

16th Annual

Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival

SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 9

Féile an Fhómhair 2016



FREE PROGRAMME

Presented by Donegal County Council Cultural Services

BA MHAITH LINN BUÍOCHAS A GHABHÁIL CHUIG

Michelle Fee, Michael Daly, Andrea Kennedy, Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon. **Conor Malone**, Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey. **Paul Diver**, Sandhouse Hotel, Rossnowlagh. **Johnny & Christine Boyle**, Highlands Hotel, Glenties. **Marguerite Howley**, Castle Murray House Hotel. **Stephen McCahill**, Ardara Heritage Centre, **Gerry Gillespie, Halla Mhuire**, Gleann Choilm Cille. **Martina Ní Dhomhnaill**, Aislann Chill Chartha.

Maura Logue, Dark Daughter Productions. **Denise Blake**, Literary Programme Curator. **Mandy Blinco**, Mark Hill, LUXe. **Emer Keon**, Erne Enterprise Development Company Ltd. **Kieran Quinn, Andrew McNulty**, Balor Rep Theatre Company. **Deborah Cunningham**, Donegal Voices. **John Travers**, Ballyshannon Drama Society. **Sean Ó Beirne**, Ceol na gConallach/Comhairle Pharóiste Chill Chartha, **Seamus Carbin**, Leghowney Hall Committee. **Christian Carbin, Art Kavanagh, Amanda Crawford**, Donegal Drama Circle. **Kate O'Callaghan, Shirley Anne Bonner, Víctor Yelamo**, Donegal Camerata. **Caoimhín MacAoidh, Rab Cherry**, Cairdeas na bhFidiléirí. **Aidan O'Donnell**, Coiste Cultúrtha Dhún Cheann Phaola. **Daniel Brown**, Ocean FM. **Patsy O'Kane, Martin Ferris, Leslie Long, Mitchell Davies**.

Iga Lawne, Donegal Tourism Ltd. **Anne Marie Conlon**, Donegal County Council Communications Officer. **Paul Brown, Leanne McClintock**, Earagail Arts Festival. **Judith McCarthy, Caroline Carr**, Donegal County Museum. **Shaun Hannigan, Jeremy Howard**, Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny.

Cover: *Recruiting Party, Donegal 1915*. Photo: *Donegal County Museum*

FUNDERS & PARTNERS



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19
2016
CLAR COMHATHA
CEAD BLAIDH
Cineamail Proiméir



CLÁR

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Réamhrá Introduction

This is the 16th. year of the Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival, a Donegal County Council Cultural Services initiative, supported by An Comhairle Ealaíon and Donegal County Council.

This year's Festival will honour the Ireland 1916-2016 Centenary with two very special events. The Festival's largest event, the Festival Carnival Parade, will reflect Ballyshannon in 1916, a turbulent and exciting time with so much in the air – war in Europe and young men from all over the North West travelling to the Royal Inniskillings training

camp at Finner, the Irish Volunteers planning for an imminent rebellion in Dublin and a movement towards granting women the right to vote, gathering momentum in Britain and Ireland.


The Festival is also delighted to host the second only performance of Inishowen singer and composer Kate O'Callaghan's song series, The Girl With the Beret, inspired by her great grand aunt's statement to the Office of Military History, about her role in the Easter Rising and its aftermath.

Local companies Balor Rep, Dark Daughter

and Donegal Drama Circle will present plays by Marie Jones, Maura Logue - a brand new work – and Martin McDonagh respectively, while Stranorlar native Shirley Anne Bonner presents a new play on the life and times of Frances Browne – the 'Blind Poetess of Ulster' - on the occasion of the bicentenary of her birth. The Festival also extends a very warm welcome to the Askeraden Theatre Group from Oslo who travel to Donegal as guests of the Ballyshannon Drama Society. Their production of one of the classics of Norwegian theatre, Henrik Ibsen's Peer Gynt, is hugely anticipated.

Acknowledgements

The Festival programme is created in partnership with a number of prominent Donegal arts initiatives including the The Abbey Arts Centre and Erne Enterprise Development Company Ltd., Dark Daughter Productions, LUXe landscape theatre company, The Balor Arts Centre and The Balor Rep Theatre Company, Donegal Drama Circle, Cairdeas na bhFidiléirí, Mountcharles Opera Festival and Bluestack Chorale, Ballyshannon Drama Society, Denise Blake Literary Curator, Coiste Chultúrtha Dhún Cheann Fhaola, Comhairle Pharóiste Chill Chartha.



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THEÁTRE, CARNIVAL

*Carnival 2011 Photo: **Briain Ó Droma***

DARK DAUGHTER PRODUCTIONS

Mother Loss

The Story of the Wollstonecraft Women

*Written and Directed by Maura Logue • Original Music by Niamh Currid
With Margaret Kilcoyne, Regina Fahy, Maura Logue and Rena Bryson*

THURSDAY • September 29 • Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon • 8.30pm • €10

What if the three Wollstonecraft women - Mary Wollstonecraft, Mary Shelley and Fanny Imlay - met in a place, beyond time and earthy bounds? What would their discourse be?

Mother Loss imagines a reunion of these three extraordinary, 19th century women - mother Mary Wollstonecraft (pioneering British writer and feminist whose *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* made the outrageous claim for the time, that women were not naturally inferior to men,

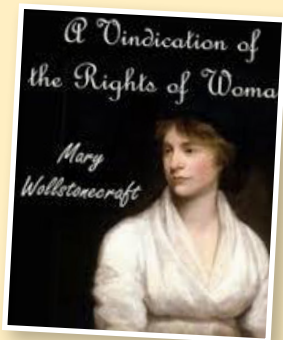
but only appeared so through being denied access to

education) and her daughters

Mary Shelly (author of the classic Gothic horror novel, *Frankenstein*) and Fanny Imlay, the younger of the two, who died tragically at the age of 25.

The losses and the hardships they endured, with stoic and singular resolve, in a time of inequality and bondage, are explored in this intimate, new play with music.

The story has a strong Donegal connection as Mary Wollstonecraft's mother Elizabeth was originally Elizabeth Dixon of Ballyshannon. The Dixons were a particularly wealthy merchant and landowning family in the town.



GREEN SHOOTS PRODUCTIONS

Two Sore Legs

By Brenda Murphy • Directed by Martin Lynch. Featuring Maria Connolly.

FRIDAY • September 30 • Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey • 8.00pm • €15/€12

Set in 1950's and 60's Belfast, **Two Sore Legs** tells the remarkable true story of playwright Brenda Murphy's mother Bridget – a young Butlin's Redcoat who had several children by a married man, who lived near-by with his own family. The play explores the scandal, the pain, the joy and the fallout from this extraordinary family arrangement. From the rowdy and fractious relationship between Bridget and her own father, to the comical visits of the parish priest wanting to take her young children from her, it exudes the full range of family ups and downs, emotions and experiences.

The show enjoyed sell-out runs at Belfast's Lyric Theatre and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, with actress **Maria Connolly's** compelling performances drawing repeated standing ovations and rave reviews. The highly regarded Belfast actress has performed with all of Northern Ireland's leading theatres and theatre companies including the Lyric, the Grand Opera House, Tinderbox, Kabosh and Prime



Cut, with whom she was nominated for a Best Actress Irish Times Theatre Award for her performance in George Walker's play, *Problem Child*.

Two Sore Legs comes to Donegal as part of an extended tour prior to opening in Belfast's Grand Opera House in October.

Jaw achingly funny. An incredible one-woman tour de force. A must see.

Edinburgh Evening News *****

Rarely has a theatrical experience wormed its way under my skin like this did, and continues to do so.

Belfast Telegraph.

BALLYSHANNON DRAMA SOCIETY PRESENTS

Askeraden Theatre Company (Oslo)

Peer Gynt

By Henrik Ibsen • Directed by May Britt

SATURDAY • October 1 • Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon • 8.00pm • €10

What a fabulous treat this promises to be for theatre fans in the North West! Oslo-based Askeraden Theatre Company, visiting Donegal as guests of Ballyshannon Music and Drama Society and bringing with them their innovative production of one of the classics of Norwegian theatre, Henrik Ibsen's Peer Gynt! Part drama, part fairytale, Peer Gynt tells the story of a wayward Norwegian farmboy who embarks on a series of fantastical travels around

the world, complete with encounters with elf kings, trolls, villains and outlaws.

In their distinctive contemporary take on the play, Askeraden have re-imagined the lead character as a modern day teenage girl – Pe Gynt – whom we observe on an impulsive, rollercoaster ride through life. Earlier this year, the production was the hugely popular centrepiece of Askeraden's celebration of 35 years as a theatre group.



BALOR REP THEATRE COMPANY

Fly Me To The Moon

By Marie Jones • Directed by Kieran Quinn • With Cathleen Bradley and Orla Mullan

TUESDAY • October 4 • Abbey Arts Centre, **Ballyshannon** • 8.00pm • €10

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY • October 5-6

Balor Arts Centre, **Ballybofey** • 8.00pm • €12/€10

SATURDAY • October 8 • Halla Mhuire, **Gleann Cholm Cille** • 8.30pm • €10

SUNDAY • October 9 • The Heritage Centre, **Ardara** • 8.00pm • €10



Balor Rep Theatre Company present the latest hilarious new comedy from Belfast playwright Marie Jones, the Olivier Award winning author of *Stones in His Pockets* and *Women on The Verge of HRT*. In *Fly Me to The Moon*, which enjoyed a hugely successful recent run at the Gaiety Theatre, Frances and Loretta are community care visitors who look after 84 year old Davey, a lonely old man who lives for his Frank Sinatra records and his modest weekly bet on the horses. But when Davey dies unexpectedly, having just enjoyed the biggest win of his life, an amazing possibility presents itself to the two cash-strapped women.

Well-known Ballybofey actress **Cathleen Bradley** has performed in many successful plays over the years including *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Translations*, *Stand by Your Man-The Tammy Wynette Story* and *The Patsy Cline Story*. Cathleen has toured with Conal Gallen's comedy hit shows *A Bit on The Side* and *A Bit on the Sunny Side*.

Limavaddy actress **Orla Mullan** has appeared in two previous Balor Rep productions - *The Country Boy* and *Long Gone Lonesome Cowgirls*, both very popular audience favourites at the Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival. She has toured the UK, Ireland and internationally with *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Sense and Sensibility*.

Brilliant... Impeccable comic timing.
Irish Independent

Fizzes with comic energy
The Belfast Telegraph

DONEGAL DRAMA CIRCLE

The Cripple of Inishmaan

By *Martin McDonagh* • Directed by *Christian Carbin*

THURSDAY – SATURDAY • October 6-8

Ardaghy Community Centre, **Inver**

8.00pm • €12/€10

The Cripple of Inishmaan is a dark comedy by award-winning London Irish playwright Martin McDonagh, who links his story with the true life filming of the iconic documentary, *Man of Aran*, in the early 1930s by the famed American director, Robert J. Flaherty. In McDonagh's brilliant play, the young Billy Claven, on hearing of Flaherty's imminent arrival on the neighbouring island of Inis Mór, becomes determined to get a part in the film. And he is not about to let the fact that he has a deformed left arm and leg from birth, is an orphan and lives in a village fuelled by gossip, rumour and lies, stand in his way.

The most recent production of the play, on London's West End in 2013, featured famed Harry Potter actor Daniel Radcliffe in the role of Billy, alongside much-loved Irish actor Pat Shortt who was widely praised for his performances in the role of town gossip, Johnnypateenmike, who makes a living swapping morsels of information for food.



This highly anticipated Donegal Drama Circle production, directed by **Christian Carbin**, features **Conor Breslin** as Billy, with **Conor Friery, Ultan Pringle, Kate Gurrán, Suzanne Thomas, Seamus McHugh, Barry Breslin, Siofra Pringle** and **Amanda Crawford**. Lighting is by **Art Kavanagh** with set design and construction by **Martin Crawford**.

As outrageously funny as it often is, the play aches with a subliminal sadness that stays with you.

New York Times

A well observed satire on Ireland's obsession with how it's seen by the outside world.

The Irish Times

'It'll all end in tears.' (Eileen) 'Tears or death or worse!' (Kate).

The Cripple of Inishmaan

#WAKINGTHEFEMINISTSWEST

Frances Browne: In My Minds Eye

Written and Directed by Shirley-Anne Bonner • With Eimear Joyce,
Rebecca Spelman, Laura Webb, Anna-Jane Kingston,
Elizabeth Flaherty and Paul Patton, Fiddle

An original new play inspired by the Life and Work of 'The Blind Poetess of Ulster.'
In celebration of the bicentenary of her birth, 1816 – 2016

FRIDAY • October 7 • Balor Arts Centre, **Ballybofey** • 8.00pm • €10



Stranorlar native Frances Browne (1816 – 1879) was a prolific writer of short stories, poems essays and novels, best known for her book of fairytales, *Granny's Wonderful Chair*. Her achievements are all the more remarkable as she overcame poverty, lack of education, geographical isolation and the restrictions placed upon her as a blind woman, to become an established and respected writer of her time.

Frances Browne: In My Mind's Eye traces Browne's journey from Stranorlar to Edinburgh to London, and explores the relationships between Browne and her scribes - her sister Rebekah and her friend Eliza Hickman. Beautiful, moving, thought-provoking and funny, their story is a testament to the passion of the artistic struggle and to the power of the imagination.

Frances Browne: In My Mind's Eye is presented as part of #wakingthefeministswest, a student-led theatre initiative, based in Galway, and supported by the Department for Drama, Theatre and Performance at NUI Galway. #wakingthefeministswest is a season of work featuring Irish women writers, and is honoured to premiere this piece from an exciting new talent.

This production marks **Shirley-Anne Bonner's** professional debut as playwright and director. Also a native of Stranorlar, Shirley-Anne recently graduated with a First in the Masters in Drama and Theatre Studies at NUI Galway and was selected for the Abbey Theatre's Playwrights' Hub in the 2015 Dublin Fringe Festival. She has been involved in teaching and producing drama for many years.

ERNE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD
& DARK DAUGHTER PRODUCTIONS

Army Dreamers: Ballyshannon 1916

SATURDAY • October 8 • College Street,
Castle Street, The Port, **Ballyshannon • 7.30pm**

Ballyshannon in 1916, a turbulent and exciting time – War in Europe, the Royal Inniskillings at Finner, Irish Volunteers planning Rebellion and the Womens Right to Vote movement gathering momentum throughout Britain and Ireland.

The opening segment of this year's Parade will imagine two recruiting parties, accompanied by marching bands, arriving in the town on the same day in early 1916 – one urging young people to sign up to the great adventure unfolding in Europe, the other willing them to stay at home and join the movement to create a new, independent Irish republic. Actors from the local Dark Daughter Productions company will play the parts of the recruiters, urging the public to join their cause.


LUXe Landscape Theatre Company, **Réalta** and **Workhouse Theatre** will be joined by up to 200 performers



including young people from **Magh Éne College, Coláiste Colmcille** and local primary schools. Cumann na mBan and Votes for Women advocates will be out in force, courtesy of the Donegal Town Branch of the **Donegal Womens Network** and the **Rathcormack Sean Nos Group**.

A special Finalé will feature performances by Dark Daughter actors, working with Coláiste Colm Cille TY students.

Parking Restrictions and Traffic Diversions will be in place along the Parade Route from 6.00pm – 9.00pm. Please co-operate with Carnival Parade Stewards, An Garda Síochána and Civil Defence Personnel at all times.

A black and white, close-up photograph of an elderly man with a mustache and a hat, looking down intently at a saxophone he is playing. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the textures of his skin and the metallic details of the instrument. The background is dark and out of focus.

MUSIC
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Songs for an Autumn Evening

Deborah Cunningham, Paul Martin, Evan McGarrigle and The Bluestack Chorale

SATURDAY • 1 October • St Patrick's Parish Centre, Donegal Town • 8.00pm • €10



A mutual love of opera brought Deborah Cunningham and Paul Martin together with Evan McGarrigle, a number of years ago to stage what has now become known as The Mountcharles Opera Festival. An event which has been held annually since 2008 has seen them deliver some of the most beautiful opera scenes in the popular repertoire, from works as diverse as Verdi's *La Traviata*, Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* and this year's offering of Leoncavallo's.

Deborah and Paul are soloists with North West Opera and Donegal Voices, whilst Evan is in much demand both as a solo pianist and accompanist

throughout Donegal.

In 2011, they formed The Bluestack Chorale to introduce a new element to their productions, very quickly establishing themselves as a reputable ensemble with a diverse repertoire spanning from Tallis through Britten and right up to modern day composers such as Eric Whitacre. Under the direction of Paul Martin, this brilliantly versatile ensemble will treat their audience to a wonderful programme of cabaret classics, including *New York, New York*, *Moon River* and *Mac the Knife*, and operatic favourites from the Barber of Seville, *Don Carlos*, *Candide* and *Pagliacci*.

CEOL NA GCONALLACH

Gay McIntyre Trio

Gay McIntyre, John Trotter, Alan Niblock

SATHARN/SATURDAY • 1ú Deireadh Fómhar/October 1

Aislann Chill Chartha/Cill Chartha, **Kilcar** • 8.30pm • €10



McNamara's Band, for which he was paid 30 shillings, a very good fee at the time. He later joined the Clipper Carlton showband and played throughout Ireland and the UK. As his reputation grew, he was in steady demand and at one point was at the same time a member of both the BBC NI and the RTÉ concert orchestras. Still hugely popular to this

Derry alto saxophone player and clarinetist **Gay McIntyre** is one of the living legends of the Irish and UK jazz and big band scene. Hugely admired by the likes of Nat King Cole (who once asked him move to America and join his band), Humphrey Lyttleton, Acker Bilk and Kenny Ball, Gay has been performing, touring, teaching and living jazz music for over 60 years.

He got his first professional gig at fourteen – a weekly Sunday night show in Bundoran with John Foley's

day, he is a particular favourite with younger jazz musicians, who relish the opportunity to perform alongside him.

Tonight Gay will be accompanied by his longtime friend **John Trotter** on trombone, violin, accordion and vocals. Also from Derry, John will be well known to showband afficianadoes as a member of the Plattermen, and latterly of Rob Strong and the Rockets. Completing the trio is double bassist **Alan Niblock**, a highly regarded young jazz musician and composer from Belfast.

The Girl with The Beret

By Kate O'Callaghan • Performed by Kate O'Callaghan and the Donegal Camerata String Ensemble, with Kevin Murphy, Seamus Devenney, Declan McClafferty, Tim Jarvis and Martin Smyth • Special Guest, John McNutt

SATURDAY • October 1 • Regional Cultural Centre, **Letterkenny** • 8.00pm • €10

SUNDAY • October 2 • The Abbey Arts Centre, **Ballyshanon** • 8.00pm • €10

The Girl with The Beret is a suite of newly composed songs by Inishowen songwriter Kate O'Callaghan, which have been inspired by her Great-Grand Aunt, Catherine Rooney (Byrne), a member of Cumann na mBan and the first woman to enter the GPO on Easter Monday 1916. The songs are based on the details of her story which were recorded in a Bureau of Military History Witness Statement.

The show presents a collaborative fusion of alternative folk, popular ballad and classical strings. Through song and spoken word, it gives a unique insight into the perspective of an ordinary girl living in 1916 and what it meant, as a female, to be involved in the Rebellion.

Kate O'Callaghan's music has received extensive national and international airplay and she has toured in Ireland, the UK and the US.



On Easter Monday last in Dublin, she performed a selection of songs from *The Girl with The Beret* as part of RTÉ's *Reflecting The Rising* programme of events.

• **Donegal Camerata String Ensemble** is an international string ensemble based in the

North West. The ensemble consists of Hungarian violinist **Orsolya Szabó-Yélamo** (first violin), Northern Ireland violinist **Claire Cunningham** (second violin), Slovakian string player **Lucia Spacirova** (viola), **Michael McGinty** (double bass) and Spanish cellist **Víctor Yélamo**



LEGHOWNEY COMMUNITY HALL COMMITTEE

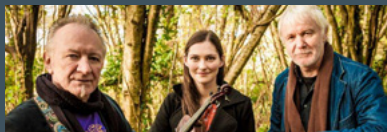
Zoë Conway, Máirtín O'Connor and Donal Lunny

WEDNESDAY • October 5 • Leghowney Community Hall, Leghowney, **Bearnasmore**
8.00pm • Tickets €20 from Ward's Music Shop, **Donegal Town** • T: 074 9721313

Next year, Leghowney Community Hall, one of the longest established such facilities in Donegal, celebrates 80 years at the centre of community life in the Leghowney, Bearnasmore area. With admirable enthusiasm, the Hall Committee are starting the celebrations early and in style, with a concert by what is surely the hottest trio in Irish music today - Zoë Conway, Máirtín O'Connor and Donal Lunny.

Máirtín O'Connor, the virtuoso accordion player from Galway, enjoys an enormous reputation as a solo artist, a composer and as a founder member of such seminal Irish folk and traditional bands as Dé Danann, Midnight Well and Skylark. He was also central to the phenomenal success of Riverdance, with whom he toured the world for many years.

Fiddle player **Zoë Conway** is fast becoming one of Ireland's favourite and most sought after musicians. She is equally at home a guest soloist with the RTE National Symphony Orchestra – as she showed admirably in the televised 1916-2016 Commemorative Concert from



Collins Barracks, earlier this year – as she is in a traditional session. She has released two solo albums, *Zoë Conway* and *The Horse's Tail*, both critically acclaimed. Zoë tours regularly with her husband, John Mc Intyre on guitar, and the duo recently released their first studio album, *Go Mairí i bhFad (Long Life To You)*.

Guitar and bazouki player **Donal Lunny** has had a huge influence on the development of Irish traditional music in modern times. A founder member of Planxty, The Bothy Band and Moving Hearts - and presently Usher's Island and LAPD - he is also a gifted composer, arranger and producer. Donal's connections with Donegal and with Donegal music are strong. His mother hailed from Rann na Feirste and he has a great love for the work of Rann na Feirste writer, Seosamh MacGianna.

COISTE CULTÚRTHA DHÚN CHEANN FHAOLA

Caitlín and Ciarán

THURSDAY • October 6 • Castle Murray House Hotel,
St. John's Point, **Dunkineely** • 8.00pm • €10

Aclaimed musicians each in their own right, Caitlín Nic Gabhann and Ciarán Ó Maonaigh have joined forces to create one of traditional music's most impressive acts. Through fiddle, concertina and dance, Caitlín and Ciarán breathe fire into musical pieces, combining their arts with chemistry and energy.

Caitlín Nic Gabhann is a three time All-Ireland champion concertina player and an accomplished dancer who has toured the world with *Riverdance*. She teaches concertina annually at summer and winter schools in Ireland, Europe and USA and has performed with the RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet, Paddy Keenan, Liam Ó Maonlaí, and for presidents and royalty around the world, most recently at the *Ceiliúradh* concert event in the Royal Albert Hall, London, as a guest of President Michael D. Higgins.

Gaoth Dobhair native **Ciarán Ó Maonaigh**, a former recipient of TG4 Young Musician of the Year, has been heavily influenced by his extended family - his grandfather and teacher Francie Mooney, Altan members



Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh and Frankie Kennedy, Derry fiddle player Dermot McLaughlin as well as the Donegal fiddle legend John Doherty amongst others. He is a member of the band Fidil along with Aidan O'Donnell and Damien McGeehan

Ciarán has that Donegal fiddlers' knack of being technically exact, fearless and free. Caitlín's concertina is no less thrilling as she expands perceptions of the instrument. It was her feet that lifted us though in the showpiece 'Belfast Hornpipe/Ms. McLeods' with sublime synchronisation of her dancing shoes and Ciarán's playful fiddle. The gasps were audible.

New York Irish Arts

CUIREANN CAIRDEAS NA BHFIDLÉIRÍ I LÁTHAIR

The 34th. Annual GLENTIES FIDDLERS GATHERING

FRIDAY – SUNDAY • October 7-9 • The Highlands Hotel, Glenties

www.donegalfiddle.com

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. The Friday night is always the occasion for some great fiddle



music as players from all over Ireland arrive in Glenties for the weekend. Fiddle players from the Scottish tradition are commonly featured as are both young and established players from the Donegal tradition. Workshops for persons who have already achieved a level of playing are provided during the course of the weekend.

FIDDLE MASTERCLASSES

Saturday and **Sunday** • 11.30am to 1.00pm at **The Highlands Hotel**. There is no charge but Booking on **071 9852144** or **rabcherry1@gmail.com**, is advisable.

ILLUSTRATED TALK – The Recording of *The Brass Fiddle*, 30th. Anniversary.

Saturday • 1.00pm at **The Highlands Hotel**

The Brass Fiddle was the first of many seminal recordings made by Cairdeas na bhFidiléirí (Donegal Fiddlers Association), bringing the fiddle music of Donegal to a world audience. It featured the playing of four master Donegal fiddle players – **Con Cassidy, Francie Byrne, Vincent Campbell** and **James Byrne**.

Donegal Fiddlers Concert

Saturday • October 8 • The Highlands Hotel • 9.00pm • €12

One of the main focal points of the weekend is the Donegal Fiddlers concert on Saturday night. This year's concert will feature performances by **Na Mooney's**, **Vincent Campbell** and **Catherine, Ellie** and **Brídín McGinley**. Joining them will be this year's special guest from Scotland, **Douglas Lawrence**.

Na Mooney's are the Mooney or the Ó Maonaigh family from Cois Cladaigh, Gaath Dobhair, i. Altan founder member Mairéad Ní Mhaonigh (fiddle and songs) and her sister Anna Ní Mhaonaigh (whistle and songs), along with their brother Gearóid (guitar) and his son, Ciarán Ó Maonaigh (fiddle). Though they have always played music together in the family and at sessions, it is only very recently that they have begun to perform as a family band.

Tonight's audience will enjoy a wonderful set of tunes and songs, drawn from Na Mooney's recently recorded, debut CD.

Douglas Lawrence is a master fiddle player from Buckie, Banffshire. He studied under Hector McAndrew, one of the all-time greats of



Scottish fiddle playing. He is also an accomplished classical player and spent 20 years performing, recording and touring with the Scottish National Orchestra.

Vincent Campbell is one of the true legends of Donegal fiddle playing. He is featured on the first Cairdeas na bhFidiléirí recording, *The Brass Fiddle*. Cairdeas also recorded and released Vincent's own solo CD, *The Purple Heather*.

Ellie, Brídín and **Catherine McGinley** are sisters and cousins from Gleann Cholm Cille. They are fine exponents of the local style of fiddle playing, all greatly influenced by the music of the late, great James Byrne.

The Donegal Voices

Conductor, **Andrew Batchelor** • Organist, **Ian Mills**

• *Magnificat in D, JS Bach* • *Gloria, Antonio Vivaldi*

FRIDAY • September 30 • Trinity Presbyterian Church, **Letterkenny** • 8.00pm

FRIDAY • October 7 • St Anne's Church of Ireland Church, **Ballyshannon** • 8.00pm

The Donegal Voices was formed in 2015 by Deborah Cunningham and Eileen Carr with Andrew Batchelor as Musical Director. With a membership stretching from Dunfanaghy and Letterkenny in the north, to Donegal, Ballyshannon and Kinlough in the south, this very much is a choir of the North West.

Their first performances of Beethoven's Mass in C in Ballyshannon and Letterkenny in May 2015 were a tremendous success. This year the Donegal Voices singers have worked to perfect their interpretations of Johann Sebastian Bach's Magnificat in D and Antonio Vivaldi's ever popular Gloria, both of which will form the basis of their Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival programme.

With semi-chorus and soloists being drawn from the choir, the Principal Soloists are **Deborah Cunningham**, Soprano; **Anna Meehan**, Soprano; **Fiona Wasson**, Mezzo Soprano; **Carole Leonard**, Alto; **Pat Doherty**, Tenor; **Liam**



Winters, Tenor and **Paul Martin**, Baritone.

Andrew Batchelor, Conductor and Musical Director, is principally a singer, having been a post-graduate student at The Royal Academy of Music, London. He has performed extensively as a soloist 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. Now resident in Mountcharles, he devotes his time to vocal training, conducting, teaching and composition.

Ian Mills is a Northern Ireland based organist and teacher. Since 2006, he has held the position of Organist and Master of the Choristers at St Columb's Cathedral in Derry. In addition, he is Director of the renowned Belfast chamber choir, Renaissance.

The 4 Of Us

SATURDAY • October 8 • Balor Arts Centre, **Ballybofey • 8.30pm**

The 4 Of Us bring their critically acclaimed acoustic show to the Balor Arts Centre, showcasing songs from their brand new album, *Sugar Island* - their first in ten years and due for release next month - as well as songs from their extensive back catalogue.

Newry brothers **Brendan** and **Declan Murphy** have remained a constant presence, maintaining an impressive uninterrupted run since the release of their blockbuster debut album, *Songs for the Tempted*. That collection included their first anthem, *Mary* - still a huge radio favourite – as well as couple of other Irish rock classics, *Drag My Bad Name* down and *Washington Down*. She Hits Me, from 1992's *Man Alive* album,

saw the band break into the UK charts and launch an extended career that has seen The 4 Of Us enjoy two decades of radio hits and six Top 20 charting albums.

The current nationwide Irish acoustic tour, one of the band's most extensive in recent years, culminates in two suitably high profile shows, at Dublin's Vicar Street and at the Lyric Theatre in Belfast.

The song choices hit home, delight the crowd and serve as a timely reminder of just how many good songs they have in the tank.

Irish Independent

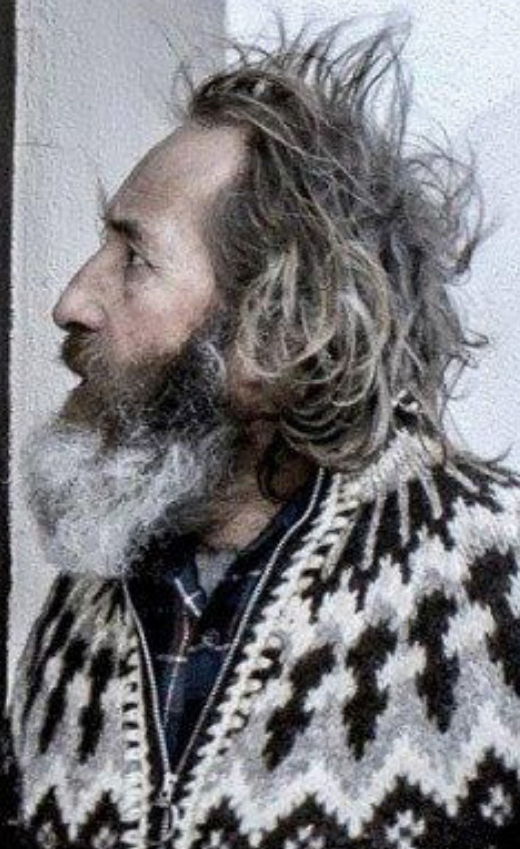
Never before have I been to a gig where the atmosphere has been so electric.

The Irish News



LIT
LITERARY & FILM

ÍOCHT
SCANNÁNAÍOCHT



Rams

A film by Grímur Hákonarson • *In Icelandic with English subtitles*

THURSDAY • October 6 • Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon • 8.00pm • €7

AN AOINE • 7ú Deireadh Fómhar • Aislann Chill Chartha, Cill Chartha • 8.30pm • €7

FRIDAY • October 7 • Aislann Chill Chartha, Kilcar • 8.30pm • €7



In a secluded Icelandic valley, brothers Gummi and Kiddi are warring neighbours who have not spoken to one another for forty years. Communicating only via a sheepdog who carries notes between them when the need arises, their intense rivalry finds an outlet in the valley's annual competition for the Best Prize Ram. But when the spectre of the fatal scrapie disease threatens their remote farms, the brothers must come together to save what's dearest to them – their sheep.

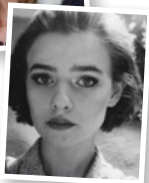
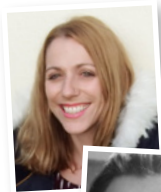
Is beirt deartháireacha fósannach iad Gummi agus Kiddi atá i mbun achrann is nár labhar le chéile le dhá scór blian anuas. Táid ag maireachtáil leo i ngleann scoite, iargúlta is a saol tugtha ina iomláine dá gcuid caoirigh. Achan bliain, téann said in iomaíocht le chéile i gComórtas Reithe Duaise an ghleanna, is téann an coimhlint eatharthu in olcas dá bharr. Ach nuair a chloistear an scéal go bhfuil an galar marfach scrapie taghta chun an ghleann, bíonn ar Gummi agus Kiddi teach ar thuiscint faoi dheireadh, chun a shlí maireachtála ar leith a shábháil.

• **Running Time 91 mins.** • **Suitable Age 15+**

A SUNDAY AFTERNOON MISCELLANY

Poems, Songs and Stories

Elizabeth Reapy, Imelda Maguire, Anthony Glavin,
Kate Dempsey, Rosie Carney and Sarah Cullen



SUNDAY • October 9 • Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon • 3.00pm • €5

An echo of the immensely enjoyable Sunday Miscellany recordings of previous years, this specially curated event features some of the finest emerging literary and musical talent in the country today.

Elizabeth (EM) Reapy's debut novel, *Red Dirt*, a thriller inspired by the author's backpacking trip around Australia has just been published by London publishing house, Head of Zeus. A native of Mayo, her work is also featured in *The Long Gaze Back: An Anthology of Irish Women Writers*.

Boston-born writer and editor **Anthony Glavin** is no stranger to the Abbey Arts Centre, having been featured in a number of the RTE Radio 1 Sunday Miscellany programmes recorded here, over the past few years. He is the author of two short story collections, *One For Sorrow* and *The Draughtsman and The Unicorn*, and two critically acclaimed novels, *Nighthawk Alley* and *Colours Other Than Blue*.

Kate Dempsey's poetry is published in many journals in Ireland and the UK. She has won many awards for

her work, including The Plough Prize, a Cecil Day Lewis Award and was shortlisted Hennessy New Irish Writing Award.

Imelda Maguire's most recent collection of poetry, *Serendipity*, was published last year by the Limerick Writers Centre. Imelda has lived most of her adult life in Sligo and Donegal, where she now resides.

Rosie Carney is a singer and songwriter, originally from Hampshire, now living in Downings. Earlier this year she performed at the SXSW Music Festival in Austin, Texas, as part of a Culture Ireland-sponsored Irish artists showcase. A recent Burberry Acoustic video, for her song *Humans*, has already been viewed over 40,000 times.

Sarah Cullen is a multi-instrumentalist, singer and songwriter from Carrigart. Blurring the boundaries between traditional country, jazz and blues, she has performed in the US and on mainland Europe as well as being involved in many musical projects in Ireland.

Bookáil/Booking

For all Festival events, tickets will be available for purchase at the venue on the evening of the performance. To avoid disappointment, however, 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. This is especially advised in the case of Zoe Conway, Máirtín O'Connor and Donal Lunny at Leghowney Community Hall.

Tickets and Booking at **The Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon** • T: 071 9851375
Mother Loss, Peer Gynt, The Girl with The Beret, Fly Me To The Moon, Rams and **An Afternoon of Poetry, Songs and Stories**, at **The Abbey Arts Centre**.

Tickets and Booking at **The Balor ARTS CENTRE, Ballybofey**. T: 074 9131840
Two Sore Legs, Fly Me To The Moon, Frances Browne: In My Mind's Eye and **The 4 Of Us** at **The Balor Arts Centre**.

Tickets at **WARD'S MUSIC SHOP, Donegal Town**. T: 074 9721313
Zoe Conway, Máirtín O'Connor and **Donal Lunny** at **Leghowney Community Hall**.

For **General Information** on **The Festival**, please contact
The Festival Office/ Donegal County Library Tel. 074 9121968

DIALANN LAE/ DAY BY DAY

EVENTS		PAGE
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 29		
Mother Loss: The Wollstonecraft Women	Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon	8.30pm 3
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 30		
Two Sore Legs	Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey	8.00pm 4
The Donegal Voices	Trinity Presbyterian Church, L'kenney	8.00pm 18
SATURDAY OCTOBER 1		
Peer Gynt, Askeraden Theatre	Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon	8.00pm 5

SATURDAY OCTOBER 1 (contd.)

Songs for an Autumn Evening	St. Patrick's Parish Centre, Donegal Town	8.00pm	11
The Girl with The Beret/Kate O'Callaghan Gay McIntyre Trio	Regional Cultural Centre, L'kenney Aislann Chill Chartha, Cill Chartha/Kilcar	8.00pm	13 8.30pm 12

SUNDAY OCTOBER 2

The Girl with The Beret /Kate O'Callaghan	Abbey Arts Centre, B'shannon	8.00pm	13
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TUESDAY OCTOBER 4

Fly Me To The Moon/Balor Rep	Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon	8.00pm	6
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WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 5

Zoe Conway, Máirtín O'Connor, Donal Lunny	Leghowney Hall, Leghowney	8.00pm	14
Fly Me To The Moon/Balor Rep	Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey	8.00pm	6

THURSDAY OCTOBER 6

The Cripple of Inishmaan/Donegal Drama	Ardaghy Community Centre, Inver	8.00pm	7
Caitlín and Ciarán	Castle Murray House Hotel, St. John's Point	8.00pm	15
Film Screening/Rams	Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon	8.00pm	21
Fly Me To The Moon/Balor Rep	Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey	8.00pm	6

FRIDAY OCTOBER 7

The Donegal Voices	St. Anne's COI Church, Ballyshannon	8.00pm	18
Frances Browne: In My Mind's Eye	Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey	8.00pm	8
The Cripple of Inishmaan/Donegal Drama	Ardaghy Community Centre, Inver	8.00pm	7
Film Screening/Rams	Aislann Chill Chartha, Cill Chartha/Kilcar	8.30pm	21
Donegal Fiddlers Gathering	Highlands Hotel, Glenties (informal)	10.00pm	16

SATURDAY OCTOBER 8

Fiddle Masterclasses	Highlands Hotel, Glenties	11.30am	16
The Recording of The Brass Fiddle (Talk)	Highlands Hotel, Glenties	1.00pm	16
Carnival Parade /Army Dreamers	Ballyshannon	7.30pm	9
The Cripple of Inishmaan/Donegal Drama	Ardaghy Community Centre, Inver	8.00pm	7
Fly Me To The Moon/Balor Rep	Halla Mhuire, Gleann Cholm Cille	8.30pm	6
The 4 Of Us	Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey	8.30pm	19
Donegal Fiddlers Concert	Highlands Hotel, Glenties	9.00pm	17

SUNDAY OCTOBER 9

Fiddle Masterclasses	Highlands Hotel, Glenties	11.30am	16
Donegal Fiddlers Gathering	Highlands Hotel, Glenties (informal)	2.00pm	16
Afternoon Poetry, Music, Stories	Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon	3.00pm	22
Fly Me To The Moon/Balor Rep	Heritage Centre, Ar dara	8.00pm	6



Sponsors of:
A Sunday Afternoon Miscellany: Poetry, Songs and Stories

Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon
Sunday • October 9 • 3.00pm
Booking T: 071 9851375

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