

# RETURN TO LONDON TOWN 2026

LONDON'S 28TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC, SONG & DANCE



## MAGAZINE

[www.returntolondontown.org](http://www.returntolondontown.org) • [www.irishmusicinlondon.org](http://www.irishmusicinlondon.org)

FRIDAY 23RD – MONDAY 26TH  
OCTOBER 2026

CÉILÍ  
SESSIONS  
CONCERTS  
WORKSHOPS  
BOOK & ALBUM LAUNCH  
AND MORE

The Crown Hotel and  
other local Cricklewood  
and Kilburn venues

*Paul Burrell*  
PRODUCTION

FULL FESTIVAL PROGRAMME INSIDE

FREE

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**DIRECTOR:** KAREN RYAN

**IMDL EXPANDED TEAM:**  
MARGARET REILLY, JAMES CARTY, FEE MCAULIFFE, CAITLÍN MANNION, SARAH THOMPSON, HELENA MULLINS, BRIGID O'TOOLE, ANNIE QUINN, DANIEL O'BRIEN, CATHY GILLARD, CORAL HARAN, TARA MCCARTHY, JACKIE QUIRKE, FIONA DALY, BROGAN MCAULIFFE, EOIN GRIFFIN

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GRANT BURCHILL PHOTOGRAPHY

# FESTIVAL VENUES

For venue maps see page 4.

## THE CROWN HOTEL

142-152 Cricklewood Broadway, London NW2 3ED

Main Festival spaces at the Clayton Crown Hotel are: Ivy Suite (basement), Lounge by Ivy Suite (basement), The Lounge/Games Room (ground floor), The Crown Pub (ground floor), Brent Room (ground floor), Camden Room (ground floor), Mezzanine (first floor) and Sala Room (first floor)

## ASHFORD PLACE

60 Ashford Road  
Cricklewood, NW2 6TU

## THE WINDMILL HOTEL

57 Cricklewood Broadway  
London NW2 3JX

## THE CRICKLEWOOD CLUB

327 Edgware Road, NW2 6PJ

## MAZENOD SOCIAL CLUB

Mazenod Avenue, NW6 4LS

## THE KILN

60 Ashford Road  
Cricklewood, NW2 6TU

## SIR COLIN CAMPBELL

264-266 Kilburn High Road,  
London NW6 2BY

## BARRETT'S FREEHOUSE

239 Cricklewood Broadway  
London NW2 3HP

## ZOMBIE GAMES CAFÉ

15 Cricklewood Broadway  
London NW2 3JX

## TICKETS

All tickets for festival events can be purchased at:  
**[www.returntolondontown.org](http://www.returntolondontown.org)**

## SPECIAL OFFER COMBINATION TICKETS

All-inclusive tickets for Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday concerts at The Crown Hotel, Mazenod Social Club plus our Saturday and Sunday céilís at The Cricklewood Club are just £60, from **[www.returntolondontown.org](http://www.returntolondontown.org)**



London's Annual Festival of traditional Irish music, song and dance is presented by 'Irish Music and Dance in London (IMDL)', for more information about year-round events and to sign up to our mailing list see: **[www.irishmusicinlondon.org](http://www.irishmusicinlondon.org)**

Irish Music and Dance in London would like to thank its generous donors and sponsors who have supported this year's Festival.

# WELCOME

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We are always proud of the impressive mix of artists, the busy and varied programme that we manage to bring together for London's annual Festival of traditional Irish music, song and dance. Since much of our main programme for 2026 was announced in April, so many of you have told us that this year's line up is pretty phenomenal – and we have to agree!

It is very special that legendary Chicago Irish fiddler, Liz Carroll is taking that trip across the Atlantic, to play concerts and teach workshops for us, for the first time in 7 years – 26 years since her first appearance at our Festival.

Carlos, Sweeney, McCartin's two brilliant albums to date have gained them a large and loyal following. We have welcomed Dylan and John to the Festival previously and are very pleased to present the whole trio this year.

It took a few years for IMDL to bring Conamara siblings, Séamus and Caoimhe Uí Fhlatharta to London. Their stunning Music Network concert with Ryan Molloy in 2025 was so well received, we had to bring this unique trio back to present to you all at RtLT Festival.

We are thrilled to welcome the mighty Téada back to RtLT as they celebrate 25 years on the road. We are very happy to be collaborating with Liverpool Irish Festival to host the band at the Philharmonic Music Room before they 'Return to London Town' for a concert and workshops with us.

After harper extraordinaire, Laoise Kelly was so warmly received during RtLT in 2024, conversations and scheming on the part of herself and fabulous piano accordionist, Colette O'Leary have led to a reunion of the internationally renowned 'Bumblebees' – many will remember this great band from the 1990s.

The wonderful John Faulkner has equally legendary status on both the Irish traditional and English folk music scenes, his visit this October is a true 'Return to London Town'. We look forward to celebrating the man and his music through the launch of his book 'Storm in my Heart', performances and workshops.

The infectious music of the first Cuas album has been a favourite amongst the IMDL team for some time. We're delighted to be hosting the band on our opening night this year – expect infectious music and gorgeous vocals.

I really could go on and on... every booking comes with a story. There is such huge anticipation about greeting this year's cohort of glorious musicians from Ireland, the US and Canada. The celebration of welcoming these visiting musicians is what brings us all together – we are of course also absolutely spoiled with the finest of musicians, singers and dancers already here in London. We are grateful that the Festival acts as a grand excuse to bring together people from across a number of generations and backgrounds - traditional Irish musicians, singers, dancers, lovers and learners of the tradition, as well as newcomers to our culture.

We welcome the addition of some new and returning venues to our Festival programme this year. We are delighted to be hosting an additional Sunday afternoon concert, hoping it will prove popular and remain a fixture at RtLT in the future.

An annual highlight in the lead up to RtLT is the discovery of who will be playing with London's Parish Céilí Band – this year's formidable crew will not disappoint! Our temporary move of the dance programme to The Cricklewood Club will make things a little cosier for 2026. Looking forward, 2027 will see the set dancing programme expand to host céilís on Friday and Saturday nights, plus Sunday afternoon at the Mazenod Social Club, with the Cricklewood Club remaining as a new session venue for us.

We would like to thank our main funders, sponsors and venue partners, without whom we could not even dream of hosting this Festival. We are always looking to connect with new sponsors, so if you or someone you know would like to support traditional Irish arts and community in London, please drop us a line via contact details on our website: [www.returntolondontown.org](http://www.returntolondontown.org)

We are hugely grateful to each and every volunteer who help us deliver the Festival over the long weekend in October, thank you for all you do. And last, but by no means least, I would personally like to thank all of the dedicated IMDL Team who have worked hard over the last 12 months and more to get us to this stage – I thank you for sharing the vision, it is a pleasure to work alongside you all 😊

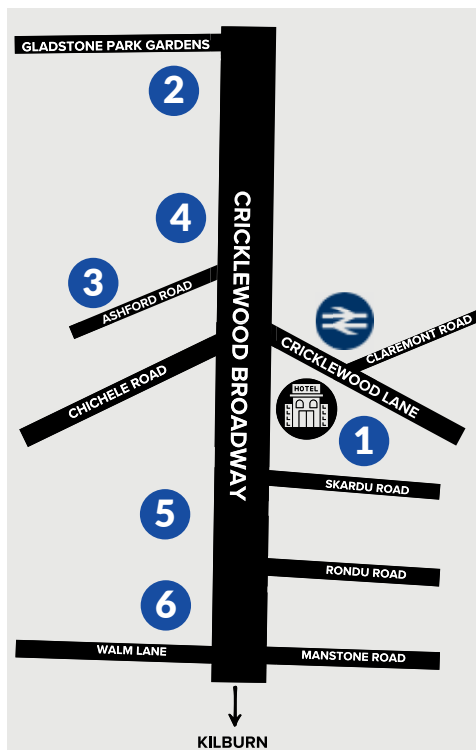
We look forward to welcoming you to Cricklewood, here's wishing everyone a fantastic 28<sup>th</sup> Festival!



# FESTIVAL VENUES

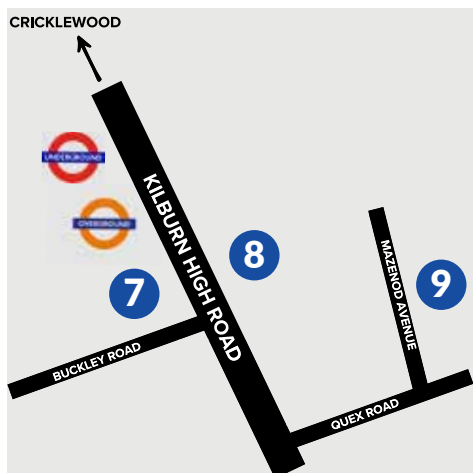
PLEASE NOTE: MAPS ARE NOT TO SCALE

## CRICKLEWOOD:



- 1 THE CROWN HOTEL**  
 152 Cricklewood Broadway, London, NW2 3ED  
 Main Festival spaces at the Clayton Crown Hotel are:
  - Ivy Suite (basement)
  - Lounge by Ivy Suite (basement)
  - The Lounge/Games Room (ground floor)
  - The Crown Pub (ground floor)
  - Brent Room (ground floor)
  - Camden Room (ground floor)
  - Mezzanine (first floor)
  - Sala Room (first floor)
- 2 THE CRICKLEWOOD CLUB**  
 327 Edgware Road, NW2 6JP
- 3 ASHFORD PLACE**  
 60 Ashford Road, Cricklewood, NW2 6TU
- 4 BARRETT'S FREEHOUSE**  
 239 Cricklewood Broadway London NW2 3HP

## KILBURN:



### PARKING

Please note that there is free on street parking on a large number of roads on the Cricklewood Lane side of Cricklewood Broadway, from Friday after 6.30pm, all day Saturday and all day Sunday (excluding Elm, Oak, Yew and Ash Groves). There is a limited amount of metered parking on the Chichele Road side of Cricklewood Broadway (please read signs carefully). There are 38 parking spaces in the underground car park at The Crown Hotel (charges apply).

Buses to Kilburn: 16, 32, 189, 316, 332

- 5 THE WINDMILL HOTEL**  
 57 Cricklewood Broadway, London NW2 3JX
- 6 ZOMBIE GAMES CAFÉ**  
 15 Cricklewood Broadway, London NW2 3JX
- 7 THE KILN**  
 60 Ashford Road, Cricklewood, NW2 6TU
- 8 SIR COLIN CAMPBELL**  
 264-266 Kilburn High Road, London NW6 2BY
- 9 MAZENOD SOCIAL CLUB**  
 Mazenod Avenue, NW6 4LS
-  **CRICKLEWOOD STATION**
-  **BRONDESBURY STATION**
-  **KILBURN STATION**



# RETURN TO LONDON TOWN PROGRAMME LISTINGS

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All Inclusive tickets for all ticketed concerts and céilís are available to purchase for the bargain price of £60!  
Individual event tickets are also available. All tickets at: [www.returntolondontown.org](http://www.returntolondontown.org)



FACEBOOK: TOMSIRISHSETDANCINGLONDON

EMAIL: TOMSETDANCING@GMAIL.COM

UPCOMING CÉILÍ 2026 | LIVE MUSIC

**THE CLADDAGH RING,  
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**SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2026**

**2PM - 5PM**

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## CLASSES

**BEGINNER CÉILÍ AND SET DANCING**

**5PM - 6.30PM  
OR 7PM - 9PM**

**MADDENS BAR, EAST FINCHLEY, N2 9ED**

**| MONDAYS**

**SET DANCING (ALL ABILITIES)**

**7.30PM - 10PM**

**THE CLADDAGH RING, LONDON, NW4 4EA**

**| THURSDAYS**

# FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2026

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## EVENING CONCERT

*Please note that all advertised concert times are door opening times.*

*Performances will commence 30 minutes after doors open.*

- CUAS
  - SÉAMUS AND CAOIMHE UÍ FHLATHARTA WITH RYAN MOLLOY
  - THE TRAD GATHERING
- 

The Crown Hotel (Ivy Suite) • Doors 7.30pm, Tickets £25/£7 U18s



### CUAS

**Méabh Ní Bheaglaioich** (accordion, vocals), **Nicole Ní Dhubhshláine** (concertina, flute), **Niamh Varian-Barry** (fiddle, viola, vocals), and **Kyle Macaulay** (guitar, bouzouki) formed Cuas in 2023, dedicated to celebrating the vibrant and diverse musical traditions of West Kerry.

Drawing inspiration from the region's emotive songs and dynamic dance traditions, the group places the connection between listener and performer at the core of performances.

Their self-titled debut album, released in May 2024, was recorded live in Seanscoil a' Chuasa before an intimate audience of friends and family and their 2nd album *Mo Naomhóigín Ó* has recently been released. The band were nominated for Best Emerging Artist and Best Folk Group at the 2025 RTÉ Folk Awards.

Cuas has performed at festivals across Ireland, including Tradfest, Other Voices, The Gathering, and Féile na Bealtaine. They

have appeared on national television, including Fáilte 2024, Bláth na hÓige, Fleadh TV, Scoil Cheoil an Earraigh, and Up for the Match. In 2024, they performed at the National Concert Hall (NCH) with dancer Stephanie Keane as part of the Irish Traditional Music Archive's Drawing from the Well series.

Invigorating polkas and slides, original compositions, and traditional West Kerry songs come alive in the hands of four of Ireland's most exciting musicians.

IMDL PRESENTS

CAILROE ALBUM LAUNCH –  
JOHN DWYER COMPOSITIONS

RECORDED AND PERFORMED BY:  
MÁIRE AND MAIRÉAD UÍ CHATHASAIGH |  
JACQUELINE MCCARTHY, TOMMY AND PÁDRAIC KEANE |  
DIARMUID Ó MEACHAIR | ANN DWYER | JACK TALTY |  
MACDARA, PAX AND CARTHACH UÍ FAOILÁIN |  
MARTIN MURRAY | PAUL GRANT |  
KAREN DWYER-BURCHILL | THE QUINN FAMILY

FRI 04 DEC 2026 | DOORS: 7.30PM

TICKETS: £18 / £7 (U18S)

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## SÉAMUS AND CAOIMHE UÍ FHLATHARTA WITH RYAN MOLLOY

### Séamus and Caoimhe Uí

**Fhlatharta** – TG4 Gradam Ceoil Young Musicians of the Year 2026/ Best Emerging Artists at the 2024 RTÉ Folk Awards - hail from the Conamara Gaeltacht and are noted for their sean nós singing and unique arrangements of both Irish and English language songs.

Their exquisite vocal blend is enhanced from the unique vocal tones that only family members share. Their *Late Late Show* performance in 2022 of the soulful lament *Anach Cuain* received widespread acclaim and went viral.

Séamus (harp, whistle, bodhrán) and Caoimhe (fiddle) are accomplished multi-instrumentalists who keep the Irish language and their heritage at the heart of all their musical endeavours. They have shared

stages with renowned artists and ensembles, most recently appearing as guest soloists with the National Symphony Orchestra at the National Concert Hall.

They have toured Europe, Asia and North America, and have contributed to notable recordings, including Notify's most recent release, *Airnéan*. In 2023, the duo released their debut EP, produced by Brian Whelan and Riverdance composer Bill Whelan.

Composer and pianist **Ryan Molloy** has performed to international audiences for more than twenty years. He was named TG4 Gradam Ceoil 2024 Composer of the Year, and was nominated for the RTÉ Radio 1 Folk Awards in 2020 and 2021.

Ryan has recorded on more than thirty albums as a pianist, composer

and arranger with a repertoire spanning traditional Irish and contemporary classical music. A much sought-after collaborator, he has worked with artists and ensembles including Fergal Scahill, Seán Óg Graham, Neil Martin, Paddy Glackin, Iarla Ó Lionáird, North Cregg, Barry Kerr, the Ulster Orchestra and the Irish Chamber Orchestra.

His music is broadcast on BBC Radio 3, Radio Ulster, RTÉ lyric fm, Radio 1 and Ráidió na Gaeltachta as well as BBC 2, UTV and TG4. Described as a 'milestone' in traditional piano performance, his acclaimed first solo recording *Pianophony* was released in 2019. More recent recordings include uilleann pipes and piano album *Tempered*, also *The Gannet's Dive* and *Oh! Listen to the Band* with fiddlers Fergal Scahill and Conor Caldwell respectively.

### SESSIONS

- 5pm** The Crown Hotel (Mezzanine) • Colette Keaveney, Lorcan Moriarty, Peter McAlinden • Free
- 8pm** The Crown Hotel (Crown Pub) • Rita Farrell, Rónán Stewart, Cormac MacMurchu • Free
- 9pm** The Windmill Hotel • Mick Mulvey, Dylan Carlos, Seán Potts • Free
- 10pm** The Crown Hotel (The Lounge) • Noreen Cullen, Hugh Sheehan, Adrian Burns • Free
- Late Night Sala Sessions 11pm** The Crown Hotel (Sala Room) • Caroline Keane, Tom Delaney, Tommy O'Sullivan • Free

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# THE GATHERING

FESTIVAL OF MUSIC &amp; ARTS

WED 3RD – SUN 7TH MAR 2027

WEEKEND PASS €61.10 + FEES

## CONCERTS

A TRIBUTE TO NICKY & ANNE MCAULIFFE - NOEL HILL, LIAM O'CONNOR, PADDY MCEVOY, JACKIE DALY, EILEEN O'BRIEN, SÉAMUS & CAOIMHE • THE HALF ROOM  
FEATURING PAULINE SCANLON, NICOLA JOYCE, FABIAN JOYCE,  
EOIN WYMM • THE WEAVING: MEABH NÍ BHEAGLAOICH, CÁIT NÍ RIAIN & OWEN  
SPAFFORD • DIARMUID O'MEACHAIR, ANDREW CADEN & PADDY MCEVOY • PETER  
STREET: JOHN PAUL REYNOLDS, SIMON CREHAN, KEELAN MCGRATH & FIONN  
O'HANLON • TRADITIONAL SINGERS CONCERT WITH A HOST OF SINGERS IN  
IRISH AND ENGLISH

## CÉILÍS

UI BHRIAN • NEILI O'CONNOR • DUNTALLY CÉILÍ BAND  
THE ABBEY CÉILÍ BAND • JOHNNY REIDY

## SET DANCING WORKSHOPS & INSTRUMENT MASTERCLASSES

SEAN NOS DANCE CLASS – WITH EDWINA GUCKIAN  
SET DANCE CLASS (ADVANCED) – WITH PAT MURPHY  
CORK KERRY SETS (ADVANCED) – WITH JOHN 'THE LEAPER' LYNCH  
CONCERTINA WORKSHOP – WITH NOEL HILL  
ACCORDION WORKSHOP – DIARMUID O'MEACHAIR  
FIDDLE WORKSHOP – WITH LIAM O'CONNOR  
SINGING WORKSHOP – WITH SÉAMUS & CAOIMHE

## NEW EVENT UPCOMING!

### PLUS

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Box Office 064 6671555 | [gleneaglearena.ie](http://gleneaglearena.ie) | [ticketmaster.ie](http://ticketmaster.ie)

GLENEAGLE

GLENEAGLE  
ARENAGLENEAGLE  
CLUB

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



# SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2026

## WORKSHOPS, SESSIONS, CÉILÍ, AFTERNOON AND EVENING CONCERTS

Please note that instrumental workshops are aimed at intermediate to advanced level players.

Beginners are welcome to purchase tickets to attend as observers. Please arrive at the workshop venue 30 minutes before the start time to allow for registration. Tickets may be purchased on the door, but advance booking is recommended as workshops are very popular and places are limited.

### WORKSHOPS

#### TIN WHISTLE WORKSHOP WITH DEE HAVLIN

11am-1pm • Ashford Place • £15/£7 U18

#### BUTTON ACCORDION WORKSHOP WITH GARY CURLEY

11am-1pm • Ashford Place • £15/£7 U18

#### UILLEANN PIPES WORKSHOP WITH SEÁN POTTS

11am-1pm • Ashford Place • £15/£7 U18

#### CONCERTINA WORKSHOP WITH CAROLINE KEANE

11am-1pm • Ashford Place • £15/£7 U18

#### BANJO WORKSHOP WITH STEPHEN MCKEE

11am-1pm • Ashford Place • £15/£7 U18

#### FLUTE WORKSHOP WITH CEIN SWEENEY

11am-1pm • The Crown Hotel • £15/£7 U18

#### HARP WORKSHOP WITH SÉAMUS Ó FLAHARTA

11am-1pm • The Crown Hotel • £15/£7 U18

#### FIDDLE WORKSHOP WITH LIZ CARROLL

11am-1pm • The Crown Hotel • £15/£7 U18

#### SINGING WORKSHOP WITH JOHN FAULKNER

11am-1pm • The Crown Hotel • £15/£7 U18

#### STRINGS ACCOMPANIMENT WORKSHOP WITH JOHN MCCARTIN

11am-1pm • The Crown Hotel • £15/£7 U18

#### FIDDLE WORKSHOP WITH FERGAL SCAHILL

1.30pm-3.30pm • Ashford Place • £15/£7 U18

#### SEAN NÓS SINGING WORKSHOP WITH CAOIMHE NÍ FHLATHARTA

1.30-3.30pm • Ashford Place • £15/£7 U18

#### PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT WORKSHOP WITH RYAN MOLLOY

1.30-3.30pm • Ashford Place • £15/£7 U18

# INSTRUMENTAL WORKSHOP TUTORS

See Concert listings for biographies for Liz Carroll, Seán Potts, John Faulkner, Séamus and Caoimhe Uí Fhlatharta, Stephen McKee, Gary Curley, Cein Sweeney, John McCartin, Ryan Molloy



## DEE HAVLIN

Co. Antrim flute and whistle player Dee Havlin was born in Ballymoney. She learned her playing from local teacher John Kennedy (Cullybackey) and went on to win an All Ireland title for flute playing.

Dee joined the band Déanta alongside fellow Antrim musicians Kate O'Brien (fiddle), Eoghan O'Brien (harp and guitar), Mary Dillon (vocal), Clodagh Warnock (fiddle) and Rosie Mulholland (fiddle/keys). The band recorded three albums of traditional and newly composed tunes and songs.

Dee moved to Liverpool and

Yorkshire for several years where she joined traditional Irish band The London Lasses and Pete Quinn, with whom she recorded three albums. She has since returned to Ballymoney where she plays and teaches regularly in the local area.

She recently recorded on *LL25 – The London Lasses 25th Anniversary Album*. Her recent solo performances include the Flutopia concert at Belfast Trad Festival, the Women of the North concert as part of the Lir Sessions and a performance with Déanta on TG4's *Fleadh TV*.

In strategic partnership with our sister company J.O'D Group, we offer minimal environmental impact by utilising both our waste and recycling strategies. Over 50 Years in the industry, Embassy Demolition are capable in providing a complete range of demolition and dismantling services. We strive to offer solutions that are both practical and economically viable.



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Scan me!

See page 37 for biography for Caroline Keane.

Programmed Music Sessions from 12pm until late: The Crown Hotel, plus other Cricklewood and Kilburn venues – FREE

## SESSIONS

- 12pm** The Crown Hotel (The Lounge) • Brogan McAuliffe, Órlaith McAuliffe, Cathy Kingcome
- 12pm** The Windmill Hotel • Finola Ryan, Bryony Lemon, Joe Bardwell
- 1pm** The Crown Hotel (Mezzanine) • Oisín McGinley, Finbar Murphy, Ben Connolly
- 2pm** The Crown Hotel (Crown Pub) • Steve Prosol, Kevin Madden, Chris Sadler
- 3pm** The Crown Hotel (Sala Room) Tutor Led Session • Dee Havlin, Stephen McKee, Peter McAlinden
- 5pm** The Crown Hotel (The Lounge) • Teresa Connolly, Colm McGonigle, Libby McCrohan
- 6pm** The Crown Hotel (Sala Room) • Singing Session hosted by Jackie Quirke with guests Séamus and Caoimhe Uí Fhlatharta
- 6.30pm** The Crown Hotel (Crown Pub) • Owen Condon, Liam Nolan, Rob Webb
- 7pm** Zombie Café • Méabh Ní Bheaglaoich, Niamh Varian Barry, Nicole Ní Dhúbhshláine, Kyle McAuley
- 7.30pm** Sir Colin Campbell • Marie McCormack, Maurice Judge and friends
- 10pm** The Crown Hotel (The Lounge) • Dan Gurney, George McAdam, Jonas Fromseier
- Late Night Sala Sessions 11pm** The Crown Hotel (Sala Room • bar open til 2am)  
• Jos Kelly, Alex Kelly, Tad Sargent

# INTERNATIONAL UILEANN PIPING DAY

SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2026

South London Irish Centre, 138-140 Hartfield Road, London SW19 3TG

**FREE ADMISSION**

FEATURING 'TRY THE PIPES/ DISCUSSION,  
PIPER'S CHAIR, PIPING SESSION

**HOSTED BY RITA FARRELL AND GUEST TBA**

*Everyone is welcome, even if you totally new to piping.  
It really is a great opportunity to try the pipes in a controlled setting  
with tuition from some amazing London based pipers.*



**Congratulations to IMDL on yet another year of Return to London festival  
& welcome back to Cricklewood!**



**Government of Ireland  
Emigrant Support Programme**

60 Ashford Road - Cricklewood - NW2 6TU  
tel: 020 8208 8590  
email: [info@ashfordplace.org.uk](mailto:info@ashfordplace.org.uk)  
[www.ashfordplace.org.uk](http://www.ashfordplace.org.uk)

## Information, advice and guidance for the Irish Community

### What can we do for you?



#### Help to keep your home

- Housing Assistance
- Crisis Assistance
- Relocation Support
- Benefit assistance



#### Promoting Social Inclusion

- The Belonging Project
- Irish Support Project
- Befriending Programme
- Independent living guidance
- Cafe & Lunch available to all
- Digital inclusion



#### Support Health & Wellbeing

- Keep Well Discharge Support
- Dementia Support Projects
- Health Advocacy
- Fit & Well - exercise and activities
- One Million Steps Walking Club



#### Working in our local community

- Cricklewood Town Team
- Community events in our Wellbeing Hub
- Therapy spaces
- Rooms and outdoor space for hire

Patrons: Ben Bailey Smith, Diarmuid Gavin, Fergal Keane  
Registered Charity: 1097475  
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# AFTERNOON CONCERT

*Please note that all advertised concert times are door opening times.  
Performances will commence 30 minutes after doors open.*

- BUMBLEBEES
- DYLAN CARLOS, CEIN SWEENEY AND JOHN MCCARTIN
- JOHN FAULKNER

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The Crown Hotel (Ivy Suite) • Doors 2pm, Tickets £15/£7 U18s



## BUMBLEBEES

Featuring Laoise Kelly, Liz Doherty, Mary Shannon and Colette O'Leary, this 1990s ensemble returns for a special 2026 reunion. Bumblebees brings together four distinctive musical voices, combining tradition, creativity and musical chemistry, with harp, fiddle, banjo, mandolin and piano accordion at its heart.

In 1993, Sharon Shannon invited Mary, Colette and Laoise to

join her for a residency at the Róisín Dubh, Galway, alongside leading traditional artists including Maighread and Tríona Ní Dhomhnaill, Máiréad Ní Mhaonaigh, Séamus Begley and others. Following a television appearance on *Teilifís na Gaeilge*, Liz Doherty joined the band.

Bumblebees performed at the Celtic Flame Festival at London's Barbican, Celtic Colours Festival in

Cape Breton, Celtic Connections in Glasgow, and festivals in Copenhagen, Tønder and Milwaukee. They also appeared on Donal Lunny's *Sult*, RTÉ's *Open House* and TG4's *Ceol Cois Locha*.

Their debut album, *Bumblebees*, was voted among Hot Press's top ten traditional debut albums of 1997. Their second album, *Buzzin'*, was released on their own Beehive Records.



## CARLOS SWEENEY MCCARTIN

Carlos Sweeney McCartin is a no nonsense trio of Fiddle, Flute and Guitar. Their music is uncompromising in its direct reflection of traditional Irish music as played in sessions in the north west of Ireland today and is heavily influenced by the likes of Matt Molloy, Cathal Hayden, Planxty, The Bothy Band, Dervish and Lúnasa.

**Dylan Carlos** comes from a very musical family in Co Roscommon, an area better known for flute playing. Dylan took up the fiddle at an early age and is still heavily

influenced by the music in his local area. Winner of the All Ireland on fiddle in 2019 he plays and teaches regularly at workshops and festivals around Ireland and abroad. Dylan has performed with groups such as Garadice, Gatehouse and singer Cormac Looby.

**Cein Sweeney** is from Killeshandra Co. Cavan, a small town in west Cavan with a strong reputation for Irish music. Cein has taught and performed music across Europe, America and the UK and was crowned All Ireland

Senior Flute Champion in 2015.

**John McCartin** comes from County Leitrim. Starting out as a fiddle player, his interest in accompaniment brought him to the guitar. Also a member of the band Garadice he has played and recorded with artists including Frankie Gavin, Dermot Byrne, and Sharon Shannon, as well as bands such as Dervish, Lúnasa and De Dannan.

John has been the owner of Avalon Guitars since 2024.

## TUTOR-LED SESSION

• DEE HAVLIN, STEPHEN MCKEE, PETER MCALINDEN

3pm • The Crown Hotel (Sala Room) • Free

## SINGING SESSION

• HOSTED BY JACKIE QUIRKE WITH SÉAMUS AND CAOIMHE UÍ FHLATHARTA

6pm • The Crown Hotel (Sala Room) • Free

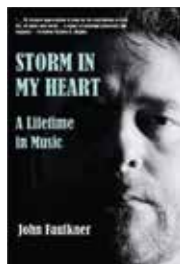


## JOHN FAULKNER

John spent his early years in London where he worked with Ewan MacColl and Peggy Seeger who had a profound influence on him. Alongside touring as a musician, he worked as a music director on several BBC documentary films.

He toured extensively and worked for many years with Dolores Keane for whom he composed the chart-topping song *Lion in a Cage* about Nelson Mandela.

He has lived in the west of Ireland for many years, performing and touring with De Dannan, the late Arty McGlynn, Jackie Daly, Dermot Byrne, Kevin Burke and many others.



He recently released *Storm in My Heart*, an album of original songs, two of which feature duets with Declan O'Rourke and the late John Prine. His memoir of the same name was described in a foreword by President Michael D Higgins as "A journey through the world of music, made with passion, showing a creativity that has a profound dedication to justice at its heart."



## JACKIE QUIRKE

Dublin's **Jackie Quirke** honed much of her Connacht Irish and Sean Nós singing in Conamara's Gaeltacht region, in Galway. She was one of the community members of the cast of John B Keane's play *The Bodhrán Makers* which ran at the Galtymore in

the 1990s. She is also a member of 'In Good Company' (formerly 'Fair Plé Ladies of London') who have performed at Cadogan Hall, Irish Cultural Centre and at Return to London Town Festival. Jackie is the regular 'Bean a Tí' at the newly founded, weekly 'Learn

Irish through Singing' sessions on Wednesdays during term time, from 7pm, upstairs in the Sir Colin Campbell, Kilburn. Everyone is invited to learn and enjoy group singing – Irish speakers of all levels, from complete beginners upwards, are welcome.

## SAVE THE DATES

# RETURN TO LONDON TOWN 2027

FRIDAY 22ND TO MONDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2027

**LONDON'S 29TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF  
TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC, SONG AND DANCE**

## CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

**FRIDAY 5TH MARCH 2027**

LAUDERDALE HOUSE, WATERLOW PARK, HIGHGATE HILL N6 5HG



**TALK AND CONCERT**

WITH

**JOANNE CUSACK**

AUTHOR OF 'WOMEN IN TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC'

**CONCERT ARTISTS: AISLING LYONS, BECKY NÍ ÉALLAITHE AND MUIREANN NÍ SHÉ**

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW ON [WWW.IRISHMUSICINLONDON.ORG](http://WWW.IRISHMUSICINLONDON.ORG)

## SET DANCING CÉILÍ

### • MUSIC BY THE PARISH CÉILÍ BAND WITH HOST TOM KELLEHER

---

The Cricklewood Club • Doors 4-7pm, Tickets £14, U18s free with paying adult



### PARISH CÉILÍ BAND

The Parish Céilí Band were formed in 2019, borne out of a Friday night session that used to take place in The Parish Pub, Wembley. Founding members included Rita Farrell, Chris Maguire, Jack Boyle, Órlaith and Brogan McAuliffe. The band won the All Britain Senior Céilí Band title in their first year. They continue to be in high demand for céilís and concerts. This will be their eighth consecutive appearance at the Return to London Town Festival.

Band members this weekend include: Rita Farrell (flute), Catherine McGoldrick (flute), Jack Boyle (banjo), Brogan McAuliffe (concertina), Caitlin Mahon (fiddle), Sinéad Munroe (fiddle), Scott Hartley (fiddle), Hugh Sheehan (accordion), Ciaran Farrell (drums) and Ben Connolly (piano).



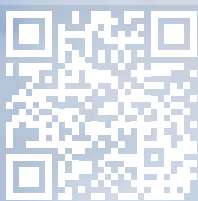
### TOM KELLEHER AND THE CAMDEN SET DANCERS

Continuing the legacy of Return to Camden Town co-founder, Geoff Holland – Cork's Tom Kelleher teaches weekly set dancing classes for all levels on Thursday evenings (previously at the London Irish Centre, currently at The Claddagh Ring, Hendon). Anne Drury teaches weekly céilí and set dancing classes for beginners at Maddens Bar, East Finchley on Monday evenings. Camden Set Dancers have been hosting their monthly Sunday céilí at the London Irish Centre for over 40 years – with the impending closure of the venue for major refurbishment, this fixture has moved across to The Claddagh Ring, Hendon.

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# EVENING CONCERT

This concert is dedicated to the Memory of Jimmy Philbin

In Association with **FLANNERY** and **IRISH WORLD**

*Please note that all advertised concert times are door opening times.*

*Performances will commence 30 minutes after doors open.*

- TÉADA
- LIZ CARROLL AND JAKE CHARRON
- GARY CURLEY, STEPHEN MCKEE AND JOHN MCCARTIN

---

The Crown Hotel (Ivy Suite) • Doors 7.30pm, Tickets £25/£7 U18s



## TÉADA

Téada celebrates 25 years on the road in 2026. Acclaimed for its dynamic and deeply rooted approach to Irish traditional music, Téada has performed as a headliner at major festivals across North America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Japan, Taiwan and Australia.

Career highlights include a 30,000-capacity concert in Brittany and performances at the Penang World Music Festival (Malaysia), Edmonton Folk Festival (Canada),

Harare International Festival of the Arts (Zimbabwe), and the Rainforest World Music Festival (Borneo).

The band has performed with orchestras such as the Württembergische Philharmonie in Germany and continues to maintain a strong touring presence in the United States.

Their latest release on Gael Linn features special guest appearances by Hollywood actor and singer

John C. Reilly and the late Séamus Begley, one of Ireland's most beloved traditional singers and accordionists.

Recent highlights include performances at the Dublin Irish Festival, Savannah Music Festival, and Montana Folk Festival (USA), as well as Festival Interceltique de Lorient (France) and the Irish Festival of Oulu (Finland) - underscoring Téada's continuing role as a vibrant ambassador for Irish culture worldwide.

# FULL EVENT PROGRAMME

## ALL MUSIC AND SONG EVENTS FOR UNDER 18s: £7

Festival tickets available from: [www.returntolondontown.org](http://www.returntolondontown.org)

**WEEKEND TICKETS:** £60 All Inclusive Concerts and Céilís (£50 Early Bird ticket available until 31 Aug)

Spaces at the The Crown Hotel: Ivy Suite (basement), Lounge by Ivy Suite (basement), Mezzanine (first floor), Sala Room (first floor), The Lounge/Games Room (ground floor), Crown Pub (ground floor), Brent Room (ground floor), Camden Room (ground floor)

### FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER 2026

|        |                    |                                                                             |                              |             |
|--------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| 5pm    | Session            | Colette Keaveney, Lorcan Moriarty, Peter McAlinden                          | The Crown Hotel (Mezzanine)  | Free        |
| 7.30pm | Evening Concert    | Cuas / Séamus and Caoimhe Uí Fhlaharta with Ryan Molloy/ The Trad Gathering | The Crown Hotel (Ivy Suite)  | £25/ £7 U18 |
| 8pm    | Session            | Rita Farrell, Rónán Stewart, Cormac MacMurchu                               | The Crown Pub                | Free        |
| 9pm    | Session            | Mick Mulvey, Dylan Carlos, Seán Potts                                       | The Windmill Hotel           | Free        |
| 10pm   | Session            | Noreen Cullen, Hugh Sheehan, Adrian Burns                                   | The Crown Hotel (The Lounge) | Free        |
| 11pm   | Late Night Session | Caroline Keane, Tom Delaney, Tommy O'Sullivan                               | The Crown Hotel (Sala Room)  | Free        |

Crown Hotel Bars open until: Ivy Suite bar - 12am, The Crown Pub bar - 1am, Sala Bar - 2am, Residents Bar - 4am

### SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER 2026

|             |                                |                                                                                   |                              |                                  |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 11am-1pm    | Whistle Workshop               | Dee Havlin                                                                        | Ashford Place                | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 11am-1pm    | Accordion Workshop             | Garry Curley                                                                      | Ashford Place                | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 11am-1pm    | Uilleann Pipes Workshop        | Seán Potts                                                                        | Ashford Place                | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 11am-1pm    | Concertina Workshop            | Caroline Keane                                                                    | Ashford Place                | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 11am-1pm    | Banjo Workshop                 | Stephen McKee                                                                     | Ashford Place                | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 11am-1pm    | Flute Workshop                 | Cein Sweeney                                                                      | The Crown Hotel              | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 11am-1pm    | Harp Workshop                  | Séamus Ó Flatharta                                                                | The Crown Hotel              | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 11am-1pm    | Fiddle Workshop                | Liz Carroll                                                                       | The Crown Hotel              | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 11am-1pm    | Singing Workshop               | John Faulkner                                                                     | The Crown Hotel              | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 11am-1pm    | Strings Accompaniment Workshop | John McCartin                                                                     | The Crown Hotel              | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 12pm        | Session                        | Brogan McAuliffe, Órlaith McAuliffe, Cathy Kingcome                               | The Crown Hotel (The Lounge) | Free                             |
| 12pm        | Session                        | Finola Ryan, Bryony Lemon, Joe Bardwell                                           | The Windmill Hotel           | Free                             |
| 1pm         | Session                        | Osín McGinley, Finbar Murphy, Ben Connolly                                        | The Crown Hotel (Mezzanine)  | Free                             |
| 1.30-3.30pm | Fiddle Workshop                | Fergal Scahill (2nd workshop)                                                     | Ashford Place                | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 1.30-3.30pm | Piano Accompaniment Workshop   | Ryan Molloy                                                                       | Ashford Place                | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 1.30-3.30pm | Sean Nós Singing Workshop      | Caoimhe Ní Fhlatharta                                                             | Ashford Place                | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 2pm         | Afternoon Concert              | Bumblebees/ Dylan Carlos, Cein Sweeney, John McCartin/ John Faulkner              | The Crown Hotel (Ivy Suite)  | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 2pm         | Session                        | Steve Prosol, Kevin Madden, Chris Sadler                                          | The Crown Hotel (Crown Pub)  | Free                             |
| 3pm         | Tutor Led Session              | Dee Havlin, Stephen McKee, Peter McAlinden                                        | The Crown Hotel (Sala Room)  | Free                             |
| 4-7pm       | Set Dancing Céilí              | Parish Céilí Band with Tom Kelleher                                               | The Cricklewood Club         | £14/ U18s free with paying adult |
| 5pm         | Session                        | Teresa Connolly, Colm McGonigle, Libby McCrohan                                   | The Crown Hotel (The Lounge) | Free                             |
| 6pm         | Singing Session                | Singing Session hosted by Jackie Quirke with Séamus and Caoimhe Uí Fhlatharta     | The Crown Hotel (Sala Room)  | Free                             |
| 6.30pm      | Session                        | Owen Condor, Liam Nolan, Rob Webb                                                 | The Crown Hotel (Crown Pub)  | Free                             |
| 7pm         | Session                        | Méabh Ní Bheaglaioich, Niamh Varian Barry, Nicole Ní Dhúbhshláine, Kyle McAuley   | Zombie Games Café            | Free                             |
| 7.30pm      | Evening Concert                | Téada/ Liz Carroll and Jake Charron/ Gary Curley, Stephen McKee and John McCartin | The Crown Hotel (Ivy Suite)  | £25/ £7 U18s                     |

|        |                    |                                            |                              |      |
|--------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------|
| 7.30pm | Session            | Marie McCormack, Maurice Judge and friends | Sir Colin Campbell           | Free |
| 10pm   | Session            | Dan Gurney, George McAdam, Jonas Fromseier | The Crown Hotel (The Lounge) | Free |
| 11pm   | Late Night Session | Jos Kelly, Alex Kelly, Tad Sargent         | The Crown Hotel (Sala Room)  | Free |

**Crown Hotel Bars open until: Ivy Suite bar - 12am, The Crown Pub bar - 1am, Sala Bar - 2am, Residents Bar - 4am**

## SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER 2026

|             |                                |                                                                                                                       |                              |                                  |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 11am-1pm    | Tin Whistle Workshop           | Órlaith McAuliffe                                                                                                     | Ashford Place                | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 11am-1pm    | Fiddle Workshop                | Fergal Scahill                                                                                                        | Ashford Place                | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 11am-1pm    | Concertina Workshop            | Colm McGonigle                                                                                                        | Ashford Place                | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 11am-1pm    | Flute Workshop                 | Damien Stenson                                                                                                        | Ashford Place                | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 11am-1pm    | Accordion Workshop             | Paul Finn                                                                                                             | Ashford Place                | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 11am-1pm    | Banjo Workshop                 | George McAdam                                                                                                         | Ashford Place                | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 11am-1pm    | Uilleann Pipes Workshop        | Tom Delany                                                                                                            | Ashford Place                | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 11am-1pm    | Harp Workshop                  | Laoise Kelly                                                                                                          | The Crown Hotel              | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 12pm        | Session                        | Alan O'Leary, Rosie O'Leary, Brendan McAuley                                                                          | The Crown Hotel (The Lounge) | Free                             |
| 12pm        | Session                        | Liz Doherty, Mary Shannon, Colette O'Leary                                                                            | Mazenod Social Club          | Free                             |
| 12.30-2pm   | Sean Nós Dancing Workshop      | Samantha Harvey                                                                                                       | The Cricklewood Club         | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 1.30-3.30pm | Strings Accompaniment Workshop | Seán McElwain                                                                                                         | Ashford Place                | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 1.30-3.30pm | Bodhrán Workshop               | Tristan Rosenstock                                                                                                    | Ashford Place                | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 1.30-3.30pm | Fiddle Workshop                | Liz Carol (2nd workshop)                                                                                              | Ashford Place                | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 1.30-3.30pm | Singing in Harmony Workshop    | Chan Reid                                                                                                             | Ashford Place                | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 2pm         | Afternoon Concert              | Seán and Ellen Potts/ Fergal Scahill and Ryan Molloy/ Colm McGonigle, George McAdam, Dan Gurney and Libby McCrohan    | Mazenod Social Club          | £15/ £7 U18s                     |
| 2pm         | Session                        | Mick O'Connor, John Bowe, Tommy O'Sullivan                                                                            | The Crown Hotel (Crown Pub)  | Free                             |
| 2.30-5.30pm | Set Dancing Céilí              | Parish Céilí Band with Tom Kelleher                                                                                   | The Cricklewood Club         | £14/ U18s free with paying adult |
| 3pm         | Tutor Led Session              | Olisín MacDiarmada, Caroline Keane, Peter McAlinden                                                                   | The Crown Hotel (Sala Room)  | Free                             |
| 4pm         | Session                        | Elaine Finn Davies, Dee Havlin, Niall Farrelly                                                                        | The Crown Hotel (The Lounge) | Free                             |
| 4.30pm      | Singing Session                | Singing Session hosted by Chan Reid with guests John Faulkner, Meabh Begley and Niamh Varian Barry                    | The Windmill Hotel           | Free                             |
| 5pm         | Session                        | Dermot Crehan, Gary Curley, Jake Charron                                                                              | Barrett's Freehouse          | Free                             |
| 5.30pm      | Quiz                           | 'Tradiversity Challenge' Quiz with Host: Mick Mulvey                                                                  | The Crown Hotel (Ivy Suite)  | Free                             |
| 5.30pm      | Session                        | Andy Martyn, John Rynne, Tad Sargent                                                                                  | The Cricklewood Club         | Free                             |
| 6pm         | Session                        | James O'Grady, Eoin Griffin, John McCartin                                                                            | The Crown Hotel (Crown Pub)  | Free                             |
| 7pm         | Session                        | Caroline Regan, Mick O'Connor and Mick Bailey                                                                         | Sir Colin Campbell           | Free                             |
| 8pm         | Album and Book Launch Event    | Caroline Keane/ John Faulkner/ Catharine Kingcome/ <i>Tommie Potts: The Sorrowful and the Great</i> Book by Seán Pott | The Crown Hotel (Sala Room)  | Free                             |
| 9pm         | Session                        | Annie, Katie and Pete Quinn                                                                                           | The Crown Hotel (The Lounge) | Free                             |

**The Crown Hotel Bars: Ground Floor public bar open until 12am, Ivy Suite public bar open until 11pm.**

## MONDAY 26 OCTOBER 2026

|      |                                                 |                                                                                                                                               |                             |                                                      |
|------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 12pm | Session                                         | Kathleen Sarsfield O'Shea, Tara McCarthy, Iona Reid                                                                                           | The Crown Hotel (Mezzanine) | Free                                                 |
| 2pm  | Afternoon Concert                               | Liz Carroll and Jake Charron/ Laoise Kelly/ London Irish Pensioners Choir                                                                     | The Crown Hotel (Ivy Suite) | £15/ £7 U18s                                         |
| 7pm  | Evening Film Screening and Acoustic Music Night | ITMA's 'Tommie Potts – The Fireman Fiddler of the Coombe'<br>Music in the bar: Sinéad Munroe, Mick O'Connor, Caitlin Mannion, Peter McAlinden | The Kiln Theatre, Cinema    | Free tickets can be reserved on the Festival website |

**Crown Hotel Bars open until: Ivy Suite - 6pm, Crown Pub public bar - 11pm, Residents bar - 2am**



## LIZ CARROLL AND JAKE CHARRON

**Liz Carroll** is an Irish-American fiddler, composer and recording artist whose music has helped shape contemporary Irish traditional music. Born in Chicago to Irish parents by age 18 she had won the All Ireland Senior Fiddle title. She has performed internationally as a solo artist and with groups including The Green Fields of America, Trián, String Sisters, and the duo Liz Carroll and John Doyle. She now performs and records with guitarist and pianist **Jake Charron**.

Liz's stature as a composer is equal to her reputation as a performer. Much of her recorded repertoire consists of her own compositions, many of which have become part of the repertoire of Irish and Celtic musicians worldwide.

Her recordings include the solo album *On the Offbeat*, the collaborative *Ireland: Crossroads of Art and Design*, and *Half Day Road* with Jake Charron.

Her achievements have been widely recognised. In 1994 she received a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, and in 2011 became the first American-born composer to receive the Cumadóir TG4, Ireland's most significant traditional music composition award.

Liz has published three collections of her compositions. Following *Collected* (2010) and *Collected II* (2020), *Collected III* was released in 2026, bringing together 75 new tunes.

In high demand as a touring and recording musician on piano and guitar, and for his ability with various styles of music, **Jake Charron** collaborates with artists worldwide. He has pursued music, since graduating with a degree in Kinesiology, and has performed with a wide range of award-winning musicians.

Jake has toured with Liz Carroll, Troy MacGillivray, Shane Cook, and Canadian group, The East Pointers. The group's debut album, *Secret Victory*, demonstrates the trio's take on traditional Canadian-Celtic music, and has been universally well received.

Last year Jake was nominated for a Canadian Folk Music award for his duo album with Shane Cook - *Head to Head*.



## GARY CURLEY, STEPHEN MCKEE AND JOHN MCCARTIN

A native of Boho, Co. Fermanagh, **Gary Curley** is an accomplished button accordionist and dedicated music tutor for organisations such as Music Generation and Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann.

A music graduate from Ulster University his musical foundations were laid at home, where weekly sessions hosted by his parents brought together local musicians. His grandmother Kathleen Quinn influenced his

early musical development and subsequently Dinnie Leonard and leading button accordionists such as Finbarr Dwyer, Darren Breslin, and Oliver Deveney.

From Draperstown, Co. Derry, **Stephen McKee** was raised in a musical family and developed his musicianship on the tenor banjo playing music alongside his siblings.

He learned music at a young age with Aoibheann Devlin,

and later attended the Armagh Pipers Club. Early guidance came from his sister Lisa, alongside tutor Mark Mohan and other key influences include Adrian McAuliffe and Brian McGrath.

Gary Curley and Stephen McKee have combined accordion and banjo in a sound that is rhythmically strong, grounded, and distinctively their own. In 2025, the duo released their debut album, *Chunky Business*.

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See page 16 for biography for John McCartin.

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### SESSIONS

**Late Night Sala Sessions 11pm** The Crown Hotel (Sala Room • bar open til 2am)  
• Jos Kelly, Alex Kelly, Tad Sargent

# Innisfree

We care about the people and communities that we serve, so we are proud co-sponsors of the Meitheal Muintire Irish End-of-Life Care Project. The project aims to develop a community informed response to improve practice in enabling dignified and responsive end of life care for Irish people living in Britain.

As an organisation with deep Irish roots, our desire is for the Irish community network to be able and confident to actively promote culturally sensitive end of life care.

## Innisfree Housing Association

190 Iverson Road  
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## E-mail

[info@innisfree.org.uk](mailto:info@innisfree.org.uk)

## Website

[www.innisfree.org.uk](http://www.innisfree.org.uk)



# SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2026

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## WORKSHOPS, SESSIONS, CÉILÍ, QUIZ, AFTERNOON AND ALBUM LAUNCH CONCERTS

Please note that instrumental workshops are aimed at intermediate to advanced level players.

Beginners are welcome to purchase tickets to attend as observers. Please arrive at the workshop venue 30 minutes before the start time to allow for registration. Tickets may be purchased on the door, but advance booking is recommended as workshops are very popular and places are limited.

### WORKSHOPS

#### TIN WHISTLE WORKSHOP WITH ÓRLAITH MCAULIFFE

11am-1pm • Ashford Place • £15/£7 U18

#### FIDDLE WORKSHOP WITH FERGAL SCAHILL

11am-1pm • Ashford Place • £15/£7 U18

#### CONCERTINA WORKSHOP WITH COLM MCGONIGLE

11am-1pm • Ashford Place • £15/£7 U18

#### FLUTE WORKSHOP WITH DAMIEN STENSON

11am-1pm • Ashford Place • £15/£7 U18

#### ACCORDION WORKSHOP WITH PAUL FINN

11am-1pm • Ashford Place • £15/£7 U18

#### BANJO WORKSHOP WITH GEORGE MCADAM

11am-1pm • Ashford Place • £15/£7 U18

#### UILEANN PIPES WORKSHOP WITH TOM DELANY

11am-1pm • Ashford Place • £15/£7 U18

#### HARP WORKSHOP WITH LAOISE KELLY

11am-1pm • The Crown Hotel • £15/£7 U18

#### SEAN NÓS DANCING WORKSHOP WITH SAMANTHA HARVEY

12.30pm-2pm • The Cricklewood Club • £15/£7 U18

#### SINGING IN HARMONY WORKSHOP WITH CHAN REID

1.30pm-3.30pm • Ashford Place • £15/£7 U18

#### STRINGS ACCOMPANIMENT WORKSHOP WITH SEÁN MCELWAIN

1.30pm-3.30pm • Ashford Place • £15/£7 U18

#### BODHRÁN WORKSHOP WITH TRISTAN ROSENSTOCK

1.30pm-3.30pm • Ashford Place • £15/£7 U18

#### FIDDLE WORKSHOP WITH LIZ CARROLL

1.30pm-3.30pm • Ashford Place • £15/£7 U18

# INSTRUMENTAL WORKSHOP TUTORS

See Concert listings for biographies for Fergal Scahill, Colm McGonigle, George McAdam, Laoise Kelly and Liz Carroll.



## ÓRLAITH MCAULIFFE

Órlaith McAuliffe is celebrated as one of the foremost Irish flute and whistle players of her generation, admired for her technical command, vibrant musicality, and energetic style. Raised in London in a family steeped in Irish music, with roots in Killarney, Co. Kerry, Órlaith began on the tin whistle, guided by her mother, before progressing to the flute at age nine. She has since developed a distinctive voice that blends tradition with innovation.

Órlaith has won more than twenty All Ireland Fleadh gold medals including championship titles on flute and tin whistle. Inspired by legendary musicians including Matt Molloy, Michael McGoldrick, and Kevin Crawford, her playing is noted for lightning-fast ornamentation, rhythmic drive, and deep emotional resonance.

She has performed across Ireland, Britain, and beyond at major festivals, concerts, and sessions, collaborating with leading performers.

Órlaith is a sought-after teacher, delivering workshops, classes, and masterclasses for students of all ages. She emphasises listening, repertoire, ornamentation, and creativity, inspiring the next generation of musicians. In 2016 she was awarded the TG4 Gradam Ceoil Ceoltóir Óg na Bliana (Young Musician of the Year).

## DAMIEN STENSON (TÉADA)

Hailing from the rich musical environment of Co. Sligo, **Damien Stenson** is noted for his extensive repertoire and flowing style of playing. In addition to performing with Téada, he has recorded on several albums and made appearances on television and radio. Teaching activity has included flute tutoring at Celtic Week – Swannanoa Gathering.

## PAUL FINN (TÉADA)

Paul Finn from Co. Laois is one of the finest button accordion players in Ireland. Known for a pulsating and rhythmic performance style, his playing featured prominently in major international touring dance productions, as well as in the session scene in Ireland, prior to his joining Téada in 2003. Paul has featured on television performances on TG4, including *Geantraí*. In 2025 he launched a new trio album, *Come What May*, with Patricia Clark and Cillian Doheny at Ennis Trad Fest.

## CELLAR UPSTAIRS

**Apaca, 84-86 Essex Road, London N1 8LU, 020 7281 7700, [www.cellarupstairs.org.uk](http://www.cellarupstairs.org.uk)**

**7 SEPT: SAN HALEN**

**14 SEPT: HOLLY CLARKE**

**21 SEPT: KATH TAIT & TERENCE BLACKER**

**28 SEPT: DAVID CAMPBELL**

**5 OCT ALICE & DAVID WYLDE**

**12 OCT JERRY O'REILLY & ROSIE DAVIS**

**19 OCT ARTHUR KNEVETT**

**26 OCT THREE IDLE WOMEN**

**2 NOV DÓNAL MAGUIRE**

**9 NOV STANLEY ACCRINGTON**

**16 NOV PETE SHEPHEARD**

**23 NOV JE OIN**

**30 NOV ROSIE STEWART (FERMANAGH)**

**7 DEC ELIZABETH & JAMESON**



## TOM DELANY

Tom Delany is an internationally acclaimed uilleann piper, singer, bouzouki player, and guitarist, known for his dynamic, daring, and free-flowing style. With bold, expressive playing, he captures the spirit of traditional Irish music while pushing its boundaries, making him one of the most sought-after musicians in the folk scene.

Tom is a founding member of the renowned group Fourwinds, a band celebrated for its genre-blending interpretations of Irish and folk music.

In 2017, Caroline Keane and Tom released *Never Say Goodbye, Say Good Luck*, an album that showcases their unique musical partnership.

---

## SAMANTHA HARVEY (TÉADA)

Samantha Harvey is an award-winning step dancer, pianist and accordionist. She has performed throughout the world including in RTÉ's Centenary 2016, broadcast live from the Bord Gáis Energy Theatre in Dublin and with both Omaha and Nashville Symphonies in *A Celtic Journey*. Samantha has been performing with Téada for over a decade.

---

## TRISTAN ROSENSTOCK (TÉADA)

Tristan Rosenstock is an author, editor, broadcaster and bodhrán player from Glenageary, Co. Dublin. He has worked in television and radio for many years, currently as a broadcaster for RTÉ Radio na Gaeltachta, presenter of RTÉ Radio 1's *Céilíhouse*, and is literary editor of the monthly magazine *Comhar*. He has toured the world with Téada since 2001.



## CHAN REID

Born into a musical family in Dublin, Chan is a folk and traditional singer, song collector and musician. She learned classical piano and singing from her grandmother, Joan Kelly, and immersed herself in sean nós singing and Irish fiddle at university.

A member of folk duo Bold Reilly, Chan performs her own songs alongside an expanding Irish repertoire at festivals and venues. She leads workshops in unaccompanied and harmony singing and recently formed close-harmony duo The Fox In The Reeds with her partner.

Chan accompanies herself on her treasured Martin Coletti jazz guitar and Austrian lute, incorporating a Shruti box into her sean nós singing to explore connections between Irish and other folk traditions.

In December 2024, Chan was ITMA's Saothar Composer of the Month.

---

## SEÁN MCELWAIN (TÉADA)

Seán McElwain is a scholar, educator and award-winning musician who as a member of Téada has performed throughout the US, Canada, Europe and Asia. He is the recipient of a TG4 Gradam Ceoil award (2016) for his *Our Dear Dark Mountain With The Sky Over It* project, which focused on the musical heritage of the Sliabh Beagh region of North Monaghan/East Fermanagh.

# *For the Irish in Britain*

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## SESSIONS

- 12pm** The Crown Hotel (The Lounge) • Alan O'Leary, Rosie O'Leary, Brendan McAuley
- 12pm** Mazenod Social Club • Liz Doherty, Mary Shannon, Colette O'Leary
- 2pm** The Crown Hotel (Crown Pub) • Mick O'Connor, John Bowe, Tommy O'Sullivan
- 3pm** The Crown Hotel (Sala Room) Tutor Led Session • Oisín MacDiarmada, Caroline Keane, Peter McAlinden
- 4pm** The Crown Hotel (The Lounge) • Elaine Finn Davies, Dee Havlin, Niall Farrelly
- 4.30pm** The Windmill Hotel • Singing Session hosted by Chan Reid with guests John Faulkner, Méabh Ní Bheaglaioich and Niamh Varian Barry
- 5pm** Barrett's Freehouse • Dermot Crehan, Gary Curley, Jake Charron
- 5.30pm** The Cricklewood Club • Andy Martyn, John Rynne, Tad Sargent
- 6pm** The Crown Hotel (Crown Pub) • James O'Grady, Eoin Griffin, John McCartin
- 7pm** Sir Colin Campbell • Mick O'Connor, Caroline Regan, Mick Bailey
- 9pm** The Crown Hotel (The Lounge) • Annie, Katie and Pete Quinn

## AFTERNOON CONCERT

*Please note that all advertised concert times are door opening times.  
Performances will commence 30 minutes after doors open.*

- SEÁN AND ELLEN POTTS
- FERGAL SCAHILL AND RYAN MOLLOY
- COLM MCGONIGLE, GEORGE MCADAM,  
DAN GURNEY AND LIBBY MCCROHAN

Mazenod Social Club • Doors 2pm, Tickets £15/ £7 U18s

### FLASHBACK:

McCarthy Family - Irish Hooley at The Crown June 2026



The Trad Gathering - Koko Camden March 2026



PHOTO © COLM KEATING 2024



## SEÁN AND ELLEN POTTS

**Seán Potts** was born in 1967 into a family steeped in traditional music. His father, Seán, was a founding member of The Chieftains, while his great grandfather, John Potts, father of Tommie Potts, was a renowned uilleann piper who moved from South Wexford to Dublin in the 1890s.

Seán has toured internationally and performed extensively, playing and recording with Bakerswell, the Donal Lunny Band, Na Connerys, Tommy Peoples, Kevin Glackin, Paddy Glackin, Ciaran Tourish, Arty McGlynn, Paul McGrattan, Siobhán Peoples, Steve Cooney, Paul Brady, Seán Potts Snr, John Blake, Seán Keane, Daoirí Farrell, Máiread Ní Mhaonaigh, Peadar Ó Riada and Ceoltóirí Chualann.. He produced the solo recording *Seán Potts, Traditional Music on the Uilleann Pipes* in 2002.

Appointed to the staff of the Irish Traditional Music Archive (ITMA) in December 2021, Seán headed an Arts Council Commissioned project *A Portrait of an Artist: Seán Keane*, screened at Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy 2022

and released publicly following Seán Keane's sudden death in May 2023. Seán is author of *Tommie Potts: The Sorrowful and the Great*, published by ITMA in October 2025.

**Ellen Potts** was born in Dublin in 2003. The daughter of piper Seán Potts and a great-grandniece of Tommie Potts, she received tuition on the fiddle from Kevin Glackin and Doireann Glackin, later from Liam O'Connor and Jesse Smith, and at the annual Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy.

Ellen has appeared on several TG4 music programmes, including the recent *Ceolaireacht* series with Doireann Glackin. In 2024, she performed at ITMA's *Drawing from the Well* Concert, celebrating the life and music of Tommie Potts, and in 2022 was part of the *Ó Glúin go Glúin* ensemble of young female artists at the Liam O'Flynn Concert. She studies Architecture at UCD.



## FERGAL SCAHILL AND RYAN MOLLOY

An accomplished musician, **Fergal Scahill's** career spans more than two decades. Playing bodhrán from age two, by five

he was performing with the Siamsa show in Galway. He has since earned numerous accolades, including All Ireland titles on the fiddle, bodhrán and guitar accompaniment.

At 18, Fergal began his professional career. He has performed with shows including *Ragus* and *Celtic Legends*. His discography includes five solo projects, two albums with Freewheel, and seven with We Banjo 3. His social media project, *Fergal's Tune a Day*, showcases his musicianship and collaborative skills with some 750 tunes recorded.

Fergal has shared stages with musicians including Mairtín O'Connor, Wallis Bird, Gerry O'Connor, Mick Flannery, Máiread Ní Mhaonaigh, Sharon Shannon, Bela Fleck, Sam Bush, Billy Strings, Sierra Hull and Brittany Haas.

In 2020 he won Male Musician of the Year at the American Celtic Listener Supported Radio Awards and in 2021 *One Day :: November Woods*, featuring Ryan Molloy, won Album of the Year. In 2025 Fergal and Ryan collaborated on another album, *The Gannet's Dive*.

We Banjo 3 has earned accolades, including the Traditional Album of the Year from the Irish Times, Album of the Week from RTÉ Radio 1, and Best Folk Album at the 2018 RTÉ Folk Awards.

See page 9 for biography for Ryan Molloy.

## COLM MCGONIGLE, GEORGE MCADAM, DAN GURNEY AND LIBBY MCCROHAN



Originally from Belfast, **Colm McGonigle** was immersed in traditional music from a young age. His father taught him to play traditional Irish music on the concertina, and he later learned piano and the Irish harp. He was a stalwart of the traditional music scene in Cambridge whilst studying and working there, and enjoyed regular trips to London for sessions and teaching music. Notable performances included the Return to Camden Town Festival, the Club at the Ivy and the Royal Albert Hall.

Now based in Dublin, Colm continues to be an active presence at traditional music festivals throughout Ireland and beyond, frequently appearing on national television and radio.

In summer 2025, he featured as a soloist with the Ceol Mharlaí Chamber Orchestra at Féile Nasc, at an Chruit Bheo and at Electric Picnic. He also taught workshops at Rencontres Irlandaises de Tocane. We are delighted to welcome Colm once again back to London.



**George McAdam** is a tenor banjo player from Ballybay, in the heart of Co. Monaghan where he grew up in a musical family. He holds a number of All-Ireland titles and regularly performs and tutors at Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy, Joe Mooney and Scoil Éigse summer schools.

George is also a talented drummer and member of the Blackwater Céilí Band, winning the All-Ireland Céilí Band title at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2018. The band have since gone on to record two albums and recently featured on TG4's *Comhluadar Cheoil* (2023).



**Dan Gurney**, born in upstate New York to artist parents, first picked up an accordion by chance in a toy store where Micho Russell happened to be playing. He learned Irish music from Galway-born concertina player Father Charlie Coen. He now lives in Bray with his wife Christina and young children.

Dan grew up in the Hudson Valley

town of Rhinebeck, a short train ride from the big city. He started on a toy button accordion but by age seven was playing the real thing. His chief musical inspiration was Fr. Charlie Coen, then serving a parish in nearby Red Hook. The musical priest instilled in Dan a passion for old-time traditional music played without flash or excessive speed.

He has recorded a solo CD, duet albums with fiddler Dylan Foley and flute player Christina Dolphin, and two albums with the band The Yanks. He has appeared on Public Radio International, at the International Accordion Festival, and has won nine medals at various Fleadh Cheoil competitions.

PHOTO © GRANT BURCHILL



**Libby McCrohan** is an Irish traditional musician from Dublin. She plays a round back Greek bouzouki. Her approach to accompaniment is sensitive, subtle, and rhythmical, taking inspiration from the reg playing of uilleann pipers. Libby has performed all over Ireland and abroad and has featured on a number of albums to date – including the critically-acclaimed *Heard a Long Gone Song* by Lisa O'Neill (2018), *Not Before Time... 39 Years in the Making* by Páirc Mac Donnchadha (2018), *The Devil's Dream* by Iarla Ó Domhnaill and Natalie Ní Chasaide (2024) and *The Fog is Lifting* with Brid Harper and Sylvain Barou (2025).

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# SET DANCING CÉILÍ

- MUSIC BY THE PARISH CÉILÍ BAND WITH HOST TOM KELLEHER

See page 19 for biographical information.

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The Cricklewood Club • Doors 2.30-5.30pm, Tickets £14, U18s free with paying adult

# TUTOR-LED SESSION

- OISÍN MACDIARMADA, CAROLINE KEANE  
AND PETER MCALINDEN

---

3pm • The Crown Hotel (Sala Room) • Free

# 'TRADIVERSITY CHALLENGE' TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC QUIZ

- WITH HOST MICK MULVEY

---

5.30pm • The Crown Hotel (The Ivy Suite) • Free

A great success since 2023, this is the 4th year of the Festival Quiz.

Something to entertain our festival-goers. So, are you a bit of a tradhead? A bit of a traditional Irish music aficionado? Well, why not test that claim...

## HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

- Up to 10 teams of 3-6 people
- 6 rounds of 10 questions over approximately 1 hour
- You can reserve free tickets through [www.returntolondontown.org](http://www.returntolondontown.org) or sign up on the day

**Prizes: tickets to Return to London Town Festival 2027**

So in between the jigs and the reels and all the other magical events on Sunday afternoon, if you fancy a challenge, get a couple of buddies and sign up for an hour... or just pop down on your own and we'll find you a team.





## MICK MULVEY

Leitrim-London fluteplayer **Mick Mulvey**, now living back in Carrick on Shannon, released his second solo recording *Bridging the Gap* in 2009.

Mick was a musical stalwart in London for many years and continues to regularly entertain audiences in sessions, festivals and concerts (as well as the occasional workshop) in Ireland, the UK and further afield.

Referred to by John Carty as 'one of the finest exponents of the

north Connacht flute style' Mick has taken his music performance as far as Poland and New York. In 2025 Mick released a duet album *The Missing Guest* with Leitrim fiddler, Shane Meehan.

After completion of his PhD focusing on the Irish diaspora in Britain, Mick has given a number of talks at Festivals in Ireland about a range of topics, including the History of Irish music in London. Mick has curated the Traditional Irish music Quiz at Return to London Town Festival for the last 4 years.

# EVENING ALBUM LAUNCH AND BOOK EVENT

- *RISE CD* BY CAROLINE KEANE
- *STORM IN MY HEART – A LIFETIME IN MUSIC*, BOOK BY JOHN FAULKNER
- *AR SHIÚL LEIS NA SÍÓGA – AWAY WITH THE FAIRIES*, BOOK AND CD BY CATHARINE KINGCOME
- *TOMMIE POTTS: THE SORROWFUL AND THE GREAT*, BOOK BY SEÁN POTTS

8pm • The Crown Hotel (Sala Room) • Free

'*Storm in my Heart – A Lifetime in Music*' John Faulkner

See page 17 for biographical information.

## FLASHBACK:

Music Network Tour Concert – Irish Cultural Centre Feb 2026



Karan Casey Trio - Kings Place May 2026





## CAROLINE KEANE

Caroline Keane is a leading voice in contemporary concertina playing, widely regarded as one of the foremost performers on the instrument worldwide.

Known for her vibrant, emotive, and highly expressive style, she blends the rich heritage of Irish traditional music with a bold contemporary voice.

She has toured extensively across Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand, appearing at major international festivals including Celtic Connections (Scotland), Celtic Colours (Canada), the Dublin Irish Festival (USA) and the Woodford Folk Festival (Australia). Caroline has collaborated and shared stages with the Chieftains, Andy Irvine, Liam Ó Maonlaí, Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh, Gerry O'Beirne, Steve Cooney and Dermot Byrne.

A graduate of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance (University of Limerick), she is a prolific composer and member

of Fourwinds, whose 2024 release *Alta* received critical acclaim. Her solo and collaborative recordings have earned international recognition, including an RTÉ Folk Award nomination.

Based in the Gaeltacht of West Kerry, Caroline is deeply committed to cultural transmission, teaching local children alongside her international work. She frequently performs with her husband, uilleann piper Tom Delany, while raising their family in the Irish-speaking community. Caroline is launching her second studio album *'Rise'* at this year's Festival, continuing her exploration of tradition, innovation, and place. Her husband, Tom Delany, will join her, along with Ryan Molloy on keys and Tommy O'Sullivan on guitar.



## CATHARINE KINGCOME

In Irish traditional music circles, Catharine is known for her narrative portrait paintings of musicians - many of which were sold as postcard reproductions and have travelled all over the world.

And, throughout the time she produced these paintings, from the mid-1980s to 2000 and up to the present day, she has

been a fiddle player. Her music inspired paintings and her fiddle playing are inextricably linked. This album and book bring them together for the first time.

*Ar Shiúl Leis Na Síoga - Away With the Fairies* is a beautifully designed, coffee-table-style, 80-page hardback book, accompanied by a CD and digital download of the album. The book comprises 25 paintings from 1988-2000, with Catharine's own notes on each.

The album features over an hour of Catharine's fiddle playing, accompanied by renowned Greek bouzouki player Mick Conneely and others. The tune choices include many that directly inspired the paintings, with details given in the text.

## *'Tommie Potts: The Sorrowful and the Great' (Seán Potts)*

The Sorrowful and the Great is the first comprehensive biography of Tommie Potts' life and unique artistic process. Written by ITMA's Seán Potts, Tommie's grandnephew and son of the late Seán Potts, founder member of the Chieftains, the book charts the course of Tommie's formative years in the fertile musical environment of his family home; the trauma he endured as a young firefighter surviving the Pearse Street tragedy of 1936; his powerful relationship with the great traditional musicians of county Clare; the story of The Liffey Banks LP; his friendship with Micheál Ó Súilleabháin and an assessment of his legacy by the contemporary artists who encountered his genius during their lifetime.

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# MONDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2026

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## SESSION

- MICK O'CONNOR, SINÉAD MUNROE, CAITLÍN MANNION AND PETER MCALINDEN
- 

12pm • The Crown Hotel (Mezzanine) • Free

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## AFTERNOON CONCERT

In association with Irish Elderly Advice Network

- LIZ CARROLL AND JAKE CHARRON
  - LAOISE KELLY
  - LONDON IRISH PENSIONERS CHOIR
- 

The Crown Hotel (Ivy Suite) • Doors 2pm, Tickets £15/ £7 U18s

See page 24 for biographies of Liz Carroll and Jake Charron.



### LAOISE KELLY

Laoise Kelly, from Westport, Co. Mayo, now living on Achill Island, is regarded as “the most significant harper of her generation” – Nuala O'Connor.

A pioneering force in Irish traditional music, Laoise has developed a distinctive, driving style of instrumental harping, showcased on her critically acclaimed solo albums *Just Harp*, *Ceis* and *Fáilte Uí Cheallaigh*. She is a three-time All Ireland harp champion and was awarded TG4 Gradam Ceoil's Musician of the Year in 2020.

A founding member of Bumblebees and Fiddletree, she has recorded on more than 70 albums with leading artists including The Chieftains, Christy Moore, Sharon Shannon, Dónal Lunny, Matt Molloy, Mary Black, Kate Bush and Tim O'Brien. Her latest album, *Ar Lorg na Laochra*, was recorded with Monaghan uilleann piper Tiarnán Ó Duinnchinn.

Laoise has performed and toured extensively throughout Ireland and internationally, including major festivals across Europe, North and South America. She has represented Ireland at international harp festivals and cultural events worldwide and has composed for theatre, including work with the National Theatre of Scotland and The Abbey Theatre, Dublin.



## THE LONDON IRISH PENSIONERS CHOIR

Founded more than 10 years ago, **The London Irish Pensioners Choir** brings together more than 30 older Irish people, most in their 70s and 80s, who came from all over Ireland and have made their homes in London over many decades. Although an independent group, the choir has been supported by the Irish Elderly Advice Network throughout this time.

The choir has performed for audiences of tens of thousands, including for several years at London's St Patrick's Day celebrations in Trafalgar Square. Members also performed as part of the Irish community choir at the Royal Albert Hall to mark President Michael D Higgins' state visit to Britain in 2014. They have sung on national television for Sir Terry Wogan on ITV and on the

BBC's *The One Show*. They have also performed on RTÉ Radio and Television and are regularly played by Donncha Ó Dúlaing on the very popular *Fáilte Isteach*.

The choir has recorded a beautiful album of old Irish songs, *Songs of Love and Emigration*, which has proved very popular with the Irish community in both London and Ireland.

## EVENING FILM SCREENING AND ACOUSTIC MUSIC NIGHT

- 'TOMMIE POTTS – THE FIREMAN FIDDLER OF THE COOMBE' INTRODUCED BY SEÁN POTTS

The Kiln Theatre, Cinema • Doors 7pm, Free Tickets can be reserved through [www.returntolondontown.org](http://www.returntolondontown.org)

See page 32 for biography for Seán Potts.

### SESSIONS

**12pm**

The Crown Hotel (Mezzanine) • Kathleen Sarsfield O'Shea, Tara McCarthy, Iona Reid

**7pm and 9pm**

The Kiln • Sinéad Munroe, Mick O'Connor, Caitlín Mannion, Peter McAlinden



## TOMMIE POTTS: THE FIREMAN FIDDLER OF THE COOMBE

**Directed by Macdara Yeates.**

*Tommie Potts: The Fireman Fiddler of The Coombe* is a musical character study on the life and work of Tommie Potts (1912-1988); Ireland's most visionary traditional fiddler and a fire fighter with the Dublin Fire Brigade. Described by Martin Hayes as "the John Coltrane of Irish Music", Potts came to cult prominence in the 1970s for his unrivalled

avant-garde settings of Irish dance tunes as well as his notoriously reclusive personality, shying away from public performance and the music industry at large.

Weaving a tapestry of archival footage, including never-before-seen recordings of Potts and musical performances from leading contemporary

fiddlers Aoife Ní Bhriain and Liam O'Connor, the film offers a three-dimensional portrait of the enigmatic Dubliner: his music, his mercurial personality, and his many years of service as a Dublin fireman. This includes his involvement in the 1936 Pearse Street fire, described as "one of the most traumatic events in the Brigade's history."





# LONDON SESSION LISTINGS

Some weekly sessions happening around London:

## TUESDAYS

**TOOLAN'S (2ND AND 4TH TUESDAYS OF THE MONTH - 6.30PM BEGINNER AND INTERMEDIATE GUIDED SLOW SESSION).**

866 High Road, London N12 9RH.  
– Tel: 07983 566 414

**SKEHAN'S (7PM, FORTNIGHTLY)**

1 Kitto Road, London SE14 5TW.  
– Tel: 020 7732 4859

**THE BLYTHE HILL TAVERN (8PM)**

319 Stanstead Road, SE23 1JB.  
– Tel: 020 8690 5176

**THE LAMB TAVERN (8.30PM)**

54 Holloway Rd, London N7 8JL.  
– Tel: 020 7609 0253

**THE JAMBOREE (8.30PM)**

6 St Chad's Place, London WC1X 9HH.  
– Tel: 020 7278 6797

**SOUTH LONDON IRISH ASSOCIATION CLUB (9PM)**

138-140 Hartfield Rd, Wimbledon, London SW19 3TG  
– Tel: 020 8543 0608

## WEDNESDAYS

**THE OLD JUSTICE (7PM)**

94 Bermondsey Wall East, London SE16 4TY.  
– Tel: 07572 120 029

**LONDON IRISH CENTRE (7.30PM)**

50-52 Camden Square, London NW1 9XB.  
Tel: 020 7916 2222

**THE REGENT, ISLINGTON (7.30PM)**

201-203 Liverpool Road, London N1 1LX.  
– Tel: 020 7700 2725

**THE OLD EAGLE (8PM, LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH)**

251 Royal College St, London NW1 9LU.  
– Tel: 020 7482 6021

**THE HAND OF GLORY (8PM)**

240 Amhurst Road, Lower Clapton, London E8 2BS.  
– Tel: 020 7249 7455

**DOG AND BELL (8.30PM)**

116 Prince Street, London SE8 3JD.  
– Tel: 020 8692 5664

## THURSDAYS

**CATFORD HOUSE (7PM)**

Catford Broadway, London SE6 4SP.  
– Tel: 020 8629 4883

**THE LAURISTON (7.30PM)**

162 Victoria Park Rd, London E9 7JN.  
– Tel: 020 8985 5404

**THE NEW INN (FORTNIGHTLY 8PM)**

1 New Road, Brentford, TW8 0NX.  
– Tel: 020 8560 6606

**THE HERNE TAVERN (8PM)**

2 Forest Hill Road, London SE22 0RR.  
– Tel: 020 8299 9521

**YE OLDE MONKEN HOLT (8.30PM)**

193 High Street, Hadley, Barnet EN5 5SU.  
– Tel: 020 8449 4280

**THE PRINCE ALBERT (8.30PM)**

54-56 Hounslow Road, Whitton, Twickenham TW2 7EX.  
– Tel: 020 8898 1871

## FRIDAYS

**IRISH CULTURAL CENTRE (6PM)**

5 Black's Road, Hammersmith W6 9DT.  
– Tel: 020 8563 8232

**SOUTH LONDON IRISH ASSOCIATION CLUB (9PM, LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH)**

138-140 Hartfield Rd, Wimbledon, London SW19 3TG.  
– Tel: 020 8543 0608

**CONNOLLY'S (FIRST AND THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH, 10PM)**

450 Chiswick High Rd, Chiswick, London W4 5TT.  
– Tel: 020 8994 3980

## SATURDAYS

**HOWL AT THE MOON (2PM)**

78 Hoxton St, London N1 5LH.  
– Tel: 020 7688 1970

**THE FOX HAGGERSTON (4PM)**

372 Kingsland Road, London E8 4DA.  
– Tel: 020 77916 1068

**SIR COLIN CAMPBELL (8PM)**

264-266 Kilburn High Road, London NW6 2BY.  
– Tel: 020 7693 5443

**THE HANOVER ARMS (9PM LAST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH)**

326 Kennington Park Road,  
London SE11 4PP.  
– Tel: 020 7735 5338

**SUNDAYS**

**THE SHIP (3PM)**

68 Borough Road, London SE1 1DX.  
– Tel: 020 3924 6868

**THE OXFORD ARMS (LAST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH 3PM)**

265 Camden High Street,  
London NW1 7BU.  
– Tel: 020 7267 4945

**MYDDLETON ARMS (4PM)**

52 Canonbury Rd, London N1 2HS.  
– Tel: 020 7226 4595

**HOWL AT THE MOON (4PM)**

178 Hoxton St, London N1 5LH.  
Tel: 020 7739 9221

**THE WHISKEY TUMBLER (5.30PM)**

401 Coldharbour Lane,  
London SW9 8LQ.  
– Tel: 020 3198 2358

**MARY MADDEN'S (6.30PM)**

Silver Street, Enfield, London EN1 3EF.  
– Tel: 020 8366 3377

**THE FOX HAGGERSTON (6.30PM)**

372 Kingsland Road, London E8 4DA.  
– Tel: 020 77916 1068

**MCCAFFERTYS (6.30PM)**

699 High Rd, Ilford IG3 8RH.  
– Tel: 020 8599 0008

**THE WB YEATS (7PM)**

20 Fonthill Road, London N4 3HU.  
– Tel: 020 8617 3400

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264-266 Kilburn High Road,  
London NW6 2BY.  
– Tel: 020 7693 5443

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5 Mepharm Street, London SE1 8SQ.  
– Tel: 020 7928 6196

**THE OLD DISPENSARY (8PM)**

325 Camberwell New Road,  
London SE5 0TF.  
– Tel: 07727 725 825

**THE LAMB TAVERN (8.30PM)**

54 Holloway Rd, London N7 8JL.  
– Tel: 020 7609 0253

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or directly through [www.mudchutney.co.uk](http://www.mudchutney.co.uk)



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presents London's 28th Festival of traditional Irish music, song and dance 'Return to London Town' and would like to thank its 2026 partners and funders:



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