

Belfast Tradfest

23-30 JULY
2023



FULL PROGRAMME AT BELFASTTRADFEST.COM

Booking Details

Box Office

Online at: www.belfasttradfest.com

Enquiries by Telephone: 028 9031 4981

Enquiries by Email: info@belfasttraditionalmusic.com

Refunds

Belfast TradFest can only refund money or exchange tickets in the case of a cancelled event.

Accommodation

City Centre Summer School accommodation can be booked on festival website from £299 for 7 nights.

Accessibility & Age Restrictions

Belfast TradFest aims to be as accessible as possible. Unfortunately a small number of venues have restricted access and age limits due to licensing laws. See website for all access information or email info@belfasttraditionalmusic.com with requirements.

Mailing List

Be the first to get festival info and earlybird discounts by signing up to our mailing list. Subscribe at www.belfasttradfest.com.

Discounts

We offer a variety of earlybird and mailing list subscription discounts, see website for details.

10% Family Discount for 2 or more family members attending Masterclasses, apply code FAMILYJULY23.

For Community and School Group discounts, email info@belfasttraditionalmusic.com or call 028 9031 4981.

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Welcome



I'm delighted to present the 5th edition of Belfast TradFest. This is a hugely significant occasion for our festival. We have overcome the pandemic years and the challenges of recent cuts to arts funding and it seems like the right time to reflect on what we have achieved thus far and where we wish to go in the future.

It would be fair to say that there was a sense of apprehension for that very first festival back in 2017 – many questioned the idea of celebrating traditional music on such a large scale and establishing the only summer school of traditional music in NI, during the busy month of July. However, against the odds, our first festival was hailed a huge success, staging 50 events across the city and welcoming 2,000 attendees. Belfast TradFest, delivered through funding from Belfast City Council, Arts Council NI and in partnership with Ulster University is now internationally recognised as a world-class festival and has grown to over 300 events across multiple stages and venues, with an annual attendance figure of over 15,000 from all over the world.

Through partnership and collaboration we acknowledge and celebrate the cultural diversity of the different traditions here and we are extremely proud of our work in bringing people together, in a shared and defining cultural celebration of traditional music, song and dance from these islands. Established and emerging musicians come here to create and perform, and audiences are attracted to enjoy our cultural treasures at first hand. I hope you'll enjoy our full programme of concerts, masterclasses, workshops, talks, céilís and the ever growing McConnell's Irish Whisky Session Trail which has over 60 sessions this year.

Sharing our traditional arts is a vital part of our human existence, connecting us and enriching lives, and we cherish that. We are so excited to bring this full programme of events to the people of Belfast and to invite many new visitors to our city from all over the world.

So, come along, dance a step, play a tune, sing a song or lend an ear.

Dónal O'Connor

Artistic Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dónal O'Connor".



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Music in the Glen | Róis

Music in the Glen is an exciting new trio. Featuring the combined talents of **Brendan Mulholland** (flute) and founding Réalta members **Conor Lamb** (uilleann pipes, whistles) and **Deirdre Galway** (guitar), these musicians deliver the infectious rhythm and soul which are the hallmarks of the very best of traditional Irish music.

The trio hail from the counties of Antrim and Down, and this is strongly, but not exclusively, reflected both in their styles of playing and their selection of tunes. No matter the provenance of their music, the unifying strand is their tightness of playing and the understanding between each other, forged over 20 years of playing together in Belfast and beyond. Individually they have featured on multiple recordings and have performed with a variety of international acts including Réalta, Gráinne Holland, Craobh Rua and Mary Dillon.



Róis (Rose Connolly) is a composer, performer and multi-instrumentalist, from County Fermanagh. Her body of work includes ensemble, large-scale and small-scale works, solo pieces, electronic solo & ensemble pieces and short film works. Her unique sound is an idiosyncratic combination of modernist and contemporary music with inflections of Irish traditional music, folk and jazz. Rose maintains a busy performance schedule in Ireland, performing with an array of professional musicians in both jazz, traditional and classical contexts.

Date | Sun 23 July

Venue | The John Hewitt

Doors | 3pm

Tickets | £15

Solo Highland Piping Competition

Join us as some of Ireland's top pipers compete to be crowned winner of the Belfast TradFest Solo Highland Piping Competition. Each piper will perform a 6-8 minute medley selection of their choice, showcasing their unique playing styles. Sit back, relax and take in some of the best highland piping to be heard across Ireland.



Ashley McMichael, is from Antrim and is an esteemed piper, both as a soloist and as a member of reigning world champions Field Marshal Montgomery (FMM) Pipe Band. He has won numerous major championships, 2 x grand slams and 9 x World Championships.

Alasdair Donaghy from Tyrone has had a very successful solo piping career, both here in Northern Ireland and in Great Britain. As a member of FMM, he has won the World Championships 3 times, as well as a host of other major and All-Ireland championship prizes.

Kris Coyle from Ballyclare has certainly made a mark in solo piping including 4 x Northern Ireland Piper of the Year, 2 x Ulster Solo Champion, 5 x Ulster Solo Champion Hornpipe and Jig, Inveraray Games (B grade Piobaireachd) 2018 and 4 x Loch Lomond Highland Games Overall Champion.

Reece Doherty from Ballykelly is an up-and-coming solo piper who has had success in local solo competitions and is the current U18 All Ireland champion. He is a current member of Grade 2 Manorcunningham Pipe Band.

Alan Glenholmes from Cullybackey currently competes with Grade 1 Closkelt Pipe Band and has previously played with St Laurence O'Toole and Cullybackey Pipe Band. He has won several prizes in solo competitions across Ireland.

Date | Sun 23 July

Venue | The Deer's Head

Doors | 4pm

Tickets | £5

BOOK NOW: BELFASTTRADFEST.COM

Máirtín O'Connor Band **Maeve O'Donnell, Catriona Ní** **Ghríbín & Ciara Maguire**

Individually recognised as figureheads of the tradition, **Mairtin O'Connor**, **Cathal Hayden** & **Seamie O'Dowd** have built solid reputations as masters with astounding skill, diversity and virtuosity. Together they produce a vibrant and musically charged experience.

Maeve O'Donnell, **Ciara Maguire** & **Catriona Ní Ghríbín** are the current recipients of the TG4 Belfast City Council Bursary Award. To recognise five successful years of Belfast hosting TG4's prestigious Gradam Ceoil awards, Belfast City Council along with TG4 have created a bursary scheme (2022-2027) for young emerging traditional musicians in the city. Each year, three new recipients will receive support from the scheme. The objectives of the scheme are to enhance traditional music in Belfast, support creativity and cultural expression, professional development and to help promote Belfast as a UNESCO city of music.



Date | Sun 23 July

Venue | Empire Music Hall

Doors | 7pm

Tickets | £22.50

BOOK NOW: BELFASTTRADFEST.COM

Fiddle Concert in Memory of Seán Maguire

The word 'genius' may be over-used these days, but there's no other way of describing the phenomenon of Sean Maguire in the world of traditional music. The Belfast man rewrote the book on fiddle playing after bursting onto the scene in the 40s, with a combination of dazzling virtuosity, high creativity and passion for performance. It was a style which pushed the boundaries, nettled the fundamentalists and which he himself called 'progressive traditional'. We pay tribute to the man and his music with a concert featuring some of the finest traditional fiddlers on the planet. Also on the bill; a man considered to be the patriarch of Ulster traditional singing Len Graham and probably the world's greatest tenor banjo player Gerry 'Banjo' O'Connor. This will be a cracker!

Brid Harper from Castlefinn in County Donegal, is regarded as one of the leading Irish traditional fiddle players of the last forty years.

Len Graham is an award-winning traditional singer from County Antrim who holds great passion for the songs of his native Ulster.

Gerry 'Banjo' O'Connor is described by many as the best four string banjoist in the history of Irish music.

Méabh Smyth from Armagh is the current TG4 Gradam Ceoil Ceoltóir óg na Bliana.

Scottish fiddler **John McCusker** has shared stages with Paul Weller, Paolo Nutini, Teenage Fanclub, Graham Coxon and Eddi Reader. Since 2008, he has been a member of Mark Knopfler's band, playing arenas around the world including a double bill with Bob Dylan at The Hollywood Bowl.

Belfast fiddler and academic **Conor Caldwell** is known for his energetic northern fiddle style. His music is informed by his research, which explores both archival and contemporary sources.

Siobhán Peoples is steeped in the musical history of counties Donegal, through her father Tommy, and Clare, through her grandmother Kitty Linnane, the pianist with the original Kilfenora Céilí Band.

Ademar O'Connor from Edenderry, Co. Offaly was recently crowned Fiddler of London 2023.

Ryan Molloy is widely recognised as one of the masters of modern accompaniment in Irish traditional music.

MC for the evening will be **Johnny Murphy**, former pupil of Seán Maguire.

Date | Mon 24 July

Venue | Duncairn Arts Centre

Doors | 7:30pm

Tickets | £17.50

BELFAST TRADFEST PRESENTS

Fiddle Concert

In association with
The Seán Maguire Music Society

Bríd Harper

Len Graham

Gerry 'Banjo' O'Connor

Méabh Smyth

John McCusker

Conor Caldwell

Siobhán Peoples

Ryan Molloy

Ademar O'Connor



MON 24 JULY

2023

DUNCAIRN ARTS CENTRE

TICKETS £17.50

DOORS 19:30

www.BELFASTTRADFEST.com

Flutopia Concert

Belfast is synonymous with the sound of the flute. Energy and creativity are very much the hallmarks of the Belfast style. The music of this city invariably has a persistent and hypnotic pulse, which draws the listener into a trance-like state, reminiscent of that cast by the chanting of Buddhist monks. Tonight's concert features some of the world's best traditional flute players and whistlers from Belfast and beyond and it promises to be a spectacle of brilliant solo and collaborative performances.

A co-founder of Flook and Lúnasa, and a linchpin of Capercaillie's line-up since 1998, Manchester-born flute/whistle and uilleann pipes maestro **Michael McGoldrick** has in recent years performed around the globe in ex-Dire Straits legend Mark Knopfler's band – including a tour with both Knopfler and Bob Dylan.

Belfast born **Desi Wilkinson** is a traditional musician of international repute, known principally as a flute and whistle player and a singer. He has previously recorded two critically acclaimed solo albums, along with five albums with the renowned group Cran.

County Down flute player **Martha Guiney** has been immersed in the traditional music scene from her childhood and has toured internationally and collaborated with many renowned artists worldwide. She has recently released her debut album, *The Raven's Call* to great critical acclaim.

Mary Bergin – 'Just about the best tin whistle player this century' is how the Irish Times referred to Mary in a recent interview. She was born into a very musical family and began playing at an early age winning many awards in Oireachtas and Fleadh Cheoil competitions, including the All-Ireland Championships at Junior and Senior level.

Maria Rafferty has long been a stalwart of the Belfast flute community. Having studied with the McPeake School of Music, and having had the opportunity to spend many years in the company of well-known and respected musicians from the locality, Maria has a wonderful repertoire and style which she passes on to the many students she teaches in the greater Belfast area and beyond.

Gary Duffy is a highly respected flute practitioner and contributor within the traditional music scene of Belfast and beyond. He holds a Masters and Fellowship alongside other vocational traditional music teaching qualifications.

Jude Scott is a member of the Glengormley School of Traditional Music and has attended all four previous editions of Belfast TradFest as a student, learning from masters such as Harry Bradley & Kevin Crawford.

BELFAST TRADFEST PRESENTS



FLUTOPIA

MICHAEL MCGOLDRICK | MARY BERGIN
DESI WILKINSON | MARTHA GUINEY
GARY DUFFY | JUDE SCOTT | MARIA RAFFERTY

TUES 25 JULY

2023

THE BLACK BOX

TICKETS £15 | DOORS 18:00

www.BELFASTTRADFEST.com

Ceol na nGael

Wild Music of the Gael

In association with Scoil Samhraidh Mhic Reachtain.

Muireann Nic Amhlaóibh's childhood in West Kerry saw her immersed in a rich cultural environment and vital living tradition, which was to be hugely influential on the foundation of her distinctive vocal and instrumental sound. She spent thirteen years as lead singer and flute player with the Irish traditional supergroup Danú, and has since gone on to pursue a hugely successful solo career as a singer and broadcaster.

Best Emerging Artist RTÉ Folk Awards 2022, **Cathal Ó Curráin** is a multi-instrumentalist and hails from an exceptionally musical family in the West Donegal Gaeltacht. He plays fiddle, banjo, bouzouki and is also a wonderful singer.

John Doyle - Founding member of the highly acclaimed super group Solas that led him to performing worldwide. His signature guitar sound, singing and songwriting are deemed essential to many of the stellar artists in Irish traditional music.

Described as a born collaborator by The Irish Times, **David Power's** commitment to finding innovative ways to present the uilleann pipes has resulted in various styles of collaborations and projects.

Longtime resident of Belfast, **Lorraine Ní Bhriain** hails from a famous family of musicians in County Clare and is a highly regarded performer and tutor on the concertina.

Fin Moore is a piper, born & bred. Experienced in Highland pipes, Border pipes and Scottish smallpipes, he regularly performs with Dannsa and is a founding member of pipe quartet Seudan.

Support from **Glengormley School of Traditional Music**

Date | Tues 25 July

Venue | Áras Mhic Reachtain

Doors | 7:30pm

Tickets | £15

BELFAST TRADFEST PRESENTS

In association with Scoil Samhraidh Mhic Reachtain

Ceol na nGael

Wild Music of the Gael

MUIREANN NIC AMHLAOIBH

JOHN DOYLE

CATHAL Ó CURRÁIN

DAVID POWER

LORRAINE NÍ BHRIAIN

FIN MOORE



TUES 25 JULY

2023

ÁRAS MHC REACTAIN

TICKETS £15

DOORS 19:30

WWW.BELFASTTRADFEST.COM

Féile Cruitirí Bhéal Feirste

Belfast Harp Festival

In association with Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich.

The Belfast Harp Festival of 1792, was a four-day event organised by merchant class Presbyterians Dr. James McDonnell, Robert Bradshaw and Henry Joy, (proprietor of the Belfast News-Letter and uncle to Henry Joy McCracken). It's purpose was to revive an interest in harp music and to collect the music of the harpers and note their style of playing for future generations. What was hoped to be a revival, proved to be a farewell to the old tradition. By far the most important thing that happened at the festival was that a young man from Armagh named Edward Bunting (1773-1843), was employed to write down the music of the harpers, and to make notes on their instrumental techniques. He dedicated the rest of his life to collecting and preserving Irish music. He published three volumes of music, collectively known as the Ancient Music of Ireland. We pay tribute to that event and the Bunting Collection and we celebrate Bunting's 250th birthday.

Laoise Kelly is described as the most significant harper of her generation and has pioneered a new style of driving instrumental harping which can be heard on over 70 albums including The Chieftains, Seamus Heaney, Christy Moore and Sharon Shannon.

Aisling Lyons is a multi-award-winning musician and composer from County Clare. She is the holder of 8 All-Ireland titles, has performed internationally and collaborated with distinguished artists and musicians in various projects.

Lauren O'Neill is the CEO of Harp Ireland and a sought-after traditional harper, teacher and researcher from Glenuillin, County Derry who performs both nationally and internationally.

Daithí Gormley is regarded as one of the most accomplished Button Accordion players of his generation, he holds an extensive musical repertoire steeped in the rich musical heritage of his native county Sligo.

Úna Monaghan is a harper, composer, researcher and sound artist from Belfast. Her work combines experimental, traditional Irish and improvised music and live electronics.

Tiarnán Ó Duinnchinn is an award winning uilleann piper from Monaghan who started playing when he was around nine years of age in The Armagh Pipers Club. He has toured with Máire Ní Bhraonáin (Clannad), Laoise Kelly, Gerry O'Connor and Fintan Vallely amongst others.

Date | Wed 26 July

Venue | Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich

Doors | 7:30pm

Tickets | £15

BELFAST TRADFEST PRESENTS

Féile Cruitirí Bhéal Feirste

BELFAST HARP FESTIVAL



LAOISE KELLY | AISLING LYONS | LAUREN O'NEILL

ÚNA MONAGHAN | DAITHÍ GORMLEY

TIARNÁN Ó DUINNCHINN

MARKING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BIRTH OF EDWARD BUNTING



WED 26 JULY CULTÚRLANN MCADAM Ó FIAICH

2023

TICKETS £15

DOORS 19:30

WWW.BELFASTTRADFEST.COM

Na Máistrí

Masters of Traditional Music

In association with An Droichead

Mick McAuley from Kilkenny is a long-time member of Irish-American ensemble SOLAS. He has been part of a movement which continues to push the musical boundaries of that tradition to bring Irish music to a wider and more diverse audience around the world.

Niamh Ní Charra is an award-winning multi-instrumentalist and composer who has recorded and performed with various artists including The Chieftains and Carlos Núñez and toured extensively as the featured fiddler with Riverdance.

Edwina Guckian hails from a family steeped in the tradition of music and dance and is greatly influenced by the style of local music she grew up with across Leitrim and Roscommon. She has shared the stage with some of Ireland's most influential acts such as Altan, De Danann, Dervish, Mairtín O Connor and Frankie Gavin to name a few.

Born into a County Longford musical family steeped in traditional music, **Angelina Carberry** followed in the footsteps of her father and grandfather by learning the banjo and has developed a highly personal style with unique rhythmical characteristics which has been captured on various albums.

Mirella Murray hails from county Galway and learnt under the guidance of Mary Finn. Having performed nationally and internationally with Cherish the Ladies, artists such as Sharon Shannon, Lunasa and the Bumblebees credit her as a source of uncommon melodies through her vast collection of tunes from her travels.

Composer and pianist **Ryan Molloy** is widely recognised as one of the masters of modern accompaniment in Irish traditional music. His compositions, rooted in the language of Irish traditional music, have been performed by world-leading ensembles.

Neil Martin (MC) is a composer and musician from Belfast with an international reputation, whose work has been performed across the world from Ground Zero to Mostar Bridge and the Royal Albert Hall, as well as being played on the International Space Station. A cellist and an uilleann piper, he has worked with many leading musicians.

Date | Wed 26 July

Venue | An Droichead

Doors | 7:30pm

Tickets | £15

BELFAST TRADFEST PRESENTS
In association with An Droichead

NA MÁISTRÍ

MASTERS OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC



MICK McAULEY | NIAMH NÍ CHARRA
EDWINA GUCKIAN | ANGELINA CARBERRY
MIRELLA MURRAY | RYAN MOLLOY
NEIL MARTIN (MC)

WED 26 JULY

2023

AN DROICHEAD

TICKETS £15

DOORS 19:30

www.BELFASTTRADFEST.com

McGoldrick, McCusker & Doyle | Landless

Having shared stages and recording studios with everyone from Eric Clapton, Bob Dylan and Mark Knopfler, to Paul Weller, Joan Baez and Linda Thompson - **McGoldrick, McCusker & Doyle** are a rare musical treat. Described as masters of flute, fiddle, song and guitar, they have worked with the biggest and brightest, and will perform from their vast repertoire of beautifully crafted traditional music.



Landless are Lily Power, Meabh Meir, Ruth Clinton and Sinead Lynch. Formed in 2013 and based in Dublin and Belfast, they sing unaccompanied traditional songs in four-part harmony.

This will be special!

Date | Thurs 27 July

Venue | Empire Music Hall

Doors | 7:30pm

Tickets | £22.50

BELFAST TRADFEST PRESENTS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH BELFAST PRIDE

PRIDE CÉILI



WITH DANCES CALLED BY RONAN EASTWOOD

THURS 27 JULY

2023

THE BLACK BOX

TICKETS £5

DOORS 20:00

WWW.BELFASTTRADFEST.COM

With Fife & Drum

In association with Eastside Arts Festival

This concert explores the musical traditions of Scotland and Ireland through the sounds of the Highland bagpipes, snare drum, flute, tin whistle, smallpipes & bodhrán, featuring some of the world's finest musicians.

Joanie Madden is an Irish-American flute and whistle player from The Bronx in New York. She is best known as leader of the all-female group Cherish the Ladies and has performed all over the world.

Mary Bergin - 'Just about the best tin whistle player this century' is how the Irish Times referred to Mary in a recent interview. Her debut album Feadóg Stáin is considered a cult classic.

Fin Moore is a piper, born & bred. Experienced in Highland pipes, Border pipes and Scottish smallpipes, he regularly performs with Dannsa and is a founding member of Pipe Quartet Seudan.

Scott Wallace is a multi-award-winning bagpiper who has had a successful solo piping career and has played as a member of both world championship winning pipe bands, Field Marshal Montgomery & St Laurence O'Toole. Over a 13-year stretch he has won every major title multiple times, including 6 world titles.

Desi Wilkinson from Belfast is a traditional musician of international repute, known principally as a flute and whistle player and a singer. He has previously recorded two critically acclaimed solo albums and has a host of other recording and performance collaborations that reflect his eclectic musical interests.

Gareth McLees from Belfast has enjoyed a very successful pipe band drumming career to date, including 4 World Championship titles and a Grade 1 world drumming title. In 2022 he was crowned UK Solo Snare Drumming Champion and is now the leading drummer of 13 x World Champions, Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band.

Martha Guiney from County Down has been immersed in the Irish traditional music scene from her childhood and has toured internationally and collaborated with many renowned artists worldwide. She has recently released her debut album, The Raven's Call to great critical acclaim.

Aimee Farrell Courtney – With a debut performance at the age of 8 at Dublin's National Concert Hall, Aimee's dynamic playing ranges from her renowned sensitive style of accompaniment to electrifying rhythmic solos and duets.

Andy McGregor (MC) & Ian Burrows are Belfast TradFest board members and are highly regarded Highland pipers and smallpipers who have performed and taught music the world over.

BELFAST TRADFEST PRESENTS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH EASTSIDE ARTS FESTIVAL

WITH FIFE & DRUM



JOANIE MADDEN | MARY BERGIN | FIN MOORE
SCOTT WALLACE | DESI WILKINSON
GARETH McLEES | MARTHA GUINEY
AIMÉE FARRELL COURTNEY | IAN BURROWS
ANDY McGREGOR (MC)

THURS 27 JULY

2023

STRAND ARTS CENTRE

TICKETS £15

DOORS 19:30

www.BELFASTTRADFEST.com

the ollam | Clare Sands

... a tale of how then 13 year old **Tyler Duncan** from Ann Arbor, Michigan went to Ireland and tracked down his hero, uilleann piper and whistle player **John McSherry** (founder of Lunasa, Tamalin, At First Light, Ulaid, and a member of Donal Lunny's supergroup Coolfin: the most innovative Irish piper of his generation) and became his student, friend, and eventually his melodic partner in the ollam, a Transatlantic musical partnership enabled and maintained through early adoption of online collaboration and composition, resulting in the 2012 release of an eponymous album that has become a cult classic. The name derives from the old Irish word ollam, meaning a master of the highest rank in a particular skill.

Duncan had established himself as a multi-instrumentalist and Grammy-nominated producer (with Carly Rae Jepsen, Vulfpeck, Theo Katzman and others), and he recruited drummer **Michael Shimmin** (May Erlewine, Millish) and renowned Vulfpeck bassist **Joe Dart**, respected as one of the finest, funkier players of these times, to form the ollam. With this core line up the band unleashed a new Transatlantic post-rock groove, lush with intricate trance-like melodies, stunning instrumental virtuosity and a magical marriage of tradition and technology, finding the listener somewhere between Radiohead and Planxty, or Tortoise and the ambient emotionalism of the Gloaming. Their second album "ellegy," was released in May 2022, ten years after their debut. It led to the ollam winning Best Folk Group at the 2022 RTE Radio One Folk Awards, and to the band committing to being available for wider European touring.

We're thrilled to host their biggest Irish show to date.

Channelling the music of her ancestors, Cork born and Belfast based, sixth generation fiddler, bilingual singer, multi-instrumentalist, and composer **Clare Sands** is a unique force in Irish music. Creating boundary breaking fearless folk music, inspired by her travels around Ireland and the world, Sands sings for the young and the old, the brave and the bold.

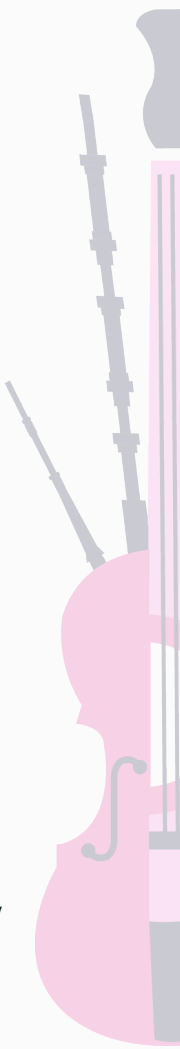
Date | Fri 28 July

Venue | Mandela Hall

Doors | 7:30pm

Tickets | £28.50

[BOOK NOW: BELFASTTRADFEST.COM](https://www.belfasttradfest.com)



BELFAST TRADFEST PRESENTS

the olliam

+

CLARE SANDS



28 JULY 2023

19:30

TICKETS £28.50

★ MANDELLA HALL, BELFAST ★

F***IN' DEADLY!" - THE IRISH TIMES

BELFASTTRADFEST.COM

Céilí with the Johnny Reidy Céilí Band



Set dances called by **Ronan Eastwood**, a set dance master from Belfast who has been set dancing since the mid 1980s and teaching for over 30 years. The **Johnny Reidy Céilí Band** are considered the foremost band for céilí dancing in the country and they always generate a special buzz wherever they play. Don't miss this fantastic celebration of dancing at our festival in the beautiful Australia Hall at the Duncairn Arts Centre on the Antrim Road in North Belfast.

Date | Fri 28 July

Venue | Duncairn Arts Centre

Doors | 7pm

Tickets | £12:00

Richard Hayward: Romancing Ireland

In association with the Sunflower Folk Club



For decades Richard Hayward (1892-1964) was a household name in Ulster and one of Ireland's best-loved cultural figures. Brought up in Larne, Hayward was by turns a successful actor,

director, film-maker, travel writer, musician and singer. He appeared in the first black-and-white Irish 'talkies' and broke new ground in his BBC radio work alongside Tyrone Guthrie. He sang with Delia Murphy and recorded with virtuoso fiddler Sean Maguire, while through his travel books, opened up an unknown Ireland to thousands of people.

Local folk-singers **Maurice Leyden** and **Jane Cassidy** team up with Hayward's biographer **Paul Clements** to present a show celebrating Richard Hayward's fascinating career and contribution to the cultural life of the island of Ireland, through anecdote and folk-song. The performance will be enhanced by archive photos and clips, bringing Hayward alive for today's audience, making the evening a delightful trip down memory lane. The MC for the evening will be Fergus Woods of the Sunflower Folk Club.

Date | Fri 28 July

Venue | Duncairn Arts Centre

Doors | 8pm

Tickets | £15:00

BOOK NOW: BELFASTTRADFEST.COM

Four Men and a Dog

Ciara McCrickard Trio

Four Men & a Dog made a name for themselves with their eclectic and vivacious blend of traditional Irish music with a wide spectrum of other genres, including rap, Southern rock, jazz, blues, bluegrass, polka, country swing, and even salsa.

They made their debut performance as a band in 'Murphy's Bar, Dungiven, County Derry, in 1991 before going on to steal the show at the Belfast Folk Festival later that year, with a high-energy approach that combines furious traditional dance tunes with irreverent new music and inimitable covers. Featuring **Cathal Hayden, Gino Lupari, Donal Murphy, Kevin Doherty & Stephen Hayden**, the energy 'The Dogs' bring to the stage is infectious and is sure to have your heads bopping and toes tapping!

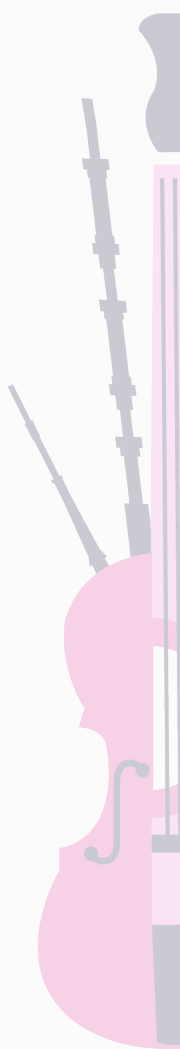
Individually, the County Down trio of **Ciara McCrickard, Niall McCrickard** and **Stephen Rooney** have toured their song and music all over their world, with groups such as At First Light, Ciorras and Ioscaid. Now combining their musical talents, they collectively create a new sound which pays tribute to their traditional roots. Born and reared in the shadows of the Mourne Mountains, Ciara McCrickard was exposed to traditional singing from a young age. Her first solo album *The Maid on the Mourne Shore* is a unique collection of songs which depicts her personal journey through the tradition in both the Irish and English languages and displays her unique tone and crystal ornamentation.

Date | Sat 29 July

Venue | Mandela Hall

Doors | 1:30pm

Tickets | £22.50





Four Men and a Dog



Ciara McCrickard Trio

Elephant Sessions

From the Highlands of Scotland, progressive folk band, **Elephant Sessions** tour their brilliant fourth album, *For The Night*, a record that has built on their success of their earlier releases. Their intricate musicianship has led to a formidable live reputation and fervent fanbase, with appearances at some of the most notable venues and festivals all over the world, including Belfast TradFest!



Winners 'Album of the Year' MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards 2022 & 2017

Kathleen MacInnes + Mike Vass



Kathleen MacInnes is one of Scotland's foremost Gaelic singers with her broad range and husky tones, she featured in Ridley Scott's blockbuster movie *Robin Hood* and has toured the world solo and with the Transatlantic Sessions.

Mike Vass is one of the most creative forces on the Scottish music scene. As a musician, composer, producer and arranger he has amassed a body of work that encompasses early appearances as a livewire young fiddler, collaborations with many of the leading voices among today's Scots and Gaelic tradition bearers, delivering multi-media performances, and overseeing critically acclaimed recordings.

Date | Sat 29 July

Venue | Mandela Hall

Doors | 8pm

Tickets | £19.50



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WITH SETS CALLED BY **RONAN EASTWOOD**
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Whistle & Sing

Learn songs, airs and tunes in this beginner's class for all ages.

After a short introduction to the basics of the tin whistle, the aim of the class is to learn a new tune and song a day. The students will also learn some of the traditional Belfast street songs such as I'll tell my ma, Fair Rosa, Dusty Bluebells and the associated street dances.

No experience necessary. You will need your own Tin Whistle (make sure it's in the key of D).



Date: 24 - 28 July *

Time: 10am - 1pm

Venue: Ulster University, Belfast

£65 for five days | Ages 5+ *

**10% Family Discount available
when booking for 2 or more
family members**



Belfast Summer School of Traditional Music

The Summer Schools team of tutors is made up of internationally renowned performers with proven track records as teachers and educationalists. The primary means of teaching and learning will be 'by ear' with an emphasis in the less experienced classes of assisting pupils to develop oral/aural skills in addition to instrumental competency and developing core repertoire.

10% Family Discount available when booking for 2 or more family members

All classes are designed for intermediate to advanced (minimum 2 years instrument experience) adults and children over 6 year of age, with the exception of Traditional Singing, Set Dancing, Beginners Bodhrán, Beginners Bagpipes and Sean Nós Dancing.

The Tutor & Student Concert will take place in Belfast Cathedral on Friday 28th July at 12pm. This event is free to attend and everyone is welcome.

Dates: Mon 24 to Fri 28 July

Time: 10am - 1pm

Venue: Ulster University, York Street

Costs: £150 for five days, fee includes admission to all afternoon events. *Does not include one-to-one clinics, evening concerts or Céilís.



Set Dancing with Ronan Eastwood

Ronan Eastwood has been set dancing for over 30 years and developed his love of dancing from his parents (his father organized ceilis in Belfast throughout the 1940s and 1950s) and 10 sisters and 4 brothers. Ronan was taught many of the dances by the legendary Connie Ryan, as well as Joe and Siobhan O'Donovan. Over the years he has attended workshops given by Pat Murphy, Mike Mulkerrins and Timmy 'the Brit' McCarthy.

Having attended these various workshops and going to set-dancing weekends from the 1980s, he began teaching in 1992 and has been teaching set dancing at various venues from beginner level right through to the more advanced levels at regular weekly classes throughout Belfast and beyond for well over 25 years.

Dates: Mon 24 to Fri 28 July

Time: 10am - 1pm

Venue: Ulster University, York Street

Costs: £60 for 5 days (or £15 Daily)

***Does not include afternoon events, evening concerts or Céilís**

**10% Family Discount
available when booking
for 2 or more family
members**



Masterclass Tutors

Amhránaíocht / Sean Nós Singing

Cathal Ó Curráin

Bagpipes for Beginners

Andy McGregor

Banjo

Angelina Carberry
Gerry 'Banjo' O'Connor
Mark Mohan

Bodhrán

Aimée Farrell Courtney

Bodhrán for Beginners

Moya Sweeney

Button Accordion

Daithí Gormley
Mick McAuley

Cello in Traditional Music

Neil Martin

Concertina

Niamh Ní Charra
Lorraine Ní Bhriain

Fiddle

Brid Harper
John McCusker
Siobhán Peoples
Conor Caldwell
Méabh Smyth

Flute

Michael McGoldrick
Martha Guiney
Desi Wilkinson

Guitar Accompaniment

John Doyle
Jack Warnock

Harp

Aisling Lyons
Laoise Kelly
Lauren O'Neill

Highland Bagpipes

Scott Wallace

Mixed Melody Instruments

Mirella Murray

Scottish Smallpipes

Fin Moore

Sean Nós Dancing

Edwina Guckian

Set Dancing

Ronan Eastwood

Snare Drum & Pipe Band Percussion

Gareth McLees

Tin Whistle

Joanie Madden

Muireann Nic Amhlaoihb

Mary Bergin

Traditional Piano Accompaniment

Ryan Molloy

Traditional Singing

Len Graham

Uilleann Pipes

David Power

Tiarnán Ó Duinnchinn



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BOOK NOW: BELFASTTRADFEST.COM

Afternoon Events

All £5 and taking place in Ulster University unless otherwise indicated.
Summer School Students can access all Afternoon Events except Instrument Clinics.

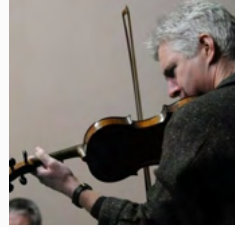
Monday 24 July

1:30pm | Seminar Series

How to be a Fiddler with Martin Dowling:

1. How to breathe, stand and sit.

The first in a series of talks starts off from the idea that acoustic musical instruments are prosthetic devices. They are extensions of the human body designed and crafted to extend its capacity for melody and rhythm.



2:30pm | Demonstration

Cake Dance with Edwina Guckian & David Power

Take turns dancing with the piper before voting for your favourite two dancers. The winners then have the honour of being awarded the cake and dividing it up between the rest of the group. All ages welcome.



2:30pm | Talk

Mary Bergin: Internal Rhythms and Ornamentation in Traditional Music

Join one of Ireland's treasures; Mary Bergin, as she delves into the undergrowth of traditional melody playing to see what is it that defines great playing from good playing.



3pm | Discussion

How a session works with Desi Wilkinson, Lorraine Ní Bhriain, Mirella Murray, Aimee Farrell Courtney, hosted by Martin Dowling

For most traditional musicians, the most common and accessible opportunity to perform publicly on their instrument is in the unique format of the "session". While every session is unique, all are not beautiful.



3pm | Chat & Tunes

Mike McGoldrick & Angelina Carberry - Traditional Music in Manchester

Michael & Angelina reminisce about growing up in Manchester, taking you on a journey of learning traditional Irish music in an industrial city in the north of England in the 80's and 90's.



4pm | Talk

'The Life & Times of Paddy Killoran in Ballymote and the USA' - Daithí Gormley

Paddy Killoran is regarded as one of the finest exponents of the south Sligo fiddle style in the "golden age" of the ethnic recording industry of the '20s and '30s.



4pm | Talk

Arranging Music for Traditional Songs with John Doyle & Jack Warnock

This will be a fascinating insight into the art of arrangement, chords, countermelody, pacing and stylistic accompaniment for traditional Irish and Scottish songs from two leading exponents.



4:30pm | Talk

Uilleann Pipes in a Western Art-Music Tradition - Neil Martin

From 1960s onwards, this talk will discuss the use of uilleann pipes in a non-traditional setting.



5pm | Talk

Martha Guiney - The Raven's Call

Martha will discuss the inspiration, tunes, arrangements, musicians and the overall process giving an insight into how traditional musicians make a record.



5pm | Talk

100 Years of Women in Irish Traditional Music with Niamh Ní Charra

This presentation explores the women who have contributed to Irish music over the last century.



Tuesday 25 July

1:30pm | Seminar Series

How to be a Fiddler with Martin Dowling:

2. The “No Hold” of the bow and fiddle

Lessons from the Hungarian violinist and teacher Kato Havas.



2:30pm | Taster Session

Bodhrán Taster Session with Aimée Farrell Courtney

Have you ever wanted to try the bodhrán but couldn't pluck up the courage to ask for a go? Well this is the perfect opportunity. We'll supply the bodhráns and one of Ireland's finest bodhrán players will show you the basics.



2:30pm | Talk

The Year in Ireland with Edwina Guckian

Sean nós dancer Edwina Guckian from Leitrim will explore the calendar customs of our ancestors celebrating music and dance.



3pm | Taster Session

Hands on Harps: Beginners Workshop

Always wanted to try the harp? Come along to try the national instrument of Ireland, with traditional harper Laoise Kelly.



3pm | Talk/Discussion

Living the Music

An insight into how aspiring traditional musicians might go about making a living through a life of music, with Joanie Madden (Cherish the Ladies), Mick McAuley (Solás) & Gerry 'Banjo' O'Connor (Four Men & a Dog & The Dubliners).



4pm | Taster Session

Beginners Pipe Band Snare Drum

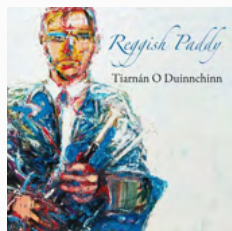
Try the snare drum with 2017 & 2018 World Solo Drumming Champion & leading drummer of Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band, Gareth McLees.



4pm | Demonstration

Tunes from County Monaghan with Tiarnán Ó Duinnchinn

A demonstration of differing tune types, the sources, the practitioners and a discussion on the pipers of the area with one of Ireland's finest uilleann pipers.



4:30pm | Talk/Discussion

The History of Céilí & Set Dancing in Belfast

Belfast has a rich tradition of céilí dancing especially in the first seven decades of the 20th century when set dancing became more popular. Ronan Eastwood will lead this interactive discussion to tell the many stories of this time.



5pm | Workshop

Composition Workshop with Ryan Molloy

Participants will be shown some compositional examples on how to write traditional music. Ryan will explain in-depth details about his composing approach and touch on topics like melody development & chords.



5pm | Talk

Arranging Traditional Music with John McCusker

John McCusker has been at the forefront of traditional music arrangement and performance for over 30 years. In this session he will discuss how he goes about arranging music for live performance, for recording sessions and for some of the leading singers and players in traditional music such as Eddi Reader, Kris Drever, Heidi Talbot, Eliza Cathy & many more..



Wednesday 26 July

1:30pm | Seminar Series

How to be a Fiddler with Martin Dowling: 3. How to practice and why

Drawing from recent ideas in performance training in the realms of arts and sports.



2:30pm | Instrument Clinic

Fiddle Clinic with Siobhán Peoples

The Fiddle Clinic is aimed primarily at intermediate to advanced players who have a repertoire of tunes and who are able to identify an issue with their playing.



2:30pm | Chat/Singing Session

'One Singer, One Song'

An informal chat and singing session hosted by Len Graham with John Doyle, Mick McAuley & Desi Wilkinson



3pm | Taster Session

Smallpipes Taster Session with Fin Moore

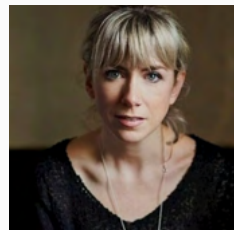
Try the Scottish smallpipes with pipe maker and leading smallpiper Fin Moore.



3pm | Singing Clinic

Traditional Singing Clinic with Muireann Nic Amhlaobh

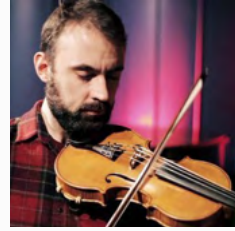
This clinic is aimed primarily at intermediate to advanced singers who have a repertoire of songs and who are able to identify an issue with their singing.



3pm | Talk

Trad/Jazz Fusion in 1920s Ireland with Conor Caldwell

This illustrated seminar unpacks the hidden story behind Ireland's dalliances with jazz and the unique sounds that were created between 1914-1939.



3:30pm | Discussion

Méabh Smyth 'TG4 Gradam Ceoil Ceoltóir Óg na bliana'

County Armagh fiddler Méabh Smyth is the current 'TG4 Gradam Ceoil Ceoltóir Óg na Bliana'. In this informal discussion she talks about her life and musical journey and plays a few tunes along the way'.



4pm | Talk

Desi Wilkinson: An Illustrated Journey from Belfast to Sligo

Belfast's Desi Wilkinson is an Irish traditional musician of international repute, known principally as a flute and whistle player and a singer. His album Two for Joy has been described as "a pure jewel" by Philippe Cousin, Irish Music Magazine.



5pm | Workshop

The Song Tradition in North West Donegal with Cathal Ó Curráin

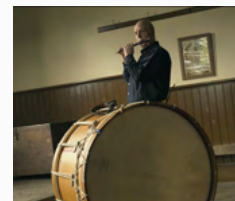
One of Donegal's finest singers and musicians and current RTÉ Radio 1 Folk Awards Best Emerging Artist Cathal Ó Curráin will speak about the song tradition in northwest Donegal. He will discuss gatherings, collecting, sessions and singers, while teaching a few traditional songs to the class. (Bearla agus Gaeilge/ English & Irish).



5pm | Presentation

Fife & Lambeg Drum Tradition

Willie Hill is originally from Ballymoney, County Antrim and his interest in music began in the local silver band. In this illustrated talk he discusses the history of the Lambeg drum and the fife.



Thursday 27 July

1:30pm | Seminar Series

How to be a Fiddler with Martin Dowling:

4. In search of a style

What do Irish traditional fiddlers sound like and what distinguishes them from each other.



2:30pm | Taster Session

Beginners Bagpipes: Try the

Bagpipes with Scott Wallace

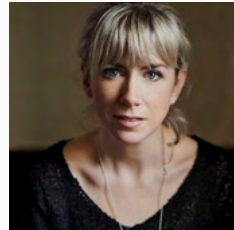
Try the bagpipes for the first time with Scott Wallace, a prolific piper who has won every major title multiple times including 6 world titles.



2:30pm | Talk

Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh - 'Sean N6s Singing'

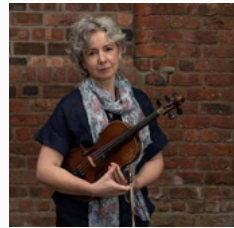
One of Ireland's finest singers Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh brings you on an illustrated journey through traditional sean n6s singing.



3pm | Instrument Clinic

Fiddle Clinic with Brid Harper

The Fiddle Clinic is aimed primarily at intermediate to advanced players who have a repertoire of tunes and who are able to identify an issue with their playing.



3pm | Instrument Clinic

Banjo Clinic with Angelina Carberry

Would you like to spend 10 minutes 1 on 1 with one of Ireland's finest Banjo players? Tighten your triplets, work on your technique, identify where things are going a little pear shaped!



3pm | Céili

Family Céili with Ronan Eastwood

Come along to this family friendly céili where Ronan Eastwood will show the steps required to join in the fun.

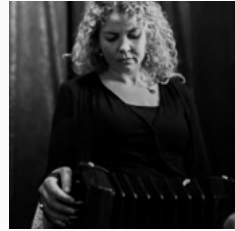
*This event is FREE to attend



4pm | Talk

Women Concertina Players in Clare, From Mrs Crotty to Present Day with Lorraine Ní Bhriain

Lorraine Ní Bhriain is an outstanding exponent of the County Clare concertina style.



4:30pm | Workshop

Composing workshop with Aisling Lyons (open to all instruments)

Join multi-award winning musician & composer Aisling Lyons, from County Clare in this composition workshop for all instruments.



5pm | Workshop

Tarlach MacSuibhne/Turlough MacSweeney - The Donegal Piper

Tarlach Mac Suibhne, the “Piper of Donegal,” spent most of his life in Ireland, but travelled to the United States in 1893 to perform at the Chicago World’s Fair.



5pm | Talk

Come listen a while to me: A Journey in the Ulster Song Tradition in English with Len Graham

Len Graham is a leading authority on traditional song and has recorded more than twenty albums to date.



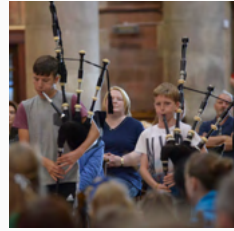
Friday 28 July

12pm | Performance

Belfast TradFest Summer School Student & Tutor Concert

Venue: Belfast Cathedral, Donegall Street

*This event is FREE to attend



3:30pm | Chat/Discussion

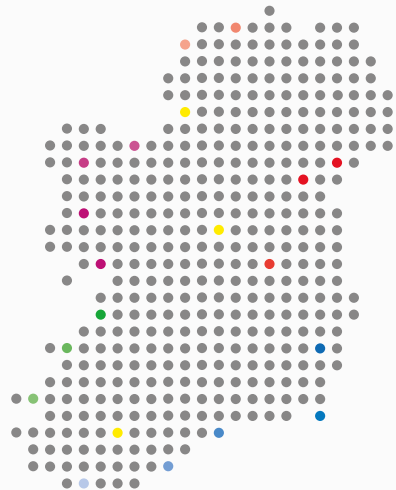
Flute & Fife: Our shared Tradition with Gary Duffy & Hazlett Kerrs

This hour long chat and discussion with Gary Duffy & Hazlett Kerrs will celebrate the beauty and musicality of their respective influences and backgrounds, while advocating the value of maintaining the musical traditions diversity and accessibility for all to come. Co Antrim flute player Gary Duffy and Fermanagh born (Belfast based) Bouzouki/Mandola player Hazlett Kerrs have been playing traditional music for many decades. They met each other first at sessions around Belfast, eventually performing together on tour in Switzerland and regularly at various occasions ever since.



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Learner & Slow Sessions

Slow Sessions will take place in Ulster University.

Learner Sessions will take place in the Green Room Bar, The Black Box.

*All Learner and Slow Sessions are FREE to attend

Monday 24 July

2pm: **Slow Session with Dónal O'Connor**

4pm: **Learner Session with Alex Walsh**



Tuesday 25 July

2pm: **Slow Session with Maeve O'Donnell**

4pm: **Learner Session with Erin Rose Ni Mhaoláin**



Wednesday 26 July

2pm: **Slow Session with Deirdre McGrory**

4pm: **Learner Session with Maeve O'Donnell**



Thursday 27 July

2pm: **Slow Session with Moya Sweeney**

3pm: **Learner Session with Deirdre McGrory**



Friday 28 July

3pm: **Learner Session with Aoife Smyth**





FESTIVAL CLUB

SUN 23 JULY



Laura Kerr, Darragh Murphy & Donogh Hennessy

Venue: The John Hewitt

Doors: 10pm

Tickets: £10

MON 24 JULY



**Paula & Melanie Houton
Piaras Ó Lorcáin**

Venue: The John Hewitt

Doors: 10pm

Tickets: £10

TUES 25 JULY



**Jason O'Rourke Trio
Róisín Chambers & Ruairí Cunnane**

Venue: The John Hewitt

Doors: 10pm

Tickets: £10

WED 26 JULY



**Eadaoin Ní Mhaicín & Léda Music
Brendan 'Nipper' Quinn &
Ciara Maguire**

Venue: The Deer's Head
Doors: 10pm
Tickets: £15

THURS 27 JULY



**Lonesome George
Bernadette Morris
Trad Disco with DJ Lachlan**

Venue: The Deer's Head
Doors: 10pm
Tickets: £15

FRI 28 JULY



**Sinead McKenna Band
Jack Warnock Trio
Trad Disco with DJ Lachlan**

Venue: The Deer's Head
Doors: 10pm
Tickets: £15

SAT 29 JULY



**NxNW North by Northwest
Trad Disco with DJ Lachlan**

Venue: The Deer's Head
Doors: 10pm
Tickets: £15



SESSION TRAIL

ALL SESSIONS ARE FREE ADMISSION

Belfast TradFest introduces Céilí House style LISTENING SESSIONS this summer.

These sessions offer the aspiring musician an opportunity to listen to and observe music played by musicians of the highest calibre. The first 1 hour of each session will be a listening hour where the master musicians will set the scene for the session, after which they will invite the 'room' to join in.

This style of session reflects the céilí house traditions of the previous century, where aspiring musicians and listeners would gather at the home of a local master musician. The master would 'hold court' and oversee an evening of entertainment, which would start with a skillful performance from the master, followed by an invitation to join.

We ask that you respectfully observe the format of these listening sessions.

LISTENING SESSIONS are indicated by ***LS***.

SUNDAY 23rd

5pm | The Second Fiddle *LS*
EILISH O'CONNOR, PAUL
'THE BROTHER' MAGUIRE &
MELANIE HOUTON

5pm | Sunflower Public House
DARRAGH MURPHY,
JAMIE MURPHY &
GERDY THOMPSON

6pm | The Deer's Head
BRÌGHDE CHAIMBEUL,
ANDY MCGREGOR &
FRANK CASSIDY

7pm | Maddens Bar
PAUL MEEHAN,
RUADHRAÍ O'KANE &
MAURICE BRADLEY

9:30pm | The Garrick Backroom Bar
PETER MCKENNA,
DARRAGH MURPHY &
MICHAEL GAFFNEY



PROUDLY SUPPORTING BELFAST TRADFEST SESSION TRAIL

MONDAY 24th

3pm | Kelly's Cellars
OISÍN MURPHY
CATHAL Ó CURRÁIN &
RUAIRÍ CUNNANE

4pm | Duke of York *LS*
LAOISE KELLY,
AISLING LYONS &
JASON O'ROURKE

5pm | Maddens Bar *LS*
MARY BERGIN,
CONOR LAMB &
JAMES CARSON

5pm | Sunflower Public House
TIARNÁN Ó DUINNCHINN,
FRANCIS MCILDUFF &
STEVIE DUNNE

6pm | The Deer's Head
Smallpipe Session
FIN MOORE,
SCOTT WALLACE &
GARETH MCLEES

6pm | The Garrick Upstairs
Singing Session
DÀIBHIDH STIÙBHARD &
DEIRDRE MCGRORY

7pm | The Garrick Front Bar *LS*
MUIREANN NIC AMHLAOIBH,
PAUL 'THE BROTHER'
MAGUIRE & CHRISTINE
DOWLING

TUESDAY 25th

4pm | Fountain Lane
DAITHÍ GORMLEY,
MARCELLA KELLY &
OISÍN BRADLEY

5pm | Maddens Bar *LS*
BRÍD HARPER,
CÍARA NÍ THÁTH &
BRIAN CONNOLLY

5pm | Sunflower Public House
NEIL MARTIN,
CATRÍONA NÍ GHRIBÍN &
LACHLANN MCKIBBON



BELFAST BORN™ 1776

5pm | Kelly's Cellars *LS*
PAUL BRADLEY,
CONOR CALDWELL &
MYLES MCCORMACK

6pm | The Deer's Head
MÉABH SMYTH,
BRENDAN LOUGHRAN &
MARTY BARRY

7pm | The American Bar
MIRELLA MURRAY,
JAMES MCCAFFREY &
CIAN MCGRORY

8pm | The Deer's Head
NIAMH NÍ CHARRA,
AISLINN FEGAN &
RORY MCEVOY

**9:30pm | The Garrick
Front Bar**
CONOR CALDWELL,
EILISH O'CONNOR &
DEIRDRE MURRAY

9:30pm | Madden's Bar
ANGELINA CARBERRY,
STEVIE DUNNE &
GERRY MCMAHON

WEDNESDAY 26th

5pm | Maddens Bar
GERRY 'BANJO' O'CONNOR,
SINÉAD MCKENNA &
MICKEY FEARON

5pm | Sunflower Public House
JOHN MCCUSKER,
EIMHÉAR MULHOLLAND
& DEIRDRE GALWAY

5pm | Kelly's Cellars
JOHN DOYLE,
MIADHACHLUGHAIN
O'DONNELL & CONOR MALLON

6pm | The Deer's Head *LS*
JOANIE MADDEN,
PAULA HOUTON &
KEVIN MCCULLAGH



PROUDLY SUPPORTING BELFAST TRADFEST SESSION TRAIL

**6pm | The Garrick Upstairs
Singing Session**
LEN GRAHAM

7pm | The American Bar
LORRAINE NÍ BHRIAIN,
JOE CAMPBELL-McCARDLE
& CORMAC "BUZZ" O'BRIAIN

**7pm | Green Room Bar,
The Black Box | First Slip Session**
JOSHUA BURNSIDE,
MYLES MCCORMICK,
HANNAH SMITH &
KATE BARRY

7pm | The John Hewitt *LS*
DESI WILKINSON,
FÍONA NÍ MHEARÁIN &
BERNIE STOCKS

**9:30pm | The Garrick
Backroom Bar**
MICHAEL MCGOLDRICK,
AIMÉE FARRELL COURTNEY &
MAEVE O'DONNELL

9:30pm | Maddens Bar
MARTHA GUINEY,
KEVIN SWEENEY &
JOHNNY MURPHY

THURSDAY 27th

3pm | Kelly's Cellars
NIA BYRNE,
CAOILTE Ó CUANAIGH &
SORCHA STOCKMAN

5pm | Maddens Bar
LAUREN O'NEILL,
RYAN HACKETT &
ALISON CROSSEY

5pm | White's Tavern
SIOBHÁN PEOPLES, PAUL
'THE BROTHER' MAGUIRE &
JOHN MACKEL

5pm | Kelly's Cellars *LS*
MARTIN QUINN,
GERRY JONES &
TIARNÁN Ó DUINNCHINN



BELFAST BORN™ 1776

THURSDAY 27th

6pm | The Deer's Head
RYAN MOLLOY,
CIARA MAGUIRE &
ELEANOR GAFFNEY

6pm | McHugh's Bar
MICK MCAULEY,
CONOR BRADY &
TERRY ÓG CONLON

8pm | The John Hewitt
Sean Nós Dancing
EDWINA GUCKIAN &
DAITHÍ GORMLEY

9:30pm | The Garrick
Backroom Bar
MARK MOHAN,
SEÁN DOLAN &
EIMEAR CATHCART

9:30pm | Maddens Bar *LS*
DAVID POWER,
JANE WALLS,
TOM CLARKE &
AARON O'HAGAN

FRIDAY 28th

4pm | Duke of York
DESY ADAMS,
BARRY LEONARD &
STEVIE DUNNE

5pm | The John Hewitt
CIARÁN KELLY,
PADDY MCKEOWN & KEVIN
MCCULLAGH

7pm | The Morning Star
ANNIE SMYTH,
MAURICE HAYDEN &
CONOR MURPHY

7pm | Henry's
RUADHRAÍ O'KANE,
SEAMUS O'KANE &
CATRÍONA NÍ GHRIBÍN

9:30pm | The Garrick
Backroom Bar
AARON DUFFY,
GARY DUFFY &
NOEL MAGUIRE



PROUDLY SUPPORTING BELFAST TRADFEST SESSION TRAIL

SATURDAY 29th

3pm | Kelly's Cellars
TRÍONA BRADY,
SINÉAD QUINN &
MARIA RAFFERTY

5pm | Madden's Bar
FRANCIS MCILDUFF,
PADDY O'HARE &
KEVIN SWEENEY

7pm | The Morning Star
GARY CURLEY,
MICHAEL CONEY &
CARA QUINN

**9:30pm | The Garrick
Backroom Bar**
GARY CURLEY,
FINTAN MULHOLLAND &
AIDAN MULHOLLAND

SUNDAY 30th

2pm | The Reporter Bar
STEFAN FRASER,
CORMAC CRUMMEY &
PAUL CONLON

4pm | Madden's Bar
CHRIS MAGUIRE,
MÉABH SMYTH &
DAVY GRAHAM

6pm | The Deer's Head
MOLLY WALLS,
MAGGIE MAGUIRE &
RONAN WARNOCK

7pm | The Morning Star
CATRÍONA NÍ GHRIBÍN,
MAEVE O'DONNELL &
DEIRDRE MURRAY



23 - 30 JULY 2023

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BELFAST TRADFEST AT A GLANCE

Sunday 23 July

3pm	Concert	Music in the Glen / Róis	John Hewitt
4pm	Competition	Highland Piping Competition	Deer's Head
5pm	Session *LS*	Eilish O'Connor, Paul 'The Brother' Maguire & Melanie Houton	Second Fiddle
5pm	Session	Darragh Murphy, Jamie Murphy & Gerdy Thompson	Sunflower
6pm	Session	Brighde Chaimbeul, Andy McGregor & Frank Cassidy	Deer's Head
7pm	Concert	Mairtín O'Connor Trio & Maeve O'Donnell, Catriona Ní Ghríbin & Ciara Maguire	The Empire
7pm	Session	Paul Meehan, Ruadhraí O'Kane & Maurice Bradley	Maddens Bar
9.30pm	Session	Peter McKenna, Darragh Murphy & Michael Gaffney	The Garrick
10pm	Festival Club	Laura Kerr, Darragh Murphy & Donogh Hennessy	John Hewitt

Monday 24 July

10am	Masterclasses	Belfast TradFest Summer School Masterclasses	UU
1.30pm	Seminar	How to be a Fiddler - 1. How to breathe, stand and sit.	UU
2pm	Slow Session	Led by Dónal O'Connor	UU
2.30pm	Workshop	Mary Bergin 'Internal rhythms and ornamentation'	UU
2.30pm	Dance	Cake Dance with Edwina Guckian & David Power	UU
3pm	Chat & Tunes	Traditional Music in Manchester	UU
3pm	Discussion	How a Session works!	UU
3pm	Session	Oisín Murphy, Cathal Ó Curráin & Ruairí Cunnane	Kelly's Cellars
4pm	Clinic	Tin Whistle Clinic with Joanie Madden	UU
4pm	Talk	The Life & Times of Paddy Killoran in Ballymote and the USA'	UU
4pm	Workshop	Arranging music for traditional songs	UU
4pm	Learner Session	Alex Walsh	The Black Box
4pm	Session *LS*	Laoise Kelly, Aisling Lyons & Jason O'Rourke	Duke of York
4.30pm	Talk	Neil Martin - Uilleann Pipes in a Western Art-Music Tradition	UU
5pm	Talk	Martha Guiney - The Raven's Call Album	UU
5pm	Talk	Niamh Ní Charra - 100 Years of Women in traditional music	UU
5pm	Session *LS*	Mary Bergin, Conor Lamb & James Carson	Maddens Bar
5pm	Session	Tiarnán Ó Duinnchinn, Francis McIlduff & Stevie Dunne	Sunflower
6pm	Smallpipes Session	Fin Moore, Scott Wallace & Gareth McLees	Deer's Head
6pm	Singing Session	Dàibhidh Stiùbhard & Deirdre McGrory	The Garrick
7pm	Session *LS*	Muireann Nic Amhlaoihb, Paul Maguire & Christine Dowling	The Garrick
7.30pm	Concert	Sean Maguire Concert	Duncairn
10pm	Festival Club	Paula & Melanie Houton Piaras Ó Lorcáin	John Hewitt

Tuesday 25 July

10am	Masterclasses	Belfast TradFest Summer School Masterclasses	UU
1.30pm	Seminar	2: The "No Hold" of the bow and fiddle: lessons from Kato Havas	UU
2pm	Slow Session	Maeve O'Donnell	UU
2.30pm	Taster Session	Bodhrán Taster Session	UU
2.30pm	Talk	The Year in Ireland - Calendar customs in music and dance.	UU
3pm	Taster Session	Hands on Harps' Beginners Harp workshop	UU
3pm	Talk	Living the music - making a living through a life of music.	UU
4pm	Talk	Beginners Pipe Band Snare Drum	UU
4pm	Demonstration	A demonstration of Pipers tunes from County Monaghan.	UU
4pm	Learner Session	Erin Rose Ní Mhaolain	Black Box
4pm	Session	Daithí Gormley, Marcella Kelly & Oisín Bradley	Fountain Lane
4.30pm	Talk	The history of Céilí & Set Dancing in Belfast since the 20th century	UU
5pm	Clinic	Composition Clinic with Ryan Molloy	UU
5pm	Talk	Arranging traditional Music with John McCusker	UU
5pm	Session *LS*	Bríd Harper, Cíara Ní Tháth & Brian Connolly	Maddens Bar
5pm	Session	Neil Martin, Catriona Ní Ghribín & Lachlann McKibbon	Sunflower
5pm	Session *LS*	Paul Bradley, Conor Caldwell & Myles McCormack	Kelly's Cellars
6pm	Session	Méabh Smyth, Brendan Loughran & Marty Barry	Deer's Head
6pm	Concert	Flutopia	Black Box
7pm	Session	Mirella Murray, James McCaffrey & Cian McGrory	American Bar
7.30pm	Concert	Ceol na nGael / Wild Music of the Gael	Áras Mhic Reachtain
8pm	Session	Niamh Ní Charra, Aislinn Fegan & Rory McEvoy	Deer's Head
9.30pm	Session	Conor Caldwell, Eilish O'Connor & Deirdre Murray	The Garrick
9.30pm	Session	Angelina Carberry, Stevie Dunne & Gerry McMahon	Maddens Bar
10pm	Festival Club	Jason O' Rourke Trio Róisín Chambers & Ruairí Cunnane	John Hewitt

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Wednesday 26 July

10am	Masterclasses	Belfast TradFest Summer School Masterclasses	UU
1.30pm	Seminar	Seminar 3: How to practice and why	UU
2pm	Slow Session	Deirdre McGrory	UU
2.30pm	Clinic	Fiddle Clinic with Siobhan Peoples	UU
2.30pm	Chat & Songs	One Singer One Song	UU
3pm	Clinic	Tin Whistle Clinic with Mary Bergin	UU
3pm	Taster Class	Smallpipes Taster Session with Fin Moore	UU
3pm	Clinic	Traditional Singing Clinic with Muireann Nic Amhlaobh	UU
3pm	Talk	Illustrated talk on Trad/jazz fusion in 1920s Ireland	UU
3:30pm	Discussion	Méabh Smyth 'TG4 Gradam Ceoil Ceoltóir Óg na bliana	UU
4pm	Learner Session	Maeve O'Donnell	Black Box
4pm	Talk	Desi Wilkinson - an illustrated journey from Belfast to Sligo	UU
5pm	Session	Gerry 'Banjo' O'Connor, Sinéad McKenna & Mickey Fearon	Maddens Bar
5pm	Session	John McCusker, Eimhéal Mulholland & Deirdre Galway	Sunflower
5pm	Session	John Doyle, Miadhachlughain O'Donnell & Conor Mallon	Kelly's Cellars
5pm	Workshop	The Song Tradition in North West Donegal	UU
5pm	Workshop	Fife & Lambeg Drum Tradition	UU
6pm	Session *LS*	Joanie Madden, Paula Houton & Kevin McCullagh	Deer's Head
6pm	Singing Session	Len Graham	The Garrick
7pm	Session	Lorraine Ní Bhriain, Joe Campbell & Cormac "Buzz" O' Briain	American Bar
7pm	Session *LS*	Desi Wilkinson, Fíona Ní Mhearáin & Bernie Stocks	John Hewitt
7pm	Session	First Slip Session	Black Box
7.30pm	Concert	Féile Cruitirí Bhéal Feirste / Belfast Harp Festival	An Culturlann
7.30pm	Concert	Na Maistrí / Masters of the Tradition	An Droichead
9.30pm	Session	Michael McGoldrick, Aimee Farrell Courtney & Maeve O'Donnell	The Garrick
9.30pm	Session	Martha Guiney, Kevin Sweeney & Johnny Murphy	Maddens Bar
10pm	Festival Club	Eadaoin Ní Mhaicín & Léda Music Brendan 'Nipper' Quinn & Ciara Maguire	Deer's Head

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Thursday 27 July

10am	Masterclasses	Belfast TradFest Summer School Masterclasses	UU
1.30pm	Seminar	Seminar 4: In search of a style	UU
2pm	Slow Session	Moya Sweeney	UU
2.30pm	Taster Class	Try the Bagpipes for the first time with Scott Wallace	UU
2.30pm	Talk	Muireann Nic Amhlaobh 'Sean Nós Singing'	UU
3pm	Clinic	Fiddle Clinic with Brid Harper	UU
3pm	Clinic	Banjo Clinic with Angelina Carberry	UU
3pm	Session	Nia Byrne, Caoilte Ó Cuaaigh & Sorcha Stockman	Kelly's Cellars
3pm	Learner Session	Deirdre McGrory	Black Box
3pm	Céilí	Family Céilí with Ronán Eastwood	UU
4pm	Talk	Women concertina players in Clare, from Mrs Crotty to present day	UU
4.30pm	Workshop	Composing workshop with Aisling Lyons	UU
5pm	Session	Lauren O'Neill, Ryan Hackett & Alison Crossey	Maddens Bar
5pm	Session	Siobhán Peoples, Paul 'The Brother' Maguire & John Mackel	White's Tavern
5pm	Session *LS*	Martin Quinn, Gerry Jones & Tiarnán Ó Duinnchinn	Kelly's Cellars
5pm	Talk	Tarlach MacSuibhne/Turlough MacSweeney - The Donegal Piper	UU
5pm	Talk	A Journey in the Ulster Song Tradition in English	UU
6pm	Session	Ryan Molloy, Ciara Maguire & Eleanor Gaffney	Deer's Head
6pm	Session	Mick McAuley, Conor Brady & Terry Óg Conlon	McHugh's Bar
7.30pm	Concert	McGoldrick, McCusker & Doyle / Landless	The Empire
7.30pm	Concert	Fife & Drum	Strand Arts Centre
8pm	Session	Sean Nós Dancing - Edwina Guckian & Daithí Gormley	John Hewitt
8pm	Céilí	Pride Céilí	Black Box
9.30pm	Session	Mark Mohan, Seán Dolan & Eimear Cathcart	The Garrick
9.30pm	Session *LS*	David Power, Jane Walls, Tom Clarke & Aaron O'Hagan	Madden's Bar
10pm	Festival Club	Lonesome George Bernadette Morris Trad Disco with DJ Lachlan	Deer's Head

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Friday 28 July

10am	Masterclasses	Belfast TradFest Summer School Masterclasses	UU
12pm	Student Concert	Tutor & Student Concert	Belfast Cathedral
3pm	Learner Session	Aoife Smyth	Black Box
3pm	Talk	Flute & Fife - Our shared Tradition with Gary Duffy & Hazlett Kerrs	UU
4pm	Session	Desy Adams, Barry Leonard & Stevie Dunne	Duke of York
5pm	Session	Ciarán Kelly, Paddy McKeown & Kevin McCullagh	John Hewitt
7pm	Céilí	Céilí with Rónán Eastwood	Duncairn
7pm	Session	Annie Smyth, Maurice Hayden & Conor Murphy	Morning Star
7pm	Session	Ruadhraí O'Kane, Seamus O'Kane & Catriona Ní Ghribín	Henry's
7.30pm	Concert	The Ollam / Clare Sands	Mandela Hall
8pm	Concert	Richard Hayward: Romancing Ireland	Duncairn
9.30pm	Session	Aaron Duffy, Gary Duffy & Noel Maguire	The Garrick
10pm	Festival Club	Sinead McKenna Band Jack Warnock Trio & Trad Disco with DJ Lachlan	Deer's Head

Saturday 29 July

1.30pm	Concert	Four Men & a Dog / Ciara McCrickard Trio	Mandela Hall
3pm	Session	Triona Brady, Sinead Quinn & Maria Rafferty	Kelly's Cellars
5pm	Session	Francis McIlduff, Paddy O'Hare & Kevin Sweeney	Maddens Bar
7pm	Session	Gary Curley, Michael Coney & Cara Quinn	Morning Star
8pm	Concert	Elephant Sessions / Kathleen MacInnes & Mike Vass	Mandela Hall
9.30pm	Session	Gary Curley, Fintan Mulholland & Aidan Mulholland	The Garrick
10pm	Festival Club	NxNW North by Northwest Trad Disco with DJ Lachlan	Deer's Head

Sunday 30 July

1pm	Titanic Céilí	Outdoor family event celebrating traditional music, song and dance.	Titanic Slipways on Belfast's Maritime Mile
2pm	Session	Stefan Fraser, Cormac Crummey & Paul Conlon	The Reporter Bar
4pm	Session	Chris Maguire, Méabh Smyth & Davy Graham	Maddens Bar
6pm	Session	Molly Walls, Maggie Maguire & Ronan Warnock	Deer's Head
7pm	Session	Catriona Ní Ghribín, Maeve O'Donnell & Deirdre Murray	Morning Star

Belfast Trad Fest

23-30 JULY
2023



THE OLLAM | CLARE SANDS | MAIRTÍN O'CONNOR BAND | BRÍD HARPER
FOUR MEN & A DOG | EDWINA GUCKIAN | ELEPHANT SESSIONS
KATHLEEN MACINNES | LANDLESS | MCGOLDRICK, MCGUSKER & DOYLE
RÓIS | JOANIE MADDEN | LADISE KELLY | MUSIC IN THE GLEN
CIARA MCCRICKARD TRIO | MUIREANN NIC AMHLAIBH | FLUTOPIA | PRIDE CÉILÍ
MAEVE O'DONNELL, CIARA MAGUIRE & CATRIONA NÍ GHRIBÍN

NXNW NORTH BY NORTHWEST | PAULA & MELANIE HOUTON | JACK WARNOCK TRIO | LONESOME GEORGE
RÓISIN CHAMBERS & RUAIRÍ CUNNANE | SINEAD MCKENNA BAND | BRENDAN 'NIPPER' QUINN
EADAIOIN NÍ MHAICÍN & LÉDA MUSIC | JASON O'ROURKE TRIO | BERNADETTE MORRIS | PIARAS Ó LORCÁIN
TRAD DISCO WITH DJ LAGHLIN | LAURA KERR, DARRAGH MURPHY & DONOGH HENNESSY

Gerry 'Banjo' O'Connor | Niamh Ní Charra | David Power | Mick McAuley | Desi Wilkinson | Mary Bergin | Ronan Eastwood
Neil Martin | Fin Moore | Gary Duffy | Jude Scott | Lorraine Ní Bhriain | Conor Caldwell | Tiarnán Ó Duinnchinn | Siobhán Peoples
Mirella Murray | Aimee Farrell Courtney | Méabh Smyth | Angelina Carberry | Ryan Molloy | Andy McGregor | Ian Burrows
Aisling Lyons | Daithí Gormley | Martha Guiney | Gareth McLees | Len Graham | Cathal Ó Curráin | Úna Monaghan
Scott Wallace | Lauren O'Neill | Maria Rafferty | Johnny Reidy Céilí Band | Maurice Leyden, Jane Cassidy & Paul Clements

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