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# MUSIC

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Issue No. 340 July 2024

## FOREWORD

### CONVERGING ON THE TRADITION

July is really a very special month for traditional musicians, it's the time when we converge together to enjoy the music at its deepest level from Miltown Malbay to Tubbercurry to the Catskills Mountains. This is the month of summer schools and workshops. We highlight Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy and the South Sligo Summer School in this issue, both steeped in regional cultures and both engaging with the Diaspora.

I had the pleasure of talking to Wolf Loescher about his new album *Immigrant Songs*, with migration a hot button topic these days. Wolf has a unique experience; the son of a displaced foreign national, he has also experienced a move to another country and the power of folk and traditional music to embed you into the culture of your new home.

July is also the month of Provincial Fleadhs where the next generation of traditional musicians converge to compete for coveted titles and relax afterwards in the fraternity of friendly sessions. As we move into the summer months, festivals become the place to see and hear the finest professional Celtic music. I talk in this issue to Declan O'Sullivan who is building a new Irish festival in Niagara Falls, Canada and we interview Éabha McMahon, who will be bringing the Celtic World Forum to Balbriggan this September.

This year's Goderich Celtic Roots Festival, Celtic College and Kids Camp runs from August 5th to 11th. Enjoy a full week of classes, nighttime concerts, Céilí dancing and sessions with over 50 of the world's best musicians, culminating in the weekend festival, in Canada's prettiest town, Goderich, Ontario.

Wherever you find yourself in July, you are probably not too far from other musicians who are eager to share the music and culture with you.

Slán

Seán L

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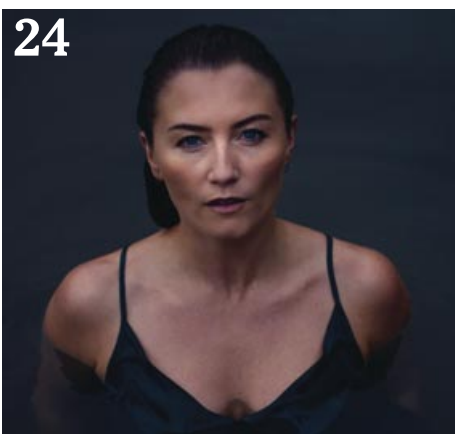
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Brought to you in association with the Online Academy of Irish Music (OAIM).

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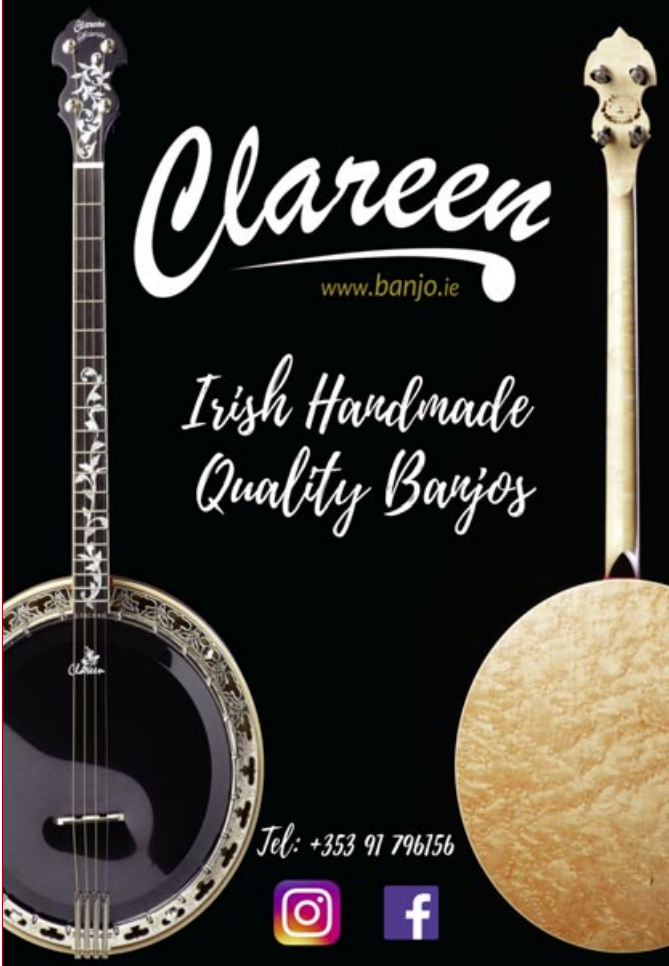


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## GF MORGAN : MAGENTA

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On March 17th 2024 Gf Morgan released his new solo album *Magenta* to the public at a CD release party at Dharma Burns in New Hope, PA.

The album is reflective of Morgan's work as a solo artist with selected pieces from his vast repertoire which includes arrangements of ballads, sea chanteys, original compositions and the traditional music of the Celtic lands.

Coming on the heels of his critically acclaimed album *Driftwood*, the new album *Magenta* showcase features his delicate finger style guitar playing as well as his versatility on concertina and several instruments of the mandolin family.

The praise from both sides of the Atlantic for *Driftwood* brought Morgan to the notice of the American Celtic scene.

*Magenta* has met with similar plaudits.

"There's genuine contentment in the playing, tunes that linger, old music that has survived and connects Celtic communities to their cultures, continuing to be spread across continents as Mr. Morgan is doing here." - Anne Marie Kennedy - *Irish Music Magazine*.

"Magenta confirms and expands his musical universe, offering a listening experience that is both a refuge and an exploration, a place where nostalgia meets innovation. This album is an invitation to dance under the stars, to dream with open eyes, to feel the infinite power of music which, like a river, has flowed for centuries, nourishing souls thirsty for truth, beauty, and authenticity." - *ExtravFrench Webzine Reviews*.

[www.gfmorgan.bandcamp.com](http://www.gfmorgan.bandcamp.com)

## SHERIDAN RÚITÍN

[www.sheridanruitin.com](http://www.sheridanruitin.com)

Sheridan Rúitín is a Celtic folk band from Rockland County, New York. The band was formed in 2020 and consists of five members: Billy Houlihan (vocals, banjo, bouzouki, fiddle, bagpipes), Shannon Cokeley (vocals, guitar), Tommy Ma (vocals, bodhrán), Michael Zayas (accordion, mandolin), and John Damiano (drums).

The band is known for their traditional Irish sound and their unique blend of folk and rock influences. Their music has been described as being "rooted in tradition and fueled by innovation, weaving a tapestry of ancient musical

heritage with contemporary flair – from lively jigs and reels to poignant ballads and ethereal harmonies."

In March of 2022, Sheridan Rúitín released their debut album, *Rebels in the Night*, which received critical acclaim and helped to establish the band as one of the leading Celtic folk/Celtwave groups of the greater New York area. They have also released a live album, 3 EPs, and several singles all while touring extensively throughout the United States. They have performed at several major music festivals, including the East Durham Irish Festival, Poconos Irish Festival, Bergen County Irish Festival, and the Hooley on the Hudson.

Their upcoming *Keep 'Er Lit* tour will have Sheridan Rúitín performing festivals and concerts throughout the United States and Canada; including Havertown Irish Festival, Rockaway Beach Irish Festival, Gavinstock & more.

For more information, you may check out Sheridan Rúitín at [www.sheridanruitin.com](http://www.sheridanruitin.com), [youtube.com/sheridanruitin](https://youtube.com/sheridanruitin), [facebook.com/sheridanruitin](https://facebook.com/sheridanruitin), & Spotify/Apple Music/iTunes.

## ERIN RUTH

[erinruth.hearnow.com](http://erinruth.hearnow.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 Ruth arrived to San Francisco in 2012, with a background in performing, sight-reading, and auditioning her voice and clarinet. She also has experience with piano, guitar, tenor saxophone, theory courses, and songwriting. It was in SF where she gained exposure to Celtic music – and began performing alongside artists such as The Black Brothers and Richard Mandel.

Erin's hometown of Tucson, AZ is enriched in Mexican tradition, but not a great deal of Celtic culture. However, as a child she was aware of her Celtic heritage. Erin's mother (a classical pianist and songwriter) brought

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home Celtic albums and films. Even at a young age Erin was fascinated by the sounds of Celtic music.

Erin released a self-funded album of Irish and Folk classics in 2020, with limited outlets for exposure during the pandemic. She plans to release more music soon, containing Celtic classics as well as original material on piano and guitar. Erin will also engage a variety of other instrumentalists in her new work. Watch her Facebook page below for updates on the new releases.

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### ONÓIR DEBUT ALBUM OUT NOW

<https://onoir.bandcamp.com/album/on-ir>

After the success of their first year on tour, Onóir have just released their

self-titled, debut album. The album is a collection of classic folk songs that initially inspired a love for Irish music in each of the four members of the group. Every track gets that modern, vocal-centric production which is now synonymous with Onóir's sonic signature and unique blend of male Irish voices.

As well as taking their live show to more and more theatres across the country, 2024 sees the Donegal-based vocal quartet heading out on a month-long tour of The United States, and also performing in The UK & Scotland this coming Autumn. This summer, across six US cities, Onóir will perform at the largest stages in the world for Irish music, including at Milwaukee Irish Fest which anticipates over 100,000 attendees this year.

As they embark on their second year of touring, the group also enter into the writing process for what is to become their second album. Onóir truly hit the ground running with their own material, having made their television debut in March with their song *Take It From Me*, performed live on RTÉ Today which garnered over 140,000 views on social media within the first week. The music video for the song is launching in June and the band are currently looking for the public's help in creating it! To find out how you too could be a part of the music video check out the most recent posts on their social media channels.

A full list of their national and international touring schedule can be found on their website at <https://onoirmusic.com/shows> and you can find out more about their brand new debut album at <https://onoir.bandcamp.com/album/on-ir>

### CELTIC WORLD FORUM SEPTEMBER 2024

www.celticworldforum.com


Celtic World Forum is an annual event that brings together Celtic music enthusiasts, experts and artists to explore and celebrate the rich and diverse traditions of Celtic music in a gathering designed to be equally informative, inspiring, and entertaining.

The inaugural three day Forum event in 2023, comprised a mix of talks, panels, workshops, song circles and evening concerts, all connected to the world of Irish Traditional, Folk and Celtic Music.

Created by Grammy nominated Irish singer Éabha McMahon, the Celtic World initiative focuses on creating unforgettable experiences in the form of unique events and concerts, using only the highest quality of Irish talent,

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with many of the performers being globally established names from the most successful international touring shows.

Having toured extensively as vocalist across the world with Anúna and Celtic Woman, gaining an international following and recognising the worldwide popularity of Irish Music, Éabha wanted to stage an event where people could discover behind the music and experience the multitude of musical talent here in Ireland.

The Celtic World umbrella is designed to be a multi-faceted endeavour. As well as the annual Forum event, it will also stage occasional concerts both in Ireland and overseas. There will also be music releases throughout the year that feature the very best Celtic talent.

Celtic World Forum 2024 will take place from Thursday 5th September to Saturday 7th September at the Irish Institute Of Music & Song in Co. Dublin, Ireland.

See [www.celticworldforum.com](http://www.celticworldforum.com) for more details. Email: [info@celticworldforum.com](mailto:info@celticworldforum.com)

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"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](mailto:pat@irishmusiccafe.com)

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#### REVOLUTIONARY STORY OF CEOLTÓIRÍ CHUALANN IN A NEW BOOK (Mercier Press) [www.gael-linn.ie](http://www.gael-linn.ie)

Dive into the rich history and lasting impact of Ceoltóirí Chualann with this exciting new book by Peadar Ó Riada. *Ceoltóirí Chualann, The Band that Changed the Course of Irish Music* explores how this iconic group sparked a resurgence in traditional Irish music. Their groundbreaking recordings were on the Gael Linn label.

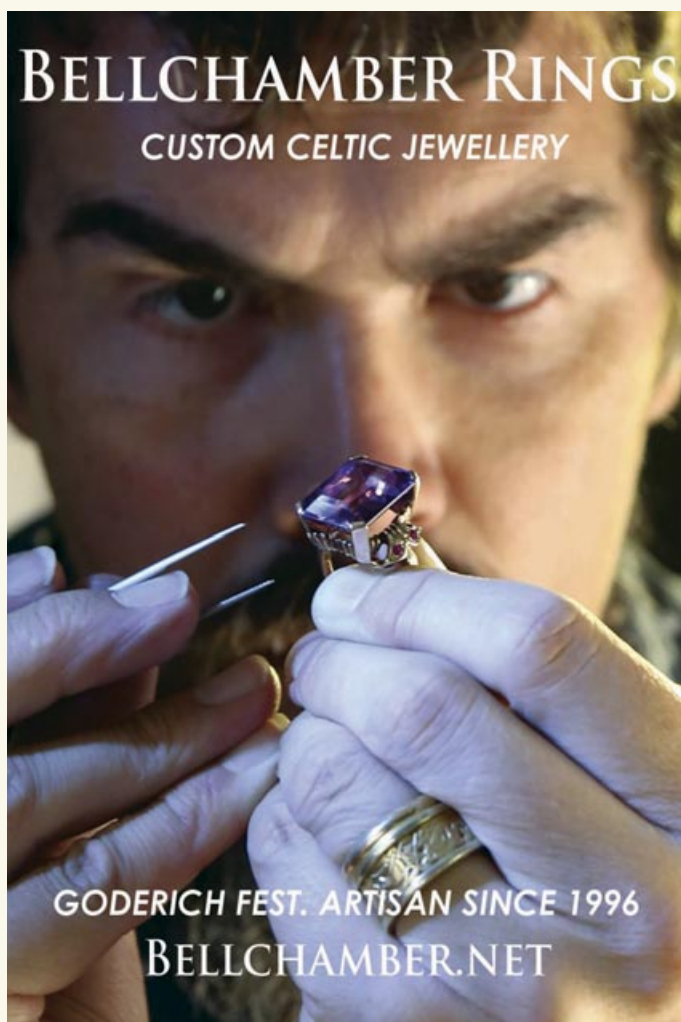
□ Peadar writes with deep understanding, drawing on personal accounts from Éamon de Buitleár, Michael Tubridy, and stories from Seán Ó Sé. The book offers an insider's view into Seán Ó Riada's creative processes and the band's innovative style that blended classic melodies with complex arrangements to revolutionize the tradition.

Traditional music in Ireland emerged from being on the wane to being the vibrant expression of culture it is today across the globe. This book is not just a historical account but also a lively story of how the tradition realigned. It reaches far back to the beginning of the band's artistic journey covering their practice sessions, recordings, and performances. Also included are detailed listings of their music pieces and 400 original scores by Seán Ó Riada.

*Ceoltóirí Chualann, The Band that Changed the Course of Irish Music* is essential for musicians, academics, and anyone who loves Irish musical heritage. This is your chance to discover the tales of the music and the artists who transformed Ireland's cultural scene.

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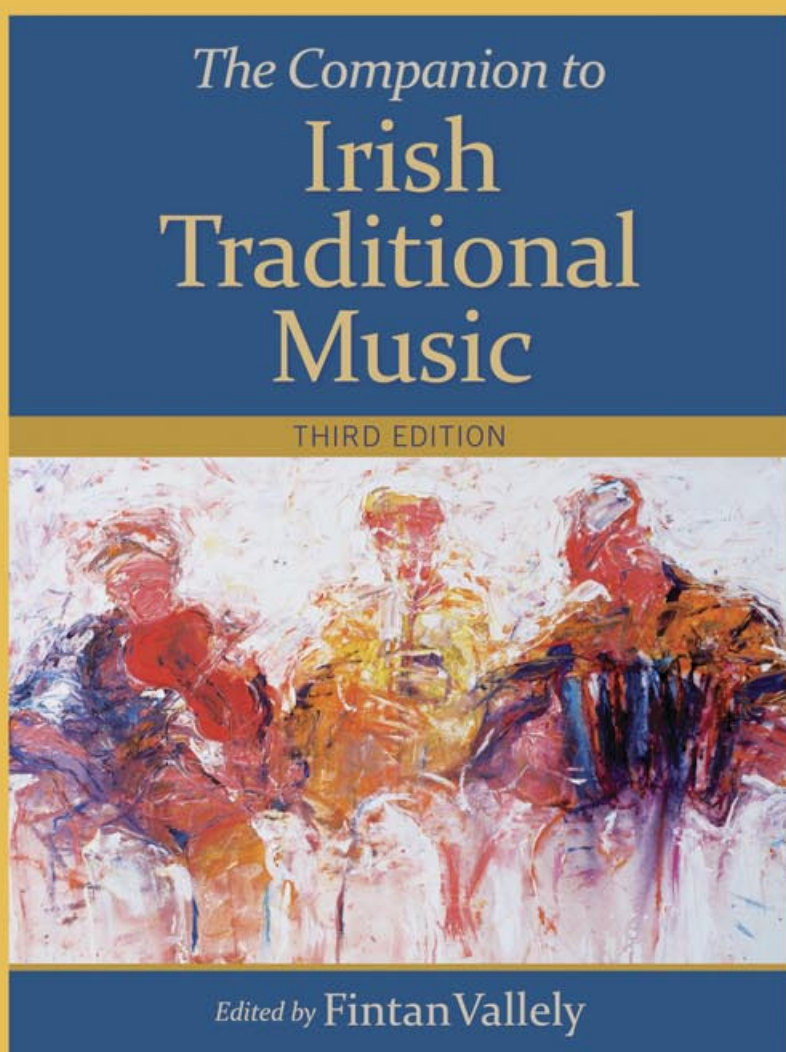
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### Great Music Events at The Irish Cultural Centre

The Irish Cultural Centre in Hammersmith is thrilled to present an exciting lineup of events celebrating the richness of Irish musical heritage.

Music enthusiasts will be treated to an unforgettable evening on Thu, 20 June 2024, featuring rising star, Irish country singer Catherine McGrath, who mesmerised audiences on Jools Holland's Hootenanny 2023. Joining her are the harmonious Folk-Americana duo Roswell.

On Fri, 05 July 2024, prepare to be enchanted by Fiárock, a four-piece Irish traditional band known for their immersive storytelling through sound. Featuring Clíona Halley, Darragh Carey-Kennedy, Evan Powell, and Nicolle Fig, each member brings a wealth of individual acclaim to the stage.

Get ready for a spellbinding performance by The Whileaways, showcasing some of Ireland's finest singers, on Sat, 05 October 2024.

Back by popular demand, Eleanor McEvoy returns for her 2024 UK Tour, promising an unforgettable evening of music on Sat, 09 November 2024.

Fans of The Pogues are in for a treat on Fri, 19 July 2024, with the Book Launch of the revised and updated paperback edition of "A Furious Devotion – The Life of Shane MacGowan" by Richard Balls. Richard Balls will be in conversation with Journalist Anne Flaherty, sharing insights into the life and legacy of Shane MacGowan.

**For more information and tickets, visit [Irishculturalcentre.co.uk](http://Irishculturalcentre.co.uk).**

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**[emma@irishculturalcentre.co.uk](mailto:emma@irishculturalcentre.co.uk) /**

**William Foote [william@irishculturalcentre.co.uk](mailto:william@irishculturalcentre.co.uk)**

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

### LEONARD BARRY : LITTORAL

[www.leonardbarrymusic.com](http://www.leonardbarrymusic.com)

Leonard Barry's third solo album *Littoral* has launched. His first solo album in ten years, the title reflects on growing up near the sea, first living

near Banna strand in the town land of Kilmoyley in North Kerry on the South West of Ireland and his life now in Sligo on the North West coast. It is a study on Leonard's journey as a musician, shared with other artists on the recording who he has encountered and played with on the way. Produced by Michael McGoldrick (Capercaillie, Mark Knopfler), one of the most talented musicians of his generation, the album features guests and material that map Leonard's career and musical partnerships fostered during his 30+ years playing Irish Traditional Music.

The quality of the guests featured on this release reflect the esteem Leonard is held amongst his peers. Andy Morrow and Shane McGowan feature heavily on the CD reflecting 20+ years of playing music together. Other guests include legendary fiddle player Kevin Burke (The Bothy Band, Patrick St.), Michael Holmes and Brian McDonagh (Dervish), Seamie O'Dowd and the much sought after brilliant Scottish Cellist Alice Allen.

Over the coming months Leonard will be performing at various events throughout Ireland and Europe with Andy Morrow and Seamie O'Dowd including the Inishbofin Arts Festival in May, Halkær Festival in Denmark in June, Celti'cmes in France in July with more dates to be announced.

**Info at [www.leonardbarrymusic.com](http://www.leonardbarrymusic.com)**

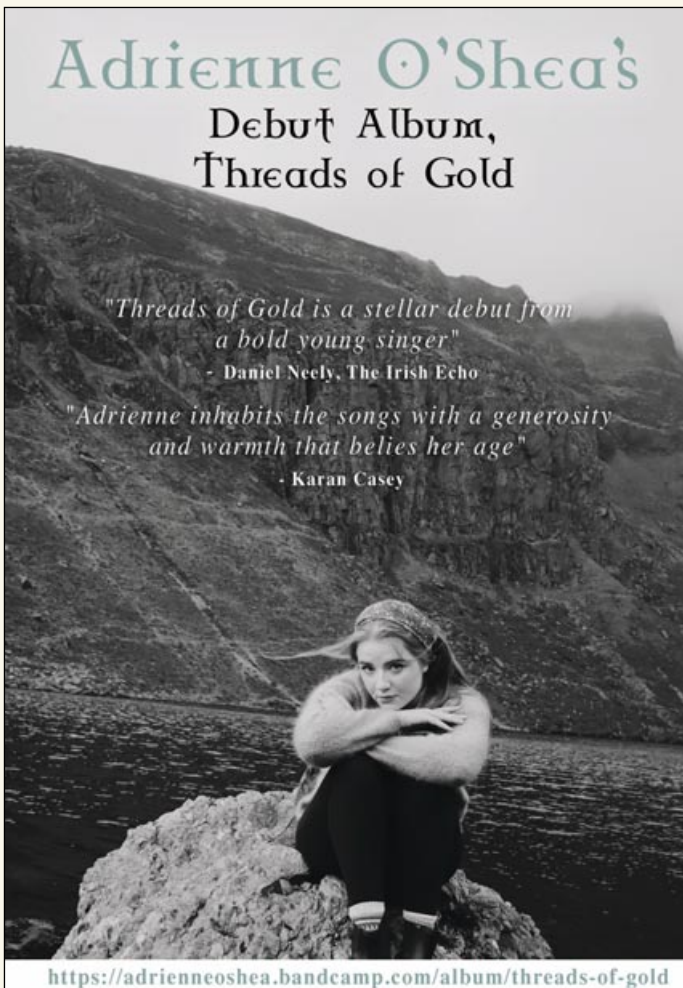
### RUM RAGGED : GONE JIGGIN'

[www.rumragged.com](http://www.rumragged.com)

Celebrated Newfoundland band Rum Ragged releases, *Gone Jiggin'* - a brand new 12-song album that is available to stream and buy now.

Leaning proud and hard into their Newfoundland roots, *Gone Jiggin'* reaches back through time as a reverent celebration of heritage. Led by Mark Manning and Aaron Collis, the quartet traverses Newfoundland to its farthest-flung points through 12 songs — a mix of fables and memorials that crisscross the island they call home.

From the first harmony-laden chorus of *The Road to Lushes Bight (Island Stock)*, it becomes evident that Rum Ragged's traditional Newfoundland folk sound has become more refined on their latest offering. This stomping anthem about workers from the East Coast becoming disillusioned with urban life sits comfortably alongside the darker, driving *Paddy Hyde*: a never-before-recorded traditional song that relays an unfortunate fisherman's ordeal.



**Adrienne O'Shea's**  
Debut Album,  
**Threads of Gold**

"Threads of Gold is a stellar debut from a bold young singer"  
- Daniel Neely, The Irish Echo

"Adrienne inhabits the songs with a generosity and warmth that belies her age"  
- Karan Casey

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



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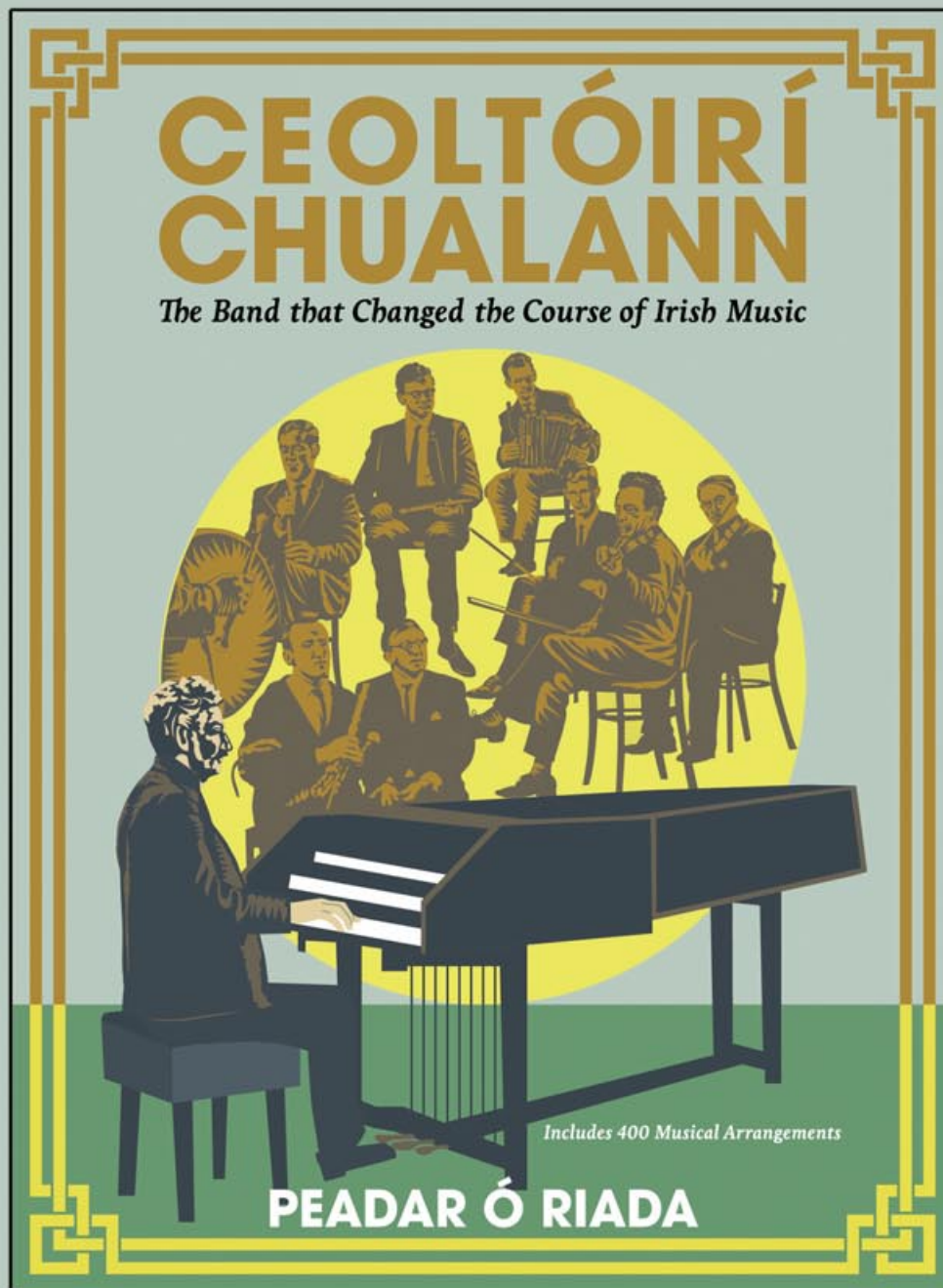
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# Gael Linn

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can be streamed or downloaded from the main digital platforms.



Mercier Press





Throughout *Gone Jiggin'*, the sing-alongs sit alongside the story songs, perfectly balanced. Age-old ballads like *The Dewy Dells of Yarrow* and *The Green Shores of Fogo* are paired perfectly with close-to-the-floor reels played with surgical precision on accordion, fiddle, and banjo. Compositions by Newfoundland icons accordionist Minnie White and fiddler Emile Benoit can be heard in the tune set *The Viking Jig/West Bay Centre*.

These are songs arranged and created with devotion and honour, celebrating one of the most unique places on earth, told through its oldest artistic tradition. With *Gone Jiggin'*, Rum Ragged further cements their place in the pantheon of traditional music, becoming part of a story that will carry on.

Find out more at [www.rumragged.com](http://www.rumragged.com) and <https://bfan.link/gone-jiggin>

#### THE 19th STREET BAND : NEAR PERFECT TOUR

<https://19thstreetband.com/>

The 19th Street Band are delighted to be on tour with their recently released album, *Near Perfect!* From touching on the heartstrings to lifting the spirits to remembering that life is just a beautiful mess, these songs capture the lively energy of The 19th Street Band. The band also pays tribute to Philip Donnelly with a recording of his #1 hit song, *Living in These Troubled Times*. The album is currently receiving air play on a hundred different radio stations throughout the UK, including BBC Radio and is receiving rave reviews from all the leading music magazines throughout the UK and Ireland.

"An album of positive intensity, a sound that drives home the point that perfection is exactly what you present, it is your story, it is your tale told and created, nobody really has the right to question its own authority of pleasure that it offers. *Near Perfect*...impeccable and unspoiled." - Ian D. Hall, *Liverpool Sound and Vision*.

"In truth, there isn't a single track that doesn't earn its place here." - Dai Jeffries, *Folking.com*.

Characterized by strong vocal harmonies, The 19th Street Band brings together a constellation of high-energy Americana, hillbilly, gypsy-rockin', good time music to engage every crowd. They ignite an audience with

their passion and spirit. Caolaidhe, pronounced "Cally", Davis (guitar/harmonica/vocalist) along with fiddle/mandolin/vocalist/partner-in-crime, Meghan Davis, create a joy-filled chemistry that no crowd can resist. Add to the mix the very talented Greg Hardin (bass/vocals) & Patty Dougherty (drums), and this band will have everyone enthralled.

<https://www.facebook.com/the19thstreetband/>

#### THE COMPANION TO IRISH TRADITIONAL MUSIC (EDITED BY FINTAN VALLELY)

[www.comitm.com](http://www.comitm.com)

Twenty five years ago in 1999 the *Companion to Irish Traditional Music* was launched, the first A-Z encyclopedia-style reference book for Irish Traditional Music. In 2011 it was re-released—updated and expanded, with digital versions also on Kindle and iBooks.

Now, in response to demand, a third edition has been compiled—substantially revised, expanded and re-focused on contemporary issues and practices. Edited again by musician Fintan Vallely, the *Companion* is the largest single collection of such diverse data. It brings together the knowledge of 215 musicians and writers in 600,000 words with 840 biographies and a thousand other articles, three hundred images and music transcriptions.

Its eighteen hundred entries cover the full gamut of Traditional music in Ireland and internationally, dealing with: all tune types; style, composition and arrangement; ballads, sean-nós and Irish-language song; step and sean-nós dance, céilí and sets; solo playing and sessions; competitions and awards; céilí bands, groups and professionalism; instruments; technology; organisations, media and promotion; teaching and learning; education and transmission; collectors and archives; history and revival; performers, stylists and commentators; broadcasting and recording; women in traditional music; Irish music in all Irish counties and diaspora cities worldwide.

Uniquely, the book carries the only complete bibliography of Irish music, song and dance literature and tutors, and has the first ever analysis of All-Ireland fleadh results 1951–2023, as well as a listing of the major senior winners over the fleadh's 72 years.

Much of the music notated in the book can be listened to as well—on an accompanying digital-download album which is also separately available as both a double CD and DVD.

For further information see [www.comitm.com](http://www.comitm.com)

Or contact [suas@imusic.ie](mailto:suas@imusic.ie)

#### ADRIENNE O'SHEA : THREADS OF GOLD

<https://adrienneoshea.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.

**The 19th Street Band**  
**Coast to Coast Tour**

**AUGUST**

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10 - THE COURTHOUSE, BANGOR~  
11 - TAYLOR'S BEER GARDEN, GALWAY  
15 - THE COVE, WATERFORD  
17 - THE SPIRIT STORE, DUNDALK^

W/ VILLIERS & THE VILLAINS  
- OPEN HOUSE FESTIVAL  
^ W/ KERRY FEARON

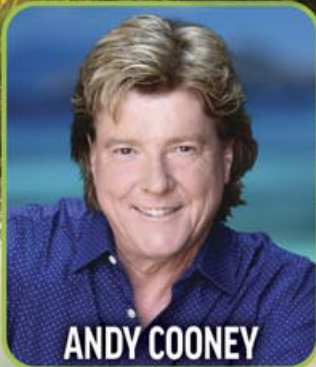


# Andy Cooney's *Cruise of Irish Stars*

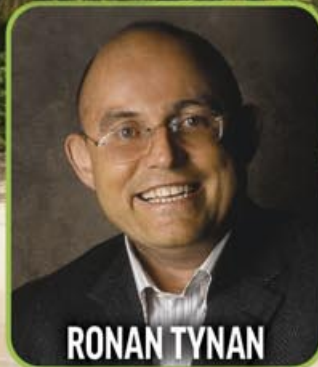
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**19TH STREET BAND**



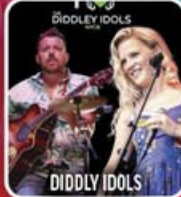
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**\*Entertainment and Itinerary are subject to change**



## MEET THE CELTIC GOLDSMITH, JASON BELLCHAMBER

[www.bellchamber.net](http://www.bellchamber.net)

Jason has been a consistent presence at the Goderich Celtic Roots Festival since 1996, showcasing his talents as an artist. Over the span of 28 years, his dedication to goldsmithing has yielded remarkable improvement, reflecting his commitment to craftsmanship and artistic growth. Goderich holds a special significance for Jason, as it's where his family is from, and he spent his summers growing up there. Consequently, it has remained one of the only shows he attends outside of working at his workshop, maintaining a cherished connection to his roots and community.

For the past 5 years at the Goderich Celtic College (the 4 days leading up to the Festival), Jason has taught a silversmithing course with a limit of 8 students per session. Students learn how to handmade a lost wax cast sterling silver ring and a pendant as well. Celtic Patterns are easy to learn with practice.

**Watch the free tutorial videos**  
on [www.youtube.com/user/TheCelticGoldsmith](https://www.youtube.com/user/TheCelticGoldsmith) or visit the website [www.bellchamber.net](http://www.bellchamber.net) directly to see the catalogue.

## FIND YOUR LILT PODCAST

<https://hannahharrisceol.com/podcast>

Step into the world of Irish fiddling with *Find Your Lilt*, the podcast where your fellow fiddler, Hannah Harris, guides you through the ebbs and flows of mastering the real feel of Irish music.

From the struggles of finding your unique sound to the successes of seamlessly blending tradition with your personal style, each episode is packed with relatable stories, engaging conversations and practical strategies designed to help fiddlers of all levels. Whether you're experiencing Irish Traditional music for the first time or have been on a lifelong journey to incorporate the "nya" into your playing, *Find Your Lilt* is here to support your journey with warmth, wisdom, and the heartfelt camaraderie of someone who's right there with you. Listen in, and let's nurture the community and collaboration that makes Irish traditional music an unforgettable experience.

*Find Your Lilt* is available on all major podcast listening platforms, and you can also join the free community forum over at <https://learn.hannahharrisceol.com/community>. Here you can connect with fellow musicians, suggest new topics to cover in the show, or share your takeaways from previous episodes.

**A full list of episodes can be found**  
at <https://hannahharrisceol.com/podcast>

## THE FINNS RETURN TO THE STATES THIS SUMMER

[www.thefinnsmusic.com](http://www.thefinnsmusic.com)

The Finn brothers return to the States this August 2024 with appearances at Irish Fest La Crosse, Milwaukee Irish Fest, The Burren Backroom Series in Boston and more.

The two brothers, Hugh and Ciaran, are busy recording their 4th album all Summer long following on from their latest successful album *Remember This Day*, an album that featured hits like *Nomad*, *Passage* and *Workers Song*.

The Finns had a very successful US tour this May and lit up many Irish Centers, clubs and pubs with appearances in AOH Detroit, Toledo Irish American Club, Irish American Heritage Center Chicago, Bishop Hill Creative Commons, Milwaukee Irish Center (Celtic MKE), La Crosse Irish Fest Main Venue, Kansas City Irish Center, and McNamaras in Nashville.

With 2025 on the horizon, The Finns intend to add to their immensely entertaining show and expand it to audiences worldwide with new places like Canada and Europe on the cards as well as new Irish Fests and venues throughout the States.

**Consider booking The Finns? Reach out here at**  
[www.thefinnsmusic.com](http://www.thefinnsmusic.com)

## ANDY COONEY'S CRUISE OF IRISH STARS (BY DAN BRENNAN)

[www.andycooney.com](http://www.andycooney.com)

I'm Dan Brennan. I'm from New Jersey, now living in the vibrant 50 and over community called The Villages in Florida. I love everything Irish as my family are from Ireland. Feeling connected to my heritage has always been so important to me. I also love to sing! I love a lot of the traditional Irish favourites such as *Danny Boy*, *I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen* to name a couple.

Back over 30 years ago, my wife Carolyn and I were blessed to be introduced to the music of Andy Cooney. I have to say our favourite event that my wife Carolyn and I love being a part of is Andy Cooney's "Cruise of Irish Stars". This is an annual trip that leaves from Fort Lauderdale to the Eastern or Western Caribbean. Andy surrounds himself with the greatest Irish entertainment package with 15 different bands and performers including another one of our favourite performers, Ronan Tynan.

The Cruise of Irish Stars is a 7-night cruise that draws over 1000 Irish music lovers. We've been aboard some of the most beautiful ships on the high seas. I must say, Princess Cruise Line are the best out there. The food was amazing, our cabin was spacious, and the staff couldn't do more for us. Combine that with the top Irish entertainment that we love, you'll find yourself returning every year.

This year's cruise is leaving from Fort Lauderdale on February 9th to the Western Caribbean and returning on February 16th. This will be our 12th Cruise of Irish Stars. We have made so many new friends that we look forward to seeing year after year. We have kind of become one big family! I know this sounds strange, but after sharing these special days and music-filled evenings with people like us that love to sing along to all the old favourites, and get out for a few Rock n' Roll dances or have a few spirits at one of the many bars on board, you'll make friends that will last for the rest of your life.

**Call Travel Professionals: 845-651-4441.**



**RUM RAGGED**

Award-winning Newfoundland folk and traditional band Rum Ragged announce the release of their fifth studio album, *Gone Jiggin'*.

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**RUM RAGGED**  
*GONE JIGGIN'*

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"★★★★★"  
- Ian D. Hall, Liverpool Sound & Vision

"This is a hugely enjoyable album"  
- Graham Brown, Folking.com





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**JOANIE MADDEN'S CRUISE FEBRUARY 2025****[www.joaniemaddencruise.com](http://www.joaniemaddencruise.com)**

Joanie Madden's Cruise is a legendary annual event that combines the vibrant energy of Celtic music with the luxury of a vacation at sea. Renowned flute and whistle player Joanie Madden, the driving force behind this unique experience, curates an incredible roster of over 90 top artists and performers from the world of Irish music. The lineup features acclaimed groups like Cherish the Ladies, Lúnasa, The Swallows Tail Ceili Band, as well as The Kane Sisters, Donál Murphy, Donnchád Gough and Jimmy Higgins. Balladeers such as Ger O'Donnell & Trevor Sexton, Don Stiffe, Rory Makem, and Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones are also part of the mix. Additionally, the cruise showcases Irish country stars like Susan McCann, TR Dallas, Kathy Durkin, and Patrick O'Sullivan who'll provide plenty of waltzing and jiving.

Attendees will enjoy participating in set and ceili dancing classes, and watching performances by world champion step dancers, all within a week packed with over 150 hours of programming. This cruise has become a must-attend event for fans and musicians alike, offering a week-long extravaganza combined with an incredible atmosphere of camaraderie, attracting fans from all over the world.

From February 1st to 8th, 2025, the cruise will set sail from Orlando, Florida, journeying through the Caribbean with stops in the Dominican Republic, St. Thomas, Tortola, and NCL's private island, Great Stirrup Cay. Onboard, attendees will enjoy a variety of musical performances, workshops, and sessions where everyone can join in with some of the best musicians in the genre. With 850 passengers booked so far, book your ticket before it sells out!

Visit [www.joaniemaddencruise.com](http://www.joaniemaddencruise.com)

**BA IN IRISH MUSIC AT THE IRISH WORLD ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DANCE, UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK, IRELAND****[www.irishworldacademy.ie](http://www.irishworldacademy.ie)**

The BA in Irish Music at the Irish World Academy, University of Limerick, is the only music programme in the world that places the

performance and study of Irish traditional music at its heart. Students work in one-to-one and small group contexts with an expert team of musicians, tutors and academics who are focused on the development of students future careers. Students have the opportunity to engage in wider performance and academic classes in popular, world and classical musics, as well as dance. Students also engage a series of modules focused on the development of vocational skills (education, music business, digital and performance technologies etc.). Students can select from a wide range of language (including Irish) and humanities modules across the faculty of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences.

Regular tutors at the Academy include Siobhan Peoples, John Carty, Derek Hickey, Tommy Fitzharris and Conal O'Kane among many others who work with the team of full-time teaching faculty, professional support staff, and technicians. All of these people create an unparalleled environment for students to develop careers in and around their practice as musicians. Many of our students have developed internationally recognised performance careers as well as exploiting opportunities in music education, music therapy, community music, arts administration and many other professional roles.

[www.irishworldacademy.ie](http://www.irishworldacademy.ie)

**FIVE FARMS IRISH CREAM LIQUEUR****<https://fivefarmsirishcream.com/>**

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**SEÁNIE Ó'LOINGSIGH : DEBUT SOLO PIPING ALBUM  
CHONGIE ROAD**  
<https://chongieroad.ie>

*Chongie Road* is a mesmerizing and deeply introspective album by Achill musician, Seán Lynch. With this project, Lynch embarks on a remarkable musical journey, encapsulating the various stages of his life and career through the lens of ten evocative tracks. Each track on the album serves as a poignant reflection of the moments, experiences, and influences that have shaped him along his life's journey.

As the album progresses, listeners are taken on a sonic odyssey, with each subsequent track representing a distinct period in Seán's life. These compositions weave together an intricate tapestry of emotions, memories, and musical influences that have defined his artistic evolution. From the second track *The Road to Lisdoonvarna*, which pays homage to Achill Island's rich pipe band tradition with the use of the distinctive snare drum to its culmination with the poignant final track, *Chongie Road* highlighting the significance of home and its people and their profound influence on Seán as an artist.

Featured Artists on the album include: Seánie Ó'Loingsigh - Uilleann Pipes, Tony Byrne - Guitar, Joseph McNulty - Fiddle / Bodhran, Niall Hughes - Double Bass, Alex Borwick - Trombone, Keys, Percussion, Collie Ahern - Side & Bass Drum. It was produced and engineered by Alan Doherty (Grada/ Aldoc) -Recording & Production, and Alex Borwick - Mixing & Mastering.

*Chongie Road* is a powerful tribute to the place that has shaped his identity and creative spirit, a reflection on the sense of belonging and the enduring connection to one's roots. *Chongie Road* is not just an album; it's a heartfelt narrative, a musical autobiography, and a soul-stirring testament to the enduring impact of one's life experiences on their artistry.

Find out more at <https://chongieroad.ie> &  
<https://chongieroad.bandcamp.com/album/chongie-road>

**MUSIC CAPITAL SCHEME - COMING SOON**

[www.musicnetwork.ie](http://www.musicnetwork.ie)

Applications to the Music Capital Scheme which provides funding for musical instruments to both community music groups and individual musicians will open soon.

Established in 2008, the Music Capital Scheme is supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and managed by Music Network. Since it was established the scheme has made 544 awards to individual musicians and organisations providing access to instruments for over 51,000 people across the country.

Beneficiaries range from early years to mature players including musicians with physical and intellectual disabilities. 205 performing groups have been able to purchase instruments and expand their memberships, and 202 professional established and emerging musicians advanced their performance careers with new instruments enabled by the scheme. Previous awardees include The Bluestack Special Needs Foundation, renowned button accordion player Daithí Gormley and rising star cellist Grace Coughlan, who all received funding in the last round of the scheme.

An extensive range of applicant supports will be available to both organisations and individuals, with a particular focus on supporting first time and previously unsuccessful applicants.

Music Network is committed to equity and inclusion and welcomes applications from individuals within culturally diverse communities and people with disabilities.

**More information about the awards, supports, guidelines and how to apply will be available at [www.musicnetwork.ie](http://www.musicnetwork.ie) and enquiries can be sent to Sarah Cunningham, Music Capital Scheme Administrator at [capitalscheme@musicnetwork.ie](mailto:capitalscheme@musicnetwork.ie)**

**COSCÁN**

[www.coscan.ie](http://www.coscan.ie)

COSCÁN, the traditional band from Slane, Co. Meath have a busy summer ahead, performing at a number of festivals in Ireland. With 3 highly acclaimed albums, COSCÁN is Harry Long (whistles, guitar and vocals), David Nevin (bodhrán, keyboards, guitar and vocals), Gerry Doggett (fiddle, accordion and whistles) and now joined by multi-instrumentalist, Kieran Weldon (guitar and vocals). Kieran comes with pedigree, having performed with well-known acts both at home and abroad.

Following on from their last two albums, *Dinnseanchas* and *FireDance*, the band is busy composing and arranging new music. These include a polka set made up of three tunes composed by Harry. *The Púca Polka*, a celebration of the playful, supernatural creature associated with Halloween. *The Rathmore Polka* and *The Rathkenny Revels* were originally composed to be played by the children in two Co Meath schools where Harry teaches. Gerry has composed a set called *The Four Sisters* and *The Square*. These are a celebration of the four almost identical Georgian houses which adorn the crossroads at the centre of Slane village. The locals call these houses the Four Sisters on the Square. A tune composed by David called *The Last Dance on Main Street* is an atmospheric piece about an event on Main Street, Slane.

While 2023 was a busy year for COSCÁN, 2024 has been shaping up to be just as successful. We have been busy performing to international visitors who choose Ireland as their holiday destination. In many cases COSCÁN has been their first introduction to Irish Music and Culture performing at Dublin's famous Taylors Three Rock venue.

COSCÁN's diary is filling up and you can catch them performing live at The Fiddler's Green International Festival and the world renowned Ballyshannon Folk Festival. 2024 is looking like a busy year for COSCÁN.

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# SCOIL SAMHRAIDH WILLIE CLANCY

## July 6th-13th, Miltown Malbay, County Clare

Seán Laffey in conversation with Harry Hughes for Irish Music Magazine.

Matt Molloy giving a master class with students and flute tutors in attendance, 2023



Photo: Tony Kearns

Harry Hughes, Martin Talty and the late Muiris Ó Rócháin, founded Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy in 1973. There's nothing like Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy. Running now for 52 years, it was created to celebrate the memory and continue the legacy of Miltown Malbay uilleann piper Willie Clancy. It is without doubt the pre-eminent music event for traditional musicians in the country. Over a week, the seaside town in West Clare hosts thousands of musicians who come to learn new tunes, learning them from masters of their craft, they also hear lectures full of deep insights into the character of the music and the people who have played it. Then there are those legendary sessions, and those musical friendships that reignite year after year, whether it be in the back room of a crowded pub or at breakfast on the campsite. Music is everywhere in Miltown Malbay in July, and Harry Hughes knows the summer school inside and out.

You instinctively know an organiser has their finger on the pulse of an event when they talk so enthusiastically about their plans and that is exactly the impression I got when talking to Harry, a nudge here and there, and he's off with anecdotes and examples. He sees the connections the Summer School has made with the international world of Irish traditional music, and he takes in a modern perspective, right down to the social and commercial geography of Miltown itself. Of course the town has changed over the past half century. And there's no doubt the Summer School has helped in this, there's a welcome economic boost every July, but there's more of course. Miltown isn't frozen in time, it reflects modern Ireland. Visitors will notice improved infrastructure and facilities but they may also see that there has been a decline of the family pub. Traditional music however endures, and the quality of the experience a visitor has when they come to Miltown Malbay in July will last a lifetime.

There are concerts and recitals every day, these often are single instrument concerts. For example the fiddle concert features some 40 players, each one is a master of the instrument. As many of the attendees are in Miltown Malbay to be immersed in the music and lore of their chosen instrument, these concerts are undiluted windows into the pure drop, and are always fully sold out.

With so much going on during the week, I asked Harry to highlight a few events that will be of interest to our readers. That is an easy question

for him as he has the details of talks, lectures and recitals at his fingertips. "The summer school will be opened at 8pm on Saturday 6th July by Peter Browne, renowned uilleann piper and former RTÉ presenter and producer. This will be followed by our annual Breandán Breathnach Memorial Lecture. As you know, Breandán was a collector and author of the invaluable volumes *Ceol Rince na hÉireann*. He collected some 7000 tunes in his lifetime, many directly from traditional players.

"The Memorial Lecture will be presented by Gay McKeon, CEO, and Emmett Gill, Archivist, of Na Píobairí Uilleann. It is called 'Uilleann pipers and piping in Clare and Dublin 1930 – 1973'. This is the period covering two generations before the Willie Clancy Summer School, and Gay and Emmett will show that there were strong links between pipers in the East and West of the country long before the founding of NPU in 1968 or the summer school in 1973."

"Many of the attendees are in Miltown Malbay to be immersed in the music and lore of their chosen instruments"

The importance of Clare as a repository of traditional music and song will be highlighted in a special lecture presented by two Scotsmen, Peter Shephard & Jimmy Hutchison, from St. Andrews. Harry explains their importance. "Their research goes back to August 1964 when they went down to the Fleadh in Scariff, taking a portable tape recorder with them, and where they were able to record music in the bars, at the song competitions, and of traveller singers in the streets. In Scariff they met the broadcaster Ciarán MacMathúna who took them down to Miltown Malbay where they spent many hours – usually in Tom Queally's Bar – recording singers and musicians, including Willie Clancy, Seán 'ac Dhonncha, Joe Cuneen, Terry Wilson, Seán Keane, Mick Flynn, Tim Lyons and Jimmy Ward, among many others. Pete and Jimmy will talk of those times and play audio clips of some of the singers and musicians they recorded. Friends and families of those musicians that were captured on tape 60 years ago will be in attendance and I am sure it will bring back some very special memories."



Other talks to attend are: "An exploration of the social and artistic context of Irish traditional music in early 20th century New York City". This is on Monday 8th July and will be presented by Chelsey Zimmerman, musician and doctoral researcher in Irish traditional music at the University of Limerick. New York was a key destination for Irish musicians before the First World War and some of the big names of the tradition made their lives there, such as Coleman, Morrison and Killoran. Chelsey will look at the social and community context that helped those and other musicians to thrive in metropolitan New York.

On Tuesday 9th July, Paula Carroll, broadcaster, oral historian and presenter of Clare FM's traditional music programme The West Wind, will present a musical tribute to the Tulla Céilí Band, which will be an afternoon of music, song and dance.

The famous Clare Céilí Band performed at the first summer school in 1973 and since then has been a major attraction on the school's céilíthe programmes.

Harry tells us about another international perspective on Irish traditional music. "We look outward to Irish music in Quebec on Wednesday when Professor Kate Bevan-Baker will present a talk called 'Ireland and Quebec: Connections and intersections through traditional music'. Then our Thursday lecture will look at the music of Margaret Barry, whom I saw on a couple of occasions and whose memory and legacy need rekindling. She was an important cog in the folk revival in Ireland and was known internationally. She even appeared at the Newport Folk Festival in the USA. The talk is by Alan Woods, Artist Liaison & Field Recording Officer at the Irish Traditional Music Archive. And he will be joined by singer songwriter Lisa O'Neill. He will present 'With the banjo on my side: The life and times of Margaret Barry'.

"There are opportunities for traditional musicians and teachers to take part in *Know the Score*, which this year is again taught by Dr Liz Doherty. This course is certified by the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Another programme is *Dúchas an Cheoil* (The Heritage of Irish Music). This is an ideal forum in which to learn about the history and evolution

of Irish traditional music, song and dance, and the personalities, organisations and events that have shaped that history and narrative of Irish traditional music. The tutors are Paddy Glackin and Cathal Goan. Cathal has written on a number of aspects of the Donegal song tradition and served for many years as chairman of the Irish Traditional Music Archive. He was a founding director of TG4 and also Director General of RTÉ. This course is accredited by the University of Limerick through their Blas Summer School." Full details at [www.blas.ie](http://www.blas.ie)

The final concert of the summer school is the Ceolchoirm Chuimhneacháin Muiris Ó Rócháin (Muiris Ó Rócháin Memorial Concert). It will run from 7 pm to 10.30 pm at the Community Centre on July 13th. Officially it will round out the week, but sessions have been known to go on for days afterwards!

**You can sign up for workshops until June 22nd. Piping students need to pre-register online with Na Píobairí Uilleann at [www.pipers.ie](http://www.pipers.ie) or by contacting them at [info@pipers.ie](mailto:info@pipers.ie). The website is packed with information, including musical biographies of the presenters, which are rewarding reading in themselves. Check it out at [www.scoilsamhraidhwillieclancy.com](http://www.scoilsamhraidhwillieclancy.com)**



Tulla Céilí Band

Photo: Tony Kearns

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# CELTIC WORLD FORUM

The Celtic World Forum runs from September 5th – 7th, 2024 at the Irish Institute of Music & Song. Gráinne McCool was delighted to get the opportunity to question Éabha McMahon about the upcoming event.



**C**eltic World Forum is an annual event that brings together Celtic music enthusiasts, experts and artists to explore and celebrate the rich and diverse traditions of Celtic music. Created by Grammy nominated Irish singer Éabha McMahon, the Celtic World

to Ireland, through ancestry for instance. But above and beyond that, the music often resonates with people in all corners of the globe that have no familial ties to Ireland. Quite often in a Gaelic language they do not understand, yet somehow feel the exact emotion the song was written to convey."

**Gráinne:** "Is the forum solely for Irish musicians?"

**Éabha:** "Not exclusively, but obviously we do have an emphasis on Celtic music from an Irish perspective. That is the music I grew up with and anyone that knows me realises how passionate I am about the various forms that Irish music has given the world. There is such a wealth of new undiscovered talent in Ireland that I want an international audience to discover as well."

**Gráinne:** "Can the forum reach out to other events throughout the year?"

**Éabha:** "Our ultimate goal is to be able to bring this format to other countries either as part of an established festival, or as a stand-alone event. Last December we held a sold out 'Celtic World at Christmas' concert in Galway, featuring many of the performers that took part in our CWF23. That is something that we will repeat this year. We are also recording music under the 'Celtic World' name and are planning a series of releases throughout the year."

**Gráinne:** "What does a forum like this bring to the participating musicians and artists?"

**"Shane and I have witnessed the huge appeal of Celtic music in every corner of the world"**

Forum focuses on creating unforgettable experiences in the form of unique events and concerts, using only the highest quality of Irish talent, with many of the performers being globally established names from the most successful international touring shows.

**Gráinne:** "What was the incentive behind the Celtic World Forum?"

**Éabha:** "I had always wanted to do something that had a creative and educational element to it. My manager, and co-founder, Shane McDonnell and myself, both felt strongly that we wanted to create a unique event that would hold as much appeal for a music listener as it would for a music player. Our key objectives were to host an event that would be informative, inspiring and entertaining in equal measure."

**Gráinne:** "Was the inaugural event a success last year?"

**Éabha:** "The feedback from everyone who attended last year was overwhelmingly positive. The talks, workshops and panels were all interesting, informative, inspiring, and entertaining. One of the highlights last year were the song circles we finished each daytime with. This is where artists and attendees would gather in a beautiful acoustic amphitheatre at the IIMS to share songs, stories and dances and where everyone was welcome to either participate or just enjoy. The three evening concerts were quite simply outstanding, with an array of amazing artists on each night.

"Shane and I have witnessed the huge appeal of Celtic music in every corner of the world, and whilst many people think of Ireland when they consider Celtic music, it may just be the only Celtic region that, until now, has not had an event that celebrates its worldwide interest. Sometimes people have a defined reason why they feel so connected

**Éabha:** "It brings a rare and unique opportunity to connect with an audience that truly love and admire the music that they perform. As an artist myself I have found that there is so much to learn by engaging with the people who listen to your music, and it was an affirming experience for the artists who took part last year. Not only that, but also great friendships were formed by artists who may otherwise never have met, bonds that continue to this day. From a musical side, I am proud to be part of a supportive community that creates what is in their hearts. As we cautiously approach a future of artificial intelligence, it is so important to preserve that sense of history, tradition, and humanity in the creative arts."

**Gráinne:** "Is the weekend open to the general public and where can they find out more about it?"

**Éabha:** "Yes, there are packages and tickets available for the three days and all information can be found at [www.celticworldforum.com](http://www.celticworldforum.com)"

L to R: Máiréad Nesbitt, Tara Howley, Máiréad Carlin, Caitríona Sherlock, Éabha McMahon, Megan Walsh, James Greenan, Fergus Cahillane





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# WOLF LOESCHER'S IMMIGRANT SONGS

Seán Laffey puts a zoom call into Colorado and discovers the fascinating backstory behind Wolf Loescher's album *Immigrant Songs*.



Longtime readers of IMM may recall Wolf's name in relation to the Texas Celtic band Jiggernaut, a band he founded in Houston back in 2000 with Deanna Smith-Scotland (Free Whiski) and Matthew Williams (The Blarney Brothers).

*Immigrant Songs* is Wolf's third solo album, created with help from several friends he's made on the festival circuit and the club scene in

from the local library. We had the opportunity to see The Corries perform live twice, and that really hooked me on Celtic Folk music. It was a huge thrill to have them sign that poster for me."

Unable to tour and promote his second solo album *Sheep's Clothing* (released in March 2020) due to the COVID lockdown, Wolf began playing regular Facebook livestream shows (which continue to this day). He calls it *The Howl*, named in honour of a local early Pandemic custom where people would open their windows at 8pm every night and howl like wolves to show their support for first responders and health care workers. He self-financed *Immigrant Songs* through a Kickstarter campaign, and he recorded all his tracks (vocals, Irish bouzouki, baritone ukulele, drums, and percussion) in his home studio in Colorado. He called in several musical friends from 30 years of playing to help him create the album. Guest musicians include Brian McNeill, Rich Brotherton, Beth Patterson, Tim Britton, Frances Cunningham, Kendall Rodgers, Mari Black, EJ Jones, Leah Rankin, and Scooter Muse (who also mixed and mastered the album in his recording studio in Tuscumbia, Alabama).

The album looks at the American immigrant experience from different perspectives, with songs that range from Steve Earle's *City of Immigrants* (featuring Tim Britton's masterful Zydeco-style uilleann piping), to '39 (penned by Queen guitarist and astrophysicist Brian May). There are references to key times in American history where immigrants have made a real difference. We'll close with Wolf's commentary on the track *Sutter's Mill*, a song by Dan Fogelberg that commemorates the water powered sawmill where Californian gold was first discovered in 1849.

"I have a personal connection to the California Gold Rush, since an ancestor on my mother's side – Robert "Stumpy Bob" Lawlor – immigrated from County Laois in Ireland to Chicago to escape The Famine, and then went to California to find his fortune."

Wolf, playing with the Piper Jones Band, will appear at the San Diego Highland Games (June 22-23) and the Grandfather Mountain

"As a young immigrant in Scotland, seeing The Corries perform live hooked me on Celtic Folk music"

the US. The title *Immigrant Songs* might seem an obvious choice when playing to an audience that cherishes its Celtic heritage, but for Wolf things are more personal, as he explains.

"My father's family were from East Prussia in Germany and were displaced for about 8 years after WWII. In 1953, the Lutheran Church sponsored German families, helping them relocate to the USA. The family immigrated to Detroit, and although he didn't speak a word of English, my father got a job working in an iron foundry at the age of 16. A few years later he joined the US Army and served as radio operator in Korea. Thanks to the GI Bill, he got a degree in Electrical Engineering, which led to a job working on the radio systems that were used in NASA's Apollo program (which took men to the moon)."

As the conversation develops, I notice a poster on the wall behind his right shoulder, it is for a Corries gig in Scotland. "I got that poster at a concert back in the early 1980s, when I was an immigrant myself. My dad was promoted to general manager of a brand-new semiconductor plant in Scotland's "Silicon Glen", and the family moved from Central Texas to East Kilbride (a "new town" just south of Glasgow). At first, I couldn't understand the thick Scottish accent – it was a major culture shock for all of us. My mom suggested we learn about the culture of Scotland and started borrowing albums of Scottish and Irish folk music

Highland Games (July 11-14), and will lead a private tour of Ireland in late July. Catch his livestream every Saturday (almost) on Facebook, YouTube, and Twitch at 8pm CST / 1am GMT.

**You can hear *Immigrant Songs* wherever you stream music and can purchase the album on Bandcamp. More info on his website at [wololoco.com](http://wololoco.com)**





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# THIS SECRET FROM GRÁINNE HUNT

Gráinne Hunt is an accomplished songwriter, her voice has been compared to Tracy Chapman, Natalie Merchant and Dolores Keane, writes Anne Marie Kennedy for Irish Music Magazine.

Photo : Alex Foster



**H**er 2019 album of original songs *This Secret* was recorded in Nashville with the Grammy nominated Thomm Jutz.

Gráinne says she has “always been a singer, in choirs, community games shows, the called-upon student in school. I always say I had a sheltered musical childhood, growing up with Irish folk and ballad singers and not really exposed to other music until I got to university when I discovered the likes of Joni Mitchell, Billie Holiday and Tom Waits, while continuing to follow Irish names like Damien Rice, The Frames, Mundy and Paddy Casey, that first *Other Voices* CD held a host of gems!”

She speaks again of being lucky in the business, having the good fortune to meet the producer Thomm Jutz in Belfast, from where her recording *This Secret* emerged. Writing the songs took about a year and a half, the subsequent recording and finished product was “a really laid back process, working with the Nashville professionals and having Thomm at the helm, we recorded and mixed the whole thing in less than three days. It’s very much a snapshot of that moment in time working with great musicians. It leans a bit towards country/folk, naturally, having been recorded in Nashville!”

When talking about her writing process, she puts great emphasis on the lyrics, “and having done a lot of songwriting workshops and masterclasses I’ve picked up many tips and tricks along the way. I’m very focused on starting with a chorus, an idea with a hook, then adding verses that make their way towards it, serving it well. Music usually comes afterwards for me, my reward for working on the lyrics! I also started an online songwriting group during Covid, [www.songwritercircle.club](http://www.songwritercircle.club), to motivate myself and others. It’s prompt based and deadline-driven, and I write monthly for that. I’ve found the group really helpful in keeping motivated, it is a great way to maintain creativity, especially when I’m touring.”

Apart from her solo work, Gráinne also collaborates with guitarist Brendan Walsh, a duo with a distinctly Irish flavour. She is also part of the folk duo Hibsen with Jim Murphy, their recent album *The Stern Task of Living* is a musical interpretation of James Joyce’s short story collection *Dubliners*.

*This Secret* is available on all platforms and available to purchase on her website and on bandcamp. Her new single *Magnets* has been digitally released and is available on all platforms. She will

“I’m very focused on starting with a chorus, an idea with a hook, then adding verses...”

After college she sang in different bands, always aware of the singer within, but not doing anything about it. At age 30, she took a leap, quit the full-time office job, worked part-time and started singing backing vocals for another singer. During that time, she met folks who were interested in her material, her writing, which gave her the confidence to continue with it.

“James Cramer from Tupelo was a great encouragement and we began writing together. He helped me get my first release out and the fire’s been lit since then! I feel really fortunate to have met him and others who validated my creativity. Also the last few years have seen some momentum build, I am on my debut US tour right now, having received my O-1 Artist visa, I showcased at the Folk Alliance in February to a very full auditorium and a standing ovation. In July 2023 I performed the Cambridge Folk Festival as part of the Culture Ireland stage, a trip to Germany followed that, joining Glen Hansard at Haldern Pop’s main stage, singing his songs, and then later, him and his band accompanying me on my new single *Magnets*.”

Declan O’Rourke said Gráinne has an astounding voice, “that will melt your heart, no crowd can resist”, and the aforementioned Hansard said she is “the hardest working woman in Irish music”.

be performing in Europe and the UK during Summer 2024, returning to America in September for a west coast tour, gigging from Seattle to San Diego. Tours to Germany and Switzerland are being planned for October & November.

**Keep an eye on her website <https://grainnehunt.com/> for dates, sign up to the mailing list for updates.**



Photo : Ivi Rebova



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# SEÁN LYNCH'S CHONGIE ROAD

A sense of place and the personal past pervades piper Seán Lynch's *Chongie Road*. He tells Seán Laffey that moving back to Achill Island was the catalyst that drove on this album.



Photo :Aldoc Productions

“I’d been living away from Achill for years,” says Seán Lynch, adding, “getting back home and having a chance to reconnect with producer Alan Doherty gave me the catalyst to begin this project.”

Seán reflects on the title track. “The tune *Chongie Road* took a while to pull into shape. It’s named after the little stream that flows past my home place and into the Chongie river. Some resemblance of the tune first came to me whilst I was visiting the London Uilleann Pipers Club a number of years ago, the tune started out on the whistle and I kind of let it sit for a few years. It is descriptive, reflecting the turbulent track of the Chongie River as it flows down through the village and under a bridge in the centre of Dooagh. It then flows out into the Atlantic ocean in Dooagh Bay where it meets the horizon, an area where there appears to be no limits to what’s achievable. The turning point in composing the tune was moving home to Chongie Road in the last year. I played the tune on a B set of pipes made by Andreas Rogge; this set opened up another emotional dimension in the melody for me.”

The track features the voice of John ‘Twin’ McNamara, a master and legend of Irish music and culture on Achill Island as Seán explains. “John was the headmaster in my national school whilst growing up. He had us playing Jigs and Reels before being able to spell our own names. An inspiration to me and generations of local musicians and it is a privilege to have John feature on the album. During the project Alan Doherty and I had the pleasure of working with John as he features in the title track. We had a memorable day spending maybe 7 or 8 hours chatting, recording anecdotes and pieces of music. It was a wonderful afternoon and we came away with some sentimental archive recordings along with a recording of the *Chongie Road* poem written by a young local singer-songwriter, Bríd McLoughlin.”

How then did the *Chongie Road* album take shape? “The album itself was recorded in Áras Chrónáin Irish Cultural centre. A fantastic community centre in the middle of Clondalkin Village, Dublin. Recording and production was completed by the very talented Alan

Doherty, with the mixing and mastering being completed by the maestro Alex Borwick. I had the fantastic opportunity to be joined by such talented musicians who featured on the album and helped really enhance both the experience as a whole and the finished product. The album was recorded over a few months, basically on the basis of varying availability of the featured musicians. I believe it was an opportunity to let all the musicians be as creative as possible with the easy going approach to the overall project itself. The finishing touch for the overall project for myself was the great artwork used for the album cover, completed by local Achill artist Michael Fadian.”

Achill is historically famous for the pipe bands and piping tradition as a whole, and there’s a flavour of that tradition on the track *The Road To Lisdoonvarna*. “The addition of the snare drum on this track really gives that sense of home and our wonderful piping tradition on Achill.”

One of the standout tracks on the album is *O’Connor’s*, with its modern syncopated groove, where did Seán find it? “Much like the other tracks on the album, the idea of matching these two tunes was to have a tune of which I would have learnt whilst growing up in Dooagh, matched with a tune I would have picked up more recently while travelling for work. The first jig titled *Robbie Hannon’s Jig*, I would have learnt from the Armagh Pipers Club. This was then paired with *O’Connor’s* a tune I got more recently from the playing of Foxford flute player Stephen Doherty.”

“John ‘Twin’ McNamara, is an inspiration to me and generations of local musicians and it is a privilege to have John feature on the album”

A young singer Bríd McLoughlin features on the album? “Yes, Bríd is only 15 and she is a prodigious talent. Bríd originally started her music career again in Achill on the whistle and then progressed onto the concertina. Where she really shines at present is in her singing and song writing which is mesmerizing for a girl of her age. We are privileged to have had Bríd join us at our recent gigs and set to join us at our upcoming gigs in Matt Molloy’s, Westport and the Crane Bar, Galway in June.”

**Take a stroll down Chongie Road by visiting [www.chongieroad.ie](http://www.chongieroad.ie) / Instagram: [Seanie\\_olainsigh](#)**



Photo :Aldoc Productions



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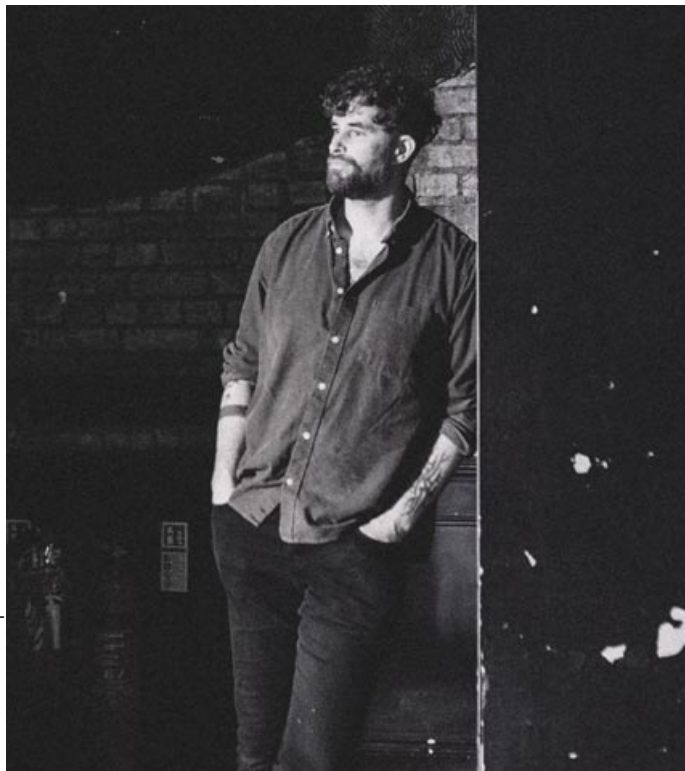
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# WAY OUT WEST FROM – MOON LOOKS ON

Stephen Gormley chats to Anne Marie Kennedy for Irish Music Magazine.

Photo : Niamh Dolphin



**W**ay Out West is the latest recording from Stephen Gormley, aka 'Moon Looks On', following on from his previous album *Razor Wire Skies*, which accumulated a quarter million streams on Spotify and also featured on the 'New Music Friday' playlist which signalled him as an artist to watch. Hot Press, Irish Independent, Golden Plec, Today FM, RTE, 2FM and Radio X in Manchester have all endorsed his work.

Stephen says he was "happy out as a young lad". Working with his dad Peadar Gormley on the building sites, before going on to become a fully qualified scaffolder. When the recession hit, he went to work in a building supply shop. While there he bought a guitar and a bodhrán,

Orkney and Shetland islands. The mythology of the Selkie is often associated with mermaids; the Selkie as a shape-shifter, enchanting the sailor with song, two worlds colliding, the pull of the ocean, the fisherman and the seal. Through my writing I was able to explore my own deep connection to the sea. In my late twenties I went full time into music, it was a huge commitment but thankfully it has worked out. This is all I've ever wanted to do, and to be honest I've hardly ever looked at the trials and tribulations of making a living from music. I've found ways to make a living from music, whether that's gigging my own material or doing covers, whatever works I'm generally open to it."

His style is influenced by the Irish and Celtic folk music that he grew up listening to, the likes of Dick Gaughan, Kris Drever, and De Dannan with a special shout out to Johnny Ringo as bodhrán influencer and the open tunings of, John Doyle & Paul Brady on guitar and song writing, but he is a fan of many and varied musical genres. "I spend a lot of time these days listening to the music of A Blaze of Feather, & Ben Howard and also a lot of alternative folk and bluegrass music everything from Doc Watson, Tony Rice and the Old Crow Medicine show, to The Tallest Man On Earth, John Prine, Bob Dylan, Tracy Chapman and a lot of great music in between."

His own genre is alternate or indie folk roots music. Having played Festivals such as Glastonbury, Electric Picnic, Other Voices, All Together Now and 2000 Trees festival, he is taking to the road again with the new album *Way Out West* which launched in April. He now surrounds himself with a great scaffold, a superb team of professionals who clearly see his potential and are proud to support him. Among them are his label Cauldron Records, management team Darren Farrell and Eamonn De Barra, Bill Shanley on Bass, keys and guitar, who also produced the album, Seamie O'Dowd guest fiddle, Stephen O'Dowd, Mandolin Harmonica and backing vocals, Emma Gormley backing vocals, Aisling Bridgeman on violin and Laura Ryder on keys, and Martin Ditcham & Jonathon Owens on Drums. The album was mixed by Andrew Holdsworth and mastered by Denis Blackham with artwork by Mark Nally.

Catch Stephen's upcoming shows June 16th, White Horse Stage - Doolin Folk Festival, September 13th - Cleggan Fringe Festival, September 14th - Hawkswell Theatre Sligo.

"I always start with a riff or a melody.... I work in segments, pick a motif and continue from there"

and on lunch breaks taught himself to play. He grew up in a house full of music, his mother Geraldine loved artists such as Dolores Keane, Patsy Cline and Nancy Griffith, whilst his dad was a big Creedence Clearwater Revival & Status Quo fan and loved all good rock 'n' roll music. His paternal grandfather Mick Gormley was a great flute player.

To pursue a degree in music Stephen moved to Dublin and found accommodation on Thomas Moore Road in Walkinstown, where his poetry and music continued in earnest. "It was serendipity really, living on that road, gazing on the moon at night, a very different land and streetscape from where I grew up. I sought out some of Moore's lyrics and enjoyed them, taking me back to my own writing, songs I had been working on before going to college and I've been composing ever since."

In terms of themes, the ocean, mythology, landscape, the seasons, all feature in his writing, his process finely tuned. "All of my songs come with the title first, for example, *Selkie*, from the new album. It came about when I was out on Coney Island with my partner Sarah, looking out on the harbour and reflecting on the link between Ireland, the

**Discover more about *Way Out West* at**  
[www.instagram.com/moon\\_looks\\_on](https://www.instagram.com/moon_looks_on)

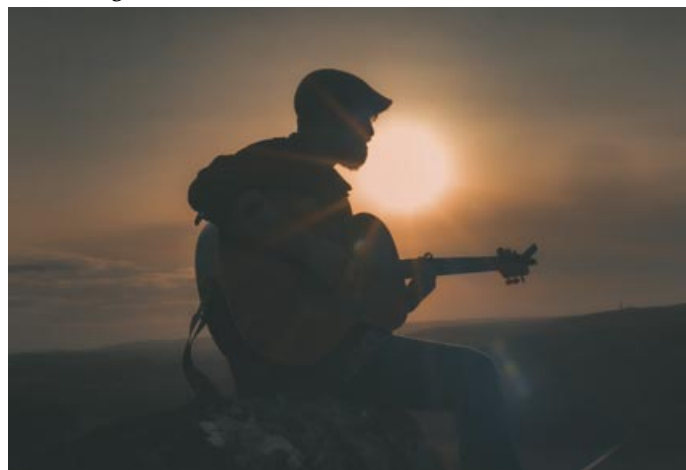


Photo : Shannon Farrell



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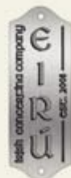
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# THE LEGENDS SERIES

Chapter 37 : Seamus Egan. An appreciation by Mark Lysaght for Irish Music Magazine.

Irish traditional music has benefited immeasurably from its exposure to other cultures; it can absorb and adapt influences from foreign traditions, which enables it to advance and prosper on the world stage. A key element of this has been the intermingling of Irish people with the melting pot of nationalities in the United States, where emigrants and natives can blend their heritages with new and exciting influences.

Seamus Egan has been a highly influential figure in this regard, he was born in the USA in 1969 (providing him with automatic citizenship) but his parents returned home to Foxford, County Mayo when he was three. Back in Ireland, he took accordion lessons from Martin Donaghue, but the die was cast when he saw Matt Molloy performing with James Galway, alerting him to the range of possibilities available on wind instruments. His parents then relocated back to the USA, and he attained proficiency on a range of instruments (including flute, banjo, mandolin and whistles) in his early teens, by which time he had amassed an amazing four All-Ireland titles.

This brought him to the attention of those at the vanguard of the thriving Irish music scene in the USA, and he was soon performing regularly with the Green Fields of America under the tutelage of the late Mick Moloney. In 1985 he recorded a solo album called *Traditional Music Of Ireland* while still in his teens. Touring and collaborating with various musicians brought him in contact with other young players who were similarly anxious to test the

established boundaries, and this led to the formation of the group Solas in 1996, releasing an eponymous debut album that year. The original band also included Winifred Horan on fiddle, guitarist John Doyle and singer Karan Casey, along with John Williams on accordion (who would leave the band after the second album *Sunny Spells and Scattered Showers*, to be replaced by Mick McAuley).

While the band was grounded in Irish traditional music, Solas incorporated elements of country, rock and Americana, and included original compositions, which aimed to exceed or at least test many of the conventional boundaries established by the purists. The result was a heady and exciting hybrid, which caught the attention of a diverse audience, and established Solas at the forefront of a second wave of Irish groups. Various personnel changes occurred during the band's lifetime, with different singers featuring as time passed, with Seamus very much the driving force behind the group, and over a 20-year period, Solas recorded a series of groundbreaking albums and cemented their reputation as true trailblazers for new Irish music.

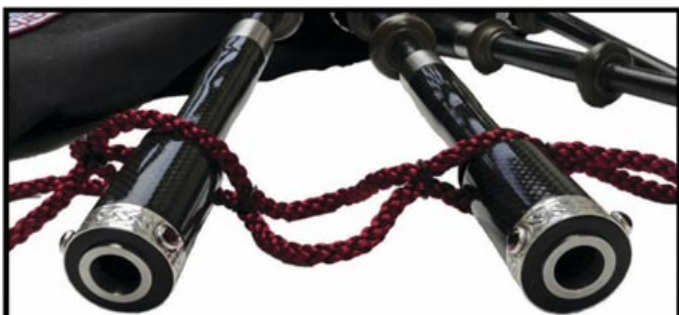
On a personal level, Seamus has been pushing boundaries from an early age, gaining initial respect as a prodigious multi-instrumentalist while still in his teens, recording solo projects for Shanachie Records, composing music for various films and documentaries including the award-winning film *The Brothers McMullen*, and progressing numerous parallel projects throughout his time with Solas. When the band effectively split up in 2017, he began touring as a solo artist. Free from the constraints of a group environment, he was able to explore a range of influences, and fuse ideas collected from collaborations with a diverse range of artists drawn from classical, jazz, rock and country music.

The Seamus Egan Project consists of hand-picked performers, all with diverse backgrounds, who pool their collective resources to create original soundscapes and explore musical territory which may not always be clearly defined. Seamus regards his career as a series of experiences which have shaped his ability to absorb new ideas while remaining true to the strong traditions he was infused with as a young musician. He has noted the unique currency of Irish music

**“He has consistently shown courage and tenacity in pursuing his personal musical destiny”**

in creating a useful universal language which can be easily shared across genres (in a similar way that The Chieftains have collaborated throughout their career). Using the ideas from his 1996 solo outing *When Juniper Sleeps* as a basis for this exploration, he delights in the challenge of combining his accumulated musical identity with a range of outside influences.

At a relatively young age (he is still in his mid-50s), Seamus Egan has displayed the kind of effortless virtuosity that comes from a powerful artistic life-force from within, an innate musicality that allows him to perform, collaborate and create in any environment. As well, he has consistently shown courage and tenacity in pursuing his personal musical destiny. He continues to develop and explore innovative ideas, and will undoubtedly create more unique compositional offerings in the coming years.



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## THE GODERICH EXPERIENCE

August 5-11 (Souvenir Supplement)



**Inside :** Meet The Artistic Director, Festival Line up, Historical Story, The College & Kids Camp and more.....



YOUR GUIDE TO GODERICH CELTIC ROOTS FESTIVAL, COLLEGE & KIDS CAMP





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# WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Photo : Paolo Brillo

On behalf of myself, Cheryl Prashker, your Artistic Director, the entire Board of Directors of the Goderich Celtic Folk Society, and our Founders Warren and Eleanor Robinson, I would like to welcome you to the 32nd annual Goderich Celtic Roots Festival, Celtic College and Kids Camp. This magical week will take place August 5-11, 2024, along the beautiful shores of Lake Huron in Goderich, Ontario, Canada.

The Goderich Celtic Roots Festival is an annual celebration of the music, craft, and culture of the seven Celtic nations and their immigrants to Canada, which form a strong historic background to Huron County. From a single memorial concert held in 1993 to honour the life of a local teacher, 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 ages 4-12 called the Celtic Kids Camp, a series of rural outreach mini-concerts, and a three-day traditional outdoor festival. The mandate of the Goderich Celtic Folk Society, our parent organization, and a registered charitable organization, is to produce events which foster awareness, participation, and education in the world of traditional Celtic culture.

For those who were with us in person last year, you were all present for a very special event as we hosted Canada's own, world-renowned harpist, composer and singer, Loreena McKennitt. What a treat it was

to have Loreena here along with The Bookends from Stratford, ON to play a set on Saturday night. In fact, it was purely magical as Loreena played the first notes on her harp and sang the lyrics to the songs that first introduced her to Celtic music. Here is what Loreena said leading up to the festivals.

"It will be a bit like going back to 'touch the stone' performing some of these traditional songs which inspired me so many years ago. Besides, this is really in my backyard," says McKennitt. "I first began performing in folk clubs in Winnipeg and folk festivals are in my blood. I miss them terribly and am so looking forward to being a part of them again this summer."

A live CD and vinyl entitled *The Road Back Home* were put together from the night at The Goderich Celtic Roots Festival as well as from Summerfolk Music Festival the week after and is now available to buy from her website <https://loreenamckennitt.com/>

This year we are excited to be bringing back an absolute favourite, Scotland's Archie Fisher. Archie has been here more times than any other musician and is beloved by all who have attended over the years. When offered a chance to come back, Archie did not hesitate. He will be appearing on our stage with his trusted musical partner, Canada's

"Whether you have been to all 31 previous festivals or whether this will be your first visit to Goderich, we promise you a magical time"

own Garnet Rogers. We are also excited to announce that Karan Casey will be making her Goderich debut as a trio and we cannot wait to share her with our audiences.

The festival weekend (Aug. 9-11, 2024) will take place in Lions Harbour Park and offer 3 days of festivities which will include 16 bands from Canada, Ireland, Scotland, and the U.S appearing on 5 stages. There are 2 main stages, 2 workshop stages, which is where we pair a few bands who have possibly never played music together before, give them a topic and let them loose! What usually happens is pure magic that cannot be recreated, and we find our afternoon workshops stages to be very popular among our attendees.

We also have a dance stage that doubles as the kid's stage. The music starts at noon and goes until midnight Friday, Saturday. Sunday's hours are Noon until 9pm. Our craft artisans are the best that Canada has to offer, and our food court will be sure to keep everyone's appetite satisfied. Our Kids Area promises to keep the young ones busy with all kinds of arts and crafts. And please make sure to visit our ever-popular craft beer tent while you are here.

Whether you have been to all 31 previous festivals or whether this will be your first visit to Goderich, we promise you a magical time, the best Celtic and Roots music the world has to offer, incredible sunsets and memories to last a lifetime.

See you in August!

Cheryl Prashker – Artistic Director



Photo : SoundBox Music



# THE GODERICH CELTIC ROOTS FESTIVAL 2024

The Goderich Celtic Roots Festival Unveils Spectacular Lineup for 2024 Event.

Karan Casey



**T**he **Goderich Celtic Roots Festival** is thrilled to announce the full lineup for its highly anticipated 2024 event, promising a celebration of Celtic music that will resonate with audiences of all ages. With a diverse array of talented performers hailing from across the globe, this year's festival is set to be an unforgettable experience for all attendees.

Headlining the festival are renowned acts such as the incomparable Karan Casey (of renowned band SOLAS) and she will be travelling with her husband and Concertina player, Niall Vallely as well as Niamh Dunne. Also playing this year will be the dynamic duo of Scotland's own Archie Fisher & Garnet Rogers of right here in Ontario. Their captivating performances are sure to inspire audiences and showcase the rich tapestry of Celtic music traditions.

Joining them on stage will be an impressive roster of artists including Bourque & Gloutnez, Cara Wildman, Fiárock, Scotland's Heron Valley, Jane & Kyle of Canada, and the Allison Lupton Band from right here in Ontario. Each act brings their unique style and flair to the festival, promising a diverse and dynamic musical experience for all.

Attendees can also look forward to performances by Martha Gallagher, Matt & Shannon Heaton, O'jizo from Japan,

Portage, Pressgang Mutiny, Rory Makem, RUNA, Windborne, and the 2024 Robinson Emerging Artists, Apolline, who hail from Australia. From traditional tunes to contemporary interpretations, these artists represent the very best in Celtic music today.

The festival itself starts Friday afternoon when our college students take to Main Stage 2 (now known as the Kevin and Regina Daley Stage). This is where each class will get to showcase the songs and tunes learned throughout the week at the Celtic College. It is a chance for the College Students to play alongside their teachers and it is a highlight for all involved.

The Celtic Kids can be found doing the same on the dance stage. There is nothing like watching these proud kids with their shirts that read "I'm a Celtic Kid" on the back perform all they have learned on their instruments, singing, dancing and with their drama productions.

The main stage kicks off at 6:30pm with our Opening Ceremonies. The music will then commence and continue until approximately midnight. (Bring your own chairs). Both Saturday and Sunday night's Main Stage 1 will host different artists. Saturday and Sunday starts at noon with music on The Kevin & Regina Daley Stage throughout the afternoon. This stage is tented for the audience to be shielded from the sun or the rain and has wooden chairs to be used.

There will also be music on our two small workshop stages called The Greeting Stage and The West Stage. This is where we love to pair musicians with each other. There are many times when these artists have never met or played together before. Something Goderich is known for is the pairing of our "Masters and the Young Lions" which puts our seasoned performers on stage with up-and-coming young artists. This is the brainchild of our founder, Warren Robinson. Some of the other great pairings of musicians have led to workshops in the past entitled "The Happy Couples" when we have had married couples among our artists. A workshop entitled "My Harps Delight" where we paired all our harpists together. "Accordion to Us" you guessed it...where all our accordions were put together. There have been







“Guitar Gurus” and “Kitchen Parties” and many more.

These workshops stages, which are fan favourites, are known for musical moments that will never be recreated anywhere again and we have seen so many lifelong friendships born during these sets.

This year we will mark our 3rd year presenting The Robinson Emerging Artist Showcase. We have partnered up with Michael Patrick Farrell of Dolmen Entertainment Group out of Toronto along with help from Sarah Atkinson and Caroline Murphy of SoundBox Music to put together a new and exciting showcase experience for young and up and coming artists who are new to

receive free online artist development workshops for the months leading up to August from industry professionals.

On the paths throughout the grounds, you can find our Artisan Village. All the items to be purchased have been made right here in Canada by these crafters. There is a food area with local vendors. The Kids Area is an ever-popular place for all the kids who come to our Festival. This is a tented area where kids can come and create art, play games, spend time with each other and have a safe place to be. There is a hands-on crafting area for adults, a merchandise tent where you can purchase festival shirts and blankets and all the CDs from the artists who are

“Headlining the festival are renowned acts such as the incomparable Karan Casey (of renowned band SOLAS)”

the business. This showcase got its start during the Pandemic but has now grown to be part of our annual live Festival weekend. In the early part of the year, we put the word out for artists to apply to the Emerging Artist Showcase by sending in a video. Our judges bring it down to 5 artists. We then put those videos up on our website and all throughout social media for the fans to vote on who they think should make an appearance at the August Festival in Goderich. This year we are excited to announce that the trio from Australia, Apolline (a-po-leen) has been chosen. Along with attending the Festival, the band will

performing. And please do not forget to visit our local craft beer tent.

We know there will be something for everyone in the family when you come to the Goderich Celtic Roots Festival August 9-11, 2024.

#### TICKET & PASS PURCHASE INFORMATION:

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

Day and Weekend Festival passes available online or by calling (519) 524-8221. For more information on the 2024 Festival lineup or the Celtic College & Kids Camp, visit [www.celticfestival.ca](http://www.celticfestival.ca)



#### Goderich Celtic Roots Festival branding is by Huron County artist, Linda Wiebe.

Linda has been designing the branding for the festival since 1993. This year's design is the 'Celtic Phoenix' - *"I make art with the intent to enliven and inspire."*

To view Linda's past designs, visit:

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

Support for the Goderich Celtic Roots Festival is provided by numerous corporate and community partners including the **Ontario Arts Council, Department of Canadian Heritage, Town of Goderich, Bruce Power, Capital Power, and Daley Buchanan Real Estate**





# HISTORY OF GODERICH FESTIVAL

It starts with stunning designs on a poster. Every year a new original design influenced by the Book of Kells and created by local artist Linda Wiebe is the gateway to a series of magical experiences: Celtic Week in Goderich, Ontario, Canada.



Photo : Mark McCauley / Quinlan Road

Goderich is nestled along the shores of Lake Huron, surrounded by the Irish and Scottish heritage reflected in nearby communities: Belfast, Dublin, Seaforth, Kincardine and Lucknow, two hours West of Toronto and almost three hours East of Detroit, MI.

For 32 years, world renowned musicians and music lovers alike have made the beautiful shores of Lake Huron an annual celebration of music, craft art, dance and culture of the seven Celtic Nations together

Canada is proud to have produced many artists who have appeared at the festival as well which include Heather Rankin, The McDades, Pierre Schryer, North Atlantic Drift, Shane Cook and the Woodchippers, Cassie and Maggie, The Fitzgeralds, Reynolds, Robinson & Lodge, Sean McCann, Irish Mythen, The East Pointers, Allison Lupton Band and so many more.

In 2023, we were blessed to have been able to bring in world-renowned and platinum selling artist (Canada's own) Loreena McKennitt. What a very special treat it was to have Loreena go back to her Celtic roots and, along with Stratford, Ontario's Celtic group The Bookends, put on a magical performance.

One thing that does make our event unique is that our artists are housed in local homes during their stay in Goderich and many have made lifelong friends. There is no doubt why so many of our artists over the years keep requesting to come back and state that Goderich has become their home away from home. Irish legend Sean Keane said that "Coming to Goderich is my gift to myself".

We have an incredible Board of Directors who are involved not only as directors, but as volunteers on various committees during the festival itself. Our volunteer base is strong and committed to help produce the best event possible. Many have been with the Festival since day one and have brought their children and now grandchildren to get involved. Our "office" consists solely of our Artistic Director/General Manager of the Festival, Celtic College and Kids Camp. During the summer, we bring in at least one College student to work in helping put together the College and Kids Camp portions. As a Canadian Festival, we are fortunate to receive Government grants to ensure that this non-profit arts organization continues to thrive.

Our pattern is growth. As the oldest Celtic festival and the largest summer music school in North America, we constantly strive to expand. We started the Celtic Roots Festival then the Celtic College, the Celtic Kids Camp and the Rural Roots Concert Series. We established both the Tradition Bearer and the Young Tradition Awards, and

"From a single memorial concert held in 1993, The Celtic Roots Festival has grown to include a weeklong Celtic College and Celtic Kids Camp"

in the three-day Goderich Celtic Roots Festival. From a single memorial concert held in 1993, The Celtic Roots Festival has grown to include a weeklong Celtic College and Celtic Kids Camp with multiple additional activities throughout the week that also include nightly musical sessions. It is a truly immersive, enthralling experience both for performers and audience.

We are the oldest Pan Celtic Festival in North America. There are older specifically Irish or Scottish Festivals; but as far as we know, we were the first to focus on all seven Celtic Nations: Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Isle of Man, Cornwall, Brittany and Galicia.

The Goderich Celtic Roots Festival has been home to international artists such as Dougie MacLean, Hilary James & Simon Mayer, Altan, Aoife Clancy, Lúnasa, Old Blind Dogs, Liz Carroll, Sean Keane, Archie Fisher, Dervish, Máire Breatnach, Alasdair Fraser, John Doyle, Téada, Brian McNeil, Malinky, RUNA, Bua, Paddy Keenan, Michael Rooney & June McCormack, Brock McGuire Band, Goitse, Kevin Burke and so many more from around the world.



produced a professional video series that has played on the Canadian Bravo and American PBS.

Inspired by our vibrant history, we want to broaden and deepen the cultural experience for our local attendees as well as our visitors from around the globe.



Music & Dance Stage

Photo : Soundbox



# THE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

One of the largest Celtic Summer Schools has assembled an impressive line-up of tutors for 2024.



Photo : Phil Main

The Goderich Celtic Roots Festival had been running for just a few years when our founders, Warren and Eleanor Robinson, realized there was a need for a place where people could go and learn from the incredible Celtic musicians who would already be on site. It was then that the Celtic College was born. It started out small for the first few years and then Warren said, "Let's go big or go home!"

And so it grew ....and grew to be the largest one-week Celtic school in North America in terms of number of teachers. It now brings in approximately 200-250 attendees from across Ontario, Canada, the U.S and abroad with over 50 teachers.

Past instructors include: Kevin Burke, Liz Carroll, Liz Knowles, John Carty, Liz & Yvonne Kane, Máire Breatnach, Gerry O'Connor, Tom Morrow, Pierre Schryer, André Brunet, and Brian McNeil to name only a few.

The experience really is like no other. I will walk you through a typical day at The Celtic College.

We start off our day at 9am. There are 4 class periods on each day, Monday through Thursday. You can choose to attend all four classes or simply take 2 or 3 if you prefer.

For example, period one may be intro to DADGAD guitar and then second period will be Irish dance, third may be intermediate Scottish fiddle etc.. These will be the same classes with the same teacher each day and together you may learn technique on a particular instrument, perhaps a few tunes or some songs throughout the 4 days. The classes we offer are of course different from year to year and are dependent on which artists are attending the festival.

There will always be many fiddle, whistle/flute, guitar, mandolin, harp, tenor banjo, bodhran, piano, singing/harmony, and dance classes to choose from. If music is not what you are looking for, we also have arts and craft classes such as felting, silver-smithing, mosaic craft work, embroidering, mandala, and more.

Once your college classes are done at 4:30, it is time for you to have dinner at one of Goderich's wonderful restaurants, after which you can stroll down to The Square (centre of town) and over to the bandshell.

This is where we present our "Teacher Concerts" each night, Monday through Thursday. This is a very special part of the Celtic College experience for our attendees, as this is where you get to see your teachers perform with their groups for a short set. It is free to the townspeople as well, which gives them a small taste of what they can expect at the festival on the weekend. Once that is over at 9:30, we start the Ceilidh dancing on The Square for one hour and this too is open to all with live musicians and a caller of course.

Our day is not done until we head over to The Park House restaurant where our hosts, Sherry, Herb and the entire staff welcome us for our evening sessions. Every corner is packed with groups of musicians which include pros and students alike. In the piano room, there may be a slower session, and upstairs is where we can find all our singers singing into the wee hours of the morning. Don't forget, 9am comes quickly and we must get to class on time!

"And so it grew ....and grew to be the largest one-week Celtic school in North America in terms of number of teachers"

Once the college got off the ground, the Robinsons were thinking about a place they might be able to send their own grandkids, and this is when The Celtic Kids Camp started to take shape. It is for young children ages 4-13 to experience arts, crafts, music and dance for a period of 5 days. They learn about Celtic Culture at a young age and how it fits into the community they live in. The Camp has produced several wonderful young adults who started at our Kids Camp and have gone on to have careers as full-time musicians as well as sound and lighting technicians. We are very proud of all our Celtic Kids.

Our College and Kids Camp week is not over until we all head over to the festival grounds on Friday afternoon and present some of what we learned throughout the week up on the Dailey Stage and Kids Stage.

This is how we get the weekend that is The Goderich Celtic Roots Festival going.





*Imagine playing whistle with Joanie Madden... or Irish fiddle with Nollaig Casey. Perhaps you're learning guitar with Fionán de Barra or bodhran with Colm Phelan... turn possibility into reality by joining us at our week-long Celtic College. Over 50 of the world's best musicians are ready to share their talents as they teach at the Goderich Celtic College and Kid's Camp.*

*Experience a week full of daytime classes and free evening concerts featuring your teachers, Ceili dancing in the park, with rousing singing and spirited instrument sessions at the local pub late into the night.*

*The week builds to an impressive crescendo, with the highly acclaimed 3-day Festival weekend on the shores of Lake Huron.*

*We invite you to join us for the largest staffed Celtic and Folk music camp of its kind.*

*For more information, please visit [www.celticfestival.ca](http://www.celticfestival.ca) or e-mail us at [festival@celticfestival.ca](mailto:festival@celticfestival.ca)*



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# MUSIC AND HEALING

Lisa Wong and the Bivalent Life of the Musician-Physician by Bruce S. Victor MD, DLFAPA in Part 5 of our Series.



The reintegration of music and healing has meant battling one of the few, but truly annoying, downsides of the ‘Enlightenment’ and ‘Age of Reason’: to wit, that music, not borne of reason, should be dismissed as being irrelevant to cultural and social advancement, in general, and ‘healing’, in particular. Music was therefore sentenced to the category of ‘entertainment’ – at best, a nicety, at worst, a triviality.

However, we are becoming increasingly aware that, as Albert Einstein put it, the arts and sciences are “two branches of the same tree”, because,

“A life in music and healing could similarly immunise us from the diseases of loneliness and isolation”

as Dr. Theodor Billroth observed, ‘imagination is the mother of both’. As both paediatrician and musician, Dr. Lisa M. Wong embodies the “bivalent” (her term) spirit of Drs. Einstein and Billroth; but as academician, author, and past President of a rather remarkable symphony orchestra, she has been compassionately relentless in her efforts to get Western culture to align with this spirit, particularly regarding the re-integration of music and healing.

And she will be coming to Rostrevor, Ireland in July, where she will be speaking and playing at the Fiddlers Green Festival. While classically trained, she told me that she was quite fond of Irish music and “could play D-drones with the best of them!”

Lisa grew up in Hawaii, the third of five children, all of whom played music together. She started to play the piano at age 3 and the violin at age 8, however, with her older siblings playing the violin and younger sister playing the cello, she also took up the viola. She quickly realised that the continuation of this idyll depended on their collective ability to transform the inevitable intrusive disharmonies, musically and socially (perhaps particularly when the youngest brother elected to play his trumpet amidst string quartets). While in high school, she began to use her musicianship in service, playing at children’s hospitals and senior centres. When she entered college at Harvard, she was already interested in music therapy and music education, but ultimately chose to become a doctor, because that was “the best way to give equally of myself through music and through paediatrics”.

Manifesting her belief in the “strong concordance between musicians that heal and healers that play music,” Lisa dedicated herself to its required pedagogy: she is both an Assistant Professor of Paediatrics and the Associate Director of Arts and Humanities Initiative at Harvard Medical School, but she also teaches a course on “The Role of Music in Health and Education” at Harvard College.

With the knowledge of the necessity of this advocacy beyond the ivy walls of Harvard, Lisa co-founded the Boston Arts Consortium for Health, and served on the Boards of Directors of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the BPS Arts Initiative Advisory Council and Lesley University Institute for Arts and Health. She is currently chair of the education committee of the Conservatory Lab Charter School and works with the Massachusetts Cultural Council to establish Culture Rx, a ‘social prescription program’, which focuses on advancing the role of culture as a protective factor for the health of everyone in the Commonwealth.

Lisa joined the Longwood Symphony Orchestra as a violinist in 1984. This unique Boston-based orchestra is made up primarily of medical musicians dedicated to Healing the Community through Music. When she became president in 1991, Lisa helped shape its “Healing Art of Music” program, wherein each concert is designed to raise funds for, and public awareness of, community non-profit organisations that benefit the medically underserved. Over the years, LSO has collaborated with over 50 organisations, helping raise in aggregate over \$2 million. A memorable achievement...which you can read more about in a book she wrote assisted by writer Robert Viagas entitled *Scales to Scalpels: Doctors Who Practice the Healing Arts of Music and Medicine*.

By the way, I plagiarised the title of this article from a talk Lisa gave at Cambridge, called “Scales to Scalpels: Practising a Bivalent Life”. I asked her whether she got this title from its definition in genetics: that “bivalent” refers to two attached chromosomes that carry the same genetic

information...therefore serving the same function while housed in two separate entities. If so, what a marvellous metaphor!

Lisa replied: “in this post-Covid era, we know the effectiveness of the bivalent vaccine. I would argue that a bivalent life in music and healing could similarly immunise us from the diseases of loneliness and isolation.”

Also a great metaphor and perhaps even more evocative of the true mission.





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## IRISH MUSIC AND DANCE IN LONDON (IMDL) ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO TWO OF THEIR MAJOR EVENTS OF 2024

[www.irishmusicinlondon.org](http://www.irishmusicinlondon.org)

Our 'Irish Hooley at Kings Place' - IMDL's annual profile and fundraising event will take place in the prestigious venue's Hall One on Saturday 15th June. The evening will feature performances from a number of this year's TG4 Gradam Ceoil Award winners: Derek Hickey (Musician of the Year), MacDara Ó Faoláin (Young Musician of the Year), The Kane Sisters (Group of the Year), Ryan Molloy (Composer of the Year) and representatives of Cairdeas na bhFhidiléirí (Outstanding Contribution) – Tara Connaghan, Conor Caldwell and Ellie Nic Fhionnghaile. There will also be foyer music from IMDL's youth project 'The Trad Gathering'. **Doors open 7pm. Tickets: £22.50/ £8.50 U30s available from [www.kingsplace.co.uk](http://www.kingsplace.co.uk)**

**Return to London Town Festival 2024** – London's 26th annual Festival of traditional Irish music, song and dance will take place from Friday 25th – Monday 28th October at The Crown Hotel and surrounding venues in the Cricklewood area. Featuring: The Bonny Men/ Laoise Kelly/ Doireann Glackin/Tony Linnane, Éamonn O'Riordan and Conor Connolly/ Garadice/ The Weaving/ Parish Céilí Band/ The Trad Gathering and more tba. **Information and tickets will be available at [www.returntolondontown.org](http://www.returntolondontown.org)**

Special Festival B&B Room rates now available at The Crown Hotel, Festival attendees. Please send booking requests to [groups@aghotels.co.uk](mailto:groups@aghotels.co.uk) and give the group reference #GA000367 to book special rates (valid from Thurs 24 – Tues 29 Oct 24): Single: £105, Double/ Twin: £110, Triple: £115, Quadruple: £120.

**Information regarding year-round events available at [www.irishmusicinlondon.org](http://www.irishmusicinlondon.org)**

## THE 52nd SCOIL SAMHRAIDH WILLIE CLANCY

**July 6th – 14th, 2024 [www.scoilsamhraidhwillieclancy.com](http://www.scoilsamhraidhwillieclancy.com)**

The Scuffletown Trio, multi-instrumentalists from Virginia, USA, will pay a short visit to the summer school and on Monday 8th they will give a workshop on the connections between Irish traditional music and Appalachian music. Entitled 'Irish Roots to Appalachian

Branches' the presentation should provide some interesting insights into these links which have evolved over centuries. They will also perform at the Ceolchoirm Idirnáisiúnta on Tuesday afternoon, the 9th at the Mill Marquee, sharing the bill with the Gairloch Trio from Montréal. Gairloch will be delivering two workshops at the Marquee during the week, on Québécois Traditional Fiddling, Wednesday 10th, and on Sea Shanties, Thursday 11th.

Two Scottish singers and song collectors, Peter Shephard and Jimmy Hutchison, were active on the folk music circuit in the 1960s and eager to sample Irish traditional music and song. The broadcaster and collector, Ciarán MacMathúna, directed them to Miltown as an ideal place for exploring the tradition. They first visited in 1964 and recorded many local singers and musicians. In a presentation on the afternoon of the 13th they will share their recordings and memories with visitors and local people, many of them relatives of those recorded sixty years ago.

The artistic programme of the 52nd summer school will come to an end with the grand finale concert on the closing Saturday when Cor Chúil Aodha will wrap up a varied week of lectures, recitals, concerts, film documentaries, workshops and céilithe.

**Note: The closing date for online registration is the 22nd of June.**

**For full programme and accommodation details see [www.scoilsamhraidhwillieclancy.com](http://www.scoilsamhraidhwillieclancy.com)**

## SOUTH SLIGO SUMMER SCHOOL

**July 14th – 20th, 2024 [www.southsligosummerschool.com](http://www.southsligosummerschool.com)**

The second Sunday of July is just around the corner and all of Tubbercurry is looking forward to welcoming you to a week of total immersion in traditional music, song and dance Sligo style as we kick off the South Sligo Summer School with the Official Opening by renowned fiddle player and Sligo native Manus McGuire, followed by dancing to Swallows Tail Céilí Band, an evening not to be missed in St Brigid's Hall on the Square, right in the heart of the town.

Workshops in a wide range of instruments - including Sligo style fiddle for advanced players led by Oisín Mac Diarmada & Manus McGuire as well as Multi Melody Instruments for Adults with Swallows'

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Information, Registration & Pre-Payment:  
[www.southsligosummerschool.com](http://www.southsligosummerschool.com)  
Enquiries to:  
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## July 14-20, 2024

A craic-filled week is in the works for the largest summer school devoted to traditional Irish Music and dance in North America with over Forty top-class teaching artists on staff at the 30th Annual Catskills Irish Arts Week.

The Catskills Irish Arts Week looks forward to celebrating its 30th year as a week-long summer school of Traditional Irish music, song 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 14-20 with classes scheduled Monday to Friday and a closing day-long festival on Saturday, July 20.

Our Irish teachers and performers include Mary Bergin, Gerry O'Connor, Catherine McEvoy, Antoin Mac Gabhann, Caitlin and Bernadette Nic Gabhann, Sorcha Costello and Seamus O'Flaherty, Niamh Parsons and Graham Dunne, Diarmuid O'Meachair, Conor Mallon, Aisling Lyons, Deirdre Cronin for creative writing and Padraig McEneaney for the Sets.

Stateside staff features Rose Conway Flanagan, Siobhan and Willie Kelly, Larry Nugent, Eileen Clane Goodman, Pauline Conneely, Joey Abarta & Jackie O'Riley, Liz Hanley and Jefferson Hamer, Isaac Alderson, Annmarie Acosta Williams, Patty Furlong, Loretta Egan Murphy, Brendan Dolan, Colm Gannon, Michelle Bergin, Alan Murray, Colin Harle, Brendan Callahan, Regan Wick and Brenda Dowling. More staff to be added as needed.

Morning and Afternoon Classes daily from Monday July 15- to Friday July 19 along with late afternoon topical lectures from the staff, Evening Concerts and Barn Dance on the Quill Festival Grounds, Céilithe all week in the famed Shamrock House with Fear A Ti Padraig McEneaney.

Irish Pub Sessions Galore including the intimate Listening Room all week.

Finale Festival on Saturday July 20th on the Quill Festival Grounds

**Online Registration will be open soon at <https://www.CatskillsIrishArtsWeek.org>**  
**Contact: Paul Keating Phone 201-965-6598 Email: [paulkeating@aol.com](mailto:paulkeating@aol.com)**







# BALLYSHANNON FOLK AND TRADITIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL



**1ST TO 4TH AUGUST 2024 - DONEGAL, IRELAND**

1st Aug - Opening Concert, Abbey Arts

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Tickets [www.ballyshannonfolkfestival.com](http://www.ballyshannonfolkfestival.com)



Tail band leader Michael Hurley and beginner workshops in harp, bodhrán, whistle, uilleann pipes and new this year, banjo and flute – are just some of the classes on offer with tutors of the highest calibre across the board.

Singing workshops with Caitríona Ní Cheannabháin, Siobhan & Eoin O'Donnell will feature Liltin as well as amhránaíocht as Gaeilge and traditional singing in English. Dance workshops are available morning and afternoon, with Pat Murphy leading the morning Set Dancing Workshops & Eiméar Mulvey taking charge of the Sean Nós Dance Workshops in the afternoons. **See [www.southsligosummerschool.com](http://www.southsligosummerschool.com) for full details and link to registration.** Early booking is strongly advised.

The week continues with daily practice sessions and talks each afternoon as well as nightly concerts and céilís. Advance booking of tickets for all céilís & for the Monday Night Tribute Concert honouring percussionist extraordinaire Junior Davey and the Friday Night Grand Concert, featuring tutors, local and visiting musicians, singers and dancers, are all available to book online through our website.

[anseo@southsligosummerschool.com](mailto:anseo@southsligosummerschool.com) /Text, ring or WhatsApp 00-353-89-6111375 for further information. A warm welcome awaits you, bigí linn.

#### CATSKILLS IRISH ARTS WEEK

**July 14th – 20th, 2024 <https://www.CatskillsIrishArtsWeek.org>**

The Catskills Irish Arts Week looks forward to celebrating its 30th 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 14-20 with classes scheduled Monday to Friday and a closing day-long festival on Saturday, July 20.

Our Irish teachers and performers include Mary Bergin, Gerry O'Connor, Catherine McEvoy, Antoin Mac Gabhann, Caitlin and Bernadette Nic Gabhann, SORCHA Costello, Seamus O'Flaherty, Niamh Parsons and Graham Dunne, Diarmuid O'Meachair, Conor Mallon, Aisling Lyons, Deirdre Cronin for creative writing and Padraig McEneaney for the Sets.

Stateside staff features Rose Conway Flanagan, Siobhan and Willie Kelly, Larry Nugent, Eileen Clune Goodman, Pauline Conneely, Joey Abarta & Jackie O'Riley, Liz Hanley and Jefferson Hamer, Isaac Alderson, Annmarie Acosta Williams, Patty Furlong, Loretta Egan Murphy, Brendan Dolan, Michelle Bergin, Alan Murray, Colin Harte, Brendan Callahan, Regan Wick and Brenda Dowling.

Morning and Afternoon Classes daily from Monday July 15 to Friday July 19 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. Irish Pub Sessions Galore including the intimate Listening Room all week.

Among the many specials events during the week will be a Reunion of the Trad Quad known as NicGavisky formulated at the CIAW featuring Bernadette and Caitlin Nic Gabhann and Sean Vincent McComiskey and Sean Vincent Gavin.

Finale Festival on Saturday July 20th on the Quill Festival Grounds.

**Online Registration will be open soon**

at <https://www.CatskillsIrishArtsWeek.org>

**Contact: Paul Keating, Phone 201-965-6598, Email:**

[paulkeating@aol.com](mailto:paulkeating@aol.com)

#### BELFAST TRADFEST

**July 21st – 28th, 2024 [www.belfasttradfest.com](http://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 6th edition this July across Belfast UNESCO City of Music. The internationally renowned festival will mark this milestone with its most ambitious programme of music that will be showcased between Sunday 21st July – Sunday 28th July 2024. Featuring concerts with the likes of Lúnasa, Lumiere, Cherish the Ladies, Pólca 4, Bow Brothers, Jiggy, Zoe Conway & John McIntyre, Seán Maguire Fiddle Concert, tutor concerts, céilís and the annual TITANIC CÉILÍ which attracted 6,000 last year and which the festival hopes to build towards a World Record attempt at the World's Biggest Céilí during a future Fleadh Ceoil na hÉireann in Belfast.

The week-long summer school of traditional music which takes place in the stunning new Ulster University campus in Belfast City Centre, features



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tutors of the calibre of Tara Breen, Pdraig Rynne, Cathal Hayden, Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh, Ryan Molloy, Tara Howley, Seán Smyth, Joanie Madden, Kevin Crawford, Ed Boyd, Mary Bergin, Diane Cannon, Neil Martin, Derek Hickey, George McAdam, Mick O'Brien, Daibhidh Stiubhard, Fin Moore and many, many more..

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More information at [www.belfasttradfest.com](http://www.belfasttradfest.com)

## 47th BALLYSHANNON FOLK AND TRADITIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL August 1st – 4th, 2024

[www.ballyshannonfolkfestival.com](http://www.ballyshannonfolkfestival.com)

For the past 47 years, the historic town of Ballyshannon in County Donegal has presented a Folk and Traditional Music Festival.

**Thursday 1st Aug:** Opening Concert, Abbey Arts Centre. Tickets [www.abbeycentre.ie](http://www.abbeycentre.ie)

**Where Music & Art Meet:** An exhibition by their resident artist, Barry Britton, launched on Thursday 1st August at 7pm in the Abbey Arts Centre and will be live in the centre until the end of August 2024. This is a unique opportunity to view Barry's artworks on display locally.

**Showcase:** This element of our festival allows us to showcase emerging talent. Would you like to follow in the footsteps of Muireann Bradley, Aoife Scott, The Jeremiahs? Submit an audition clip (folk or trad) by WhatsApp 087/6782196 before 8th June (solo and group sections), cash prizes plus an opportunity to play alongside some of the best known artists in the industry over the festival weekend.

**Jam at the Dam:** This unique intimate concert takes place on the banks of the Erne in Cathaleen's Falls Hydroelectric Power Station on Saturday 3rd August at 12 noon.

**Legend Sessions:** This tribute session of two musical greats who, although no longer with us in this life continue to have a major influence on our musical heritage, will be hosted. This year the music of Patsy Cline will be joining the music of Donegal fiddler, Johnny Doherty who died in the Rock Hospital in Ballyshannon in 1980. This gig attempts to create the session that might have taken place if they had travelled through time and space to Ballyshannon. This year's session will be recreated by Farrah Bogle and Seamie O'Dowd on Sunday 4th August 2024 in the Bridgend Bar at 12.30pm!

**Festival Concerts – Live in the Marquee - Friday/Saturday and Sunday at 7.30pm:**

Featuring 2024 Aslan, No Crows, More Power to Your Elbow, Niall McCabe, Paddy Casey, COSCÁN, Dave Munnely Band, Seamie O'Dowd, winner of the Fiddler of London Competition, Showcase winners and lots more.

Add to the mix some great Street Entertainment, lively pub sessions, Ballyshannon Folk Trail, fringe events and workshops - this leading festival still has something to cater for all tastes 47 years later!

**Join us as we celebrate our 47th Ballyshannon Folk and Traditional Music Festival – the oldest festival of its genre in the world - coming to you from the oldest town in Ireland. For a full list of all events check out [www.ballyshannonfolkfestival.com](http://www.ballyshannonfolkfestival.com)**

## DUBLIN IRISH FESTIVAL Dublin, Ohio, USA

August 2nd – 4th, 2024 <https://dublinirishfestival.org/>

Save the date and attend the 37th Dublin Irish Festival this summer, August 2-4. Explore one of the top Irish festivals in the U.S., drawing over 100,000 guests to Dublin, Ohio each year with 7 music stages, 60 acts, and more than 800 performers. The Dublin Irish Festival was voted fourth



## IRISH HOOLEY AT KINGS PLACE



**Saturday 15th June 2024**

Featuring TG4 Gradam Ceoil Award Winners 2024:

Derek Hickey (Musician of the Year),  
MacDara Ó Faoilán (Young Musician of the Year),  
The Kane Sisters (Group of the Year),  
Ryan Molloy (Composer of the Year),  
Cairdeas na bhFhidiléirí (Outstanding Contribution)

7pm, Tickets: £22.50/ £8.50 U30s available at  
[www.kingsplace.co.uk](http://www.kingsplace.co.uk)

Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9AG

## RETURN TO LONDON TOWN 2024

FRIDAY 25TH - MONDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2024

LONDON'S 26TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF  
TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC, SONG AND DANCE



**The Crown Hotel, 142-152 Cricklewood  
Broadway, London NW2 3ED and  
other local venues**

Featuring:

The Bonny Men | Laoise Kelly | Doireann Glackin |  
Tony Linnane, Éamonn O'Riordan and Conor Connolly |  
Garadice | The Weaving | Parish Céilí Band | The Trad Gathering

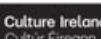
More line-up to be announced soon

For full Festival and other event details as they are announced plus information on how to purchase tickets, see:

[www.returntolondontown.org](http://www.returntolondontown.org) and [www.irishmusicinlondon.org](http://www.irishmusicinlondon.org)

1 @IMDL Events 2 @irishmusicdanceinlondon 3 @IMDLEvents 4 @imdlevnts

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





in the Nation for "Best Cultural Festival of 2024" by USA Today Readers.

This year's headliners include The High Kings, Socks in the Frying Pan, Teada, Gaelic Storm, Skerryvore, Talisk, Goitse, GADAN with Enda Scahill of We Banjo 3, Jiglam, Ispíní na hÉireann, O'Jizo, The Fitzgeralds, Ally the Piper, PoulaPhuca, Drowsy Lads, Bastard Bearded Irishmen and John Whelan with his All Star Ceili Band.

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 that 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 jig 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 20.

See <https://dublinirishfestival.org/> for more.

### JOIN US FOR IOWA'S BIGGEST IRISH CULTURAL CELEBRATION!

August 2nd – 4th, 2024 in Downtown Waterloo

Presented by Veridian Credit Union [www.IowaIrishFest.com](http://www.IowaIrishFest.com)

One of the most anticipated parts of Iowa Irish Fest is the live music. With an extensive list of Irish musicians and bands to entertain guests all weekend long, the Fest is the place to be this August! Musicians from all over the world travel to Iowa to be part of Iowa Irish Fest!

#### Headliners:

Friday – Scythian. A group of college friends found they share a love of Celtic Music. 12 years later, they have headlined at multiple festivals and are a crowd favourite because of their ability to engage with audiences.

Saturday – Enter The Haggis. This Toronto-based rock band is composed of six talented individuals whose songs offer singalong

melodies that tell the tales of everyday people, often faced with insurmountable challenges.

Sunday – The High Kings. Formed in 2007, The High Kings create a unique sound and atmosphere with each performance. The group continually sets the bar extremely high for Irish Folk bands across the world!

Other acts include Screaming Orphans, Seo Linn, The Byrne Brothers, Onóir, The Bow Tides and more. Don't forget to download the Iowa Irish Fest app, located in both the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.

**Make sure you follow Iowa Irish Fest on Facebook to stay up-to-date on all things Iowa Irish Fest! Visit [IowaIrishFest.com](http://IowaIrishFest.com) to learn more.**

### A FLEADH FOR ALL WEXFORD 2024

#### FLEADH CHEOIL NA hÉIREANN

August 4th – 11th, 2024 <https://fleadhcheoil.ie/>

From 4th to 11th August 2024, Wexford Town will come alive with the world's largest celebration of Irish traditional music and heritage. The event, organised by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí na hÉireann and hosted by the local committee, is expected to draw over half a million visitors to the Sunny Southeast.

This year's theme, 'A Fleadh for All', truly embodies the festival's spirit of inclusivity and diversity. It's a celebration that warmly welcomes everyone, from seasoned attendees to first-time visitors. The Fleadh will host a significant international audience and feature a diverse lineup of 15,000 musicians, dancers, singers and storytellers from various communities across Ireland, all brought together by their love of traditional Irish music, dance and culture. With an exciting and varied programme that caters to all tastes, there's something for everyone at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2024.

We in Wexford are honoured to have our beloved town play host to this year's Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. This celebration is a tribute to the volunteers, businesses, musicians, Comhaltas branches, and

**ARE YA GOIN'?**

**23 & 24 AUG 2024**

**FIREMEN'S PARK  
NIAGARA FALLS  
CANADA**

**Niagara Irish  
Festival**

**www.IRISHMUSICNIAGARA.COM**

**OCAF FMCO**

**SCOIL SAMHRAIDH  
WILLIE CLANCY**

Miltown Malbay, Co Clare

**52nd Annual Willie Clancy  
Summer School  
6th -14th July 2024**

Tuition on uilleann pipes, whistle, flute, fiddle, concertina, button accordion, melodeon, banjo, harmonica, harp, step dancing, set dancing, Conamara sean-nós dance.

Workshops on the Irish and English language song traditions.

Dúchas an Cheoil/The Scope of Irish Music is a week-long course on the history of Irish traditional music, song and dance and accredited through the University of Limerick. For full details see [www.blas.ie](http://www.blas.ie)

**Know the Score: Read Music the Trad Way.** This CPD Course, designed for traditional musicians and teachers, is offered in partnership with I Teach Trad and certified by the Royal Irish Academy of Music. To register go to: <https://www.riam.ie/short-courses/know-the-score-read-irish-traditional-music>. The Course runs at St. Joseph's Secondary School, Spanish Point, Monday 8th to Friday 12th July, 10am -2.30pm. For further details contact [liz@iteachtrad.com](mailto:liz@iteachtrad.com)

Lectures, recitals, concerts, film documentaries, céilithe. **Online Registration Now Open**

Information on Registration and Programme:  
086-8773747/087-9500006/087-9264256 /[Scoilwclancy73@gmail.com](mailto:Scoilwclancy73@gmail.com)  
Accommodation: 089-2320498 /[kilduffmg@gmail.com](mailto:kilduffmg@gmail.com)  
**[www.scoilsamhraidhwillieclancy.com](http://www.scoilsamhraidhwillieclancy.com)**



# REGISTER NOW

[WWW.SHOWINGROOTS.COM](http://WWW.SHOWINGROOTS.COM)

15 – 19 JANUARY 2025

KILLARNEY | IRELAND



Damien Mullane



Sandy Kelly



Jessica Willis Fisher and Cillian King



Maddie Storvold



Sean O'Meara

## GLENEAGLE

HOTEL & APARTMENTS





the global community, all of whom will contribute to making this year's event unforgettable. The Fleadh is a festival for everyone, inviting both those who have experienced a Fleadh before and those who have yet to discover its magic. We've been working towards this Fleadh for many years, and we can't wait to showcase the rich Wexford culture of music, song and dance with the world.

**For more details visit <https://fleadhcheoil.ie/>**

### **GODERICH CELTIC ROOTS FESTIVAL, CELTIC COLLEGE AND KIDS CAMP August 5th – 11th, 2024**

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

Join us on the shores of Lake Huron for the highly acclaimed 3-day festival and largest staffed Celtic music camp of its kind.

The 32nd Annual Goderich Celtic Roots Festival, Celtic College and Kids Camp is the ultimate Celtic experience in Goderich, Ontario, Canada.

From August 5th to the 9th, 2024, over 50 of the world's best musicians are ready to share their talents with all ages as they teach at the Goderich Celtic College and Kid's Camp. A week full of daytime classes and free evening concerts featuring your teachers, Ceili dancing in the park, with rousing singing and spirited instrument sessions at the local pub late into the night.

The week builds to an impressive crescendo with the world-renowned 3-day Festival in the magical Lion's Harbour Park at 166 West Street in Goderich, overlooking the beaches and sparkling waters of Lake Huron.

We are so pleased to be able to announce some of the world's most incredible musicians who will be here this August.

Karan Casey, Allison Lupton Band, Archie Fisher & Garnet Rogers, RUNA, Matt & Shannon Heaton, Rory Makem, Windborne, Jane & Kyle, O'Jizo, Heron Valley, Fiárock, Portage, Pressgang Mutiny 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 5-11, 2024.

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

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

### **FEAKLE FESTIVAL**

**August 7th – 12th, 2024 [www.feaklefestival.ie](http://www.feaklefestival.ie)**

Celebrating 37 Years of Traditional Irish music, song and dance at the Feakle Festival.

Get ready to immerse yourself in the vibrant sounds and spirit of Irish tradition at the Feakle Festival, returning for its 37th year from Wednesday, August 7th, to Monday, August 12th, 2024. Nestled in the picturesque village of Feakle, this annual celebration continues to thrive, drawing top-tier talent and enthusiastic audiences from near and far.

Year after year, the Feakle Festival grows stronger, showcasing the very best of Irish traditional music, singers, dancers, and musicians. Renowned for attracting the cream of the crop in musical talent, attendees can expect world-class performances and intimate sessions where musicians interact and engage with one another.

This year's festival offers a diverse array of events, including workshops led by fantastic musicians, singers, and dancers, insightful lectures, captivating recitals, guided walks, ceili's, and a spectacular lineup of concerts. From puppetry for children to pop-up sessions and Gaeilge events, there's something to captivate audiences of all ages.

For anyone passionate about Irish traditional music and culture, the Feakle Festival is an unmissable opportunity to indulge and immerse oneself in the richness of our heritage and in particular in the home of East Clare music.

**For more information and updates, follow Feakle Festival on Instagram and Facebook, or visit [www.feaklefestival.ie](http://www.feaklefestival.ie). Don't miss out on what promises to be an unforgettable week of music, song and dance!**

### **SPARTA CELTIC FESTIVAL**

**August 9th – 10th, 2024 [www.spartacelticfest.org](http://www.spartacelticfest.org)**

**<https://www.facebook.com/SpartaCelticFestival>**

**<https://www.instagram.com/spartacelticfestival/>**

The Village of Sparta, Michigan USA is located about ten Miles north of the State's second largest city, Grand Rapids. Every year this small community hosts Michigan's "Largest Free Entry Celtic Festival", celebrating everything Irish, Scottish, and Celtic. This is expressed in the Festival's popular social media hashtag "#1village7Nations".

With a wide variety of Celtic themed music and dance acts, both on Friday August 9th and Saturday August 10th this year, the event brings to their little village the best local and regional talent, along with Cultural and Heritage activities, while maintaining a "family friendly" atmosphere. The event runs Friday from 5pm until 10pm and Saturday from 11am until 10pm. The main festival takes place in Rogers Park on both Friday and Saturday, and expands in to Balyeat Field for Saturday, adding a Classic Car Show and full Highland Games. Saturday also features a Kids Area from Noon-5pm.

Of course there will be a Beverage Tent, Food Court and wide variety of Celtic based Vendors, Clans and Cultural groups on both days. With the growth of the festival, and the difficulty of available parking in this small community, on Saturday there is a free shuttle service from the High School parking lot to Rogers Park and back.

**Full details about everything can be found on the festival's website and social media sites which update regularly.**

### **MILWAUKEE IRISH FEST RETURNS TO HENRY MAIER FESTIVAL GROUNDS FOR A SPIRITED CELEBRATION OF IRISH CULTURE**

**August 15th – 18th, 2024 [Irishfest.com](http://Irishfest.com)**

Milwaukee Irish Fest, the world's largest celebration of Irish culture and heritage is set to return to the Henry Maier Festival Park from August 15th to 18th, 2024. This annual event promises attendees an unforgettable experience filled with music, dance, food, and activities that showcase the rich traditions of Ireland.

Celebrating its 43rd year, Milwaukee Irish Fest has become a beloved tradition not only for those of Irish descent but also for anyone who appreciates the vibrant spirit and warm hospitality of Irish culture. The festival offers a dynamic lineup of entertainment across multiple stages, featuring renowned Irish musicians, dancers, and performers from around the world.

From traditional Celtic tunes to contemporary Irish rock, attendees can expect a diverse musical experience that spans genres and generations. Dance enthusiasts will be enthralled by captivating performances of Irish step dancing and traditional ceili dancing, while cultural demonstrations and workshops provide opportunities to learn about Irish language, crafts, and history.

In addition to the entertainment and cultural delights, Milwaukee Irish Fest features marketplaces showcasing Irish goods, crafts, and apparel, offering attendees the chance to take home a piece of Ireland. Family-friendly activities and attractions ensure that there is something for visitors of all ages to enjoy, making it the perfect destination for a weekend of fun and cultural immersion.

"We're thrilled to once again welcome guests to Milwaukee Irish Fest for a celebration of Irish culture unlike any other," said Molly Modlinski, Festival Director. "This festival is a testament to the enduring legacy of the Irish community in Milwaukee and beyond, and we look forward to sharing the spirit of Ireland with all who attend."

**Milwaukee Irish will take place at the Henry Maier Festival Park located at 200 N Harbor Dr, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Tickets are now available for purchase online on [Irishfest.com](http://Irishfest.com).**

### **MASTERS OF TRADITION FESTIVAL**

**August 21st – 25th, 2024 [www.westcorkmusic.ie](http://www.westcorkmusic.ie)**

Masters of Tradition takes place from 21 – 25 August 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.



"This year's festival will take us to the core of the music," says Martin Hayes. "We will also encounter many emerging ideas within the tradition, new ways of reimagining the past and also ways in which this music can relate with other music forms."

Martin Hayes will be joined at this year's festival by Bill Whelan, Iarla Ó Lionáird, Cormac McCarthy, Matthew Berrill, Nick Hart, Tom Moore, José Manuel Tejedor, Brighde Chaimbeul, Brian Donnellan, Peadar Ó Riada, Danny O'Mahony, Michéal Ó Raghallaigh, Geraldine Cotter and the Ré Órga ensemble, Zoe Conway, John McIntyre, Mick McAuley, Padraic Keane, Aidan Connolly, Fergus McGorman, Ruairí McGorman, Toner Quinn and many more.

Masters of Tradition Friends' priority booking opened 19 March. General booking opened 22 April.

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

**Full programme will be announced on [www.westcorkmusic.ie](http://www.westcorkmusic.ie)**

#### NIAGARA IRISH FESTIVAL (CANADA)

**August 23rd & 24th, 2024 [www.irishmusicniagara.com](http://www.irishmusicniagara.com)**

Fáilte romhat! Irish Music Niagara presents the second annual Niagara Irish Festival on August 23 & 24, 2024!

Celebrate Irish music, dancing and culture at Firemen's Park just minutes from breathtaking Niagara Falls, Canada.

Irish Music Niagara is a non profit organisation with the goal of sharing happiness through folk and Irish music. We are grateful for the support of the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund (OCAF), local community volunteers & sponsors to make this happen.

Friday night at Niagara Irish Festival will have the theme "Irish music by candlelight in the park", while Saturday's theme is "Jump Around!"

The Festival will be headlined by international Irish showman PADDYMAN & high energy Irish band The Steel City Rovers. Other notable acts include Grass Mud Horse, Bill Craig, Michael O'Grady Band, The Blackthorns, O'Malley's Mates, Vox Violins, Niagara Pipe Band, Hamilton Band, Irish dancing & more talented acts on our main stage, folk stage & kids area. Niagara Irish festival will feature a Ceili (Fri night), a

children's area & cultural section. We are proud to promote local businesses and vendors offering a wide variety of Irish & Canadian food, drinks & artisan goods.

Niagara Irish Festival is held outdoors at Firemen's Park, in beautiful Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. Free parking is available. Gates open at 5.00 p.m. Friday and 10.30 a.m. on Saturday. Tickets and more information available from our website and social media page below:

**Follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/IrishMusicNiagara](https://www.facebook.com/IrishMusicNiagara)**

#### PEORIA IRISH FEST

**August 23rd – 25th, 2024 [www.peoriairishfest.com](http://www.peoriairishfest.com)**

The Peoria Irish Fest/Erin Feis is an outdoor celebration of all things Irish and Celtic on the beautiful banks of the Illinois river.

The Fest features the best of Irish and Celtic music, dance, and culture. We take pride in showcasing new and emerging artists on our three music stages. Our goal is to provide 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 and building on traditional forms. We love that many artists who perform at the Fest show up to see other artists' sets, and we often hear how much they enjoy our lineup of music.

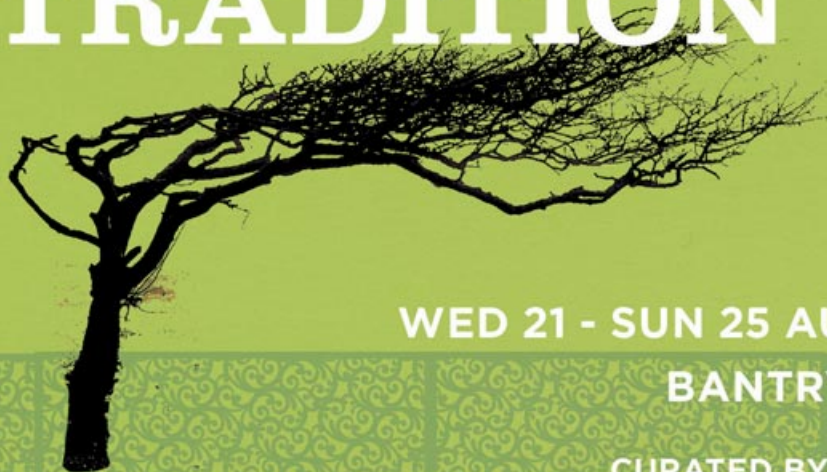
Our unplugged workshops are a highlight for many. Our artists have free rein to perform, demonstrate, talk, or teach, in a small-scale venue, and each year the result is pure magic.

We continuously work to expand our cultural offerings as well. We offer 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, puppeteers, whiskey tastings, Gaelic lessons, author presentations, axe throwing, a 5K race and more.

The Fest is held at the Peoria Riverfront Park, in downtown Peoria, Illinois, conveniently located just off Interstate 74. Free parking is available. Gates open at 4:00 p.m. Friday, noon on Saturday and 10:00 a.m. Sunday for Mass.

**Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/peoriairishfest/](https://www.facebook.com/peoriairishfest/)**

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[www.westcorkmusic.ie](http://www.westcorkmusic.ie)





**PITTSBURGH IRISH FESTIVAL****September 6th - 8th, 2024** <https://pgirishfest.org/>

The 33rd Annual Pittsburgh Irish Festival will be held September 6-7-8, 2024 at Carrie Blast Furnaces National Historic Landmark.

"We could not be more excited to present this year's Pittsburgh Irish Festival entertainment line-up," said Mairin Petrone, Pittsburgh Irish Festival Executive Director.

"The line-up features new bands, phenomenal solo performers, well-known favourites, Grammy winners and nominees, local Irish dance groups, Riverdance's first black dancer, a TikTok famous bagpiper, and more on four stages for non-stop fun and enjoyment."

Returning this year, a fifth stage presented by Five Farms Irish Cream where visitors can watch both professional and amateur bakers and chefs demonstrate the process of cooking and baking some delightful treats, most of which will feature Five Farms!

The Pittsburgh Irish Festival will welcome Gaelic Storm, The Screaming Orphans, The Drowsy Lads, Morgan Bullock, Eileen Ivers and The Brigideens, Ally the Piper, Reverie Road, Bastard Bearded Irishman, Colm & Laura Keegan, The Low Kings, Donnie Irish, Shane Cook & The Woodchippers, and more who will all be headlining acts on various evenings and stages.

**For more details and ticket sales** <https://pgirishfest.org/>

**MICHIGAN IRISH MUSIC FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2024 ARTIST LINE-UP**  
**September 12th - 15th, 2024** [www.michiganirish.org](http://www.michiganirish.org)

The Michigan Irish Music Festival celebrates its 25th Anniversary from September 12-15th at Heritage Landing in downtown Muskegon. Headliners include Gaelic Storm, Kíla, Talisk, Aoife Scott, and Seamus Kennedy. Gaelic Storm's latest album, *Go Climb a Tree*, showcases their versatility, offering a break from chaos with contemplative escapism. Kíla, known for trad-fusion since 1987, blends diverse genres like Latin and Reggae with Irish tradition. Talisk, comprising Mohsen Amini, Benedict Morris, and Charlie Galloway, redefines folk music with boundary-pushing performances. Aoife Scott, of the famed Black family, gains international attention with her dynamic voice and emotive lyrics. Seamus Kennedy, a seasoned performer, engages audiences with witty banter and a diverse repertoire spanning Irish ballads to American styles.

Artists rounding out the line-up include: Jiglam, Dave Curley & Colin Farrell, Síomha, The Friel Sisters, The Irish Music All Stars, Shane Hennessy, Cathal Ó Curráin & Marty Barry, Blackthorn, The Wee Heavies, Ally The Piper, On the Lash, Kennedy's Kitchen, Conklin Céilí Band, Enda Reilly, Ian Gould, Ironwood, Ardan Academy of Irish Dance, and The Mona Shores Fiddlers.

Major sponsors include Family Financial Credit Union, G&L Chili Dogs, Langlois Home Furnishings, The Mart Dock, and Budweiser. Tickets available from May 2, 2024, at [www.michiganirish.org](http://www.michiganirish.org). Children 12 & under attend free with a ticket. Accommodations at Delta Hotels by Marriott and Shoreline Inn, reservations encouraged. For booking: Shoreline Inn at 231-727-8483 or Delta Hotels by Marriott at 231-722-0100.

**Visit** [www.michiganirish.org](http://www.michiganirish.org) **for complete festival details and updates.**

**GALWAY BAY'S CELTIC MUSIC FEIS****October 21st - 27th, 2024** [www.celticmusicfeis.com](http://www.celticmusicfeis.com)

2024 will herald the 21st 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 seven days this October.

Again, this year the festival begins with a start off show at our 8th Street Ale House in Hoquiam, WA and then kicks into high gear at Galway Bay in Ocean Shores, WA starting Tuesday October 21, 2024, and lasting until Sunday, October 27, 2024. Featuring an eclectic mix of Irish bands, choirs and dancers hailing from throughout the United States, Canada and, with of course Ireland rounding out this year's entertainment.

This year's artist line-up includes: Jiglam, Daimh, Celtica Nova, Rory Makem, The Blow Ins, John Doyle & Mick McAuley, Ockham's Razor,

Seattle Irish Dance Co. and more.

3 Venues - 10 Stages - 20+ Bands - Celtic Vendor Village.

**Buy tickets at** [www.celticmusicfeis.com](http://www.celticmusicfeis.com). **Visit our Facebook page at** <https://www.facebook.com/celticmusicfeis>

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

**O'FLAHERTY RETREAT - GREAT TEACHING, MOTIVATED STUDENTS****October 24th - 27th, 2024** [oflahertyretreat.org](http://oflahertyretreat.org)

The 21st Annual O'Flaherty Irish Music Retreat, organized by the Traditional Irish Music Education Society and sponsored through a grant from the Government of Ireland Emigrant Support Programme, will be held October 24-27, 2024 at the Hoblitzelle Camp & Conference Center in Midlothian Texas. The O'Flaherty Retreat is internationally renowned for instruction in traditional Irish music and dance by highly respected teachers from Ireland and the United States.

Students can choose from a wide range of courses on traditional instruments as well as singing and Sean-nós dancing. Additionally, lectures and workshops will explore topics ranging from Irish music history to music theory. At every meal there are guest concerts and during each evening there are instructor concerts followed by sessions.

The instructors for this year's retreat are: Lexie Boatright - Concertina Fundamentals; Dan Brouder - Button Accordion; Siobhan Butler - Sean-Nós Dancing; Angelina Carberry - Tenor Banjo; John Carty - Fiddle; Zoë Conway - Fiddle; Seamus Egan - Flute; Eileen Estes - Singing; Dylan Foley - Fiddle; Deirdre Granville - Harp; Matt Heaton - Bouzouki; Jake James - Fiddle Fundamentals; Caroline Keane - Concertina; Liz Knowles - Fiddle; Andy Kruspe - Bodhrán Fundamentals; John Liestman - Mandolin/Tenor Banjo Fundamentals; John McIntyre - Guitar; John Morrow - Mandolin; Kieran O'Hare - Uilleann Pipes; John Skelton - Whistle; and Robbie Walsh - Bodhrán. Melodies for the guitar class - Shannon Muenchow.

**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](http://oflahertyretreat.org)

**WILLIAM KENNEDY PIPING FESTIVAL****November 14th - 17th, 2024** [www.wkpf.org](http://www.wkpf.org)

Armagh Pipers Club are delighted to announce details of the 30th anniversary edition of the William Kennedy Piping Festival. The event will take place at various venues across Armagh City from the 14th to 17th November. The festival will include concerts, workshops, sessions, lectures, events for children, plus an immersive uilleann piping academy in memory of the late Mark Donnelly.

This year's event will see the festival welcome back some of our favourite guests from over the 30 years plus introducing some new sounds to the local and international audience. Highlights include two exciting combinations - Michael McGoldrick, John Carty & Matt Griffin, who will be showcasing their recent album *At Our Leisure*, and the dynamic duo of Máire Ní Ghráda and Maeve Donnelly.

To mark 30 years of the festival we have a special concert with past pupils of Armagh Pipers Club featuring Jarlath Henderson, Tiarnán Ó Duinnchinn, Cillian Vallely, Conor Mallon, Aoife Smyth, and many others. From further afield we welcome Italian trio Zampogneria with special guest Eric Montbel from France, as well as Angus and Kenneth MacKenzie from Cape Breton.

What began in 1994 as a one-off celebration of the blind pipe-maker William Kennedy from Tandragee, Co. Armagh, has grown into one of the biggest and most prestigious events of its kind in the world. The festival has welcomed pipers and instrument makers from different cultures and traditions all over Europe, as well as North Africa, the Middle East and North America.

**For full details visit** [www.wkpf.org](http://www.wkpf.org)

The festival is sponsored by Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council.



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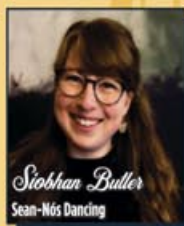
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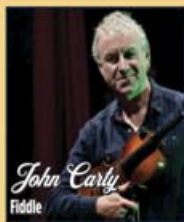
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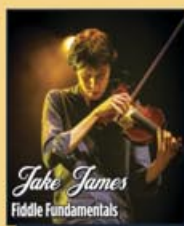
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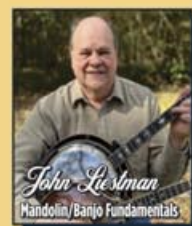
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# SPARTA CELTIC FESTIVAL

The Sparta Celtic Festival runs August 9th & 10th, 2024, writes Gráinne McCool.



**S**parta Celtic Festival is a modern day, small town/village festival in the heart of Michigan. Over a weekend in August the village becomes a hive of Celtic music and activity. Bill Lynch, co-founder of the event, tells me all about it.

**Bill:** "The Sparta Celtic Festival began in 2010, when the nearby city of Rockford Michigan decided to end their Celtic Festival after nearly a decade of events. Irish and Celtic bands from the region who were expecting to return to Rockford on the second Saturday of August suddenly had nowhere to perform. When the village of Sparta heard about the cancellation of the popular event, they checked with the Area Arts Council and the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and were told that if Sparta wanted to take it over, they were welcome to do so. In 2015, a non-profit organization was formed and "The Sparta Celtic Festival Inc." took over the operation of the festival from the Village of Sparta."

**Gráinne:** "Is there a big Irish and Scottish connection in Sparta?"

**"The Sparta Celtic Festival is a free entry festival and draws from the large Irish community of Muskegon"**

**Bill:** "Not particularly in the village of Sparta, however it lies just a 10 minute drive north from Michigan's second largest city, Grand Rapids, which boasts a very active Scottish Society, a Gaelic League Irish-American Club, Michigan's oldest chartered Ancient Order of Hibernians and a Ladies A.O.H.. Several other Celtic based groups and associations also call the Grand Rapids Area "home". Sparta also draws from the large Irish community of Muskegon, just 30 minutes west and home of the very popular Michigan Irish Music Festival, held in September every year."

**Gráinne:** "What does the festival weekend entail?"

**Bill:** "As is the case with most music-based festivals, both Friday and Saturday feature Irish and Celtic based musical groups on a main stage, located in Rogers Park, in downtown Sparta. There is a Food Court, a Beverage Tent, Celtic vendors and craft booths, Irish and Scottish

Dancers, and a children's playground. On Saturday, the festival's grounds double in size when neighbouring Balyeat Field hosts Highland Games. In addition to the continuing Music and Dance, there are also Children's Activities from noon until 5 pm on Saturday as well. The Cultural Societies and a few Scottish Clans have booths, and there are historical re-enactments, a living statue and even some workshop activities for people of all ages"

**Gráinne:** "Is it primarily local or are there travelling visitors to the weekend festival?"

**Bill:** "The majority of people are local, from the Grand Rapids and Muskegon areas. However, because of the Highland Games and Car Show on Saturday, along with the popularity of the regional music acts, more people travel from further away and have discovered that Sparta puts on a wonderful festival. Many of them return each year and bring their friends."

**Gráinne:** "Is the festival family-friendly?"

**Bill:** "Because of the beautiful park settings of The Sparta Celtic Festival, and because the festival remains free to enter, the event has boasted 'free, family friendly entertainment' since the beginning."

**Gráinne:** "Why is Celtic music so popular in a small area like yours?"

**Bill:** "Michigan is lucky to have a vibrant Irish and Celtic Festival community. There are 10 Festivals in Michigan dedicated to the music genre and culture. Sparta, and the surrounding area has embraced this music as if it were its own. West Michigan in particular has many local bands and artists that are as good as any in the Midwest. The Sparta Celtic Festival has showcased those acts since it began."

**Gráinne:** "Why should people travel to Sparta this August?"

**Bill:** "The Sparta Celtic Festival continues to expand each year and has been built on the amazing performances of area musicians and dance companies. The event is widely supported by the local businesses and is run by a local board of directors with a fantastic group of volunteers. It is the state of Michigan's largest "Free Entry" Celtic Festival, but remains small enough to have a certain charm not easily duplicated in much larger festivals across the region."

**More information can be found on the festival website [www.spartacelticfest.org](http://www.spartacelticfest.org) and is also available on Facebook and Instagram.**





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# NIAGARA IRISH FESTIVAL ONTARIO, CANADA

Seán Laffey talks to Declan O'Sullivan about the second annual Niagara Irish Festival, which will be held on August 23 & 24, 2024.



Declan O'Sullivan is a naturally upbeat character, he greets me with a huge smile when we connect on zoom. His background image is of a glorious snow capped mountain, which I presumed was somewhere in the vast expanse of Canada. My first question is, where did you come from to get here?

Declan tells me he was born in Kildare, and first came to Canada to market Murphy's Stout, Heineken and the famous Canadian brew Molson. During this time he met his future wife and he says: "We went off on a big adventure. My wife took up a teaching job in Dubai and I sold container loads of booze to embassies all around the region. That adventure lasted 16 years. Whilst I was in Dubai I was performing in Irish bars as The Paddyman, singing a range of songs from traditional ballads to modern day classics. The performances went down well and I began touring all over the world. There was a large Irish ex-pat community there and I set up a session and folk scene centered on Fibber McGee's pub. I'm happy to say it still continues to this day. When

upstate New York, both of which have established Irish festivals with over 10,000 people. Our inaugural event in 2023 was a huge success. It attracted 3000 music fans and we aim to double that number this year."

Declan tells us about the highlights of the 2024 Niagara Irish Festival: "Things really start on Thursday 22nd August when Niagara Falls will be lit up in the colours of the Irish flag. Following the fireworks display at 10pm we will sing the national anthems of Ireland and Canada. Friday night will have the theme "Irish music by candlelight in the park" and will be followed by an Irish ceili in the hall at 10.30pm. Saturday's theme is "Jump Around!" We have high energy Irish bands The Steel City Rovers and Grass Mud Horse, Bill Craig, Michael O'Grady Band and many more. This year we are also adding pony rides, the Niagara Police Pipe Band and a parade of the Irish county flags. There will be Irish food, artisan vendors, Irish dancing displays and more talented acts on our main stage, folk stage and kids area." Declan will close out the festival with his own The Paddyman & Friends show.

**"Irish Music Niagara is a non-profit organisation with the goal of sharing happiness through folk and Irish music"**

our first grandchild arrived, we decided we'd like to be near her, so we moved back here to the City of Niagara Falls." Declan is now the director of marketing for the city's flourishing tourist industry.

Whilst playing gigs under The Paddyman persona he met Paddy Treacy, a Galway native. They got talking about how they missed authentic music from home and agreed to try to do something about it in their new home. "We approached Doc Magilligan's pub and advertised an open Irish and Folk afternoon and were astonished when 40 musicians turned up. It's now a regular session, with our youngest player Sophia being just 14 and our oldest, the harmonica player, Joe who is 89. We run weekly sessions in the winter months and we switch to once a month during the summer, because people are off at festivals and we run outdoor events such as BBQ and patio sessions.

Declan and Paddy set up Irish Music Niagara as a non-profit organisation with the goal of "Sharing happiness through folk and Irish music. We are grateful for the support of the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund (OCAF), local community volunteers & sponsors to make this happen." The Niagara Irish Festival comes under the IMN remit and Declan says he welcomes the financial help they have received from the Irish Emigrant Support Fund & City of Niagara Falls last year. They took advice from festivals across the border in the USA. "We are close to Lockport and about a 40-minute drive from Buffalo in

Niagara Irish Festival is held outdoors at Firemen's Park, and Declan asks visitors to look out for the arrival of the festival Leprechaun by Niagara Helicopters on the Saturday. He adds: "Free parking is available, children under 12 are admitted free of charge and the weekend is family friendly and budget friendly. Gates open at 5.00 p.m. Friday and 10.30 a.m. on Saturday. Tickets and more information available from Eventbrite, our website and social media page below."

**Follow the festival on Facebook at**  
**[www.facebook.com/IrishMusicNiagara](https://www.facebook.com/IrishMusicNiagara)**





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# SOUTH SLIGO SUMMER SCHOOL

## JULY 14 – 20, 2024

Seána Haughey tells IMM's Seán Laffey that the great majority of the tutors at this year's South Sligo Summer School are steeped in the local and regional musical tradition of South Sligo and North Connacht.

Photo : Alastair Cassidy



Many of them are former students, and that deep connection to the authentic local tradition is a major factor in attracting students to the Summer School.

I began by asking a simple question, how near are you to getting all the ducks in a row? "Things are coming together very nicely," she tells me in early May, adding that there is a wealth of local expertise to draw on, whether that be in the logistics of venue management or calling on a wide hinterland of accommodation providers. "Now in its 38th year, the South Sligo Summer School is a long-standing event in the cultural calendar of Tubbercurry and Co. Sligo."

Seána says that this longevity and the detailed care and attention which goes into providing a full and varied programme draws great numbers of musicians from Ireland and further afield. "It always follows the Willie Clancy Summer School in Clare and many musicians combine the two summer schools together. This year's Summer School

improves their technique but helps them grow in confidence, not just as players but as people too. Our class sizes are kept at a manageable number to maximise the benefit for everyone."

Workshops are offered in Fiddle, Flute, Whistle, Button Accordion, Concertina, Uilleann Pipes, Harp, Banjo, Guitar, Bodhrán, Mixed Instruments for Adults, Singing & Linting, Sean-Nós & Set Dancing. One lecture not to be missed is "Harmonious Traditions: Exploring Fiddle and Flute Duets in South Sligo & East Mayo" presented by John Wynne and John McEvoy on July 16th at 2:30pm in St. Brigid's Hall.

Advanced fiddler players can avail of Sligo Style Masterclasses with Oisín MacDiarmada and Manus McGuire. A full list of tutors is available on the website and with names like Seamie O'Dowd, Caitríona Ní Cheannabháin, Holly Geraghty, Deirdre Hurley, Leonard Barry, David Doocey and many more on the tutors roster, you can gauge the high quality of teaching available in Tubbercurry this July.

One name that looms large in the archives of the South Sligo Summer School is that of bodhrán and bones player Junior Davey. "We will be honouring Junior this year at our Monday Night Tribute Concert. Junior richly deserves this accolade. He will be around all week of course, playing and teaching and will present a special lecture on the role of bodhrán and bones in Traditional Irish music on Wednesday, 17th July."

I note that there will be a strong presence from the Leeds Irish community at this year's summer school. "Yes, there are strong historical and cultural connections between this area and Leeds," she tells me. "Many families left the area around our neighbouring village of Bonnictonlon to make a new life for themselves in industrial Yorkshire, and the Leeds Irish Centre is one of the most active Irish

### "Advanced fiddler players can avail of Sligo Style Masterclasses with Oisín MacDiarmada & Manus McGuire"

will be opened by renowned musician and Sligo native Manus McGuire on Sunday evening, July 14th."

Seána says that some of the participants registered to date this year are from places as divergent as Nova Scotia, Osaka Japan, Santa Rosa California & Frohburg in Germany, as well as places where there are large concentrations of Irish exiles like London and Leeds. She describes a typical day at the summer school. "Graded Workshops run for three hours each morning while the afternoons and evenings are packed with practice sessions, concerts, céilís, talks and more. By stratifying on the basis of ability, we believe that the students get the best from their week-long experience with us. They go away feeling they have learnt something useful, and attending the workshops not only

music hotspots in the UK, thanks to its director, Des Hurley, brother of Michael Hurley, Swallows Tail band leader and longtime tutor at the summer school.

Seána reminds us that there is life beyond the music classes and the sessions in the town are legendary with players returning year after year for the craic, camaraderie and the magical experience of South Sligo music. All of which is made possible by a cohort of eager volunteers, financial assistance from the Arts Council of Ireland, Sligo County Council, MSLETB, Aurivo, Tubbercurry & District Credit Union Limited and the generous contributions and support of the local business community in Tubbercurry & South Sligo.

**Find out more at [www.southsligosummerschool.com](http://www.southsligosummerschool.com)**

Photo : Lisa Walsh



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# MANDOLIN PROGRESSIONS

## with Paddy Cummins

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

The mandolin is a very old instrument, the origins of which go back to the lute of Medieval times. It is also fairly unique in the fact that it possesses four sets of double strings that give the instrument its rhythmic strumming patterns. Although there are three prominent types of mandolin available: the Neapolitan bowl-back, the arch-top and the flat-back, it is the flat-back mandolin that is most commonly used in the Irish tradition.

Paddy Cummins, the resident mandolin tutor for OAIM, teaches two courses: one for absolute beginners, while this progressions course is a follow-on course. In these two courses you will learn all there is to know about one of Ireland's most recognisable and traditional musical instruments from a teacher who is as relaxed as he is knowledgeable about the instrument.

Paddy was born and reared in Drimnagh, Dublin and began experimenting with music aged nine. His first instrument of choice was the mandolin, as played by his father; then the guitar, before eventually being saddled with a banjo aged fourteen. Paddy attended some brief

tuition at Comhaltas branches in Monkstown but is largely self-taught and spent his teenage years completely dedicated to his music practice.

He holds a first class honours degree in Irish Music and Dance from the University of Limerick and was mentored there by John Carty. He also received masterclass tuition from established players such as Enda Scahill, Kieran Hanrahan, Cathal Hayden, Angelina Carberry and Brian McGrath.

In 2013 he founded a 7-piece traditional music group called Skipper's Alley and recorded an album with them which won the prestigious Loic Raison trophy at the Festival Interceltique de Lorient in France. Since then Skipper's Alley have featured on The Late Late Show, Ireland's flagship television show, as well as headlining gigs and festivals with other bands. Paddy still plays with Skipper's Alley and is also found gigging in Dublin's Temple Bar circuit, as well as being a much sought after private tutor.

"As a tutor, Paddy has a very laid back manner while his instruction is brilliantly clear... His relaxed style helps infuse the student of the mandolin with the correct attitude to learning, keeping tension at bay, and gently guiding the playing in a way that builds expertise gradually on a foundation of good technique and confidence"

### The Course

In Mandolin Progressions, focus is placed on slightly more challenging techniques such as: triplets, hammer-on techniques, pull-offs, flicks, cuts, slides, variation and the use of moveable chords. Some tunes are taught in more challenging keys as mastering complex finger shapes will mould you into a more flexible musician.

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Harvest Home	A Stór Mo Chroí
The Reel Of Sceachog	Wallace's Cross
James McMahon's	O'Keefe's Slide
The Walls Of Liscannor	The Girl That Broke My Heart
Molly Malone	The Valve Bounce Reel

As a tutor, Paddy has a very laid back manner while his instruction is brilliantly clear. He shows both the proper and improper technique, which is very useful when guiding novice players. His relaxed style helps infuse the student of the mandolin with the correct attitude to learning, keeping tension at bay, and gently guiding the playing in a way that builds expertise gradually on a foundation of good technique and confidence.


So, if you haven't lifted the mandolin in a while and are feeling the pangs to get back into playing, let Paddy's contagious excitement about Irish music and the mandolin draw you back into a love affair with the instrument. And if you're just starting out with the mandolin, check out Mandolin Basics where Paddy will set you up with all you need to know to master the instrument in just 18 wonderful lessons.

Here's a tutorial with Paddy teaching *The Sligo Maid*:

[https://youtu.be/6WQq3V\\_1XHg](https://youtu.be/6WQq3V_1XHg)


## The Sligo Maid

Play it!



### Mandolin Progressions

with Paddy Cummins




**EASY ABC**  
**TUNE TYPE:** Reel  
**TIME SIG:** 4/4  
**KEY:** A Dorian

**1ST PART (X2)**

A- BA (3BC#D' EF' G'E'D' B AGED  
 G- BG D'GBG DEGA BAGB  
 A- BA (3BC#D' EF' G'E'D' B AGED  
 (3BD'B BG ABGE [1 DEGA BAAG]  
 [2 DEGA BAAD']

**2ND PART (X2)**

E'A'G'A' A'- GA' (3B'AG' AE' GE' D'-  
 EG' (3A'GF' G'AGE' D'E'GA' (3B'AG' A'G'  
 E'A' (3B'AG' A'- GA' B'GA'E' GE' D'-  
 EG' (3G'GG' E'D'BA [1 (3BD'E' G'D' BAAD']  
 [2 (3BD'E' G'D' BAAG]



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Tom Delany & Caroline Keane

Tiarnán Ó Duinnchinn

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# MAURICE O'KEEFE FESTIVAL

## Kiskeam and Ballydesmond

March 30th Easter Weekend 2024. Seán Laffey reports for Irish Music Magazine.

Photo : Seán Laffey



The Maurice O'Keeffe Festival is shared between Kiskeam, Ballydesmond and Newmarket on the Cork side of the Sliabh Luachra triangle. My Saturday was spent between Kiskeam, which sits on high ground, and the valley that holds Ballydesmond; rolling hills connect the townlands and the distinctive sound of Sliabh Luachra music knots all these communities together.

I met festival organiser and box player Pat Fleming as the morning's set dance class drew to a close at the GAA sports hall in Ballydesmond. Before I could get my day into gear at Kiskeam, there

next hour we walked and whistled our way through the three-part tune. As we reached the road beyond the river and looked back, there was a perfect rainbow dipping into Kiskeam, the foreground rushes of the hillside bathed in orange light, magical. On finishing the loop there was one more surprise. Anita had a bag of chime bars, we each got one. They made up sets of chords, so not only could we whistle the polka but we could accompany it too.

With a couple of hours before the evening concert I divided my time between an excellent singing session in the Shamrocks pub, with its dark front room and a blazing fire, so cosy. Then it was back to John D's pub in Ballydesmond to award myself a half hour indulgent listening to the early evening session with fiddler John Daly at its helm. The crowds hadn't arrived yet and the music was just sublime. The pub's wall displays dozens of black and white photographs of the greats of Sliabh Luachra music, a place of pilgrimage if ever there was one.

Kiskeam Community Hall was the setting for the evening concert, which doubled as a double CD launch. The night was emceed by Mary Conroy who put each musician at their ease and had great rapport with the hundred strong audience in the small hall. One of the standout performances for me was from the young Kiskeam Set dancers, parish boys and girls who showed a great love of the music and locality. The album launches, which made up the bulk of the evening, were very special. Valerie Casey gave us a simple performance of her new CD *In the Silence of the Twilight*, she must be one of the finest vocalists in the country and her delivery of songs from her album was top drawer.

“The smile on Timmy O'Connor's face brightened every corner of the room”

was a photocall with a sculpture of a fiddler who is forever ready to play a slide or two.

Kiskeam's two pubs were buzzing hives of music on the Saturday afternoon (the festival held 27 sessions over the 4-day weekend). It was standing room only in The Why Not Bar, with every chance of getting a fiddle bow in your back as you waited for your beverage. I remarked to a fellow listener there was only one guitar and one bodhrán in the mix, this was a session where it was a badge of honour to know the local repertoire. A walk across to the Kiskeam Community Centre to catch the sound check of Timmy O'Connor, Pat Fleming and Steve Cooney. With the Australian guitarist giving an unplugged burst of his accompaniment genius, which left me spellbound.

The late afternoon was another treat, this time a whistling walk with Anita Bennis. Whistling in this case in the Lauren Bacall tradition, the pucker your lips and blow variety. A dozen or so of us tyro-siffleurs joined Anita on a loop walk of the Glouneen River. Gathering in a small clearing below the town within a ring of trees, on each tree a wren nestbox (this is Dreoilín country); Anita took out a camping kettle and demonstrated the physics of whistling. Then we democratically voted to learn the *Newmarket Polka* and for the

Then came the launch of *Tunes From Tooureendarby* and it drew the biggest applause of the night, that was for octogenarian Timmy O'Connor. Introduced by a short interview by Mary Conroy, he was modest and self-effacing, yet when he began playing with Pat Fleming and Steve Cooney, the smile on Timmy's face brightened every corner of the room.

There's an untroubled happiness in the music of Sliabh Luachra and you get the real McCoy at the Maurice O'Keeffe Festival. I've marked the calendar for 2025, and I'm determined to take in the whole weekend next year.



Photo : Seán Laffey



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# MUIREANN NIC AMHLAOIBH AND DÓNAL O'CONNOR

Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris, 24th March 2024. Michael Walsh reports.



“Not all sean nós songs are about sad partings, unrequited love and loneliness.” Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh teases while introducing *Nead na Lachan / Cuirimid Deandaí*, two children’s songs that she’s about to perform with her ‘neighbour’ Méabh ní Bheaglaioich who she’s invited on stage. There follows a sean nós tour de force; the thrilling vocal dexterity of these two West Kerry singers expertly accompanied by the immaculate fiddle of Dónal O’Connor.

Muireann’s captivating voice embodies the elemental splendour of her native Dún Chaoin. “I’m looking at putting some of Peig Sayers’s stories to music. It always excites me to work with the intrinsic

arrangements of trad classics. We’ve played together for many the year now and of course Dónal’s mother Eithne was a massive influence on me.”

The recent revival in sean nós singing is in no small part due to Muireann and her masterful collaboration with the Irish Chamber Orchestra in *Róisín Reimagined*, produced by Dónal. Singing sean nós is considered cool again and a new generation of listeners have been introduced to timeless songs. “It was probably the most important musical moment of my life and has given me the confidence to take risks to evolve and develop the tradition.”

This is an evening of myriad musical highlights, skipping between exuberant tin whistle fuelled jigs, sprightly West Kerry Polkas and a luxuriant range of sean nós classics from the frivolous to the mournful.

The duo’s tender treatment, on flute and fiddle, of *Lord Inchiquin*, O’Carolan’s dignified slow air, resonates perfectly in the Baroque surroundings of La Chapelle.

Muireann gives a heartfelt rendition of *The Emigrants Farwell*, a sorrowful anthem of parting and lost love, set in the Vale of Avoca.

Dónal delves into the Lá Lugh back catalogue and reminisces about how uncool it felt at the time to perform with his parents. The duo’s performance of *The Wedding* jig and *Aunt Lizzie’s* is imbued with passion and exuberant delight.

The concert takes a turn towards the celtique diaspora with *El Garrotín*, the Asturian piping tune played in a flamenco style and made famous by Llan de Cubel; these two exceptional artists nimbly displaying their musical eloquence. Muireann majestically delivers *Bean Dubh A’ Ghleanna*, a haunting sean nós tale of unrequited adoration.

A particularly poignant moment is when Muireann and Meabh sing *A Mháire Bhán Óg*, a song learnt from the late lamented Séamus, “the song is as gaeilge but Seamus insisted the chorus was Japanese ... air

“It always excites me to work with the intrinsic musicality of the Irish language”

musicality of the Irish language. Peig was from the same parish that I grew up in and I can empathise with what she told about her life. There’s an intriguing juxtaposition of us both living in this area but how different our lives are.”

Muireann and Dónal are performing in the historic Centre Cultural Irlandais as part of the Chapel Sessions. The concert opens with Muireann’s aching rendition of the love song *Do Bhí Bean Uasal* with Dónal in support, deliciously painting musical patterns on the keyboards; the familiar melody of Carrickfergus entrancing the listeners. They remain captivated as she introduces *Port na bPúcaí*, a song from the Blasket islands about a fisherman enchanted one night by music calling on the sea wind; whale song or the voice of a woman captured by the fairies. Muireann’s crystalline vocals entwining the delicate fiddle melodies.

The Paris concert is a brief respite for the duo from the intensity of performing with Orchestre National de Bretagne in *Irlande Classique*, *Éire Chlásaiceach* under the direction of Franco-Irish conductor Fiona Monbet. A series of concerts in Rennes, Lorient and Brest featuring compositions by Bill Whelan, Ina Boyle and a new commissioned work from Michael Gallen whom Muireann first met at a session in Dingle. “Michael sang one of his own compositions and it made a massive impression. I hugely admire and respect his work so when he invited me, I immediately accepted. The orchestral work is wonderfully challenging and massively fulfilling. Also performing as a duo with Dónal is great because there’s so much musical space to explore new

fal al al o horo air fal al al e ...”

The encores encapsulate the musical fluency of these emeritus performers. First Dónal’s composition, *Gort na Glaise*, inspired by the legendary Táin; “a chirpy number, in praise of The Brown Bull of Cooley”. Next Méabh joins the duo for the jaunty *Bó Na Leathadhairce*, “a primary school song taught to young children about the joys of making poitin”.

The concert publicity had spoken of creating a moment of infinite poetry, a high bar indeed, but masterfully delivered on a night of exquisite vocals and compelling playing – pure joy.





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**RUM RAGGED****Gone Jiggin'****LHM Records LHMO77, 12 Songs, 43 Minutes [www.rumragged.com](http://www.rumragged.com)**

Our dear departed colleague Aidan O'Hara made a number of *Radharc* documentaries on the Irish of Newfoundland on RTE 1 in the 1980s. I'm sure he would have been delighted with *Gone Jiggin'* from Rum Ragged. Having seen the band play on numerous occasions at the Milwaukee Irish Fest, I know they are determined to tend to their living tradition.

Rum Ragged consists of Mark Manning (lead vocals, guitar), Aaron Collins (vocals, bouzouki, mandolin, tenor banjo, accordion, whistle, harmonica), Zack Nash (tenor banjo) and Cape Bretoner Colin Grant (fiddle, step dancing). The album was produced by Billy Sutton (who also plays with Irish based Miscellany of Folk). Billy contributes bass bodhrán, percussion and vocals.

*The Road to Lushes Bight (Island Stock)* is an homage to home, a commentary on the pulling power of Toronto, the inevitable doubts and ennui of comfortable middle age, where "all they've started ends" and the longing for roots "this place you are leaving is always your home".

Collins plays box on *Ray Head's*, *Harry Eveleigh's* and *Mrs Belles*.. the first a slow tune, the latter two are Newfoundland singles, similar to a Kerry slide. Each name in the selection referring to tradition bearers from whom the band learned the melodies. Comical songs are popular in Newfoundland and the album includes: *Kelly and the Ghost*, *Thomas Trim*, and *Riley*. The habitual drunk Kelly is scared into sobriety by meeting a spirit on the way home; I won't spoil the twist in the tale, it's there where the comedy lies.

*The Dewy Dells of Yarrow* is a standout ballad from Manning. And for rarity, the traditional song *Paddy Hyde* has its first recording and what a good job Rum Ragged do with it. There's an unknown Irish provenance on *The Green Shores Of Fogo* which was first collected in 1952 by Kenneth Peacock from a Mrs John Fogarty.

Box and banjo are to the fore on the *Viking Jig* and this smoothly transitions to *West Bay Centre* as Colin Grant joins the fun. Hailed by many as the finest band to come out of Newfoundland in a generation, *Gone Jiggin'* is an album for the ages. Highly recommended.

**Seán Laffey****SESSION A9****The Magic Roundabout****Raj Records RAJCD 006, 8 Tracks, 40 Minutes <https://session9.bandcamp.com>**

Loved for their mischievous humour as well as their high-quality music, this magnificent seven-piece has been among the most popular bands on the Scottish folk scene for quite some time. Each member is a star in their own right: drummer Dave "Chimp" Robertson, pianist Brian "Beard" McAlpine, singer and guitarist Marc "Colonial" Clement, and fine fiddlers four. Adam Sutherland from Inverness, Gordon Gunn from Wick, Kevin Henderson from Shetland and Charlie Mckerron from Speyside play the fiddle pieces which are the hallmark of Session A9, mostly their own compositions here. Although this is a studio recording, that humour is evident from the album title to the final frantic reel *Eroticon VI* - named for a conference which Adam attended, I think!

*The Magic Roundabout* opens with a punchy Sutherland strathspey introduced in cinematic style with ominous pounding chords, and quickly moves into a pair of delightful reels by Gunn and Mckerron. Waltzes from McAlpine and Mckerron provide a sweet contrast, artfully arranged to make the most of the band's prodigious musicianship. *Friday the 13th* is a contemporary slow air with no filmic references, cool jazz and carefully jarring cadences behind some superb fiddling. Billy Peace's joyous Orkney saunter *Rachel's Graduation Day* has a touch of that American swing which spices so much Northern Isles music. Speaking of Americana, the other two slower tracks here are songs with a transatlantic pedigree: Tom Waits' *Heart of Saturday Night* and Robbie Robertson's *Twilight* which predates the movie by a few years. Both vocal numbers are backed with all the verve of Vegas or Nashville, lush without turning syrupy.

After some very precise driving on the title track, our heroes close this classy CD on a selection of happy tunes: a jaunty fling and two lively reels, no sharp objects, just smooth bowing and solid accompaniment.

**Alex Monaghan****MOON LOOKS ON****Way Out West****Baroda Music, 11 Tracks, 42 Minutes [www.moonlookson.com](http://www.moonlookson.com)**

Stephen Gormley, aka 'Moon Looks On', has released *Way Out West*, a much anticipated album of original compositions, themes that tackle ordinary human conundrums, celebrates the natural world and explores relationship dynamics with maturity. He is an articulate lyricist, drenched in the wonders of the natural world, well connected to our mountains, land, rivers and island seascapes.

Genre-defying, he is a fine singer, versatile, emotional with great range. The title track *Way Out West* celebrates his youth, a man who was "born to roam and born to ramble", rhyming couplets to a catchy melody, "love is always such a gamble", (is there a west of Ireland hint of Saw Doctors in it?).

A relationship explored in a song inspired by the ocean, ancient mythology, the fish-creature, temptress turned woman in *Selkie*, in first person, the writer falls under the spell of a girl, like the pull of the ocean, "she carried me home", great pace in *Cabin Fever*, a swing, a fling, a gin with Rosie, storytelling to music. *The Mist from the Mountain* takes him back to the Ox mountains where life began, and like Seamus Heaney who called his place of origin 'a cherished territory', Stephen Gormley's Sligo is just that.

*Raising the Roof* is a standout, a song of loss, memories, "of youth come alive dancing in the early morning sun", best to "raise a glass to those who've gone their way", celestial references, spirit soaring, clouds parting, tenderness; "I hear you sometimes whistling in the breeze", and the listener is treated to a blast of whistling, most unusual, charming.

With a host of musical luminaries as guests, the album is on the Baroda Music label, recorded and produced by Bill Shanley, also featuring Stephen O'Dowd, Aisling Bridgeman, Seamie O'Dowd and Emma Gormley among others, an excellent piece of work.

**Anne Marie Kennedy****WOLF LOESCHER****Immigrant Songs****Off Hand Productions, 12 Tracks, 54 Minutes [wololoco.com](http://wololoco.com)**

Wolf Loescher is a singer/storyteller based in Longmont, Colorado, who has had a long association with the Celtic scene in Texas and will tour Ireland with the Piper Jones band in summer 2024. Wolf sings songs and tells stories from the Old World and the New, accompanying himself on his custom Irish bouzouki, tenor guitar, bodhran, and foot percussion.

A highland pipe lament opens the album on Runrig's *A Dance Called America*, a song about the enlightenment's capitalist ideals and the colonization of Anglophone America, and how that idea still fuels the draw of the USA for the poor, disposed and ambitious. He invests Robert Earl Keen's *Mariano* with a staccato beat, with Mari Black's fiddle playing knitting the track together as the song tells of an immigrant who works illegally in the southern USA. He takes us into Irish Celtic rock on The Elders' *American Wake*, a song that deserves a wide appreciation and would work in a number of acoustic contexts.

Steve Earle's *City of Immigrants*, it is a multicultural urban experience with a bravado intro from Tim Britton's uilleann pipes playing a zydeco riff, upbeat and strident, the drums and bass creating a place for Frances Cunningham's harmony vocals. More uilleann pipes and some gorgeous guitar playing from Scooter Muse on Brendan Graham's *Isle of Hope*. Wolf's voice here is at its most emotional and fragile on the album. More strings on Pat Byrne's *The Hills of Killedmond*, a look back at the home an immigrant has left in Ireland; the language here locates the story in the recent present and yet it is a timeless reminder that nearly every family in Ireland will have an exiled daughter and son in their family tree. Economics and opportunity push emigrants into immigrants and there is no more explosive propellant than discovery of gold by John Sutter which resulted in the Californian Gold Rush which Wolf sings about on Dan Fogelberg's *Sutter's Mill*.

The final track is Loescher's version of Willie Nelson's *Living in the Promiseland*, with its initial verse:

*Give us your tired and weak, And we will make them strong  
Bring us your foreign songs, And we will sing along*

Running parallel to the main song is *This Land Is Your Land* written in 1940 by Woody Guthrie. In these times of isolationism and border walls, *Immigrant Songs* reminds us of the power of an idea to make the best of us and of all new worlds.

**Seán Laffey**



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**PETE MORTON****Fair Freedom****Own Label, 10 Tracks, 47 Minutes [www.petemorton.com](http://www.petemorton.com)**

Wordsmiths come in a variety of flavours, some are verbose, others doodle in the verbal margins of meanness. Peter Morton's writing is literate, liberal, and often funny, he obviously delights in the cadence of syllable and the allure of alliteration. The opening track, *The Rivers of the Isle* would test any O-Level geography student in the UK, its rivulets of rhyme here as deft as the Derwent, the Dee and the Don. Things get a lot more environmentally serious on *Newton's Parakeet*, the extinction of keystone fauna is a warning of our own species' vulnerability:

*And the weeds would fill the street,  
When we fell in our defeat,  
Non existent, not a tweet!  
Like Newton's Parakeet.*

*The Ghost of a Sailor*, is the longest track at 7 minutes, delivered in talking blues style. He imagines a friendly ghost in your local pub. The apparition can be seen when the filter of modern life is lifted by a surfeit of drink. The ghost reflects, cogitates and considers the hundreds of years of history that have played out in the bar. The monologue is interspersed with verses of songs such as *Adieu Sweet Lovely Nancy*, *All for Me Grog* and *My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean*, each plucked from the ages the spirit has witnessed passing before him.

He considers the current situation in Gaza in his song *Sharing The Land*, a call for a peaceful two State solution, which seems so difficult from this current point in history. He offers us advice against the tribulations and trolls of spending too much time on social media in *The Genuine You*:

*Don't let this modern life break your heart  
You've been perfect here from the start,  
Away from the likes, the dislikes, the pressure and fear.  
This world's got bullies who can be so cruel,  
Technology can take us all for fools*

Pete Morton frequently takes on the jester's motley and tells truth to power. Check out *Fair Freedom* on Bandcamp and discover the potential of his lyrics for yourself.

**Seán Laffey****MELANIE HORSNELL****As the Trees Have Always Known****Own Label, Single, 4 Minutes [www.melaniehorsnell.com.au](http://www.melaniehorsnell.com.au)**

W.B. Yeats found inspiration in the woods at Coole Park, where he saw "an entrance to another world", similarly the Australian singer-songwriter Melanie Horsnell draws deep inspiration from trees. From her forthcoming album *Gold and Carnelian*, she has released a single, *As the Trees Have Always Known*, composed while touring Northern NSW, a reflective time as evidenced in the melody. On route to Dorrigo, she watched the trees "leaning into each other", mutually supportive.

Rich in poetry, the voice ethereal, in meditative mood, the trees are being carefully observed, as if in a trance, the writer engrossed with nature, watching the limbs reach up, their "heads touch the sky", during "the season of growing", she asks, "can we live this life together", as vegetation flourishes in the wilds of the Australian bush. "Take me down to the river, come and watch the water flow", a sweet, repeated refrain.

There's great synergy between the voice and instrumentation, accompaniment feels natural, organic, ebbing and flowing like the river, with Colm Mac Con Iomaire on fiddle, Jonathan Zwartz on double bass, Bill Risby on piano and Hamish Stuart on drums, a tasty sample of what's to come in the album.

**Anne Marie Kennedy****CLARE CUNNINGHAM****On My Way/Ar Mo Bhealach****Own Label, 18 Tracks, 70 Minutes [www.clarecunninghammusic.com](http://www.clarecunninghammusic.com)**

Living in Nashville, staying close to her Irish roots in her recent album *On My Way/Ar Mo Bhealach*, Clare Cunningham has already

established herself with a solid reputation as a fine vocalist and songwriter. An outspoken, empathetic, advocate for mental health, she has worked with Garth Brooks, Steve Earle and Vince Gill among others. This album, with twenty-three guest musicians is a prayerful tribute to Ireland, a repository of love-filled memories and an emigrant lament.

*Irish Dad* written with Steve Dean and Bill Whyte is a tribute to her own father, "my dear old Irish dad", his devotion to the Irish parenting cliché, lines taken from *An Irish Blessing*, dovetailed with older generation wisdom, "money comes and money goes", a father's blessing for his daughter. *Until We Meet Again* is a tender love song, for the one love, the only love, perhaps the distant love, the writer vowing to "sing through all the bad", until they are reunited. *Gather All Ye Rosebuds* has a hint of Nashville, a strong country vibe, written with Wood Newton, the message is to Carpe the life out of the diem!

Reminiscent of *A Stór mo Chroí*, there's a trilogy of tributes to Ireland, *Eireann i mo chroí*, like all poignant emigrant songs, a celebration of the birthplace and homeland, the longing for home, "when I dream I dream about the days gone by", sad but warm, lovely. Paired with *Dear Ireland*, epistolary, a letter to home, "if I could take you here with me", an evocation to always remember her as the exile, also *Home Again*, in homage, the poet counting down the days until the next visit, "tell her I'm on my way", the last line, fittingly in our native tongue, "tá mé ar mo bhealach", tuning in with the title.

**Anne Marie Kennedy****RICHARD TRETHEWEY****Two Halves****Own Label, 10 Tracks, 46 Minutes [www.richardtrethewey.org](http://www.richardtrethewey.org)**

A native of Cornwall, Richard Trethewey is a singer, cittern and fiddle player who has a deep understanding of the region's folk tradition, and he has devoted a lot of energy to researching the local history, presenting music with his own individual interpretation of various events, contemporary in feel while deeply respectful to the area's rich heritage. As well as his solo work, he is a member of several groups and ensembles as well as working as a music therapist. On this album he is joined by some exceptionally talented musicians, including Freya Jonas on piano and Neal Jolly on double bass, as well as using niche instrumentation such as a wonderful brass quartet on *The Sounds Of The Mine*.

The album, as its title suggests, consists of two sets of five tracks; the first five are inspired by stories associated with Cornish rivers, the remainder focus on Cornwall's industrial history. All music is composed and arranged by Richard, and he displays a wonderful sense of harmony and dynamics while retelling the various stories he is so familiar with. The ensemble playing is very special and all participants are clearly deeply invested in the various themes.

He has a relaxed and pleasant vocal style, so the songs flow very naturally. *Queen Of The Cornish Rhine* has a nice medieval feel, while *The Lonesome Track* has a nice insistent rhythm. The second half includes material specifically associated with mining. *Trethewey Mine* relates a true story of members of Richard's family who emigrated to Canada seeking their fortune in the 19th century. There are also two excellent instrumental pieces - *Ruan Lanihome Castle* builds slowly from a solo harp before developing with beautiful harmonies.

Overall, this is a fine album from an artist who is obviously deeply committed to his work.

**Mark Lysaght****MOJNA****Väntenätter****Helio Records, 9 Tracks, 33 Minutes [www.mojnamusic.com](http://www.mojnamusic.com)**

I'm reviewing this album in the week after the controversial 2024 Eurovision Song Contest, which was held in Malmö, Sweden. This album is the best antidote for the over produced glam pop pantomime we often associate with that competition.

Thomas Eriksson (composer / guitars), Helga Myhr (Hardanger fiddle) and Anna Malmström (clarinet / bass clarinet) are MOJNA, a Swedish/Norwegian trio playing newly composed, Nordic folk music on guitar, Hardanger fiddle and clarinet/bass clarinet. Their debut album *För Sola Skin' På Tak* (2022) was nominated for both Manifestgalan (2023)





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and Folk & Världsmusikgalan (2023). MOJNA's music has credence and credibility within the cognoscenti.

Thomas Eriksson is a Swedish guitarist, cittern player and composer who works mainly with traditional and contemporary Nordic folk music. He is currently living in Oslo, Norway. The music on *Väntenätter* has a tendency to be glowering, and deliciously so; MOJNA's darkness has a charm all of its own. The trio performs newly composed, inventive Nordic folk. The clarinet in particular brings out this music's sombre qualities in tracks such as: *Väv*, especially the first half before the Hardanger fiddle which is in the same tonal range, joins in, adding subtle trills and tremolo. *Spegling* is a minimalist four minutes of breathy flute and resonant clarinet coupled with an atmospheric guitar and a gentle hum of a breeze. *Svirra* is a dance tune which makes the most of the drone DNA of the Hardanger, the music working round and round; there's a break in the fiddle melody as the guitar briefly takes up the main tune.

The title track *Väntenätter*, which Google translates as 'Wait Tonight' does indeed take a long time to build into its circular crescendo, this pattern of a considered beginning is a hallmark of Eriksson's composing talent.

Irish listeners will have no problem with the material here as this ground has been harrowed by Altan's Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh with her adoption of the Hardanger fiddle into Irish traditional music. MOJNA's *Väntenätter* will bring you into a mystical world of new Nordic music, this is one for the musically adventurous.

Seán Laffey

#### MICHELL, PFEIFFER & KULESH

##### Flowers

Ditto Music, 10 Tracks, 37 Minutes [www.odettemichell.com/mpk](http://www.odettemichell.com/mpk)

A trio of ladies who sing in close harmony, Odette Michell, Karen Pfeiffer and Daria Kulesh. They are also multi-instrumentalists, playing bouzouki, guitar, accordion, bodhrán, shruti box, percussion and woodwind (Irish flute and recorders). Produced, mixed and mastered by

Jason Emberton, the album features the impressive instrumental talents of Jason Emberton (drums, strings, keyboards), Katrina Davies (violin), Phil Beer (violin on *The Cossack's Bride*), Jonny Dyer (guitar on *May Colven*) and Marina Osman (piano on *Those Were the Days*).

The title track *Flowers* is about sisters who each say, "in the bracken, I met a strange man, a lust in his heart, and a knife in his hand". This is a murder ballad, but it is the three sisters who do the deadly deed!

Other songs include *My Love's in Germany* and Pete Seeger's *Where Have All the Flowers Gone?*, the melody was from a Ukrainian folk song. It came to Seeger by way of a melody from an Irish lumberjack song, "Johnson says he'll load more hay."

The unique musical dimension that Michell, Pfeiffer & Kulesh bring to this art form is their ability to sing international songs in European languages. For example *Those Were the Days My Friend*, that Mary Hopkins classic takes on a whole new suit of clothes when sung in German. Similarly *The Cossack's Bride*, which was the trio's debut single is set to the familiar tune that Dion O'Brien used for the Seekers' *The Carnival is Over*. It began life as a Russian Folk song, which you may know as *Stenka Razin*. Michell, Pfeiffer & Kulesh help us discover, it's a dreadful tale of a Persian princess being thrown off a boat in the Volga River in a moment of drunken macho chest beating by the Cossack leader Stepan "Stenka" Razin. An event that may have actually taken place.

Another real event was the creation of the song *Peatbog Soldiers*, which was written in a German political prisoners' concentration camp in 1933. It is without doubt the most well known folk song in Europe and their version is a chilling juxtaposition of despair and hope.

Passion and poignancy mark this as a debut album that is surely a curtain raiser for a long career ahead.

Seán Laffey



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# THE MIST FROM THE MOUNTAIN

Seán Laffey writes, one recurring theme in Irish songs is that of the old place, a location fondly remembered. It's the meat on the bones of *Spancil Hill* and the melancholy of the *May Morning Dew*.

Famine, emigration and the American wake all feed into this nostalgia, in the true sense of the word, a sad sickness for the world that we have left behind.

On listening to Stephen Gormely's (AKA The Moon Looks On) new song *The Mist from The Mountain*, we can find echoes of that deeper tradition in his words. Which he told me are based in a real time and real place.

“I’m immensely proud of this little corner of our island in the north west that I call home”

“The cottage in Coolaney sits at the foot of the Ox mountains with the Atlantic ocean on the other side of the mountains. It’s a regular occurrence to wake up in the mornings with the mountains nowhere in sight, shrouded in a thick mist which envelops all that it encounters. As children we trekked the hills and travelled up the old lodge road on a regular basis, seeking out adventures and mischief, or made our way down through the land

to the island below the meadow and fished the Owen Beg river, always hoping for a good trout on the end of the line. My parents have an immense respect and love for this place and it is something which has been passed on. I’m immensely proud of this little corner of our island in the north west that I call home.”

### THE MIST FROM THE MOUNTAIN

Oh the mist from the mountains it swallows the trees  
The hawk eyes his prey hovers still on the breeze  
The cold air surrounds me and it smothers my plans  
I’m back where I started where it all began

And the old roads are winding through the valleys and hills  
The sheep wear their colours cut through fences at will  
And the fowl here are plenty finding homes in the gorse  
There are all kinds of creatures hunting without remorse

Everywhere I travel these days  
I’ll dream of my youth beneath the Ox mountain range  
Sure as the rivers they run, Time it waits for no man  
In the eye of a storm, there is always the calm

Here the rivers and lakes team with all kinds of fish  
We made rafts in the summer swam whenever we wished  
We would trek to the island with our arrows and spears  
Plan our lives out at ease by that old wishing chair

And if an animal died we would bury our own  
I can still hear the pickaxe as it sparks of the stones  
Those were simpler times, maybe that’s how it seems  
But I remember those days when I drift in my dreams

Everywhere I travel these days  
I’ll dream of my youth beneath the ox mountain range  
Sure as the rivers they run, Time it waits for no man  
In the eye of a storm, there is always a calm

Never a moment in my life without you  
Oh a man needs a dream to hold onto  
Never a moment in my life without you  
Oh a man needs a dream to hold onto

Everywhere I travel these days  
I’ll dream of my youth beneath the ox mountain range  
Sure as the rivers they run, time it waits for no man  
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