West Cork Music presents the 21st

MASTERS Since S of C 2003 TRADITION

BANTRY, CO. CORK 23 – 27 AUGUST, 2023

CURATED BY MARTIN HAYES





An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

<u>ART:2023</u>

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WEST CORK MUSIC PRESENTS THE 21ST



BANTRY, CO CORK WEDNESDAY 23 - SUNDAY 27 AUGUST

FEATURING SAM AMIDON • THE BEGLEY CLANN LUKA BLOOM • MICK CONNEELY STEVE COONEY • CRASH ENSEMBLE BRIAN DONNELLAN • KATE ELLIS STEVE HAMILTON • MARTIN HAYES CORA VENUS LUNNY • CHRISTY MC NAMARA DAVID MUNNELLY • MICK O'BRIEN ULTAN O'BRIEN • EOGHAN Ó CEANNABHÁIN CIARA NÍ BHRIAIN • CONAL O'KANE DAVID POWER • PHIL ROBSON • SCOTH LAURA SNOWDEN • CHRISTINE TOBIN

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: MARTIN HAYES

'All of the performers at this festival have reimagined, added to and taken ownership of the music in their own particular ways.'

INTRODUCTION

It is easy to imagine that tradition is a simple repetition of the past. To play this music well, we need to know its past well, we need to understand how it sounded and why it sounded in particular ways at different times and in different places. In order for the individual traditional musician or the music in general to be relevant in the modern world, simply holding on to and preserving the past alone isn't sufficient. Mastery of this music requires that something of the individual artist must be given to the music: their knowledge, feeling, desire and intuition must fuse with the music.

All of the performers at this festival have reimagined, added to and taken ownership of the music in their own particular ways. This year's festival will take us to the core of the music. We will also encounter many emerging ideas within the tradition, new ways of reimagining the past and also ways in which this music can relate with other music forms. The very special moments of musical experience are difficult to predict, but they happen at this festival every year and I'm sure that this year will be no different.

Have a wonderful festival.

Martin Hayes Artistic Director

THE PLAYERS



Sam Amidon [banjo, guitar, fiddle]

Sam Amidon's style is a deeply personal synthesis of folk-based song form and experimental improvisation, it "feels like a liberation" (Uncut) and "provides constant, jolting surprises" (The Guardian). But in his decade-long career as a recording and touring musician, the singer and multi-instrumentalist has always managed to create work that's utterly original, even when, as on previous discs, he was digging through the sounds and stories of traditional American music. The Following Mountain, Sam Amidon's sixth album overall and his third for Nonesuch Records, is his first album of original songs.

The Begley Clann [accordion, concertina, voice]

Eoin and Níall Ó Beaglaoich and their sister Méabh Ní Bheaglaoich are a traditional music family group playing accordion, concertina and singing. They are deeply rooted within the Irish traditional culture of music, song and dance of West Kerry. They all began playing music at a young age and have been greatly influenced by their father Séamus Begley. They each have separate musical careers and have collaborated with acclaimed Irish music greats over the years.

Is clann iad Eoin, Níall agus Méabh Ní Bheaglaoich atá sáite go smior i gceol gaolach Chiarraí Thiar. D'fhoghlaim siad ana chuid des na poirt agus na hamhráin óna athair Séamus Begley. Taistlíonn siad ar fud an domhain ag seimint agus ag tabhairt cultúr na hÉireann go tíortha eile.

Sam Amidon



Luka Bloom [guitar, vocals]

In 1972 Barry Moore wrote a song called Wave Up To The Shore. Not his first song, but it had something. He did some gigs, wrote some songs; and in 1987 he boarded a plane for New York, and Luka Bloom was born. Riverside was released in 1990 on Reprise Records. It was followed by The Acoustic Motorbike, and Turk. During the early 1990s the life of writing, recording and touring took off. As well as his own touring, he has performed at some of the great festivals: Pinkpop (Holland); Roskilde (Denmark), Torhout\Werchter (Belgium), Newport Folk Festival (US) Byron Blues Festival (Australia), Glastonbury and Cambridge, (UK) and all over Ireland. Since 2000, Luka has been releasing his own songs and music via www.lukabloom.com and has released 17 independent albums.

Mick Conneely [fiddle]

Mick is one of the most acclaimed and respected fiddle players in the Irish tradition. In 2001, his debut solo album Selkie was released to critical acclaim on the prestigious boutique trad label Cló lar-Chonnacht and he has recorded on numerous albums to date. Mick is known for his expressive ornamentation, his rhythmic bowing and his rich repertoire of tunes. Mick is a leading exponent of the 6-string Greek bouzouki in Irish traditional music. Mick has taught fiddle and bouzouki at various festivals and workshops around the world. Mick played fiddle with legendary Irish music group De Danann periodically over 22 years from 1991-2013 (full-time between 2009-2013, recording one studio album Wonderwaltz with the band in 2010).

From left: Luka Bloom, Mick Conneely





Crash Ensemble [Photo: Ros Kavanagh]

Steve Cooney [guitar]

Steve was born in Melbourne, Australia and in 1981 he bought a one-way ticket to Ireland where he joined Stockton's Wing as bassist. Since then he has popped up all over the place, with a major contribution to Sharon Shannon's first album, and performances and recordings with Dermot Byrne, Altan, Martin Hayes and others.

Crash Ensemble [trio]

Crash Ensemble is Ireland's leading new music ensemble; a group of worldclass musicians who play the most adventurous, ground-breaking music of today. Amazingly ordinary people doing extraordinary things – Crash Ensemble is innovative, adventurous and ambitious.

Brian Donnellan [concertina, bouzouki]

Brian Donnellan is an accomplished concertina, bouzouki, piano and harmonium player who hails from an East Clare family steeped in traditional Irish music. He is a member of the highly renowned Tulla Céilí Band and the newly established quintet, Martin Hayes & The Common Ground Ensemble. Brian has performed at many national and international festivals including Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy and The Feakle Festival as well as concerts in England, The USA and The National Concert Hall, Dublin.

Kate Ellis [cello]

Cellist Kate Ellis is dedicated to the exploration & creation of new music, with collaboration at the heart of that creation. Kate is the Artistic Director of Crash Ensemble, cellist with Martin Hayes' newly formed Common Ground Ensemble and Bono's Stories of Surrender tour 2022-23. Kate is a versatile musician dedicated to the performance and exploration of all new. Projects include a creative documentation of 2021 with UK based musician and composer Laura Cannell. Kate has been playing cello with Crash since 2002 and in the role of Co-Artistic Director since 2012.



From left: Steve Cooney [Photo: Joe Chapman], Kate Ellis.

Steve Hamilton [piano]

Steve, originally from Aberdeen, is one of Europe's most creative and experienced contemporary pianists, performing a multitude of music from the improvised to pop to film and session work. Steve grew up in a musical family and won a full scholarship to study at Berklee College of Music in Boston. After he moved to London where he became one of the most in-demand pianists across the genres performing with legends such as Freddie Hubbard, Ray Charles, Joe Lovano, Martin Taylor, Gary Burton, Van Morrison, Pee Wee Ellis, Dennis Rollins and became a long standing member of legendary drummer Bill Bruford's internationally acclaimed group Earthworks.

Martin Hayes [fiddle]

One of the most influential musicians in the world of Irish traditional music today, Martin Hayes remains grounded in the music he grew up with in East County Clare. He has toured and recorded with the late great guitarist Dennis Cahill for over twenty years, and has collaborated with extraordinary musicians in the classical, folk and contemporary music worlds. Martin has been recognized as Musician of the Year (Gradam Ceol) from TG4, Person of the Year by the American Irish Historical Society in New York City and is recipient of the annual Spirit of Ireland award from the Irish Arts Center NY. He founded the seminal Irish American band, The Gloaming and more recently The Martin Hayes Quartet and The Common Ground Ensemble.

Cora Venus Lunny [fiddle]

Cora Venus Lunny is a freelance improvising and composing musician with a classical lineage and decades of professional experience in contemporary classical, improvised, recorded and folk musics. A violinist since early childhood, who performed around the world as a soloist and chamber musician before specialising in collaborative contemporary music, they have been exploring improvisation and composition for many years. A fascination with consciousness, groove, power and connection drives their compositional curiosity. She has toured Europe, America and China as a violin soloist with the Dublin Philharmonic Orchestra.



Christy Mc Namara [accordion, concertina]

Christy Mc Namara grew up in a musical family in Crusheen County Clare. His debut recording ' The House I was Reared In' was released in (2007). This year sees the release of a new recording of his original compositions 'The Year of the Blizzard'. Christy has been part of the session scene over the years and a performer at festivals including Scoil Samhradh Willy Clancy and The Feakle Festival. He was a soloist with live score and orchestra for the screening of the film 'Barry Lyndon' (Stanley Kubrick) at The Kings Theater Brooklyn, New York City in 2017.

David Munnelly [accordion]

David is from Belmullet, Co. Mayo, and was reared in a very musical home learning first hand from his grandmother who taught him a love of traditional music and in particular the love for accordion and melodeon music. Known for his colourful style, which inhales bold bass fingerings, complex arrangements and modern compositions; and exhales hints of the Roaring 20's and the energy of a box of dynamite coupled with a masterful knack for letting a tune take its own time for a completely unmistakable and brilliant sound. Early in his career he became a full-time member of Niamh Parsons' band and others including The Chieftains, De Danann to name but a few.

Mick O'Brien [uilleann pipes, whistle and flute]

Mick is a highly regarded performer and teacher of the Uilleann pipes, whistle and flute, bringing his own style and sense of enjoyment to audiences and pupils alike. Mick has recorded and broadcast extensively both at home and abroad as a soloist and with various artists. Though Mick has delved into various different music genres, it is as a traditional artist that he is best known. In 2013, with his daughter Aoife Ní Bhriain and Emer Mayock they released two albums from the Goodman Manuscripts, bringing to life the music collected by Canon James Goodman in the Munster region. Mick and Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh have worked for many years creating a special fiddle and piping duet. This year Mick was awarded the coveted TG4 musician of the award, "Gradam Ceoil na Bliana"



Images, from left to right: Christy Mc Namara [Photograph: Chris Copley], David Munnelly, Mick O'Brien [Photograph: Con Kelleher], Ciara Ní Bhriain

Ultan O'Brien [fiddle, viola]

Ultan is a fiddle/viola player and composer from County Clare based in Leitrim. Ultan has a background in traditional Irish music and improvised music. He travels and plays as a soloist, in duos with Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin and percussive dancer, Nic Gareiss, and as a member of Slow Moving Clouds, Skipper's Alley, John Francis Flynn and Neil Ó Loclainn's Cuar. In 2020, Ultan and Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin released an album, Solas an Lae, on the Scottish label Watercolour Music which was awarded Best Folk Album at the RTÉ Radio 1 Folk Awards 2021. In 2020 Ultan was named one of the Contemporary Music Centre's Emerging Composers and has been commissioned to compose a number of works including a film and score as part of Ulysses Journey 2022.

Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin [sean-nós singing]

Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin is a Dublin-based singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist with his musical roots in sean-nós singing. He has recorded and performed with various bands including Skipper's Alley, Aon Teanga:Un Chengey and Jiggy. His album with fiddle & viola player Ultan O'Brien won Best Folk Album at the RTÉ Folk Awards in 2021. His debut solo album The Deepest Breath was released on November 2022.

Ciara Ní Bhriain [fiddle]

Born into a musical Dublin family, Ciara Ní Bhriain started learning violin at the tender age of three. Parents Mick and Fidelma encouraged Ciara and her siblings to enjoy both their classical music studies and traditional Irish music, which they heard regularly at home. Now recognised internationally as a performer, Ciara has toured with artists including Birkin Tree, Carlos Nunez, and Frankie Gavin and the Provenance. She also spent two years as resident performer at Raglan Road, in Disneyland Florida. More recently, Ciara featured as soloist with the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra, performing The Princess Grace Suite, composed by Frankie Gavin. A little closer to home, Ciara has toured Ireland with Johnny Óg Connolly, performing his composition, An Cosán Draíochta.



From left: Conal O'Kane [Photo: Eddie Kavanagh], Evan Flaherty and Darragh Purcell of Scoth

Conal O'Kane [guitar]

Conal O'Kane is a Philadelphia native and graduate of the University of Limerick's BA in Irish Music and Dance and MA in Irish Music Performance programs. A multi-instrumentalist, he originally played fiddle before focusing on guitar, which gives him an unusual insight into both the melodic and harmonic structures of a large repertoire of tunes. He studied music theory with Roberto Pace at the Settlement Music School, which gives him a broad spectrum of accompaniment techniques from a wide range of musical genres. In addition to his busy touring schedule with the band Goitse, he is also a guitar teacher on both the undergraduate and postgraduate programs in Irish music at the Irish World Academy in UL, and a regular tutor at the Blas International Summer School of Irish Music and Dance.

David Power [uilleann pipes]

David Power's show credits include off-Broadway Love's Pure Light, the Irish Rep. Theatre's The Field and Eugene O'Neill's A Touch of the Poet on Broadway. He has worked with Tony MacMahon and Dermot Bolger on 'The Frost is All Over' and with Kerry Hardie and Olivia O'Leary on To Find a Heathen Place and Sound a Bell. With three solo recordings, 'My Love is in America', 'Cuachín Ghleann Neifin'and The eighteen Moloney', David regularly performs with Willie Kelly and Martin Hayes, baroque violinist Marja Gaynor and flamenco guitarist John Walsh, presents recitals with organist Malcolm Proud and performs with baroque group Camerata Kilkenny.

Phil Robson [guitar]

Phil Robson is a multi-award-winning guitarist & composer, originally from the UK who relocated to New York City in 2015 for five years and is currently based in Ireland. He has led bands featuring jazz legends such as David Liebman, Mark Turner, Billy Hart, James Genus, Marc Copland & many more as well as working as a sideman with Kenny Wheeler, Barbra Streisand, Steve Lacy, Charles Earland, Donny McCaslin, Django Bates, The BBC Big Band, Ingrid Jenson, Phil Woods, Mike Gibbs, Bob Brookmeyer, Steve Wilson and a hugely diverse spectrum of internationally renowned artists.

Above: Laura Snowden [Photo: loannis Theodoridis]

Scoth [vocals, guitar, banjo]

Scoth (Evan Flaherty and Darragh Purcell) are musical storytellers, who write intensely personal explorations of love, loss and grief. Their personal mythology provides a leaping point from which they attempt to make sense and meaning of the world – creating some truly universal music in the process. Their unique brand of ethereal folk combines traditional elements with lush production and other-worldy harmonies (akin to Bon Iver and Fleet Foxes) And their influences range from the stripped down folk of Nick Drake and early Sufjan Stevens, to the psychedelic sounds of The Beach Boys and Animal Collective.

Laura Snowden [guitar]

Described by Classical Guitar Magazine as 'linking guitar's past, present and future', Laura's eclectic output has ranged from playing on Lorne Balfe's soundtrack for the Marvel film Black Widow to recording Lisa Streich's guitar concerto with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin. As a composer, Laura's music has been published by Hal Leonard and ABRSM, broadcast on BBC Radio 3, and commissioned by Birmingham Symphony Hall, Rockschool syllabus, and New York Guitar Festival. She featured on Noah and the Whale frontman Charlie Fink's solo album and has appeared with her folk group Tir Eolas at Shakespeare's Globe at the invitation of guitarist John Williams.

Christine Tobin [singer]

The Dublin born and raised, multi-award winning vocalist and composer, has been an integral part of both the New York City and London scenes for many years. She returned to Ireland in 2020 and is now based in Northwest Co. Roscommon. Within her kaleidoscopic musical palette that draws on the folk and European art song traditions, she

can be junkyard blues philosopher, snappy beat seductress, a conduit for exquisite zen-like harmonies and reflective Americana. Her style, although rooted in jazz, is eclectic and draws on a broad range of influences.

MASTERS Since Sof Con 2003 TRADITION

THE PROGRAMME

2023 Masters of Tradition's Secret Concerts take place in unusual venues in the Bantry area. Admission to these concerts is free but booking is required. These lunchtime concerts will be certain to add a lift to your afternoon. If you want to find out who is performing, you'll just have to come along!

The Cainteanna (Talks) series includes discussions and chats exploring music, creativity, tradition, philosophy and history with an occasional tune or two for good measure. Details on these events are included in the following programme

Wednesday 23 August 20.00 CEOLCHOIRM Maritime Hotel

Martin Hayes [fiddle] Conal O' Kane [guitar] Brian Donnellan [concertina, bouzouki] with Sam Amidon [banjo, guitar, fiddle] and Kate Ellis[cello]

'Hayes has a sublime lyrical and melodic sensibility ... heartbreaking musical washes of the deepest melancholy and moments of sheer, sparkling exuberance.' - Sydney Morning Herald

'Amidon weaves his own new tunes into worn, weary, seemingly ageless sagas.' – NPR

'Cellist Kate Ellis ... an instinctive and technically brilliant musician' – The Irish Examiner

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Martin Hayes and Brian Donnellan



Thursday 24 August 15.30 CAINTEANNA (TALK) Marino Church

Martin Hayes in conversation with Sam Amidon Explore comparisons and observations between American Folk and Irish traditional music

19.30 CEOLCHOIRM Bantry House

Scoth [vocals, guitar, banjo] Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin [sean-nós singer] & Ultan O'Brien [fiddle, viola] Sam Amidon and Crash Quartet

'Ultan O'Brien and Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin [play] tunes and songs that mirror the ups and downs of life itself, reeking of the turf fire but boldly taking on the 21st century' – Robert McMillen, The Irish News

'Amidon's ... adventurous re-workings of traditional American ballads, hymns and work songs, with The *New York Times* writing that Amidon "*transforms all of the songs, changing their colours and loading them with trapdoors.*" – *Journal of Music*

From left: Sam Amidon, Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin and Ultan O'Brien





The Begley Clann

Friday 25 August 12.30 CEOLCHOIRM RÚNDA (SECRET CONCERT) St Brendan's School Hall

To find out who is performing, you'll have to come along! the Masters of Tradition's Secret Concerts take place in unusual venues in the Bantry area. Admission is free but booking is required

15.30 CAINTEANNA (TALK)

Marino Church Christy Mc Namara and Martin Hayes Discuss carriers of Tradition, preserving an understanding of older generations

19.30 CEOLCHOIRM Bantry House

Christy Mc Namara [accordion, concertina] Mick O' Brien [uilleann pipes, whistle, flute] Ciara Ní Bhriain [fiddle] The Begley Clann

'Mick's style shows great delicacy and subtlety ... - All Celtic Music



Friday 25 August 22.30 NÍOS DEANAÍ Bantry House

Laura Snowden [guitar] Steve Cooney [guitar] and Luka Bloom [guitar]

'Snowden is not only an excellent guitarist who is technically virtuosic, but also a true musician whose interpretative capabilities are profound and exciting. – *Graham Wade, Classical Guitar Magazine*

'Master Cooney restores the ancient link between lyre and lyric, between poetry and performance, the rhapsody and rascality' - Séamus Heaney, Fiddler's Green awards, Rostrevor

'With a poet's heart and a rockster's soul, Luka Bloom is regarded as one of Ireland's most respected contemporary folk artists ... Bloom continues to push the boundaries of what his music can do.' — The Journal of Music

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From left: Laura Snowden [Photo: loannis Theodoridis], Steve Cooney [Photo: Joe Chapman]



Saturday 26 August 12.30 CEOLCHOIRM RÚNDA

(SECRET CONCERT) Future Forests, Kealkil

To find out who is performing, you'll have to come along! the Masters of Tradition's Secret Concerts take place in unusual venues in the Bantry area. Admission is free but booking is required

15.30 CAINTEANNA (TALK) Marino Church

Christine Tobin in conversation with Martin Hayes Review the relationship and possibilities for musical dialogue between jazz and traditional music

19.30 CEOLCHOIRM Bantry House

Steve Cooney [guitar] Luka Bloom [guitar, vocals] David Munnelly [accordian] Mick Conneely [fiddle]

'His guitar playing is wonderful, each strum and each immaculate chord change, it has an ethereal silence in the background that hangs and is the mark of a great guitarist.'
Michael Ferguson, Irish Music Magazine on Luka Bloom

'Mick and David play full-on Irish music without a safety net!' — RS, Keith Whiddon

'Old style music played in the old style, music that is both ageless and very much of now' – Sean Laffey, *Folkworld* on David Munnelly and Mick Conneely

Saturday 26 August 22.30 NÍOS DEANAÍ Bantry House

Christine Tobin's 'Returning Weather'

with Cora Venus Lunny [fiddle] Steve Hamilton [piano] David Power [uilleann pipes] Phil Robson [guitar]

'There's a thrilling, dark timbre to Tobin's voice that moves you like no other singer.' – *The Guardian*

'Tobin's vocals, veering from acrobatic to sultry, are tailored perfectly for the material, her evocations of time and place precise. Classy and lovely.' – *The Observer*

"Uilleann piper David Power is a born collaborator. His incisive, fluid piping style has seen him work with a wide range of musicians and composers' – *The Irish Times*

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From left: David Power [Photo: Joe Chapman], Christine Tobin

Sunday 27 August 12.30 CEOLCHOIRM RÚNDA (SECRET CONCERT) Whiddy Island

To find out who is performing, you'll have to come along! Our Secret Concerts take place in unusual venues in the Bantry area. The ferry leaves Bantry Pier for Whiddy Island at 12 noon. There is also a ferry at 11am. Ferry ticket purchase required. Admission is free but booking is essential

19.30 CEOLCHOIRM Bantry House

Martin Hayes [fiddle] Steve Cooney [guitar] & friends

'Martin Hayes dissect[s] the ductility of Celtic folk into a compositional style that ranges from Steve Reich's minimalism to jazzy 'Third Stream'. In the end, he preferred depth to virtuosity.' — Ravenna Festival

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Martin Hayes and Steve Cooney [Photo: Joe Chapman]









Junior Crehan. Photograph by Christy Mc Namara

The Living Note An Exhibition of Photography by Christy Mc Namara

Marino Church, Bantry Friday 25 August 2023 11am - 2pm

Christy Mc Namara is a photographer and a musician and composer of traditional Irish music. He grew up in County Clare, surrounded by a rich traditional heritage of music and storytelling.

Traditional music is rooted in place, carried forward by families like Christy's. Christy has been documenting this world for over 30 years; 'The images here are used as a way of telling a personal story of home, of family and community – it's a beginning and also an end. A place and its music are in some ways inseparable.'

His book *The Living Note* with the writer Peter Woods, celebrates this. His photographic work has been exhibited extensively at home and abroad and is held in both public and private collections.

For access to the exhibition out of hours contact Christy on +353 868119058 or can be viewed during our afternoon talks.







From top: Sisters Bridie Callinan and Kathleen O Loughlin. Martin Hayes and PJ Hayes Photographs by Christy Mc Namara. Christy playing music.

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and receive:

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- 2 Free Tickets to attend one Níos Deanaí

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CONDITIONS OF SALE:

Once purchased, tickets cannot be exchanged or refunded. Refund will be given in the case of a cancelled concert.

Concerts begin sharply at advertised time. Latecomers may not be allowed into the venue until a suitable break in the performance.

Customers with limited mobility are advised to contact West Cork Music prior to attending a performance for assistance with access to Bantry House.

SEE WEBSITE FOR FULL TERMS & CONDITIONS www.westcorkmusic.ie

Every effort will be made to ensure that the programme will proceed as advertised. However, West Cork Music accepts no responsibility for any changes due to circumstances beyond its control

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BANTRY MUSIC CENTRE

Our capital project is underway! To learn more about the exciting venue development plans for Bantry and to make a gift, visit us online.

westcorkmusic.ie/venue

The Capital Project Endowment Fund is supported by a generous gift from Armen Vartian and Candice Foss.



All of the performers at this festival have reimagined, added to and taken ownership of the music in their own particular ways. This year's festival will take us to the core of the music, we will encounter many emerging ideas within the tradition, new ways of reimagining the past and also ways in which this music can relate with other music forms.

Martin Hayes

13 Glengarriff Road, Bantry, Co. Cork 027 52788 info@westcorkmusic.ie www.westcorkmusic.ie

The festival acknowledges the support of





Cork County Council



West Cork Music is supported by Cork County Council's Economic Development Fund