

19th ANNUAL

Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival

FREE
PROGRAMME

September 26 - October 6, 2019



BlueStacksFestival



donegalcoco

Presented by Donegal County Council Culture Division



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council



Clár Eire Iddánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017-2022



BA MHAITH LINN BUÍOCHAS A GHABHÁIL CHUIG

Ailis McIntyre, Michael Daly, Andrea Kennedy Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon. **Conor Malone**, Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey. **Seamus Carbin**, Leghowney Hall Committee. **Rose Mary Ward**, Bluestack Centre & Hostel, Drimarone. **Paul Diver**, Prop., Sandhouse Hotel, Rosstownlagh.

John Gallagher, Manager, Cathleen's Fall and Cliff Hydro Electric Power Stations, ESB. **Siobhán Sheil**, Communications Co-ordinator, Irish Water.

Maura Logue, Dark Daughter Productions. **Emer Keon**, Erne Enterprise Development Company Ltd. **Denise Blake**, Literary Programme Curator. **Sarah Binchy**, RTÉ Sunday Miscellany. **Mandy Blinco**, Mark Hill, LUXe. **Deborah Cunningham**, Bluestack Chorale & Donegal Voices. **Kieran Quinn**, Hillary Scanlan, Balor Rep Theatre Company. **Martin Jim McFadden**. **Seán Ó Beirne**, Ceol na gConallach/Comhairle Pharóiste Chill Chartha. **Patsy O'Kane**, Keith Mannion, Underground Originals. **Tara Connaghan**. **Amanda Crawford**, Christian Carbin, Art Kavanagh, Donegal Drama Circle. **Dean Maywood**, Ghostlight Session. **Craobh Phil Rooney** Comhaltas Cheoltóirí Éireann. **Rab Cherry**, Caoimhín MacAoidh, Cairdeas na bhFidiléirí. **Leslie Long**. **John Meade**. **Tommy Callaghan**, Manna Design.

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Cover: 'Fionn Uisce Carnival Parade, Ballyshannon, 2018.' (Photo: Chris Dykes). See Coming Home Carnival Parade, P. 8.

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RÉAMHRÁ | INTRODUCTION

This is the 19th year of the Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival. We are delighted to support artists and engage communities throughout South and South West Donegal with another packed programme of theatre, music, spectacle, and literary events. We are particularly happy this year to be associated with the inaugural Donegal Connect initiative, ten days of special events for returning members of the Donegal Diaspora. See the full Donegal Connect programme on www.donegalconnect.com

New Theatre

The Festival has excelled in recent years as a platform for showcasing new drama in the county. This year, we have two more new works to engage and entertain our audiences - actor and playwright Maura Logue's new play, *The Housekeeper*, set in 1960s South West Donegal and the Balor Rep's presentation of Martin Jim McFadden's autobiographical drama, *Don't Go There*. We are also thrilled to host new shows by two of Ireland's finest comic actors - Jon Kenny in Katie Holly's brilliant *Crowman* and Kevin McAleer in his own inimitable creation, *Guru*. Donegal Drama Circle's 19th show for the Festival is a production of David Mamet's *China Doll*.

Get Involved in Carnival

This year's Carnival Project takes place in association with the Donegal Connect initiative. Under the title *Coming Home*,

it will celebrate Donegal's Diaspora by offering visitors the opportunity to dress up in carnival costume and participate in the Parade on the night. Carnival partners - the ESB and Irish Water - will offer science workshops and tours at Cathaleen's Fall hydro electric power station, Ballyshannon, for primary and second level school students. See p9 for booking details.

Music

This year's music programme is one of the Festival's strongest yet. Audiences will thrill to the contemporary sounds of *In Their Thousands*, *The Henry Girls*, *Slow Place Like Home*, *Lemoncello*, *Pine The Pilcrow* and *Session Americana*, while the traditional programme is no less exceptional and features the likes of Patsy Hanly, Roisín McGrory, Tara Connaghan, Steve Cooney, Peter Campbell, Ellie Nic Fhionnghaile, Claire Friel, Shauna Mullin, Brian McNamara, Mick Brown and Stewart Hardy.

Choral Highlights

We welcome back also the operatic stylings of *The Bluestack Chorale* and the wonderful Donegal Voices ensemble, who this year will perform Joseph Haydn's masterpiece, *The Nelson Mass*, in Ballyshannon and Stranorlar.

RTE Radio 1 Sunday Miscellany

RTE Radio 1's iconic Sunday Miscellany programme makes a welcome return to the Festival this year. Two editions of the programme will be recorded at the Abbey Arts Centre on Sunday, October 6.

Crowman

Performed by Jon Kenny. Written and Directed by Katie Holly

Date: Thursday, September 26

Venue: Balor Arts Centre, Main Street, Ballybofey

Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** €20

Crowman is the acclaimed new play by Katie Holly, featuring Jon Kenny of D'Unbelievables fame. Jon is Dan Lonergan, the Crowman of the title.

The play is Dan's account of the hilarious characters that inhabit his life on a daily basis and of a true love story that never was. By turns poignant and comic, Dan transports his audience on a roller-coaster ride from his childhood to middle-age, from the hurling pitch to the pub - with Jon inhabiting one uproariously funny character to the next, as only he can.



Crowman received nightly standing ovations when it premiered at Cork's Midsummer Festival last year. It comes to Donegal fresh from a triumphant three night run at Dublin's Olympia Theatre.

Jon Kenny is one of Ireland's finest and best loved performers. Actor and comedian in equal measure, he was part of the legendry comedy duo D'Ubelievables with his friend Pat Shortt throughout the 1990s. More recently, he has enjoyed a hugely successful partnership with Mary McEvoy (Glenroe), touring the country with new adaptations of John B. Keane classics such as Letters of A Successful TD and The Matchmaker.

"Kenny is brilliant in the role." -Irish Examiner.

A Sideways View

Written and Performed by Seamus O'Rourke

Date: Friday, September 27

Venue: The Bluestack Centre and Hostel, Drimarone, Letterbarrow, Donegal

Time: 8.30pm • **Cost:** €10

A Sideways View is popular Leitrim performer and playwright Seamus O'Rourke's unique take on Irish life, through his own hugely entertaining stories, poems and recitations. Delivered in his own inimitable style, he will be accompanied on the night by Cavan ballad singer, Shane Carroll.

Seamus O'Rourke has become a household name in recent years through his contributions to RTÉ Radio shows Countrywide and Joe Duffy's Liveline - especially the monthly Funny Friday editions. His heartfelt appeal, late last year, for the Return of a Hard Border and the traditional lifestyle that it entailed, has enjoyed thousands of views on the RTÉ Player and on all main on-line platforms.

Through his Big Guerilla Productions company, he has toured his own self-penned plays - among them Victor's Dung, Pádraig Potts' Guide to Walking and From Under The Bed - the length and breadth of the country to great acclaim. Recent acting credits have included The Field and The Kings of Kilburn High Road at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin and Mark Doherty's Trad for Livin' Dred Theatre Company.



DARK DAUGHTER PRODUCTIONS

The Housekeeper

Written by Maura Logue. Performed by Maura Logue and David Ison

Date: Friday, September 27

Venue: Atlantic Aparthotel, Bundoran

Time: 8.30pm • **Cost:** €10

Date: Thursday-Friday, October 3-4

Venue: McIntyre's Bar, Ballyshannon

Time: 8.30pm • **Cost:** €10



Echoes of Brian Friel's oft explored fading Big House grandeur, are present in the themes and narrative of Maura

Logue's new play, *The Housekeeper*. Set in 1960s South West Donegal, the twilight years of a bygone era are observed through the eyes of live-in housekeeper, Áine McBride, long in the service of the fictional Burke family.

Performed by Maura, accompanied by composer and guitarist David Ison, *The Housekeeper* opens the door to memories of a time in Ireland, when the power of stories, music and family was looked for and loved. Maura's Áine lets us into her life, fills us with her hopes and dreams and thrills us with the pain of lost love.

Maura Logue is an actor, playwright, theatre director and producer from Donegal. She has created many memorable theatre works for the Festival, often on a theme of strong women from times past. Recent highlights have included Sile Molloy (2018), *Mother Loss* (2016) and Anna Katherine Kelly (2012).

David Ison is an American composer, guitarist and singer, now living in Donegal. He issued his highly successful series of Chakra Sound System compositions in 2012. Earlier this year, he recorded a CD of new compositions, *Behind The Mask*, a series of works in response to the writings of W. B. Yeats.

Ger Carey Live!

A Comic Journey inside the Teenage (TY) Mind!

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Date: Monday – Tuesday, September 30 - October 1

Venue: Balor Arts Centre, Main Steet, Ballybofey

Time: 11.00am – 12.40pm • **Cost:** €10 Students (Teachers go FREE)

School Group Bookings - T: 074 9131840

Ger Carey is back with his hilarious stand-up comedy show, created specially for Transition Year Students. By secretly observing his subjects in their natural habitats - leaning on lamp posts, in chippers, outside chippers, in shopping centres, sitting on any kind of steps - Ger has uncovered the weird and frightening world of the teenager.



What's the best wrong answer ever given by a student? Why do lads always have to get to the back of the bus? In class, why is a pigeon on the window sill so fascinating? These and many more equally pertinent questions will be answered by Ger Carey, as he uses comedy to get young people to laugh at themselves and appreciate the differences of others. Stand-up comedy during school hours! What's not to like?

Ger has been performing and refining this hugely succesful show since 2008. His current nationwide tour will take him to almost every theatre in the country over the coming months.

“Portrays the teenage mindset with extreme honesty and classic humour.”

- TY Co-ordinator, Dundalk.

“Not only could I relate the characters to my students, but I could relate the teachers to myself – a hilarious show.” - TY Co-ordinator, Meath.

“Hilarious but real. A must see.” -TY Co-ordinator, Donegal.

BALOR REP THEATRE COMPANY

Don't Go There

*Written by Martin Jim McFadden & Performed by Keith Lynch
Based on the Book by Martin Jim McFadden
Stage Adaptation by Conor Malone. Directed by Kieran Quinn*

16+

Contains Strong
Language and some
Adult Content.

Date: Wednesday, October 2
Venue: Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon
Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** €10

Date: Thursday, October 3
Venue: Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey
Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** €10

Don't Go There is the stark, often hilarious and ultimately inspiring story of Martin Jim McFadden and a decades long battle with the bottle. A wildly engaging portrait of a man who goes through the depths of despair, before eventually clawing his way back to share his story with the world.

Martin Jim McFadden published **Don't Go There** in 2014. He has also written a very well received biography of his great grand uncle, Canon James McFadden – **The Patriot Priest of Gaoth Dobhair**.

Conor Malone is a theatre manager and playwright. His most recent work, **Robin B'stard and The Water Thieves**, has enjoyed a number of very successful runs at the Balor Arts Centre.

Kieran Quinn has directed all Balor Rep's productions for the festival to date. Recent highlights have included Marie Jones' **Fly Me To The Moon** and Michael Harnett's **The Lad From Laghey**.

Keith Lynch is a well-known actor from Derry. This summer, he appeared in Brian Friel's **The Freedom of the City**, staged at The Guildhall as part of the Lughnasa International Friel Festival..



DONEGAL DRAMA CIRCLE



Contains Strong &
Adult Language

China Doll

Written by David Mamet. Directed by Christian Carbin

Performed by Conor Friery and Christian Carbin

Date: Wednesday – Friday, October 2-4

Venue: Leghowney Community Hall,

Leghowney, Bearnasmore

Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** €12/€10 At Door

This will be Donegal Drama Circle's second David Mamet play, having presented *American Buffalo* for the Festival in 2017. In *China Doll*, financial shenanigans are the order of the day as the Pulitzer Prize winning playwright tackles the topical issue of international tax avoidance schemes.



The story revolves around a soon-to-retire New York billionaire, his young fiancée and an aeroplane. Using a complex \$5m tax avoidance scam, the tycoon has just bought a luxury jet as a present for his bride to be. Before leaving his office, he takes one final phone call. The news is not good. The plane has been impounded in Canada for tax violations and his fiancée is being held by Immigration Control. Cue a frantic round of rants and recriminations as the businessman and his assistant try desperately to get the situation under control.

Al Pacino played the role of billionaire businessman, Mickey Ross, during *China Doll*'s 2015 Broadway run. This Donegal production features senior Donegal Drama Circle actors **Conor Friery** and **Christian Carbin** respectively in the roles of Mickey Ross and his assistant, Carson.

Coming Home /Ag Teacht Abhaile Carnival Parade

Date: Saturday, October 5

Venue: Market Street, Castle Street, William Allingham Bridge,
The Port, Ballyshannon

Time: 7.30pm-8.30pm • **Cost:** FREE

The annual Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival Carnival Parade, now in its 19th year, is one of the highlights of the cultural calendar in Ballyshannon and South Donegal. Over 300 performers of all ages will take to the streets in a riot of colour, sound and movement to celebrate this year's Donegal Diaspora flavoured theme, Coming Home .

To mark the occasion, the organizers are issuing a special Invitation to our returning Diaspora visitors to join in the Parade, by participating in an afternoon Carnival Workshop, donning a carnival costume and joining in the fun. To register your interest and book your Carnival Workshop place, please contact Erne Enterprise at T: 00 353 (0)71 9852822 E: ekeon@eircom.net

Co-ordinated by Dark Daughter Productions, the Parade will feature some of Ireland's top carnival and theatre companies including Inishowen based LUXE and Workhouse of Easkey, Sligo as well highlighting the work of local Ballyshannon soundscape artist, Keith Mannion (aka Slow Place Like Home).

A visual feast for all the family, the Carnival Parade will include participants from Donegal Town, Bundoran, Rossnowlagh, Ballintra, Ballyshannon and its environs, all of whom will have enjoyed the pre-Carnival Workshop Programme, over the preceeding weeks.

ESB/Irish Water Educational Programme

Following the tremendous success of last year's programme, our Carnival Partners in the ESB and Irish Water, will again offer a series of educational workshops to primary and second level school students at the ESB's Cathleen's Fall hydro electric power station in Ballyshannon. Last year, over 200 students enjoyed the programme. Interested schools should contact Erne Enterprise now at T: 071 9852822 E: ekeon@eircom.net, to secure their place.

Carnival Finalé

The Carnival Finalé, which is best viewed from the area of William Allingham Bridge, will feature a suitably evocative fire sculpture by LUXE landscape theatre and a special lighting-up of the Kathleen's Fall hydro electric power station, courtesy of the ESB.



Please Note: Parking Restrictions and Traffic Diversions will be in place along the Parade Route from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Please co-operate with Carnival Stewards, An Garda Síochána and Civil Defense personnel, at all times. Warm Clothing is Advisable.

Guru

Written and Performed by Kevin McAleer

Date: Saturday, October 5

Venue: Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey

Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** €18/€16 (Conc.)



It's almost fifty years since Kevin ('Guru') McAleer first coined the word 'mindfulness', and he is still coining it today. His latest stage persona takes the form of a highly enlightened guru, who travels the world giving talks, advanced self-awareness courses and television chat show appearances, to promote his extensive range of self-help bestsellers. His inimitable Advanced Awareness Seminars promise total self-discovery, or your money back. Participants are gently guided to a state of deep relaxation, emptying the mind of all thought, and replacing it with meaningless laughter. An evening of divine light entertainment that's not to be missed.

The Tyrone-born mystic and comedian will be familiar to contemporary Irish and UK television audiences as 'Boring Uncle Colm', of the hugely popular Channel 4 comedy series, Derry Girls. One of the founding fathers of Irish stand-up, his live shows are a masterclass of comic timing and delivery.

"Immaculate mastery of language." - The Scotsman

"Will leave your head spinning and your cheeks hurting." British Comedy Guide

"Kevin McAleer is still the surreal deal." Irish Examiner

"Puts the dead back into deadpan." Irish Times

In Their Thousands, Lemoncello

Date: Friday, September 27

Venue: Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey

Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** €10

Since first coming together in 2012, **In Their Thousands** have established themselves as one of Donegal's finest ever bands. Four EPs of epic, finely crafted songs such as Carrickatine, Vive La Revolucion, Flicker and The Old Man and the Sea, have recently been joined by their first full length CD – the hotly anticipated and very well received *Acrasia* - recorded at Attica Studios, Termon. Earlier this summer, they performed at Germany's largest world music event, the Rudolstadt Festival and most recently at Electric Picnic's Body and Soul Stage. In Their Thousands are Downings brothers Aidan and Declan McClafferty, their cousin Ruairi Friel from Fanad and their friend Martin Smyth from Malin.



Lemoncello are much in demand Donegal-Carlow duo Claire Kinsella and Laura Quirke, who make music together using four basic ingredients - guitar, cello and two voices. They met while studying music at Maynooth University, home to fellow Common Grounds Collective artists, Hatchlings and David Keenan. They released their debut EP, *Stuck Upon The Staircase*, in 2018 and have since performed all over Ireland, including at festivals such as Other Voices, Body and Soul, Belfast's Cathedral Quarter Arts and Clonakilty Guitar Festival. Lemoncello's second EP is due out this autumn.

The Billy Finn Sessions Memorial Concert

Patsy Hanley, Brian McNamara, Shauna Mullin, Caoimhín Mac Aoidh, Dáire Gallagher and members of the Phil Rooney Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

Date: Saturday September 28

Venue: Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon

Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** €10



The late Billy Finn was a native of Kilkenny who spent much of his adult life as a secondary school teacher in Ballyshannon, where he was a founding member of the local Phil Rooney Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. An accomplished uilleann piper and flute player, his various sets of pipes and chanters have been generously loaned by his family to the Billy Finn Trust, whereby many young Donegal uilleann pipers are now learning to play the instruments.

The Billy Finn concert will feature Roscommon flute player, **Patsy Hanley** and Leitrim uilleann piper **Brian McNamara**. Patsy was a close friend of the Finn family and was recently recognised by his peers with the prestigious TG4 Gradam award. Brian McNamara comes from a very musical family from Aughavas.

They will be joined by **Shauna Mullin** of Ballyshannon who grew up in a family steeped in traditional singing. Her repertoire, with elements in both Irish and English, is highly reflective of the North West of Ireland. Other musicians on the night will include the **Phil Rooney Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann**, as well as the fiddle duet of **Caoimhín Mac Aoidh** and **Dáire Gallagher**.

THE BLUESTACK CHORALE & MOUNTCHARLES OPERA FESTIVAL

Songs for an Autumn Evening

With Deborah Cunningham (Soprano), Paul Martin (Tenor), Evan McGarrigle (Piano)

Date: Saturday, September 28

Venue: Harvey's Point Hotel,
Lough Eske, Donegal Town

Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** €10

Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival is delighted to partner with Mountcharles Opera Festival and the Bluestack Choral, to present Songs for An Autumn Evening. Performers will also include Bluestack ensemble founders and soloists **Deborah Cunningham** (soprano) and **Paul Martin** (tenor). The accompanist for the evening is **Evan McGarrigle**.



The Bluestack Choral never fail to bring a diverse, challenging and always interesting programme to their audience and this year will be no different. A journey from opera, through swing-time Americana to touching Irish laments, there's something for everyone at Songs for an Autumn Evening. Indeed, they are proud to debut a choral arrangement of *Dún do Shúil* (A Famine Lullaby) by their own Evan McGarrigle, along with *Mary From Dungloe* which he arranged especially for The Bluestack Choral in 2015.

For the opera lover – or indeed novice, Deborah, Paul and Evan will delight and entertain with their ever-popular duets and arias from Mozart and Faust - brought to you in their own, inimitable style!

Underground Original

Slow Place Like Home, Alan Finan, Nowonos, The Cantinitas

Date: Saturday, September 28

Venue: Atlantic Aparthotel, Main Street, Bundoran

Time: 10.00pm • **Cost:** €10

Slow Place Like Home is the music of Donegal producer/musician Keith Mannion. Keith has released a series of EPs, a mini-album and two LPs, including his brilliant 2015 debut, *Romola*, and the most recent, 2017's *When I see You... Ice Cream!* He has played and worked with acts such as Fujiya & Miyagi, Dan Deacon, Squarepusher and Perfume Genius

"One of the finest producers in Ireland and one of my favourite artists anywhere right now."

- Steve McCauley, BBC Radio 6/BBC Radio Ulster.

Alan Finan is a Ballyshannon artist who weaves intricate guitar melodies with thoughtful lyricism. A distinct sound embedded with electronic textures. His new single, *The Drive*, will be released this October by August XII Records.

Nowonos is an audio visual live performance created by Ballyshannon musician, vocalist and producer, Michael Liston.

The Cantinitas are a three piece band based in South Donegal. Original tunes are their aim and an invitation to step onto the dance floor. Band members are Kieran O'Brian, Patsy O'Kane and Niamh Currid.



Session Americana

Date: Sunday September 29

Venue: Balor Arts Centre, Main Steet, Ballybofey

Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** €15

Session Americana's name perfectly describes this Boston based ultra-gifted, rotating collective of singers and multi-instrumentalists. Band members have played with a variety of acts including Patty Griffin, Josh Ritter and the J. Geils Band. They expertly blend vintage American roots music styles from country to jazz to rock, in a rowdy but deft fashion.



Onstage is a collapsable bar table, wired with microphones, around which the musicians of Session Americana sing and play. A vintage suitcase is recast as a kick drum. An assortment of other instruments – guitars, fiddle, banjo, mandolin, harmonicas get passed around in this modern hootenanny where anything can happen.

Session Americana are Ry Cavanaugh, Billy Beard, Jim Fitting, Dinty Child, Jon Bistline and Jefferson Hammer.

"Their sound is where the freewheeling crackle of a great jam session meets the lean groove of classic country music." - The Boston Globe.

"This stomping ensemble play some serious, down home, rootsy grooves, laced with harmonica and banjos. A wild trad ride that's definitely worth hopping on board with." - Time Out London.

"Every one of the great voices in Session Americana is showcased, and when they coalesce into brilliant harmonies, it's awesome." - The Boston Herald.

The Ghostlight Sessions

Pine The Pilcrow, Bairie, Patata, Gerry Hodgers. MC - Dean Maywood

Date: Wednesday October 2

Venue: Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey

Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** €10

Rising piano, cello and violin trio, **Pine The Pilcrow**, released their debut EP in March 2016 and haven't looked back since. They made many of that year's 'Best Of' lists, including Nialler 9's, The Thin Air and The Last Mixed Tape and were nominated for an IMRO Award for their song, Don't Need Me.



Bairie are led by Derry songstress, Emily McCormick. Their music is best described as 'melancholic folk' with hints of neo-soul, psychedelic rock and jazz. The release of their debut single, Mr Green, led to a live performance on BBC Radio Ulster's Electric Mainline programme, as well support shows with the likes of Duke Special and Ryan Vail.

Patata (aka Shane Devlin) is an open, honest and diverse songwriter and performer. His songs draw on raw emotion delivered through a prism of folk, rock, pop and jazz influences. His soulful, mellow voice a perfect complement to the innate musicality of his songs.

Singer songwriter **Gerry Hodgers** hails from Slane Village where he's run The Purple Sessions in Boyle's Pub for over a decade. Inspired by Guy Clark, Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen, his finger style guitar with open tunings and chord voicings perfectly express the evocative emotions of his music.

Donegal Voices

Conductor and Musical Director, **Andrew Batchelor**.

Performing *The Nelson Mass (Missa in Angustiis/Mass for Troubled Times)* by **Joseph Haydn**. Accompanied by **String Ensemble**.

Date: Friday, October 4

Venue: St. Patrick's Church, Ballyshannon

Time: 8.00pm

Cost: Donations/Retiring Collection

Date: Sunday, October 6

Venue: St. Mary's Church, Stranorlar

Time: 8.00pm

Cost: Donations/Retiring Collection

Joseph Haydn wrote *The Nelson Mass* in Austria in 1798. The work's original title, *Missa in Angustiis/Mass for Troubled Times*, reflected the turmoil in Europe at time, when Napoleon's armies were threatening Vienna itself. However, as the composition was premiered in September of that year, news was filtering through of Napoleon's catastrophic defeat at the hands of Admiral Nelson at the Battle of the Nile. That ensured that the new work became associated with Nelson's victory and was henceforth known as *The Nelson Mass*.



Donegal Voices was formed in 2015 by **Deborah Cunningham**, **Eileen Carr** and **Andrew Batchelor**, Musical Director. With members drawn from all over Donegal, this exceptional 50 member ensemble has performed works by JS Bach (*Magnificat in D*), Vivaldi (*Gloria*), Beethoven (*Mass in C*) and George Friderik Handel (*Coronation Anthems* and *The Hallelujah Chorus*).

Principal soloists, drawn from the Choir, are **Deborah Cunningham**, Soprano; **Fiona Wasson**, Mezzo Soprano; **Pat Doherty**, Tenor and **Paul Martin**, Baritone.

Andrew Batchelor, Conductor and Musical Director, is principally a singer. He has performed extensively in the UK and Europe and was for many years a member of the world renowned Chorus of the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields. He lives in Mountcharles.

37th Annual Glenties Fiddlers Gathering

Date: Friday October 4 - Sunday October 6

Venue: The Highlands Hotel, Glenties

www.donegalfiddlemusic.ie



This major gathering of fiddle players was established in 1983 and is held annually in The Highlands Hotel, Glenties. This popular event is for anyone interested in fiddle music and the formal programme includes classes, a concert with special guest fiddle players, talks and occasional recitals.

Fiddle Masterclass

Date & Time: Saturday, October 5 & Sunday, October 6. 11:00am to 12:30pm

Venue: The Highlands Hotel, Glenties

Cost: €10. Booking is advisable - 071 9852144 or rabcherry1@gmail.com.

Not suitable for absolute beginners.

Three teachers available catering for different levels.

Advanced Fiddle Class. James Hill tunes with Stewart Hardy

Date & Time: Saturday, October 5. 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Cost: €15

Illustrated Talk

James Hill (1810-1853) 'The Paganini of Hornpipe Players', with Graham Dixon.

Date: Saturday, October 5

Venue: The Highlands Hotel, Glenties

Time: 1.00pm

Graham Dixon is a Northumbrian piper who has written an excellent book on James Hill and his music. **James Hill** was the foremost fiddler and composer on Tyneside during the mid-nineteenth century.

Donegal Fiddlers Concert

Date: Saturday October 5

Venue: The Highlands Hotel, Glenties

Time: 9.00pm • **Cost:** €12

One of the main focal points of the weekend is the Donegal Fiddlers concert on Saturday night. This year will feature performances by Roisín and Ella McGrory, Peter Campbell, Claire Friel and a very special guest from the North East of England, Stewart Hardy.

Roisín McGrory is a well established fiddle player and teacher around Inishowen and Derry. A founding member of the Inishowen Traditional Music Project, she released her excellent Brae Road CD in 2016.

Ella McGrory is a daughter of Roisín's and is a wonderful fiddle and piano player. She has just begun studying a Traditional Music Degree Course at the University of Limerick.

Clare Friel is a well known exponent of Donegal's fiddle music. Born with powerful Donegal heritage in Glasgow, Clare and her sisters - Anna and Sheila - have become widely known from playing and singing as the Friel Sisters.

Stewart Hardy is an internationally-acclaimed performer, composer and teacher. Based in the North East of England, a love for the traditional music of Northumberland and Scotland shines through his repertoire and his compositions. This weekend he will play many of the tunes of James Hill (see 'Illustrated Talk' above).

Tara Connaghan, Ellie Nic Fhionnghaile, Steve Cooney, Eithne Ní Ghallchobhair, Mick Brown.

Date: An Aoine 4ú Meán Fómhair / Friday October 4

Venue: Halla an Pharóiste, Cill Chartha / Kilcar Parish Hall

Time: 8.30pm • **Cost:** €10

Oíche ar leith fídléireacht, amhránaíocht agus scéalaíocht ó cúigear ealaíontóir atá ag cur futhu anois in Iar Dheisceart Dhún na nGall. **A special night of fiddle music, traditional singing and storytelling, with five artists from South West Donegal.**

Is ard fhidiléir ó Na Gleanntaí í **Tara Connaghan**. I 2011, d'eisigh sí CD ar dóigh le Derek McGinley, *The Far Side of the Glen*, bailiúcan fhoinn cheoil ó gceantar Ghleann Choilm Cille agus an dtaobh sin tíre. D'eagar sí an toghra Mná na bhFídléireachta, mar chuid de Fhéile Ealaíne an Earagail, anuraidh.

Is amhránaí agus is fídléir den scoth í **Ellie Nic Fhionnghaile** atá ag ceol anois leis an ensemble cliútach idirnáisiúnta, Anúna. Rugadh is tógadh i nGleann Choilm Cille í.

Is giotaraí, cumadóir agus amhránaí é **Steve Cooney**, de bhunadh An Astráil, ach atá ag cur faoi in Éirinn la blianta fada anuas. Cheol sé le Stocktons Wing sna hOchtódaí, comh maith le Séamus Begley, Altan agus Martin Hayes, ó shin i leith. Ceolann sé go minic anois le Dermot Byrne. Tá sé ina chónaí fá Teileann.

Is Dochtúir le Bealoideas í **Eithne Ní Ghallchobhair** Ph.D., Ceolann sí ar an bhfidil agus is scéalaí iontach tarraingteach í comh maith.

As Baile Átha Cliath ó dhúchas don fhidiléir **Mick Brown**, ach atá ina chónaí le fada an lá anois fá Teileann. Tá dúil mhór aige i, agus eolas cuimsitheach aige ar, cheol Iar Dheisceart Dhún na nGall.



The Henry Girls, Erdini

Date: Saturday, October 5

Venue: Leghowney Community Hall, Leghowney, Bearnasmore

Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** €20

The Henry Girls are the McLaughlin sisters – Karen, Lorna and Joleen – from Malin, Inishowen. They have performed their wonderful blend of Irish Traditional, Oldtime Country and Jazz, accompanied by stunning vocal harmonies, throughout Ireland, Europe and the US.



They have recorded three very successful albums to date – December Moon (2011), Louder Than Words (2014), Far Beyond The Stars (2017) – in Glasgow and Malin with their regular Scottish producer, Calum Malcolm (The Blue Nile, Orange Juice, Aztec Camera). Recent high profile appearances have included the Galway Arts Festival, Earagail Arts Festival and the London Irish Centre, Camden Town. They play their biggest headline Dublin show in November when they perform at Liberty Hall.

“Blending Irish and American roots styles with the retro sounds of close harmony groups of the 1940s and 50s, The Henry Girls have forged a sound of their own.” – Hotpress.

Erdini are a hugely popular ensemble from South Donegal, specializing in rousing Bluegrass and Oldtime tunes and songs. With brothers Conor and Rory Corbett on guitar and 5-string banjo, Jim Carbin on mandolin, Jamie Carswell on bass and Scott McGettigan on drums.

RTÉ Sunday Miscellany

Denise Blake, Little John Nee, Olive Travers, Gerard Beirne, Brian Leyden, Louise Kennedy, Tara Connaghan, Ellie Nic Fhionnghaile, Hatchlings, Sarah E. Cullen, Conor and Micheal Murray. Hosted by Sarah Binchy.

Date: Sunday October 6

Venue: The Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon

Time: 3.00pm • **Cost:** FREE. Booking Essential - 071 9851375

*Special Thanks to **The Sandhouse Hotel & Marine Spa**, Rosstownlagh.*

For over fifty years, RTÉ Radio's Sunday Miscellany has been at the heart of the Irish Sunday morning. With its distinctive mix of brand new short essays and poetry presented on air by their authors interspersed with music and song, it makes a hugely welcome return visit to The Abbey Centre where two editions of the iconic radio programme will be recorded for future broadcast.

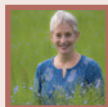
Letterkenny poet **Denise Blake's** third collection, *Invocation*, was published by Revival Press, in 2018. She is a regular contributor to Sunday Miscellany and she was part of last year's Miscellany 50 Live series of celebratory events at the Project Arts Centre, Dublin. Denise facilitates creative writing workshops throughout the North West.



A native of Donegal and Glasgow, **Little John Nee** is a writer and performer, now based in Tuam, County Galway. His shows for theatre include *The Derry Boat*, *Rural Electric*, *The Mental*, *Sparkplug*, *Radio Rosario* and, most recently, *Tea Dance*, with the *Tea Dance Triode*. In October, he will be exhibiting some new sound sculptures as part of his Creative Ireland Residency with the Glens Arts Centre and Leitrim Sculpture Centre, Manorhamilton.



Olive Travers is a clinical psychologist and writer who has lived and worked for all of her adult life in South West Donegal. An experienced writing workshop facilitator, she is a regular contributor to Sunday Miscellany.



Gerard Beirne teaches on the BA Writing and Literature Programme at IT Sligo. He has published six books of fiction and poetry. A past winner of the Hennessey New Irish Writer of the Year Award, his short story collection, *In a time of Drought and Hunger*, was shortlisted for 2015 Danuta Gleed Literary Award.



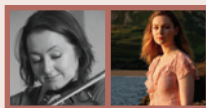
Brian Leyden has written extensively about his home area of Arigna in County Roscommon. He won an RTÉ Francis McManus Award for his short story, *The Last Mining Village* and he has also won many awards for his radio documentaries. His current publications are *Sweet Old World: New and Selected Stories*, his memoir, *The Home Place*, and the novel, *Summer of '63*.



Louise Kennedy grew up in Holywood, Co. Down. Her writing has been published in journals such as *The Stinging Fly*, *The Tangerine* and *Banshee*. Her story, *In Silhouette*, is short-listed for the Sunday Times Audible Short Story Award 2019. She lives in Sligo.



Tara Connaghan is a highly respected fiddle player from Glenties. She co-ordinated the very well received *Mná na bhFidileachta* project for Earagail Arts Festival last year. **Ellie Nic Fhionnghaile** is a singer and fiddle player from Gleann Chaim Cille. She is a member of the internationally renowned vocal ensemble, Anúna.



Hatchlings are an up-and-coming ensemble of songwriters and instrumentalists, whose music draws from a wide range of influences including jazz and folk. The collective includes two Donegal musicians, Eamonn Travers from Ballyshannon and Conor Cunningham from Mountcharles.



Twin brothers **Conor Murray** (Double Bass) and **Michael Murray** (Saxophone) are a couple of young jazz prodigies from An Falcarrach. Recently graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, they toured Ireland earlier this summer in a stellar quartet featuring award-winning drummer and producer David Lyttle and rising Derry guitarist, Joseph Leighton.



Sarah E. Cullen is a singer and multi-instrumentalist from Carrigart. Earlier this summer, as part of an Earagail Arts Festival commission, she took part in a collaborative project exploring the traditional musics of the North West of Ireland and Rajasthan, the return leg of which takes place later this month in India.



BOOKÁIL | BOOKING

For all **Festival events**, tickets will be available for purchase at the venue on the evening of the performance. However to avoid disappointment, please plan to arrive at the venue at least 20 minutes before the advertised showtime. Should you wish, you may also book certain performances in advance, at the venues below.

- Tickets and Booking at **THE ABBEY ARTS CENTRE**, Ballyshannon. T: 071 9851375.
For - Billy Finn Sessions, Don't Go There and RTÉ Sunday Miscellany at Abbey Arts Centre.
- Tickets and Booking at **THE BALOR ARTS CENTRE**, Ballybofey. T: 074 9131840.
For - Jon Kenny Crowman, In Their Thousands/Lemoncello, Session Americana, Ger Carey, Don't Go There and Kevin McAleer Guru at Balor Arts Centre.
- Booking at **ATLANTIC APARTHOTEL**, Bundoran T: 071 9841205. For - The Housekeeper and Underground Original at Atlantic Aparthotel, Bundoran.
- Tickets and Booking at **THE BLUESTACKS CENTRE**, Drimarone. T: 074 9735564.
For - Seamus O'Rourke's A Sideways View.
- Tickets at **WARD'S MUSIC SHOP**, Donegal Town. T: 074 9721313.
For - The Henry Girls, Erdini at Leghowney Hall, Leghowney.

For **General Information** on The Festival, please contact **The Festival Office / Donegal County Library**, Tel. 074 9153900.

DIALANN LAE | DAY BY DAY

Thursday September 26		Page
Jon Kenny, Crowman	Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey	8.00pm 2
Friday September 27		Page
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Seamus O'Rourke, A Sideways View	The Bluestack Centre, Drimarone	8.30pm 3
Dark Daughter Productions, The Housekeeper	Atlantic Aparthotel, Bundoran	8.30pm 4
Saturday September 28		Page
Songs for an Autumn Evening	Harvey's Point Hotel, Lough Eske	8.00pm 13
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SlowPlaceLikeHome/Alan Finan /Michael Lister/Cantinatas	Atlantic Aparthotel, Bundoran	10.00pm 14
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Ger Carey's TY Comedy Show	Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey	11.00am 5
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Ger Carey's TY Comedy Show	Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey	11.00am 5
Wednesday October 2		Page
Don't Go There, Balor Rep	Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon	8.00pm 6
Donegal Drama Circle, China Doll	Leghowney Community Centre	8.00pm 7
Ghostlight Session	Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey	8.00pm 16
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Dark Daughter Productions, The Housekeeper	McIntyre's Bar Ballyshannon	8.00pm 4
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Don't Go There, Balor Rep.	Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey	8.00pm 6
Friday October 4		Page
Donegal Voices Choir and Orchestra	St. Patrick's Church, Ballyshannon	8.00pm 17
Tara Connaghan/Ellie Nic Fhionnghaile/ Steve Cooney/ Eithne Ní Ghallchobhair/ Mick Brown	Halla an Pharóiste, Cill Chartha	8.30pm 20
Donegal Drama Circle, China Doll	Leghowney Community Centre	8.00pm 7
Dark Daughter Productions, The Housekeeper	McIntyre's Bar, Ballyshannon	8.00pm 4
Donegal Fiddlers Gathering (informal)	Highlands Hotel, Glenties	10.00pm 18
Saturday October 5		Page
Donegal Fiddle Masterclasses.	Highlands Hotel, Glenties	11.00am 18
Graham Dixon, 'James Hill/Paganini of the Hornpipe'(Talk)	Highlands Hotel, Glenties	1.00pm 18
Advanced Fiddle Class with Stewart Hardy	Highlands Hotel, Glenties	3.00pm 18
Coming Home Carnival Parade	Streets of Ballyshannon	7.30pm 8
Kevin McAleer, Guru	Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey	8.00pm 10
The Henry Girls, Erdini	Leghowney Hall, Leghowney,	8.00pm 21
Donegal Fiddlers Gathering Concert	Highlands Hotel, Glenties	9.00pm 19
Sunday October 6		Page
Fiddle Masterclasses	Highlands Hotel, Glenties	11.00am 18
Donegal Fiddlers Gathering (informal)	Highlands Hotel, Glenties	2.00pm 18
RTE Radio 1 Sunday Miscellany	Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon	3.00pm 22
Donegal Voices Choir and Orchestra	St. Mary's Church, Stranorlar	8.00pm 17

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Sponsors of:

RTÉ Sunday Miscellany

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