

West Cork Music

MASTERS

Since ♡ of ♡ 2003

TRADITION

BANTRY, CO CORK
WEDNESDAY 19 - SUNDAY 23 AUGUST



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WEST CORK MUSIC
PRESENTS



BANTRY, CO CORK
WEDNESDAY 19 - SUNDAY 23 AUGUST

FEATURING

THOMAS BARTLETT • SÉAMUS BEGLEY
BROOKLYN RIDER • DENNIS CAHILL
STEVE COONEY • CHRIS DRONEY
JOHN FLANAGAN • NIC GAREISS
MARTIN HAYES • CATHY JORDAN
AOIFE NÍ BHRIAIN
MÁIRE NÍ CHÉILLEACHAIR
MATTHEW NOONE • LIAM Ó MAONLAÍ
KARAIKUDI S SUBRAMANIAN
& DOUG WIESELMAN

'We are dealing with the cream of the crop here, and it is a privilege to be asked to play in Bantry.' – Paul Keating, *Irish Central*

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: MARTIN HAYES



INTRODUCTION

The idea for the Masters of Tradition festival first arose shortly after Dennis and I were invited by Francis Humphrys to perform at the West Cork Chamber Music Festival in 1999. The performance went well and the chamber audience were very receptive. This for me was just further confirmation of the notion that genre is simply a descriptive term. Music is music and all music has the potential to be universal. If one's heart is opened, if joy is created and our collective spirits lifted, it doesn't matter what it's called or where it comes from. The great beauty and strength of Irish music is its universally appealing melodic heart and its ability to reach soulfully beyond its genre.

This year's festival, like all previous ones, will feature some of Ireland's most talented musicians and singers. They will bring us in contact with the very essence of this rich tradition of song and melody. You may have wondered why the festival isn't simply called the Masters of Irish Music. The reason for this is that we had planned from the beginning to eventually include other traditions.

This year's festival is easily our most ambitious and diverse. The opening night alone will be a collaboration between Dennis Cahill, Thomas Bartlett – piano player with The Gloaming, New York clarinetist Doug Wieselman, dancer/percussionist Nic Gareiss and myself.

Our festival has been going strong for the past twelve years and so it was certainly time to reach out to the world of chamber music to reciprocate the invitation that set this whole thing in motion. Brooklyn Rider is one of the world's great classical quartets. It will be a privilege to collaborate with them and hear them in the beautiful acoustics of St Brendan's Church.

Along with musicians from the world of chamber music we're also very excited to present musicians from as far away as India. Dennis and I were very fortunate on a recent tour of India to meet and collaborate with amazing musicians. We're delighted to welcome some of those great musicians here to join us in Ireland for the very first time. For this year's festival we've programmed lots of collaborative events that should yield many moments of musical magic.

I'd like to thank West Cork Music for all they do to make this event possible each year. This couldn't happen without the dedication of Francis Humphrys, the wonderful staff at West Cork Music, all the volunteers and Matt Purcell who discreetly does sound and provides invaluable help on many other fronts.

Martin Hayes
Artistic Director

THE PLAYERS



Thomas Bartlett [piano / singer]

Thomas Bartlett, also known as Doveman, is an American pianist, singer and producer. Born in Vermont, he studied piano in London before moving to New York. He soon began performing with Chocolate Genius and Elysian Fields and in recent years, has performed and toured with many artists including The National, Antony and the Johnsons, Martha Wainwright, Glen Hansard and The Gloaming. The first Doveman recording, *The Acrobat*, was released in 2005 and followed in 2007 by *With My Left Hand I Raise the Dead*. Two years later, he released *The Conformist*.

Séamus Begley [accordion]

Séamus is one of the most popular Irish traditional musicians and comes from one of Ireland's most musically-acclaimed families. He is an eager storyteller known for his sharp wit and famous for pumping out tune after tune at all night sessions. His style is unique and he is considered to be one of the finest players of the dance music of West Kerry. He has toured extensively with Jim Murray, Altan, Steve Cooney and Mary Black to name but a few.

Brooklyn Rider [quartet]

Brooklyn Rider offers eclectic repertoire in gripping performances that continue to attract legions of fans and draw rave reviews from classical, world and rock critics alike. Celebrating its tenth anniversary, Brooklyn Rider launched *Brooklyn Rider Almanac*, a groundbreaking multi-disciplinary project centred around an album of the same name. This album includes 15 commissioned new works, each inspired by a respective artistic muse, from composers ranging from Wilco's Glenn Kotche to jazz icon Bill Frisell. In 2006 the group founded the Stillwater Music Festival, a weeklong Minnesota chamber festival, where new repertoire and collaborations are unveiled.

Dennis Cahill [guitar]

Dennis Cahill is a native of Chicago, born to parents from the Dingle Peninsula. His spare, essential accompaniment to Martin Hayes' fiddle is acknowledged as a major breakthrough for guitar in the Irish tradition. Dennis has also performed with such renowned fiddlers as Liz Carroll, Eileen Ivers and Kevin Burke.

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.

Chris Droney [concertina]

Chris has been playing music for eighty three years. Following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather he began playing the concertina at the age of eight. He became Senior All-Ireland Concertina Champion nine times in the 1950s and 1960s and has played in several well-known ceili bands, including the Bell Harbour Ceili Band and the Ballinakill, Aughrim Slopes, Kincora and Kilfenora Ceili Bands at various intervals. He has also made three solo recordings: *The Flowing Tide* (1962), *The Fertile Rock* (1995) and *Down From Bell Harbour* (2005).

John Flanagan [singer]

John Flanagan learned to sing in the unaccompanied sean-nós style from his aunts, Sarah and Rita Keane, world-renowned exponents of the tradition. Reflecting John's grasp of the Irish traditional idiom, his vocal compositions have ultimately entered the traditional repertoire which inspired them. John's profound respect for his tradition gives his singing a remarkable depth and sincerity.

Nic Gareiss [dancer]

Michigan-born dancer Nic Gareiss draws from many percussive dance traditions, weaving together a dance technique facilitating his love of improvisation, traditional dance footwork vocabulary and musical collaboration. He has concertised internationally for over ten years with Frankie Gavin, Dervish, Bill Frisell, Phil Wiggins, Buille, Solas, Liz Carroll, The Chieftains and many more. Nic holds an MA in Ethnochoreology from the University of Limerick.

Martin Hayes [fiddle]

Martin plays in the distinctive lyrical style of his native East County Clare. He grew up playing traditional music with his father P.J. Hayes, leader of the famed Tulla Céilí Band. He is deeply rooted in the music he plays. Martin and American guitarist Dennis Cahill possess a rare musical kinship. Together they have garnered international renown for taking traditional music to the very edge of the genre. Martin is the Artistic Director of the Masters of Tradition.

Cathy Jordan [singer]

Cathy has been the lead singer with the traditional group Dervish since 1991. They have appeared in concert in nearly forty countries, including performances at the Great Wall of China and at Rock in Rio to 250,000 people. She is also a solo performer as well as a self-taught guitar, bouzouki, bodhrán and bones player. Her first solo album *All the Way Home* was released in 2012.

Aoife Ní Bhriain [violin]

Aoife has performed as soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, the RTÉ Concert Orchestra and the Korean Chamber Orchestra amongst others. She is also the leader of the newly-formed Clare Memory Orchestra. Aoife has won classical and traditional Irish music competitions including seven All Ireland Titles at the Fleadh Cheoil, Camerata Ireland Young Musician of the Year Award 2011 and a TG4 Gradam Ceoil 2014.

Máire Ní Chéilleachair [singer]

Máire inherited her love of singing from her family roots in Kilnamartyra, Co. Cork. She was singer in residence in the Muskerry Gaeltacht in 2001 and has been teaching sean-nós singing there since. She has won many prizes at Oireachtas na Gaeilge competitions and is a regular visitor at festivals at home and abroad. A selection of her songs, in Irish and English, is available on a CD called *Guth ar Fán*.

Matthew Noone [sarode]

Matthew 'Mattu' Noone, is an Australian-Irish ex-indie rocker and performer of the 25 stringed lute called sarode. He has studied North Indian Classical music for over a decade, more recently with UK-based sarodiya, K. Sridhar. He has performed Indian music across the globe and was a founding member of successful fusion group, The Bahh Band. He collaborated with Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill in a recent tour of India.

Images; clockwise from left;
Cathy Jordan, Doug Wieselmann and
Máire Ní Chéilleachair

Liam Ó Maonlaí [piano / singer]

Liam is one of Ireland's best-loved musicians and singers, both in rock and traditional music. Spanning over twenty years, his career has seen him have number one hits in over twenty countries, to playing with Aboriginal musicians in the Australian outback. A master pianist, Liam also performs on guitar, harp, tin whistle and bodhrán. He has been also been described as one of Ireland's best sean-nós singers. His first solo album, *Rian*, was released in 2005. *To Be Touched*, his second solo album, was released in 2008.

Karaikudi S Subramanian [veena]

Karaikudi S Subramanian is a ninth generation musician from the Karaikudi Veena Tradition. His musical experience began from his early childhood days with his mother Lakshmi Ammal and was adopted by Karaikudi Sambasiva Iyer (his great uncle) to continue the lineage. He has performed many cross-cultural concerts with leading world musicians. In 1989 he founded Bhradhvhani, a premier research and training centre for musicians in Chennai.

Doug Wieselmann [clarinet]

Doug has worked as composer, arranger and musician with a variety of artists in different fields: in theatre with director Robert Woodruff and the Flying Karamazov Brothers, in dance with Jerome Robbins and Paul Taylor, and as a musician with Victoria Williams, Robin Holcomb, Wayne Horvitz, Lou Reed, Tricky, Anthony Coleman, Laurie Anderson, Syd Straw, Steven Bernstein, Joan as Police Woman and John Lurie, among many others.



MASTERS

Since *of* 2008

TRADITION

THE PROGRAMME



WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST
19.30 Ceolchoirm
Maritime Hotel, Bantry

Martin Hayes [fiddle]
Dennis Cahill [guitar]
Thomas Bartlett [piano, singer]
Doug Wieselmann [clarinet]
Nic Gareiss [dancer]

'Hayes and Cahill... have honed a ravishing repertoire by distilling the melodic essence of traditional Irish tunes. They have distinguished themselves by bringing chamber music's intensity and dynamic control to folk tunes.'

— *Seattle Times*

'The human epitome of the unbearable lightness of being... Gareiss is more fleet of foot than an Olympian sprinter and more buoyant than a helium-filled balloon... his restraint is palpable and free form flight is inevitable.'

— Siobhán Long, *Irish Times*



Brooklyn Rider

THURSDAY 20 AUGUST
19.30 Ceolchoirm
St. Brendan's Church, Bantry

Máire Ní Chéilleachair [singer]
Brooklyn Rider [quartet]
Martin Hayes [fiddle]

'They are four classical musicians performing with the energy of young rock stars jamming on their guitars, a Beethoven-goes-indie foray into making classical music accessible but also celebrating why it was good in the first place.' — *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

'In years to come, we'll surely talk of having seen this man [Martin Hayes] in the way others talk of Miles Davis or Jimi Hendrix' — *Irish Times*



FRIDAY 21 AUGUST
19.30 Ceolchoirm
Bantry House

John Flanagan [singer]
Cathy Jordan [singer]
Begley & Cooney

'Master Cooney restores the ancient link between lyre and lyric, between poetry and performance, the rhapsody and the rascality.' — Seamus Heaney

'[Cathy Jordan is] capable of whipping a crowd along with a winning personality and a deceptively powerful voice.' — Sid Smith, *BBC Music*

Images; Left to right; Thomas Bartlett [Photo: Ezra Caldwell], Nic Gareiss [Photo: Michael Erlewine] and Martin Hayes & Dennis Cahill [Photo: Derek Speirs]

FRIDAY 21 AUGUST

22.30 Níos Deanaí

Bantry House

Karaikudi S Subramanian [veena]

Matthew Noone [sarode].

Martin Hayes [fiddle]

In 2014, Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill toured India with Australian born sarode-player Matthew Noone. Out of this tour came a collaboration with veena player and singer Prof. Karaikuddi Subramaniam. This concert is an extension of this collaboration and will feature traditional South Indian, or Carnatic, music performed on the veena and will explore the sympathies between traditional Irish melodies and Indian Classical performance aesthetics.



Images; clockwise from top left: Karaikudi S Subramanian, Matthew Noone, Steve Cooney, Liam Ó Maonlaí, Aoife Ní Bhriain and Chris Droney

SATURDAY 22 AUGUST

19.30 Ceolchoirm

Bantry House

Steve Cooney [guitar]

Chris Droney [concertina]

with Francis Droney, Ann Droney Kirrane & Ainé McGrath

Liam Ó Maonlaí [singer, piano, whistle, bodhrán]

'Chris Droney's music, with its straightforward simplicity and its dance-bound rhythmic vitality, is a great example of the product of a long family tradition as well as of an equally long dedication to playing for dancers' – *Celtic Grooves*

'Liam Ó Maonlaí is one of Ireland's most charismatic musical treasures'

22.30 Níos Deanaí

Bantry House

'Music for the Departed'

Martin Hayes [fiddle]

Aoife Ní Bhriain [violin]

Dennis Cahill [guitar]

'*Music for the Departed* is a description in music of the grieving process, dedicated to the memories of my mother Joan Jennings and my aunt Catherine Flynn, both of whom died long before their time.' – Dave Flynn, composer



SUNDAY 23 AUGUST

19.30 Ceolchoirm

Bantry House

Martin Hayes [fiddle]

Dennis Cahill [guitar]

& friends

'Zen-like simplicity to reels and jigs; subtle, jazz-tinged guitar – it's pure, spare and intense.' – *Time Out, New York*

'They've metamorphosed into musicians of unconscionable virtuosity, leaving their audience gasping at the end of virtually every set.'

– Siobhan Long, *Irish Times*



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In the heart of the bay and overlooked by the Caha Mountains, lies Whiddy Island which has an intriguing naval past. The remote Beara Peninsula boasts one of the oldest mythological antiquities in Ireland, the Cailleach Beara, while the Dursley Island cable car is the only one in Europe still in operation over open water.

The Sheep's Head Way has been recognised as a European Destination of Excellence : a modern Eden and Garnish Island is renowned for its spectacular gardens. To reach them, the ferry passes Seal Island, home to a large colony of harbour seals.

For information on local activities around Bantry and along the Sheep's Head peninsula go to

www.livingthesheepsheadway.com

The whole area is part of the Wild Atlantic Way, the new 2,500 km long scenic driving route along the west coast of Ireland from Donegal to Cork.

www.ireland.com/wildatlanticway



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CEOLCHOIRM 19.30	33.00		23.00		15.00	
NÍOS DEANAÍ 22.30	16.00		16.00		16.00	
Friday Pass						
2 FRIDAY CONCERTS	45.00		35.00		27.00	
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CEOLCHOIRM 19.30	33.00		23.00		15.00	
NÍOS DEANAÍ 22.30	16.00		16.00		16.00	
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CEOLCHOIRM 19.30	40.00		29.00		19.00	
Donation to Masters of Tradition [optional] Registered charity number 12097						
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traditional music in its most
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occasion in contemporary Irish
music performance.’**

Toner Quinn,
fiddle-player and publisher of The Journal of Music

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The festival acknowledges the support of

