

MASTERS *Since of 2003* TRADITION



BANTRY, CO. CORK
19 – 23 AUGUST, 2026

Curated by
MARTIN HAYES



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Booking

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West Cork Music 13 Glengarriff Road,

Bantry, Co. Cork, P75 HW72

Box office hours: Monday-Friday 10.00–17.00



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

Tickets are non refundable except in case of cancellation.

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

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FEATURING

CLÍODHNA NÍ AODÁIN • CIARA NÍ BHRIAIN,

MÁIRÍN FAHY & PATSY BRODERICK

EIMEAR COUGHLAN • YVONNE FAHY

AOIFE NÍ BHRIAIN & CORMAC MCCARTHY

TIAGO MATIAS • LIBBY MCCROHAN

MÉAV NÍ MHAOLCHATHA & FRIENDS

LOUISE MULCAHY • LIAM O'BRIEN

CIARÁN Ó GEALBHÁIN

CHARLIE & ROWAN PIGGOTT • KYLE SANNA

SEÁN DOHERTY & RICHIE PIGGOTT

THE BREATH • THE WEAVING • RYAN YOUNG

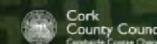
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: MARTIN HAYES

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Introduction

Each year, **Masters of Tradition** offers us a moment to gather around the music, to listen closely, to reflect, and to experience this music in a meaningful way. The festival has become a meeting place where old friendships and connections are renewed, so welcome to all the friends of the festival and to the new friends who are just becoming acquainted for the first time.

I have grown to believe that traditional Irish music can exist as a universal musical language. Like all art forms, it has its own set of rules and inherited knowledge; its techniques and skills are a necessary part of the craft, but they are only one layer. Beneath that lies the soul and feeling of the musician, and it is when this is truly expressed that the music then becomes universal.

The programme brings together artists who carry tradition with great care, alongside those who are extending and reimagining the music in thoughtful ways. There is no fixed boundary between these approaches, only a shared commitment to honesty, depth, and expression.

It is my hope that this year's festival will offer many moments of transformative and moving music.

Martin Hayes
Artistic Director



The Programme

2026 **Masters of Tradition's Secret Concerts** take place in unusual venues in the Bantry area. **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 for good measure.

Wednesday 19 August

Wednesday 19 / 20.00 / Maritime Hotel / €44/€27

CEOLCHOIRM

Martin Hayes [fiddle]

Kyle Sanna [guitar], Libby McCrohan [bouzouki]

Liam O'Brien [concertina, tin whistle]

Ciara Ní Bhriain [fiddle]

Kyle's sublime bass notes provide a solid platform from which Hayes can launch his soaring fingerboard runs and reach deep inside our souls. Greg Phillips, Australian Musician.com

Thursday 20 August

Thursday 20 / 12.30* / Whiddy Island / €12

CEOLCHOIRM RÚNDA (Secret Concert)

*The ferry leaves Bantry Pier for Whiddy Island at 12 noon sharp.

There is also a ferry at 11.30am. Ferry ticket purchase required.

Thursday 20 / 15.30 / Marino Church / €12

CAINTEANNA (Talk)

Martin Hayes in conversation with Kyle Sanna

Thursday 20 / 19.30 / Bantry House / €45/€36/€25/€16

CEOLCHOIRM

Charlie Piggott [accordion], Rowan Piggott [fiddle, singer]

The Weaving – Méabh Ní Bheaglaioich [accordion, singer]

Cáit Ní Riain [piano, singer], Owen Spafford [fiddle]

Thursday 20 / 22.00 / Bantry House / €17

NÍOS DEANAÍ (Candlelit Late Night Concert)

Méav Ní Mhaolchatha [singer, songwriter] & friends

Friday 21 August

Friday 21 / 12.30 / St Brendan's Church / €12

CEOLCHOIRM RÚNDA (Secret Concert)

Friday 21 / 15.30 / Marino Church / €12

CAINTEANNA (Talk)

Martin Hayes in conversation with founding member of De Dannan Charlie Piggott

Friday 21 / 19.30 / Bantry House / €45/€36/€25/€16

CEOLCHOIRM

Ciarán Ó Gealbháin [sean nós singer]

Louise Mulcahy [uilleann pipes]

Máirín Fahy [fiddle], Patsy Broderick [piano]

Eimear Coughlan [harp]

Yvonne Fahy [bodhrán, bouzouki]

Friday 21 / 22.00 / Bantry House / €17

NÍOS DEANAÍ (Candlelit Late Night Concert)

Tiago Matias [guitar, lute]

Tiago is a Portugese guitarist and specialist in historical musical instruments. He has released five albums and is currently undertaking his first solo world tour.

Saturday 22 August

Saturday 22 / 12.30 / Future Forests, Kealkil / €12

CEOLCHOIRM RÚNDA (Secret Concert)

Saturday 22 / 15.30 / Marino Church / €12

CAINTEANNA (Talk)

Martin Hayes in conversation with composer Seán Doherty and historian Richie Piggott

Saturday 22 / 19.30 / Bantry House / €45/€36/€25/€16

CEOLCHOIRM

Clíodhna Ní Aodáin [cello]

Ryan Young [fiddle], Stuart McCallum [guitar]

The Breath – Stuart McCallum [guitar]

Ríoghnach Connolly [singer]

Saturday 22 / 22.00 / Bantry House / €17

NÍOS DEANAÍ (Candlelit Late Night Concert)

Aoife Ní Bhriain [fiddle] & Cormac McCarthy [piano]

These long-time musical collaborators present the world premiere of *Irish Rhapsody* by Selena O'Neill and a new *Irish Rhapsody* by Seán Doherty, conceived as a contemporary response to O'Neill's composition.

Sunday 23 August

Sunday 23 / 12.30* / Whiddy Island / €12

CEOLCHOIRM RÚNDA (Secret Concert)

*The ferry leaves Bantry Pier for Whiddy Island at 12 noon sharp.

There is also a ferry at 11.30am. Ferry ticket purchase required.

Sunday 23 / 15.30 / Marino Church / €12

CAINTEANNA (Talk)

Martin Hayes in conversation with Ríoghnach Connolly of The Breath

Sunday 23 / 20.00 / Bantry House / €52/€44/€35/€21

CEOLCHOIRM

Martin Hayes [fiddle] & friends

From County Clare, Martin Hayes is a unique and legendary fiddler, a humble artist and an extraordinary performer, who has absorbed the best of all musical genres and traditions.

Julie McErlain, Classic Melbourne Music News

Page one, clockwise from top: Aoife Ní Bhriain & Cormac McCarthy, Clíodhna Ní Aodáin, Máirín Fahy & Patsy Broderick, Libby McCrohan, Charlie & Rowan Piggott. This page, from left: The Weaving, Tiago Matias, Ciarán Ó Gealbháin, Ryan Young, The Breath, Liam O'Brien, Ciara Ní Bhriain and Kyle Sanna



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