

West Cork Music

MASTERS

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TRADITION



BANTRY, CO CORK

WEDNESDAY 17 - SUNDAY 21 AUGUST



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WEST CORK MUSIC
PRESENTS



BANTRY, CO CORK
WEDNESDAY 17 - SUNDAY 21 AUGUST

FEATURING

- DERMOT BYRNE • DENNIS CAHILL
 - STEVE COONEY • RÓISÍN ELSAFTY
 - JOHN FLANAGAN • COLM GANNON
 - BRÍD HARPER • MARTIN HAYES
 - LIZ KNOWLES • UTSAV LAL
 - COLM MAC CON IOMAIRE
 - MÁIRE NÍ CHÉILEACHAIR
 - MÁIRE NÍ GHRÁDA • COLM O'DONNELL
- OPEN THE DOOR FOR THREE
CONAL Ó GRÁDA & 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

Dennis Cahill and I were invited by Francis Humphrys to perform at the West Cork Chamber Music Festival in 1999. Shortly after that performance the idea for the *Masters of Tradition* came about. Traditional Irish music is a nuanced, detailed and emotionally rich music form that is ideally suited to the wonderful venues available here in Bantry. The primary aim was therefore to present the best that Irish music has to offer in the best possible listening environment. Over the years the festival has generated countless beautiful moments of sheer joy and exuberance. This year should prove to be just as exciting and moving as any of the previous festivals.

Since this time last year I've assembled a new quartet with help and support from the University of Limerick. This quartet features Dennis Cahill on guitar, Doug Wieselmann on bass clarinet, Liz Knowles on viola and myself on fiddle. We are excited to present this new ensemble on the opening night of the festival.

The festival will as always feature a selection of Ireland's finest traditional musicians and singers. For our late night concerts we have collaborations with an amazing young pianist from Delhi who plays Indian, Jazz and Irish music and a wonderful Irish/experimental fiddle player.

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



Dermot Byrne [accordion]

Dermot Byrne hails from the Inishowen peninsula and was awarded the TG4 Traditional Musician of the Year 2013. As well as his mastery of the Donegal style and repertoire, Dermot can turn to other styles and traditions such as French musette or South American choro music. He was a member of Altan from 1994 to 2013 and has collaborated with Seamus and Manus McGuire, Sharon Shannon, The Stunning, the late jazz violinist Stephane Grappelli and others. His eponymous solo recording, reissued recently, received great critical acclaim.

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.

Róisín Elsafty [singer]

Róisín Elsafty from Connemara, began to sing before learning to speak. Her mother inspired her to sing 'amhrán ar an sean-nós' the age-old art of Irish traditional a capella singing in the native Irish language. Róisín's first solo album *Má bhíonn tú liom* was released in 2007. She is the two-time winner of IMA award for Best Sean-nós singer 2010 and 2014. Róisín particularly enjoys eclectic musical collaborations and works with some of the very best known mainstream Irish traditional musicians.



Images; clockwise from top; Dermot Byrne, Steve Cooney, Dennis Cahill

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.

Colm Gannon [accordion]

Colm was born in Dorchester, Boston, to Connemara parents. He won the All-Ireland in 1994 on the accordion and then moved to Ennis with fiddler Jesse Smith. After a couple of years, Colm joined Riverdance, with whom he toured for 4 years. He has toured with Dervish and, as part of the group Ragús, performed with Dolly Parton. Now living in Droim, he plays throughout Ireland and the US promoting his album *The Rights of Man*, featuring Alec Finn, Johnny McDonagh, John Blake and Kelly Gannon. He has released the albums *Return to Droim*, *Trasna Na dTonnta* and *The Ewe with the Crooked Horn* with Jesse Smith and John Blake.



Martin Hayes

Brid Harper [fiddle]

Brid Harper was born in Co. Donegal. She grew up playing Irish traditional music with her sisters in the Finn Valley area. Brid is an MA graduate of the Irish World Academy of Music & Dance at the University of Limerick and has toured extensively. She has been hailed as one of the leading exponents of traditional fiddle playing and has tutored at many summer schools and workshops throughout Ireland and in France, Holland and the USA. Her first solo CD was released in 2015.

Martin Hayes [fiddle]

Martin Hayes' unique sound, his mastery of the fiddle and his acknowledgement of the past and his shaping of the future of the music, combine to create an astonishing and formidable artistic intelligence. He remains grounded in the music he grew up with in Feakle, County Clare. The music he learned from his late father P. Joe Hayes, the legendary leader of the long-lived Tulla Ceili Band, profoundly influenced his musical accent and ideas forever after. His latest performing project is The Gloaming, a band which has burst on the music scene with a rare combination of Irish tunes, ancient sean-nós song, brave explorations and exhilarating and explosive medleys with a distinctive new sound.

Liz Knowles [fiddle]

Liz Knowles has brought her distinctive sound – the fire and finesse of the Irish fiddle tradition combined with the tonal and harmonic richness of the classical violin – to countless venues around the world. A virtuoso and versatile performer, Liz began her Irish music career as the fiddler for Riverdance and on the soundtrack for *Michael Collins*. Her career combines the roles of performer, composer, arranger, and producer and today, she most regularly performs with her trio Open the Door for Three, the all-star fiddle ensemble String Sisters, and in a new quartet with Martin Hayes.



Images; clockwise from top; Liz Knowles, Brid Harper, Utsav Lal

Utsav Lal [piano]

Utsav Lal is a classical and jazz pianist who has taken the pure sounds of Indian ragas on the piano to global venues including Carnegie Hall in New York. He has four solo music albums and laurels that include recognition as Young Steinway Artist, TiE-Aspire Young Indian Achiever and Ireland's MAMA Award for promoting multiculturalism. He is well known for his Ragas to Reels project with performances in India, Ireland and UK and also for his extensive work with inventor Geoff Smith on the world's first ever Fluid Piano, on which he recorded a unique album due for release summer 2016.

Colm Mac Con Iomaire [fiddle]

Colm Mac Con Iomaire's music bears distinctive creative hallmarks which have as much to do with his character as with his impressive technical mastery, musical authority and exquisitely expressive playing. He recently performed as part of the 2016 Centenary concerts in the National Concert Hall – with Paul Muldoon as part of the literary celebration and with Glen Hansard, as part of 'Imagining HOME'. He was commissioned to write a piece of music *SOLASTA* which he performed for the President of Ireland in The Irish Writers Centre. His second album *And Now The Weather* was Album of the Week in the Irish Times and was recently shortlisted for the Choice Music Prize Album of the Year.

Máire Ní Chéileachair [singer]

Máire inherited her love of singing from her family roots in Kilnamartyra, Co. Cork. She has been teaching sean-nós singing in the Músraí Gaeltacht for many years in the Aisling Gheal scheme. She has won many prizes at Fleadh Cheoil and Oireachtas na Gaeilge competitions and is a regular participant at singing festivals at home and abroad. A selection of her songs, in Irish and English, is available on a CD called *Guth ar Fán*.

Máire Ní Ghráda [uilleann pipes]

Máire Ní Ghráda learned the uilleann pipes as a child growing up in Cork City and played on the legendary album of young pipers, *The Pipers Rock*. She is much in demand as a teacher and performer and is a regular guest at international piping tionóil and at the Willie Clancy School. Máire's musical style is noted for its clarity and for its distinctive rhythm. Her influence on a younger generation of women pipers has been significant as the recent TG4 series *Mná an Cheoil* illustrated.

Colm O'Donnell [flute, tin whistle]

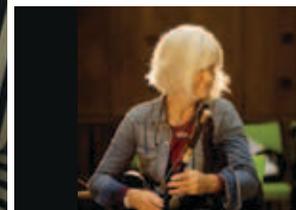
Colm O'Donnell was born in Kilactigue, Co. Sligo. The All-Ireland winning musician released *Farewell to Evening Dances* in 1999. Colm's singing style is sweet, tuneful and full of soul. His flute and whistle playing is lively, bouncy, and varied, ornamented in the great North Connaught tradition.

Open the Door for Three

Liz Knowles [fiddle] **Kieran O'Hare** [uilleann pipes]

Pat Broaders [singer, bouzouki]

Open the Door for Three is a trio which mines music collections and recordings for old and new tunes and songs. Added to these discoveries are fiddler Liz Knowles's compositions, harmonies, and arrangements; Kieran O'Hare's knowledge of tunes and the uilleann piping tradition; and the rhythmic bedrock bouzouki and world-class singing of Dublin-born Pat Broaders. Their debut CD *Open the Door for Three* and their recent release *The Penny Wager* are the culmination of years on the road, comprised of unearthed tunes, new arrangements of great songs and the signature sound of a trio of good friends playing great music together.



Conal Ó Gráda [flute]

Conal Ó Gráda takes the basic elements of traditional music and forges them into a personal style which, once heard, is unforgettable. A multiple All Ireland winner, his debut recording *The Top of Coom* is still regarded as a seminal recording of flute-playing. His second solo recording *Cnoc Bui* was released in 2008 to widespread critical acclaim. He is a regular teacher at summer schools worldwide and in 2012, he published a book on flute technique and styles called *An Fheadóg Mhór ... Irish Traditional Flute Technique*, hailed as the best instructional flute tutor published to date.

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 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.



Images; clockwise from top;
Open the Door for Three, Conal Ó Gráda,
Máire Ní Ghráda and Máire Ní Chéileachair

MASTERS

Since ♡ of ♡ 2003

TRADITION

THE PROGRAMME



Wednesday 17 August
19.30 CEOLCHOIRM
Maritime Hotel, Bantry

Martin Hayes [fiddle]
Dennis Cahill [guitar]
Liz Knowles [fiddle]
Doug Wieselmann [clarinet]

'The great fiddler Martin Hayes speaks with the soul of a poet ...
 A remarkable artiste, the only one of his type.'
 – *Sunday Independent, Ireland*

'Liz Knowles' fire and vibrant energy shine through every track,
 and she will keep your toes tapping throughout.'
 – Jo Morrison, *Rambles Magazine*



Left: Liz Knowles. Right: Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill



Open the Door for Three



Thursday 18 August
19.30 CEOLCHOIRM
St. Brendan's Church, Bantry

Máire Ní Chéileachair [singer]
Colm O'Donnell [flute, tin whistle]
Open the Door for Three [trio]

'Colm O'Donnell has long been regarded as a singer of rare and
 immense talent. The effortless ease with which he sings belies
 a deep and complex awareness of his art.' – *Sligo Champion*

'Open the Door for Three is a road-tested, audience-approved,
 high-octane, fist-in-glove, laughing-out-loud trio of Irish musicians.'



Friday 19 August
19.30 CEOLCHOIRM
Bantry House

John Flanagan [singer]
Colm Gannon [accordion]
Máire Ní Gráda [uilleann pipes] & **Conal Ó Gráda** [flute]

'The melody constantly demands your attention, and its raw intensity
 can be quite overpowering ... On this evidence, old style Irish music
 is alive and well on both shores of the Atlantic, at least in the
 hands of Gannon and Smith.' – *Irish Music Magazine*

'Ó Gráda's fast, rhythmically precise flute-playing has an earthy
 raucous tone reminiscent of the saxophone and is driven by a spirit
 from the true heart of traditional music.'

Friday 19 August
22.30 NÍOS DEANAÍ
Bantry House

Colm Mac Con Iomaire [fiddle]

'These are tunes that are effortlessly cinematic, conjuring images of weather-beaten coastlines and vast green expanses... a consistently beautiful and frequently incandescent collection.'

– *The Irish Times*

'I was taken somewhere else. It's just a beautiful piece of mood music.'

If you're looking for an inheritor for *Astral Weeks*, this is it.'

– Billy Bragg on Colm Mac Con Iomaire's first album *The Hare's Corner*



Images; clockwise from top left: Colm Mac Con Iomaire, Róisín Elsafty, Bríd Harper
Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill, Doug Wieselmann and Utsav Lal.

Saturday 20 August
19.30 CEOLCHOIRM
Bantry House

Steve Cooney [guitar]

Róisín Elsafty [singer]

Dermot Byrne [accordion]

Bríd Harper [fiddle]

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

'... Solo fiddle of the most exquisite kind...' – Tony Lawless, *Trad Connect*

22.30 NÍOS DEANAÍ
Bantry House

Utsav Lal [piano]

'Utsav breathes life into ebony and ivory, with a melody that leaves the listener mesmerized and transported.' – *Hindustan Times*

'Utsav's music flows spontaneously ... his music oozes simplicity and sincerity.' – *The Economic Times*



Sunday 21 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

'In the decades to come, we'll surely talk of having seen this man in the way others talk of Miles Davis or Jimi Hendrix or John Coltrane.' – *The Irish Times*

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WILD ATLANTIC WAY
SLÍ AN ATLANTAIGH FHIÁIN

Farrú Lighthouse, Co. Donegal

Bantry lies at the head of Bantry Bay, the historic harbour which separates the Sheep's Head Way and the Beara Peninsula. Famous for its magnificent landscape, the region has inspired its own literature, art and song.

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 Dursey 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

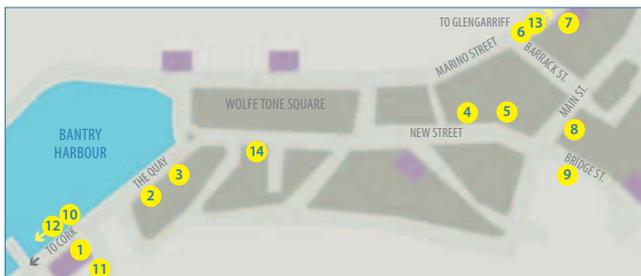
The whole area is part of the Wild Atlantic Way, the new 2,500 km long scenic driving route along the west coast of Ireland from Donegal to Cork.
www.ireland.com/wildatlanticway


WILD ATLANTIC WAY

WHERE TO EAT IN BANTRY

Bantry offers a wealth of culinary delights, whether you are looking for a tasty organic snack, a fine dining experience or an early bird. There are numerous restaurants and cafés both within easy walking distance of the concert venues and in the surrounding countryside. The restaurants listed below support West Cork Music's three festivals so we would encourage you to support them.

Map	Restaurant	Contacts
1	Maritime Hotel, The Quay	027 54700 www.themaritime.ie
2	Brick Oven Restaurant, The Quay	027 52501 www.thebrickovenbantry.com
3	The Snug, The Quay	027 50057
4	The Bake House, New Street	027 55809
5	Fish Kitchen, New Street	027 56651 www.thefishkitchen.ie
6	Mannings Emporium, Ballylickey	027 50456 www.manningsemporium.ie
7	Organico, Glengarriff Road	027 55905 www.organico.ie
8	Floury Hands, Main Street	027 52590
9	Stuffed Olive, 2a Bridge Street	027 55883 f TheStuffedOlive
10	Blairscove Hotel & Restaurant, Durrus	027 61127 www.blairscove.ie
11	Bantry House Tearoom	027 50047 www.bantryhouse.com
12	Heron Gallery & Cafe, Ahakista	027 67278 www.herongallery.ie
13	Donemark West Restaurant	027 53876
14	The Bantry Bay, Wolfe Tone Square	027 55789 www.thebantrybay.ie



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WEST CORK CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2017

BANTRY, CO CORK 30 JUNE - 8 JULY

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 INON BARNATAN
 LISE BERTHAUD
 CLAIRE BOOTH
 MIRANDA CUCKSON
 ANNA DEVIN
 DORIC QUARTET
 BARRY DOUGLAS
 VIVIANE HAGNER
 MAIRÉAD HICKEY
 RUBY HUGHES
 HERVÉ JOULAIN
 HENNING KRAGGERUD
 CHRISTOPHER MARWOOD
 JOHANNES MOSER
 JONAS NORDBERG
 PACIFICA QUARTET
 PAVEL HAAS QUARTET
 CAMILLE THOMAS
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 CAROLIN WIDMANN
 JÖRG WIDMANN
 QUATUOR ZAÏDE
 DANA ZEMTSOV



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www.westcorkmusic.ie

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For full details contact the West Cork Music office

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BOOKING:

Online: www.westcorkmusic.ie

Tel: + 353 (0)27 52788/9

Lo Call: 1850 788 789 [Ireland Only]

Fax: + 353 (0)27 52797

email: westcorkmusic@eircom.net

Post: West Cork Music, 13 Glengarriff Road, Bantry, Co Cork, Ireland

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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www.westcorkmusic.ie

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BOOKING FORM

	Superseats		Category 1		Category 2		Category 3	
	€	Qty	€	Qty	€	Qty	€	Qty
DISCOUNTED FESTIVAL PASS								
ALL CONCERTS	210		198		145		110	
Wednesday 17 August								
CEOLCHOIRM 19.30	40.00		40.00		25.00		25.00	
Thursday 18 August								
CEOLCHOIRM 19.30	32.00		32.00		22.00		15.00	
Friday 19 August								
CEOLCHOIRM 19.30	38.00		33.00		23.00		15.00	
NÍOS DEANAÍ 22.30	16.00		16.00		16.00		16.00	
Friday Pass [2 FRIDAY CONCERTS]								
2 CONCERTS	50.00		45.00		35.00		27.00	
Saturday 20 August								
CEOLCHOIRM 19.30	38.00		33.00		23.00		15.00	
NÍOS DEANAÍ 22.30	16.00		16.00		16.00		16.00	
Saturday Pass [2 SATURDAY CONCERTS]								
2 CONCERTS	50.00		45.00		35.00		27.00	
Sunday 21 August								
CEOLCHOIRM 19.30	48.00		42.00		32.00		19.00	
Donation to Masters of Tradition [optional] Registered charity number 12097								
Friend of Masters of Tradition Festival [optional] €100								
Booking fee €4.00								
GRAND TOTAL								

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For full terms and conditions, information
and online bookings

www.westcorkmusic.ie



RTÉ lyric fm



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**‘... innovative in its programming,
yet entirely committed to
traditional music in its most
direct, unvarnished form.
For both listeners and
performers, it is a rare and vital
occasion in contemporary Irish
music performance.’**

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

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Fax: + 353 (0)27 52797

Email: westcorkmusic@eircom.net

Lo Call 1850 788 789 [Ireland Only]

Online Booking: www.westcorkmusic.ie

The festival acknowledges the support of



Cork
County Council
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Economic Development Fund



Fáilte Ireland
National Tourism Development Authority



RTÉ lyric fm

