic Fest, believes it represents what Sparta truly stands for. The Fest has

fundraising events we must hold. We love our "Celtic Crew" who has become more like family than volunteers. The Sparta Celtic Festival is FREE to enter, so our budget is completely dependent on donations, sponsorships, and fundraisers. Our volunteers help us meet our goals every year.

"Unlike most other Cultural Music Festivals in Michigan, the Sparta Celtic Festival remains free to enter, is geared towards fun for the whole family, and presents world class entertainment in a small, intimate park setting. We have all the things the other festivals have, but in a small, hometown setting. We think once you've attended our event, you'll want to return every year."

For more details on Sparta Celtic Festival, go to
<https://www.spartacelticfest.org/>



TUNEFEST DUNGARVAN

June 20th – 22nd, 2025

Seán Laffey talks to Valerie O’Gorman about this June’s Dungarvan TuneFest.



Donnchadh Gough, Clara Mannion, Sarah O’Gorman, Donal Clancy



Sarah O’Gorman, Donal Clancy, Benny McCarthy

Dungarvan is a town of wide streets, a stunning harbour set in a wide bay, offering the finest of Irish hospitality in some excellent restaurants, and during TuneFest, it hosts nightlife to match anywhere else in the country. Dungarvan has it all, and it’s a small enough town to make it all walkable. Leave the car and enjoy the music, has been my default over the past few years. I began by asking Valerie what is on offer at this year’s TuneFest, which runs from the 20th to the 22nd of June.

“TuneFest caters for the widest range of traditional music tastes, from those wishing to learn an instrument and build their repertoire to die hard trad-heads who will do anything to find a cosy pub session, to those who like their trad served with a touch of showmanship or the full blown Celtic nightclub experience.”

“We have had the same team of volunteers involved with the festival for the past 5 years,” explains Valerie, adding, “we are building up a bank of event expertise in the town, and the town is responding. There’s already a buzz on the streets as people are looking forward to the

reaching a staggering 10 million viewers. On the same entry ticket Saturday night you have Talisk, featuring the amazing Mohsen Amini, who will have the crowd on their feet at Club Creation in Minnies Night Club on Saturday. There’s no show like a Talisk show - you’re getting 2 performances for the price of one.

“The Sunday night concert at the luxurious Park Hotel just across the river from the main town, hosts what has become the gig to end all our TuneFests, a special night with Danú, supported again this year by one of the liveliest young céilí bands in the country, All Ireland Fleadh Cheoil winners Taobh Na Mara.

“There’s more of course. The streets will resound to the songs and music of Buskers, there will be spontaneous dancing in Grattan Square, the Gig Rig will be active all weekend with booked acts including up and coming local band The Wran, which is made up of the Dunford brothers, another group entertaining on the gig rig will be Drops of Green, bringing their own unique and modern style to the classic Irish ballads, along with a wealth of tradition and the odd guest or two dropping in to entertain the crowds. There will be CD launches on the

“Last year’s Cherish The Ladies TuneFest concert was the best show I’ve ever been to”

TuneFest weekend. Of course it wouldn’t be possible without sponsorship and funding and we are thrilled that Waterford County Council is on board to make the event a continuing success.”

Valerie talks us through the workshops, which run on the Saturday morning from 9:30 AM to 1 PM. “We have some exceptional tutors again this year, and their classes are proving to be popular, in fact Tara Breen’s fiddle class was fully booked out 2 days after going live. Our tutors are: Keith O’Loughlin (Banjo), Brian O’Loughlin (Whistle/Flute), Conor O’Loughlin (Concertina), Keelan McGrath (Accordion), Joseph McNulty (Bodhrán), Tara Breen and Sorcha Costello (Fiddle). They are held at Ard Scoil na nDéise, which is very near the town centre. The workshops will close with a pupils and teachers concert.

“The tutors will also be leading sessions in a number of pubs around the town. To date the following pubs have signed up: The Local, The Moorings, The Lady Belle, Merry’s Gastro Pub, Downey’s Bar, The Anchor, Alice O’Connor’s, The Tudor House, Paddy Foleys and Minnie’s Bar. Each venue brings its own unique atmosphere, ensuring there’s a session to suit every style, whether you’re looking for high-energy reels, soulful airs, or a casual gathering of musicians sharing tunes.

“Concerts feature a number of popular acts including Cherish the Ladies, a perennial favourite at TuneFest, who will be celebrating 40 years on the road with two concerts at the Town Hall Theatre on Friday and Saturday night. I can honestly say that last year’s Cherish concert was the best show I’ve ever been to.

“The Rising, a group that went viral on TikTok, Instagram, and Facebook, amassing over 50,000 followers in just four months and

Sunday, and The Old Bank, a gorgeous new venue will host some laid back traditional music over the weekend.”

Valerie reminds us that Dungarvan is so easy to get to with great road links to major population centres in Waterford, Cork and Tipperary and counties beyond. Dungarvan is an ideal day out, and if you are planning to stay, there will be concerts, sessions and craic late into the night.

For more information please visit www.tunefest.ie



Talisk

PASSING ON THE TRADITION AT THE MINNESOTA IRISH MUSIC WEEKEND

Anne Marie Kennedy in conversation with Norah Rendell for Irish Music Magazine.

Director Norah Rendell



Norah Rendell is the very enthusiastic and capable executive artistic director of the Center for Irish Music (CIM) that presents the Minnesota Irish Music Weekend. Here she tells Anne Marie Kennedy about CIM's origins and ongoing success story.

Norah: "The Center for Irish Music, a traditional music school in Minnesota's Twin Cities, is celebrating 20 years of existence, of handing down the tradition, continuing to influence and inspire students of traditional Irish music. What began as a fledgling operation run out of our founders' living room, has blossomed into a cultural arts organisation based in the Celtic Junction Arts Center in St. Paul. CIM has served thousands of Irish music enthusiasts since it opened in 2004, enabling high standards of education with our music school that enrolls 440 students in group classes, ensembles, and private lessons each year. The Minnesota Irish Music (MIM) Weekend is the highlight of our

Norah: "I would say primarily it is because MIM offers weekend programs for all ages and across standards. It is short, and affordable enough that people can fly in for the weekend, immerse themselves fully into learning, playing with new friends, sharing tunes, and being taught by their heroes. What a privilege it is to study with legendary artists here, names like Sórcha Costello, Conal Ó Gráda, and Danny O'Mahony.

"Another unique part of the festival is the teen-only program. We are committed to investing in the next generation of musicians in our community. Our adult workshops are a real standout, with offerings for learners of all ages and abilities. From lectures with Dáithí Sproule to song workshops with Brian Mullen and fiddle tunes from Mick Conneely. MIM is an opportunity to invest in the longevity of traditional music, the intergenerational aspect, and the universal appeal of Irish music, song, dance, and culture.

"A dynamic ecosystem of Irish arts organisations in the Twin Cities is growing a vibrant community of learners"

year! MIM is a unique festival that pairs world-class traditional Irish musicians and teachers with learners of all ages and abilities for a weekend of workshops, lectures, sessions, and concerts."

AM: "Having a solid centre of learning for Irish music and making your festival a highlight in the calendar is impressive – how does one influence the other?"

Norah: "Irish music is certainly booming in Minnesota, always has, thanks to a large group of students who have found our programs through the years. Our dedicated, year-round students make up about 50% of our MIM participants, signing up for workshops, buying concert tickets, and volunteering. We certainly wouldn't have such thriving youth enrolment without our year-round ensemble program, with students who perform and attend the Midwest Fleadh regularly. CIM is also very fortunate to have a paid staff and twenty-six teaching artists keeping our programs humming along, being innovative and progressive all year round. We are also fortunate to have the opportunity to partner with like-minded organisations such as the Celtic Junction Arts Center, Irish Fair of Minnesota, and O'Shea Irish Dance. This dynamic ecosystem of Irish arts organisations in the Twin Cities is growing a vibrant community of learners."

AM: "With so many Irish music festivals in the US, MIM has earned a well deserved reputation, what are your strengths?"

"This year, I'm particularly excited about workshops with County Clare woman, the virtuosic Mary MacNamara, as we don't usually have a concertina player at our small festival. The Saturday night master artists concert is always an incredible display of musicianship. A new, exciting addition to the festival this year is the acoustic Sunday night concert in the Scanlan Music Hall. An intimate occasion with only 50 seats available, we recommend purchasing your tickets early!

"Here is this year's line up, all impressive luminaries in the Irish tradition, with Mick Conneely (fiddle & bouzouki), Pauline Conneely (banjo), Sórcha Costello (fiddle), Mary MacNamara (concertina), Brian Mullen (song), Conal Ó Gráda (flute), Danny O'Mahony (accordion), and locally-based guitar legend Dáithí Sproule (guitar and songs). Three programs are happening throughout the weekend. These include: Trad Immersion Camp for children, ages 8-12, the advanced Teen program and workshops for adults. In addition to the Saturday and Sunday concerts, there is a Thursday night kick-off at the Urban Growler (local brewery and restaurant), and the Friday night Great Session Experience is free and open to anyone who wants to come play a tune or listen to a session."

For general information see www.centerforirishmusic.org/mim

tim staffell aMIGO



New Remastered Special Edition CD
of Tim Staffell's classic 2003 album aMIGO

Eleven tracks, including 'Doin' Alright', 'Earth', and
'Night Moves' plus new bonus live-in-the-studio track.

Tim Staffell first came on the scene in the '60s with **The Railroaders**, then went on to blues-rock band **1984**, he then formed **Smile** with Brian May and Roger Taylor. He (famously) departed from Smile, moving on through **Humpy Bong** before becoming singer of progressive rock outfit **Morgan** formed with Morgan Fisher and Maurice Bacon from Love Affair and Bob Sapsed, then a stint with **Jonathan Kelly's Outside** alongside Snowy White and on...

timstaffell.com

MOSCODISC

MOSCD4016



ON THE LASH

John O'Regan writes... The debut 5 track EP *Fireside* from On The Lash entered my consciousness with alarming results. Their vivacity and kinetic energy is highly contagious and hugely enjoyable.



Combining classical dexterity with the nuance and excitement of traditional music, On The Lash, who are based in Michigan, has built a considerable reputation since its inception. The quartet of lead vocalist and flute player Elizabeth June LaPeer, Joel Tyrone Myers on octave mandolin and backing vocals, fiddler and band manager John Robey, and Patrick Hartson on guitar and backing vocals, combine the cool with the energy in their odyssey to discover the iron behind the velvet.

John Robey was quick to fill me in on their story. "We started On the Lash in March 2022 for a St Pat's Tour, so we've been together just about 3 years. Every member of the band has a classical music background, and in fact we all graduated from

travelling to the KVMR Celtic Fest in CA, the Celtic Classic in PA, and the Long's Peak Highland Fest in CO."

Joel is very pleased with the reaction to On the Lash locally and beyond. "Our music has been very well received everywhere we've played, but each audience seems to enjoy a different piece of our performance, style, and presentation. At festivals, the energy, power, and virtuosity of our music draws the listener's ear, where at a theatre they might appreciate more the complexity, nuance, and shaping of the arrangements. Beyond the music, we often get comments about how much folks love our witty, endearing banter."

Within the band their methodology is to find music and songs that can be rearranged to suit their tastes and abilities. Their *Fireside* EP is a good case in point as Joel explains. "I got my degree in music composition, so when it comes to songwriting, and arranging, I approach such endeavours as a composer. As we've progressed as a band, John has also taken a swing at arranging and composing. On *Fireside*, John put together the arrangements for both *John Riley* and *Verändler*, two of the strongest tunes on the album."

"However, On the Lash is also looking at other things," says John. "Joel's been hard at work on a full album of original music. It's shaping up to be a lovely blend of Irish heart and modern classicism with bold songwriting. We've already begun rehearsing and performing some of the tunes. We hope to record in 2025 or 2026."

When asked would they ever consider playing in Ireland, John Robey answered excitedly: "That's our next big goal! We've loved playing for American audiences, but we're itching to play where this music originated. We're so grateful for a wonderful community of musicians and music appreciators

"We've loved playing for American audiences, but we're itching to play where this music originated"

Western Michigan University's music program. However, each of us also grew up with a unique set of experiences in folk, pop, or rock genres," he added.

"The journey to Celtic music occurred through Joel Tyrone Myers. Our mandolin player, Joel, introduced us to the music. He grew up playing Irish music with his school mates. Irish music has always been his greatest love, and he wanted to find people to share it with when he went off to college. He basically just grabbed his friends and begged us to play with him."

The band is based in the city of Kalamazoo and surprisingly enough Celtic and traditional Irish music is not a marginal musical form in that area. John Robey again: "Michigan has a lot of great traditional Irish music. But where we went to school in Kalamazoo there's a rich DIY music scene. While we were playing jigs and reels, many of our friends and schoolmates were playing punk rock, experimental jazz, and avant-garde noise music. We've been very fortunate to be able to play a lot of major shows, not only in Michigan but around the country. Just this last year, we played the Michigan Irish Music Festival, being a home state show and one of the largest Irish fests in the US. However, we've very much enjoyed

wherever we've had the pleasure of performing. The Irish and broader Celtic music scene is something truly special, and we hope to meet and reach many more folks through our work on *Fireside*."

Get all the latest band news on onthelashband.com or @onthelashbandofficial wherever @'s can be found.



MUSIC THAT HITS LIKE A SPARK IN THE DARK, THE NEW ALBUM FROM NOVA SCOTIAN POWERHOUSE DUO, CASSIE AND MAGGIE IS POISED TO SOLIDIFY THEIR STATUS AS FOLK MUSIC TRAILBLAZERS.

GOLD AND COAL

BY
CASSIE AND MAGGIE



NOW STREAMING EVERYWHERE
CASSIEANDMAGGIE.COM

26 JULY
THE SPIRIT STORE DUNDALK, IRELAND
support by Cathryn Craig &
Brian Willoughby



31 JULY
THE SOUND HOUSE DUBLIN, IRELAND



19THSTREETBAND.COM

1 AUG
THE EMPIRE MUSIC HALL BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND
support by Revue

3 AUG
WARD PARK OPEN HOUSE FESTIVAL
BANGOR, NORTHERN IRELAND



Hope to play near you soon!

+ 200 concerts in the last few years
South Korea, France, Germany, Ireland, USA & Canada

New album
in 2025!

Coming 2025-2026

Mémoire et Racines, Quebec
Festival Interceltique de Lorient, Brittany
International Showcases
Tour of 20 concerts Quebec/Canada Tour in winter



Discover our music



Booking Agency:
musique@agenceresonances.com

MICK HANLY FINDS HIS TRUE VOICE

Mick Hanly received a warm reception from a large crowd of dedicated fans at his concert on January 24th at the Millbank Theatre in Rush, County Dublin - one of the events in the excellent TradFest 2025 programme. Frank Greally reports for Irish Music Magazine.



This was a special evening as Mick, with support from musicians Eoghan O'Neill (bass) and Anto Drennan (guitar) treated his audience to a wide selection of his own songs and the stories that inspired them.

"I've always considered myself more a storyteller than a songwriter," Mick said. "I was always searching for my own voice and I still am. I think I'm as close to finding that now as I have ever been."

"Songwriters like Cat Stevens, Joni Mitchell and Paul Simon had mastered the craft from the moment they emerged. It was more of a struggle for me."

There's a new pep in Mick's step this year following a knee replacement that has allowed him to get back to his three-kilometre daily walk.

"The new left knee has made a great difference because I was in agony for about six months before I had the operation," he said. "I love that I am now able to go for my daily walk, observing nature in the countryside near Thomastown where I live with my wife Marie. I had the knee replaced in December and I'm back to full strength now."

Mick is an early riser, up most mornings at 7.30am immersed in the *London Times* crossword. "I enjoy the early morning crossword, although I rarely finish it," he said.

He's writing too most days - mostly prose in the form of a memoir.

He feels that he has finally found his true voice after taking a series of vocal coaching lessons with Dublin-based vocal coach Liz Ryan on Zoom during two years of Covid.

"I was never happy with my singing voice but my sessions with Liz Ryan brought a great change," Mick said. "I'm singing now with more

enjoyment and confidence than ever before. It's a pleasure now to sing and I pick up the guitar and sing every day." Now long off cigarettes and alcohol, Mick is quietly content and still highly creative.

"It makes a lot of sense for a professional singer to get vocal coaching, even if it was a bit late in the day for me," Mick said.

"I thought I was stuck with the voice I was born with, but coaching has made a huge difference and turned my voice around. I think the difference is that I am now singing with a new freedom; my voice is richer now, with more feeling."

There was a lovely, poignant and beautiful moment at TradFest when Mick introduced the song *Just Another Town* by the late Johnny Duhan, a fellow Limerick man and dear friend.

"Johnny was a good friend and a great songwriter," Mick said. "About a year before his tragic passing, we performed together in a concert at the Bell Table in Limerick. "Johnny was such a gentle man and a rare talent."

Since the TradFest Concert in Rush, Mick has recorded a beautiful rendition of *Just Another Town* - a song Johnny Duhan described as: "A portrait of the city I grew up in."

Mick describes the studio recording as a "stripped down version of the song accompanied by Dave Keary, one of Ireland's foremost guitar players and Eoghan O'Neill on electric bass.

"I'm delighted with what the three of us achieved with the recording of the song, keeping it simple," Mick said. "Joe Gallagher mixed it and I love what Joe does in the studio. It was a fairly raw version of the song that I performed at TradFest but very well received."

Mick is looking forward now to a special concert on May 20th in the Lime Tree Theatre in Limerick in memory of the three Js; Johnny Feehan (guitarist with Horslips), Johnny Duhan and John Kenny (comedian) - all Limerick natives.

"We have a great line up of artists for this special concert including Bill Whelan, Dave Keary and some members of Granny's Intentions. As

"I am now singing with a new freedom; my voice is richer now, with more feeling"

well as *Just Another Town*, I will also be performing *My Three Broken Sisters*, a ballad by the late John Kenny - a complex but beautiful story linked to his family. I have put music to the ballad and added a couple of bridges."

Over the course of his career Mick has recorded 14 albums and he reckons he has written about 200 songs. Back in 1992 he hit the jackpot when country star Hal Ketchum made it big in the American country charts with *Past the Point of Rescue*, which rose to Number 2 and was the most played song on American radio in 1992. It was also a financial success story for Mick.

Mick's first album *Celtic Folk Weave* with Micheál O Domhnaill, has been re-released after 50 years by Universal Records. "It's known as a seminal album," Mick said. "That means you get no money for it. The company paid for the recording at the time and we were delighted with that."

Daily walks, singing and clean living keeps Mick Hanly a happy troubadour with still many songs to write and sing.

GUITAR TECHNIQUE with Cillian Ó'Dálaigh

Brought to you in association with the Online Academy of Irish Music (OAIM).

Guitar accompaniment in traditional Irish music, according to OAIM tutor Cillian Ó'Dálaigh, is likened to “colouring in the backdrop”; the aim being not to dominate the melody, but rather to add feeling and texture, and to empower the tune being played. With his Guitar Technique course, Cillian provides the outline of that backdrop and the colours, while clearly showing when to emphasise a colour or cleverly introduce a new swatch.

Cillian Ó'Dálaigh is a natural teacher who has been surrounded by Irish music from day one, learning from his father who played with Irish band, Cromlach. Cillian graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Irish Music and Dance from the University of Limerick and has toured extensively as both guitarist and flute player. He toured with the internationally acclaimed band The Outside Track up until recently, at which point, he opened up a very progressive music production studio in Limerick. He's currently a member of the Limerick band Megatrad.

The Course

Guitar Technique builds beautifully on Cillian's previous course Guitar Progressions and takes the art of accompaniment to a whole new level. A knowledge of how to play guitar in standard tuning is a prerequisite. This course is for you if you are serious about

developing an extensive repertoire of guitar skills in general, and more specifically if you wish to become a master accompanist.

A wonderful selection of well-known tunes from the Irish tradition are used throughout this course to demonstrate guitar accompaniment styles and techniques with a focus on varying rhythms, keys and modes. To spice things up, Cillian skilfully borrows from other genres incorporating Calypso rhythms, James Brown, Niall Rodgers, Pachelbel's Canon, and other popular riffs that really enliven a master accompanist's repertoire. Single string accompaniment is also examined, as is dampening and dead strum techniques and the use of more 'jazzy' chords. Each lesson is accompanied with practice mp3's of the melody and PDF's of chord structures and shapes, so you'll have plenty to get your teeth into!

TUNES TAUGHT ON THE COURSE ARE:

The Silver Spear
The Cliffs Of Moher
The Tamlin
The Rights Of Man
The Dingle Regatta
Boys Of Malin
Fig For A Kiss
Bill Sullivan's Polka
The Boys Of Bluehill
Castle Kelly's
Connacht Man's Rambles
The Golden Stud
The Man Of Aran

Cillian's beautiful teaching style is rich in both imagery and sensual translation of the effect of the techniques he is imparting. Truly an artist at heart, his palette is certainly the guitar, but not only that, he totally gets the supporting role that the guitar plays in Irish music. For example, he mentions beginning gently while the musician playing the melody finds their feet in the tune and then transitioning to empower the tune as the melody is established. That kind of instruction can only be known from pure immersion in the tradition, so for

“If you share an equal passion for the guitar and Irish music, perhaps it's worth looking into honing your accompaniment skills and become a Picasso of colouring in the backdrop of the pure drop!”

newcomers to the art of accompaniment, Cillian's teaching tips cover not only the technique but, often more importantly, the etiquette required of an accompanist hoping to make it in the collective tradition that is Irish music.

So, if you share an equal passion for the guitar and Irish music, perhaps it's worth looking into honing your accompaniment skills and become a Picasso of colouring in the backdrop of the pure drop! You simply couldn't be in better hands!

Learn how to accompany *The Silver Spear* with Cillian:
<https://youtu.be/YRNlpbde2WY>

GERARD FAHY and the WILD ATLANTIC ORCHESTRA**Own Label, 13 Tracks, 53 Minutes****www.gerardfahymusic.com**

Gerard Fahy's work with some of the finest traditional musicians, together with the Macedonia Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Sofia Radio Orchestra, has resulted in an album of hugely expansive music. Fahy has form, having composed for Michael Flatley's *Lord of the Dance Dangerous Games* and he is steeped in music; his grandfather Tommy Whyte was a founding member of the famous Ballinakill Céilí Band. Galway based readers will know him from the long-running live summer shows Trad on The Prom.

The catalyst for the recording came on the passing of his mother in 2016, when Gerard was moved to write a tribute piece in her honour, called *Bridie's Road Home*, a thank you for all she had done to nurture his music. It is the second track on the album, heralded in with orchestral violins and a piano, setting the stage for Fahy's emotive pipes, the chanter soaring over a lush harmonic backdrop whilst the orchestra leads the melody out on an extended chord.

If you like your pipes wild and in the spirit of Moving Hearts, then I'm sure you will love his *Solas*; the final section is a wild pipe-pulsing Hibernian Rock. He brings things back a notch or two on the cinematic *Anam*, the crescendo has his pipes at boiling point before the piece is resolved. Fahy takes up the whistle on *Knockadrum*, with its jazzy opening and underpinning keyboards, he is joined by Maureen Fahy on the violin. There's more lounge-jazz to close this track.

Pipes of Peace begins as a gentle melody on low whistle, then 90 seconds in, Fahy's pipes grab the melodic theme, and are soon joined by percussion giving a contemporary dimension to the orchestral arrangement.

The only traditional piece on the album is a very modern reworking of *My Lagan Love* with singer Paula Gilmer giving a performance which has shades of Sinéad O'Connor. If you buy the disc rather than the Bandcamp download, there is a bonus track. *Tell Me Why*, sung by Zena Donnelly, and as I said at the start, this is a big number. It is full on Celtic orchestral rock. A wild spirit befitting the thrill of living on the Atlantic edge.

Seán Laffey**DABILLA****The Hound of Boann****Own Label, 10 Tracks, 45 Minutes www.dabilla.ie**

Dabilla are an emerging duo consisting of Darragh Ó Héiligh on uilleann pipes and whistles along with guitarist and singer Oisín Dillon. They describe themselves as pioneers of the emerging folktronica genre, which combines traditional forms with electronic instruments to produce innovative new soundscapes. Both of them hail from Drogheda, Co. Louth, and their album is inspired by local folklore and mythology. Boann was a local goddess according to legend, and Dabilla was her faithful hound.

The opener *The Blacksmith* showcases their panoramic approach, using the song as a vehicle to feature the regulators on the uilleann pipes to drive a percussive accompaniment style. It's on the traditional tunes that the sounds get more interesting, allowing the pipes to soar, bend and sing with various digital enhancements, without ever losing sight of the underlying structure. Oisín's guitar is also enhanced in a very studied manner, he's a strong rhythmic player and has some nice chord choices to underpin the dreamier sequences in the music.

The album was recorded and mixed by Darragh, who has acquired the necessary skills in the past year, and the audio quality is superb throughout. All the music is played by just the core members. There are three original pieces on the album: *Memories* is an anthemic song written by Oisín, *Chasing Chances* is a co-written tune, while Darragh contributes *March of Kaiser*, which has lovely interplay between guitar and pipes. Innovation is at the core of Dabilla's approach, with an amazing range of sonic textures obtained from the two players. This allows them to take a standard ballad such as *Rocky Road to Dublin* and transform it into another dimension. Dabilla deserve major credit for pursuing an enthralling musical path, and based on this album, it's clear that an exciting journey is just beginning.

Mark Lysaght**CASSIE AND MAGGIE****Gold and Coal****Own Label, 11 Tracks, 35 Minutes www.cassieandmaggie.com**

Two sisters from Nova Scotia, Cassie and Maggie MacDonald might have made my album of the month. What makes this so special apart from the playing, the production and the care and detail in the presentation, is its juxtaposition of the old with the new. That duality is inherent in its title, *Gold and Coal*. Gold pointing to hope for the future, coal looking back to a time when the Province's prosperity was tied to the rich seams of coal suited to making steel, the best seams of which were near New Waterford in Cape Breton.

The sisters avoid a simple historical telling of the time and legacy of mining but focus, for example on *Bow Down*, on the human condition. Here it is a warning about safe working, the fiddle adding a menacing dread, it's deliciously dark. There's hope in *Nancy*, a traditional song that tells us the Nightingale and Larks are symbols of resilience - no matter how hard things may seem, one chirps in the dark, the other on the wing. The girls give us a Gaelic song with Cape Breton fiddle and step dancing on *I Long To Return (Bu Deonach Leam Tilleadh)*. They follow this with *Robert Frost*; their new melody wedded to his poem *Peck of Gold* makes this as relevant today as it was when it was a comment on the disappointment of the California Gold Rush. They also found another 19th century song *Dear Imogene* by Pluck Marriot that they transform into Celtic Rock, adding some extra lines such as: "We're living fast but it's going by slow." A favourite of mine is *The Old Miner*, its melody would make an earworm of a slow air.

Every track here is a gem, from the scratchy LP evoked on *Blue Monday*, to Ewan MacColl's *The Big Hewer* with fiddle and banjo shifting the action from one side of the Atlantic to the other. They finish the album with some pure Americana: *The Gold Rush is Over and I'm Moving On*, I'm sure this makes the best song to end their live set.

They make great music in Canada and Cassie and Maggie are up there with the best of them. This is an album with the lustre and untarnished longevity of gold and the pent up heat of ancient coal.

Seán Laffey**WILLOWGREEN****Sheila's Brush****Own Label, 13 Tracks, 48 Minutes www.willowgreenmusic.com**

This is Duluth based Willowgreen's 6th album, and it's been 26 years since their 5th recording. Their music draws on the traditions of Ireland, Newfoundland, Scotland, Canada, Wales, and the USA. There are deep Newfoundland Connections too, with three members of the band having roots in one of Canada's most musical provinces.

Their signature sound evocatively echoes through many of the tracks, courtesy of Wendy Nelson's hammered dulcimer and Georganne Hunter's harp. It is this shared resonance that gives a special character to the ensemble's music.

The group consists of Sue Spencer (six & twelve-string guitars, vocals, button accordion), Georganne Hunter (Gaelic harp, whistle), Jim Ofsthun (bodhrán, vocals, whistles, mandolin, button accordion), Mary Lou Williams (vocals, bodhrán), Wendy Nelson (hammered dulcimer). Their newest members are Liesel Wilson (fiddle, vocals) and Bridget Spencer (fiddle and octave fiddle).

Phil Cunningham's *The Monday Morning Reel* segues into *The Star of the County Down*. The opening reel is taken as awakening to a new week, the vocals perfectly articulate Cathal MacGarvey's timeless folk song.

They visit the new Scottish song tradition with Karine Polwart's *Follow The Heron Home* about a dawn journey after a late night session, and go back in time for *The Broom of the Cowdenknowes*. Dougie MacLean's *The Storm*, is sung by Mary Lou Williams, her alto perfectly matched to the message of the song, which incidentally links to the album's title, *Sheila's Brush*, a Newfoundland phrase naming a seasonal storm that occurs on or close to St. Patrick's Day.

They revive the song *The Half Door*, which was popular in Ireland 50 years ago, mashing it up with an unnamed Shetland Reel and a Quebecois tune *Le Reel Du Fogeron*. Two of Georganne Hunter's compositions *Solstice Fire* and *North Craig* put the harp centre stage. The former has a Breton flavour, the latter is a free form tone poem. The album closes with an a-cappella *Lowlands Away* in the same vein as *She Moved Through the Fair*, a dream of a revenant dead lover. It's a strong ending to a quality robust and satisfying album. *Sheila's Brush* will sweep up its fans for sure.

Seán Laffey

THE KILT LIFTERS



The
KILT LIFTERS
- HAWAII -

NOW BOOKING
2025 EVENTS!

Celtic Rock
for True
Celtic Music
Enthusiasts!



Please Follow Us!

Celtic Folk Rock
KiltLifters.com

ALL INCLUSIVE FAMILY RESORT

PACKAGES AVAILABLE **OVERNIGHT GROUPS**

LOCATED IN THE HEART OF THE IRISH CATSKILLS



Gavin's
Irish Country Inn

- HOME OF -
GAVINSTOCK FEST + GUINNESS OKTOBERFEST FEST

- NEARBY -
EAST DURHAM IRISH FEST + CATSKILLS IRISH ARTS WEEK

GavinsInn.com • 518-634-2582
118 Golden Hill Rd, Cornwallville, NY

Don
Banjo
Smith
and Friends




New Double Album
Out Now!!

Available digitally at CD Baby, Spotify, Amazon...
& on CD: www.donbanjosmith.com

ON THE LASH**Fireside****Own Label, 5 Tracks, 19 Minutes****www.onthelashband.com**

On The Lash write on their Bandcamp page, "Every tune on the album is an adaptation from a band, writer, or player who has, in some way or another, shaped our musical direction and development."

They all began as classical players but as you'll discover here they are more than comfortable in a Celtic alt-folk genre, that sits somewhere between Solas and Runa, and that is a good comparison. The members are: Elizabeth June LaPeer on lead vocals and flute, Joel Tyrone Myers on octave mandolin & backing vocals. John Robey plays fiddle /and joins in on backing vocals with Patrick Hartson on guitar and backing vocals.

Their first track is *John Riley*, composed by Tim O'Brien and Guy Clark, in which they introduce a very lively mid-section, their take on a reel by the Paul McKenna Band. The music shifts to Ireland on two dance tunes: *Timmy Clifford's* and *Rookery*, the latter written by Vincent Broderick. The set opens with an octave mandolin riff and closes with a crescendo on the same instrument as a fluttering strum.

The fiddle provides eery screeching notes on the old Silly Wizard song *Donald McGillavry*, named for a Jacobite leader in one or the other of the Scottish 18th century risings. They go all Alpine and revisit their classical roots on *Verändler*, a modern appropriation of traditional Swiss dance music; listen carefully and you can hear the band emulate mountain yodelling.

Dog in The Distance closes the album. It's a new song by Joel Tyrone Myers. They weave it together with two of Mike McGoldrick's tunes, *Farewell to Whalley Range*, a slip jig that is increasing in popularity these days and the *Freefalling* reel.

There might be only 5 tracks here - fear not, On The Lash have put down a marker. It's exciting, intelligent and driven music, and it's crackling by the fireside. What's not to like?

Seán Laffey**DON BANJO SMITH and FRIENDS****Own Label, Double album, 25 Tracks, 96 Minutes****www.donbanjosmith.com**

A veteran folk singer from the North East of the USA, tenor banjo player Don 'Banjo' Smith has gathered a bunch of friends to create music that has the feel of a legacy recording, highlighting both the breadth and longevity of Smith's music.

The album cover presents a baker's dozen of snap shots of folks who have played on the album, all of them obviously having a great time. And why not. There are tracks here that would grace any ballad session from Ballymun to Boston and many a pub in between: *The Rare Old Mountain Dew*, *The Ballad of St. Anne's Reel*, the dance tune retaining its DNA of Nova Scotian country-swing. There are American songs too, such as Johnny Cash's *Big River* and *Eldorado*, an Edgar Allen Poe poem set to music and sung by Rockin' Randy Shenise.

Kevin Behan plays low whistle on *The Lonesome Boatman* with Don's banjo trailing the shapes of Finbar Furey. Terry Kane (a lady) sings *Colleen Rua* in Irish, some double tracking here, Terry playing mandolin and guitar and Don on banjo and concertina. The first disc ends with a rousing chorus song *Whiskey Right Now*, which puts us in the mood for the second helping, where Don's friends get their chance to shine. Such as a set of banjo tunes attributed to the playing of Peter Seeger, here in the very agile hands of Greg Jowaisas. Another friend Jack Driscoll sings *On Raglan Road*; take time out to appreciate the short guitar break before the concertina takes on the melody. Ronan Smith tips a hat to the great Stan Rogers, firstly with a quick version of the *Mary Ellen Carter*. He also sings *Fogerty's Cove*, another Rogers' classic. The second disc ends with a version of Tommy Sands' *When The Boys Come Rolling Home*, here sung by Don, Marty "Moonshine" McKernan and Mike Griffin.

There is a generosity of spirit in this album, clearly displaying the joy Don 'Banjo' Smith has had over many years making music with his friends. If you are looking for songs for your ballad session, this is a handy port of call, tell your friends about it.

Seán Laffey**STEVE KNIGHTLEY****Positively Folk Street - Dylan, Carthy and Me****Hands On Music HMCD55, 12 Tracks, 44 Minutes****www.steveknightley.com**

This album hangs on two folk singers and Knightley's response to them. Foremost is a Mr Bob Dylan. From an Irish perspective we view him as the magpie mind that adopted and remodelled Irish folk songs he had learnt from the Clancys in Greenwich Village. There is also an equally important English dimension to Dylan's early oeuvre, from the winter of 1962 when he visited London and met a young Martin Carthy.

Carthy has been active for over 60 years in the folk genre. His guitar was groundbreaking and his re-working of old English folk song, its punchy rhythms and its imagery, a revelation to an audience that was embroiled in the leftist theatrical folk dogma of MacColl of the time.

Knightley, an accomplished songwriter himself cites his epiphany on hearing Dylan sing about ordinary every day; this album is his way of paying back that creative debt. There is a hint of fragility in Knightley's vocal on *Forever Young* as if the singer knows his wish cannot, sadly, be fulfilled. The title track is one of Dylan's most enigmatic songs, written shortly after his iconic *Like a Rolling Stone*. It is bitter to the core. Much has been written about it, mostly speculation and conjecture, its title not even appearing in its lyrics. The jury is out, but the word on the street is, it was a reaction to a musical rift between himself and the folk community of the Village.

Knightley brings us into Carthy's 1960's orbit on *Polly On The Shore*, *Bruton Town*, *Just as The Tide Was Flowing* and *Lord Franklin*, pairing the songs here with either a guitar or cuatro, a contrast to his previous release *The Winter Yards*. The most accessible song to ears trained on traditional music is *Boots of Spanish Leather*, Knightley playing a running fingerpicked melody throughout. His accompaniment on *Broomfield Hill* and *Seven Yellow Gypsies* is reminiscent of Donal Lunny in his pomp. He puts down the guitar and is backed by sparse accordion on *Lord Franklin*, leaving emotional space to tell of the tragic loss of the famous explorer.

Although this could have been a cover version of when Bob met Marty, Knightley brings himself to the work, avoiding the simplicity of a Dylan lick or Carthy's complex percussive odd-tuned guitar. The nearest Knightley comes to a pastiche of Dylan is *The Girl From The North County* with an additional harmonica. Positively 4th Street is not a middle road, but a new vantage point, 60 odd years on, looking back at a crossroads, not with hindsight, but with grateful inspiration.

Seán Laffey**MARK LYNDON****Buckley's Folly****Own Label, Single, 4 Minutes, 38 Seconds****www.facebook.com/MarkLyndonMusic**

Originally from Birr, County Offaly, Mark Lyndon is a singer/songwriter and guitarist based in Cork, and has been building a solid reputation across Ireland recently. His music is firmly rooted in the Irish folk tradition, with echoes of the greats such as Planxty and Paul Brady.

However, he also paints from a wider palette, and there are echoes of other influences from American rock and world music in his work.

Buckley's Folly is his third single release, an engaging composition about a real-life cairn erected by Eoin Buckley from the Blackwater Valley in Cork, who volunteered as a soldier in World War I. Buckley's idea was that the cairn would act as a memorial to him, especially if he didn't return. Having survived the conflict, on his return he was shunned by the locals.

Mark relates the story as an endearing ballad, with guitar and bouzouki embellished by Maria Ryan's baroque-tinged string arrangement. His voice is strong and carries the song well, and the lyrics are carefully constructed to reflect Buckley's motivations – overall it's an appealing mixture, and an excellent showcase for his talents. On the evidence of this track, we'll be hearing a lot more from Mark in the future.

Mark Lysaght

ON THE LASH



FIRESIDE OUT NOW!



bandcamp



In honor of Irish traditional music, **On The Lash** creates timeless sounds through original voices. Their debut EP, **Fireside**, features new takes on classic songs and original constructions of established standards, exploring the inherent energy and versatility of the genre.

Hear the album at www.onthelashband.com



Carbony™ Celtic Winds are innovative musical instruments that offer the advantages of modern carbon fiber technology with time tested designs.

We put tradition on the leading edge.

Try one of our flutes, whistles, or bagpipes risk free at www.Carbony.com

carbony™
CELTIC WINDS

Irish Music Café Radio Show

"Your Heritage. Your Music"
Playing the best variety of Irish music worldwide
Weekly interviews with Irish artists

Listen Live Mondays
9-11 pm in Ireland
4-6 pm in US (ET):

www.CRBRadio.com

www.IrishMusicCafe.com

Submit your music for airplay
consideration to pat@irishmusiccafe.com



**Listen to our
Podcasts anytime:**

www.IrishMusicCafe.com



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme
An Roinn Gnóthaí Éireannacha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Michigan based with Tipperary roots

MY LAGAN LOVE

Gerard Fahy has created a contemporary version of the song on his latest album *Gerard Fahy and the Wild Atlantic Orchestra*, writes Seán Laffey.

On that recording Paula Gilmer brings a modern orchestral rock interpretation of the song to life. It is the most recent of a number of recordings of what might be considered the anthem for Belfast.

The lyrics were penned by Joseph Campbell, who wrote under the Gaelic name Seosamh MacCathmhaoil. They first appeared in 1904 in "Songs of Uladh" edited by Herbert Hughes and Joseph Campbell, published in Belfast by William Mullan and Sons, and in Dublin by MH Gill.

Hughes said of the air: "I got this from Proinseas mac Suibhne who played it for me on the fiddle. He had it from his father Seaghan mac Suibhne, who learned it from a sapper working on the Ordnance Survey in Tearmann about fifty years ago. It was sung to a ballad called *The Belfast Maid*. Campbell supplied the new words to fit the ancient air as the lyrics to *The Belfast Maid* had been lost.

Joseph Campbell (15 July 1879 – 6 June 1944) was from a nationalist middle class family in Belfast. He was a founder of the Ulster Literary Theatre in 1904 and frequented artistic circles. He had an eventful life, first moving to Dublin in 1905, where he took part in Republican activities, translated Patrick Pearse's short stories into English, went to teach in London and then back to Dublin becoming a Sinn Féin councillor for Wicklow in 1921, before immigrating to the USA where he founded the School of Irish Studies at Fordham University in 1928. He returned to Ireland in 1939.

There is deep dread in the song, due to the nature of the Irish mythical figure the Leannan-sidhe; a fairy lover who entraps mortals, making them love-sick, either by leaving them to pine away or enslaving them. W.B. Yeats in his classification of Irish Fairies writes

that Gaelic poets down through the ages have had a Leannan-sidhe: "... for she gives inspiration to her slaves and is the Gaelic muse - the malignant fairy. Her lovers, The Gaelic poets died young, She grew restless and carried them away to other worlds, for death does not destroy her power." As to location, there are two theories, firstly that the song refers to the Lagan Valley in Tyrone or secondly that it is placed by the river Lagan which flows into Belfast Lough. The line 'Twixt Leamh-beag and The Druim, indicates Belfast as Lambeg is but a few miles west of the city, and was no doubt a deliberate reference to the spiritual home of the song befitting of a writer who attended St Malachy's College. He also wrote the lyrics to *The Gartan Mother's Lullaby* and the *Spanish Lady*; he obviously had a pen for enchantment.

My Lagan Love

Where Lagan stream sings lullaby
There blows a lily fair
The twilight gleam is in her eye
The night is on her hair
And like a love-sick lennan-shee
She has my heart in thrall
Nor life I owe nor liberty
For love is lord of all.

Her father sails a running-barge
'Twixt Leamh-beag and The Druim;
And on the lonely river-marge
She clears his hearth for him.
When she was only fairy-high
Her gentle mother died;
But dew-Love keeps her memory
Green on the Lagan side.

And often when the beetle's horn
Hath lulled the eve to sleep
I steal unto her shieling lorn
And thru the dooring peep.
There on the cricket's singing stone,
She spares the bogwood fire,
And hums in sad sweet undertone
The songs of heart's desire

Her welcome, like her love for me,
Is from her heart within:
Her warm kiss is felicity
That knows no taint of sin.
And, when I stir my foot to go,
'Tis leaving Love and light
To feel the wind of longing blow
From out the dark of night.

Where Lagan stream sings lullaby
There blows a lily fair
The twilight gleam is in her eye
The night is on her hair
And like a love-sick lennan-shee
She has my heart in thrall
Nor life I owe nor liberty
For love is lord of all.



Professional Quality PennyWhistles

Burke Whistles
created by Michael Burke

Precision Handcrafted Instruments
Aluminum • Brass

www.burkewhistles.com

BurkeWhistles, Inc.
Michael Burke PennyWhistle Co.

2025
Celtic
COLOURS
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

October 10-18
Cape Breton Island

CELTIC COLOURS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 2025

AM FÌOR DHÒIGH GHÀIDHEALACH

CELTICCOLOURS.CA

50 concerts and hundreds of Community Cultural Experience events in communities throughout Cape Breton Island

Full festival schedule available on **June 23**

Tickets on sale **July 8, 2025**

celticcolours.ca



IMRO - Serving music creators by collecting/distributing royalties in Ireland and worldwide

The Irish Music Rights Organisation (IMRO) exists to collect and distribute performance royalties on behalf of its members. If you are a songwriter, lyricist, composer, an arranger of public domain music or a music publisher who has original music publicly performed, you can join IMRO and avail of the many benefits of membership.

Music users such as broadcasters, venues and businesses must pay for their use of copyright music by way of a blanket licence fee. IMRO collects these monies and distributes them to copyright owners involved. The monies earned by copyright owners in this way are known as public performance royalties.

IMRO is also prominently involved in the sponsorship and promotion of music in Ireland. Every year it sponsors a large number of song contests, music festivals, seminars, workshops, research projects and showcase performances. Indeed, IMRO is now synonymous with helping to showcase emerging talent in Ireland.

If you are a songwriter, composer or music publisher and your works have been commercially recorded, broadcast, performed live or are available on streaming/download platforms contact IMRO now to find out how you can become a member of our organisation.

Download an IMRO Membership Application Pack at
<https://imro.ie/music-creators/join-imro/>

IMRO has a comprehensive website www.imro.ie and Member Services can be contacted by email at membership@imro.ie

Membership of IMRO is free of charge.



IMRO. Copyright House, Pembroke Row, Lr. Baggot Street, D2.
Phone: +353 (0) 1 661 4844 Fax: +353 (0) 1 676 3125.
www.imro.ie