



An Chúirt Chruitireachta  
International Festival  
*for* Irish Harp

Sun 27 June – Fri 2 July 2021

Live online at  
[harpfestival.ie](http://harpfestival.ie)

Where harps inspire..



[www.harpfestival.ie](http://www.harpfestival.ie) • [www.cairdenacruite.com](http://www.cairdenacruite.com)



Established in 1985, our harp festival An Chúirt Chruitireachta ranks among the top international harp festivals for Irish harp.

We warmly welcome harpers of every standard from all over the world to our 2021 online Harp Festival. We are passionate about the music of the harp tradition and its place within Irish traditional music. We guarantee top quality workshops, sessions and concerts and an opportunity to engage online with other harpers, gain a better understanding of Irish music, song and dance as well as learning more about the harp and its music.

### How It Works

This year our festival is online and will be live on Zoom from Sunday 27th June to Friday 2nd July. We have put together a full programme of exceptional tutors and talented artists to deliver an outstanding week of harp music for you.

### Morning Workshops

Take part in our online morning workshops from 11am with our Festival Tutors.

### The Tholsel Interludes

Listen to our emerging young harpers at lunchtime in our Tholsel Interludes.

### Afternoon Events: Cruit agus Cabaireacht

Join us from 3pm to 5:30pm Monday to Friday for workshops, music, talks, songs and stories and try your hand at our daily play-along.

### Evening Concerts

Tune in to our world class harpers and other traditional musicians for the best of Irish harping at our nightly concerts at 8pm.

### Booking on [www.eventbrite.ie](http://www.eventbrite.ie)

Full Festival Package: €200

Morning Workshops only: €120

Afternoon Events only: €100

Evening Concerts only: €50 for all 5 concerts or book individual concerts for €10 each.



## Fáilte Isteach

Bliain eile imithe tharainn agus thar cheann Chairde na Cruite, fearaim míle fáilte romhaibh chuig ár 35ú Cúirt Chruitireachta. Táimid ag tnúth le teach lán na gcruitirí anseo ar líne i rith na seachtaine le dordán draíochta na cruite, ceol den scoth agus cabaireacht chairde timpeall orainn. Guimis rath agus séan ar an obair.

Welcome to our second online festival. Little did we expect this time last year that we would be gathering you in to another virtual celebration of the best of Irish harping. It has been a tough year for everybody, but for many of us, harping has been a beacon of light during those difficult times. However, we are now coming to you in a spirit of optimism; the world is turning a corner, we invite you to take some time and space to play, listen, chat and generally get involved in all that we have to offer you this week.

We have a star-studded programme of workshops and concerts. Our ensemble day hosts young harpers from all over Ireland working with our artist in residence, Helen Davies to explore the harp music of Wales. She will be joined by harper, Gráinne Hambly. We go back in time to reimagine the Drogheda Harp School concert of 1843 with Dr Teresa O'Donnell, who will be joined by some of our finest harpers and musicians to recreate harp music from the original programme in the historic surroundings of the Highlanes Gallery in Drogheda. We hear some of our emerging talent at our Tholsel Interludes. We explore the evolving tradition of harping with Úna Monaghan, Anne-Marie O'Farrell and Cormac de Barra. We hear the enchanting sounds of the early harp from Siobhán Armstrong and Doimnic Mac Giolla Bhríde and look forward to hearing the doyenne of Irish harping, Máire Ní Chathasaigh with Chris Newman on guitar.

Thirty five years on, we salute our founders, Gráinne Yeats and Mercedes Garvey and we dedicate this week of harping to their memory. Our thanks to the longstanding support we have received to The Arts Council of Ireland during that time, to Create Louth for its work with us at local level, to our colleagues at RTÉ lyric fm, who have unfailingly given us air-time and to the teams of helpers and harp tutors, who have made this festival a much sought after experience. However, the biggest shout of all goes to the hundreds of harpers who have marched with their harps to the beat of our drum from then until now. Go maire sibh céad.

Be inspired by what you hear. Bainigí taitneamh as.

Aibhlín McCrann,  
Festival Director

# Cruinniú na Féile | Festival Gathering

## Festival Opening Event

Sunday 27 June, 4pm

**Seinn Linn** Begin the week with a play-along in a live Zoom session and meet your fellow harpers to celebrate the festival opening.

## Meet the Harpmakers

Sunday 27 June, 5pm

Join our finest harp makers as they discuss the challenges and opportunities of harp making in Ireland today. Hear about our unique Irish wood, what works best, the sound it makes and why Irish made harps are so special.

Get to know your harp makers and be part of the conversation on harp making in Ireland.



**Aibhlín McCrann**, Festival Director

Aibhlín has been involved with the Irish harp as a performer, teacher, arranger and advocate for more than forty years, and has been a strong force for encouraging the integration of the Irish harp into Irish traditional music. She studied concert harp with Caitríona Yeats and Mercedes Garvey and holds BA Hons, BMus degrees from University College Dublin. She has a long standing association with both classical and traditional music as a solo harper and ensemble musician, with extensive radio, television and recording experience.

As Director of An Chúirt Chruitireachta, Cairde na Cruite's International Festival for Irish Harp, she continues to promote all elements and genres of Irish harp performance. She has served on the board of the Irish Traditional Music Archive, was a member of The Arts Council, An Chomhairle Ealaíon 2006-2012, and was appointed Deputy Chair of the Council 2012-2016. She is Chair of the Irish Chamber Orchestra, Chair of Cruit Éireann, Harp Ireland and a board member of Glór Arts and Cultural Centre, Ennis.

# Morning Workshops

Monday 28th June - Friday 1st July, 11:00am - 12:30pm

Our 5 morning workshops take place live online through Zoom. You will receive a link by email from Eventbrite for each morning session. Please email us at **cairdenacruite@gmail.com** indicating your level of experience and the number of years you have been playing the Irish harp. At that point, we may ask you for further information so we can assign you to a tutor. You will have 5 workshops with the same tutor.

## Our Festival Tutors



**Máire Ní Chathasaigh** is no stranger to the international harp scene. She grew up in a well-known West Cork musical family, who were active in the Cork Pipers' Club and was already proficient in a variety of other instruments by the time she began to play the harp at the age of eleven. Máire has developed a variety of innovative harp techniques, particularly in relation to ornamentation with the aim of establishing an authentically traditional style of Irish harping. She records and tours extensively with guitarist Chris Newman and with The Heartstring Quartet.



**Gráinne Hambly**, a native of Claremorris, Co. Mayo, is a critically acclaimed and leading exponent of the Irish harp and concertina worldwide. Highly proficient and accomplished as a multi-instrumentalist, her expertise in tuition, master classes and concerts is in demand internationally. Gráinne specialises in teaching Irish traditional music 'by ear' and has featured on a number of recordings; having released solo CDs and published a number of Irish traditional music books for the Irish harp.



**Áine Ní Dhubhghaill** has worldwide acclaim as a harper and teaches harp at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Her recordings include several film scores and CDs and a feature on Ciarán MacMathúna's series *A Touch of the Master's Hand*. Áine has played with orchestras and ensembles including RTÉCO and RTÉNSO. Áine was Festival Director for 5 years when Cairde na Cruite was awarded a TG4 Gradam. She is also co-editor of *Rogha na gCruitirí, Harpers' Choice, 100 Tunes for Irish Harp*.





**Anne-Marie O'Farrell's** development of the Irish harp as a concert instrument has led to performances and recordings for TV and radio throughout Europe, the USA, Scandinavia and Japan. Anne-Marie is especially noted for her transcriptions of keyboard, lute and pedal harp repertoire for the Irish harp, and for her unique levering techniques. Anne-Marie holds a PhD from Queens University, Belfast. She has released solo albums and recorded with Cormac de Barra, The Chieftains and Brendan Power. Anne-Marie's *Eitilt* for orchestra, commissioned by the RTÉ NSO, conducted by David Brophy, was premiered at New Music Dublin on 23 April 2021.



**Cormac de Barra** is a third generation harper in a family of traditional Irish musicians and singers. He first studied with his grandmother Róisín Ní Shé in Dublin and went on to study concert harp in the USA. He has recorded and performed with musicians such as Anne-Marie O'Farrell, Máire Breatnach, Moya Brennan, Julie Feeney and Hazel O'Connor. Cormac has also worked as a television presenter over the years having presented the award-winning traditional music series *Flosc* and *Imeall*, both for TG4.



**Úna Ní Fhlannagáin**, is a harper and singer based in Galway. Rooted in the music of North Clare and the sean-nós singing of Connemara, she is also influenced by American post-minimalists and free jazz. Úna has performed all over Europe, and in North America, the Middle East, and Asia. Artistic collaborations include Celtic music icon Alan Stivell, Grammy-winner Bobby McFerrin, and free jazz legend, Anthony Braxton. Passionate about music education, she is the first, and so far the only Irish harpist to qualify as a Suzuki harp teacher.



**Deirdre Granville** hails from Dingle, Co. Kerry; a multi-instrumentalist and singer, she studied both traditional and classical music from a young age. She has toured and performed extensively worldwide and has featured on Radio, commercial recordings and TV performances both solo and with other celebrated musicians. A music graduate from University College Cork and a MA performance graduate from University of Limerick, she has won numerous solo and group performance medals. She is co-ordinator and founder of Dingle Tradfest successful music festival. Deirdre's debut solo album was released in the summer of 2015.



**Deirdre Ní Bhuachalla** Deirdre Ní Bhuachalla is a harpist and educator originally from Co. Meath, now based in Dundalk, Co. Louth. With over 20 years experience teaching harp, Deirdre now works with Music Generation Louth where she leads the traditional music programme, Harp Ensemble and is Project Manager of Níos Nua – Louth Youth Folk Orchestra, a very successful collaboration with Oriel Centre, Dundalk Gaol (CCÉ NE Regional Centre). Her connection to the Oriel Centre does not stop there. She performs regularly at the Centre and is also engaged with Guth na nGael, a cross community language and musical exchange programme for young people in partnership with Feisean nan Gaidheal in Scotland. In her spare time Deirdre works with a number of youth groups at her local branch of CCÉ Craobh Dhún Dealgan.



**Kim Fleming** is one of Ireland's most respected harpers and enjoys a successful career as a musician, teacher and arranger of traditional Irish repertoire. Having travelled throughout Europe, Africa, USA and Russia, Kim is now settled in Longford where she teaches music in Ballymahon Vocational School. Kim has adjudicated the All Ireland Fleadh Ceoil for many years and continues to be in high demand as an adjudicator and examiner for the Department of Education.

where harps inspire



# Evening Concerts

Sunday 27th June - Thursday 1st July, 8pm

## Oscail an Doras

Sunday 27 June, 8pm

with Maria-Christina Cleary (harp) and Emily Cullen (poet)



**Maria Christina Cleary** has been described as ‘a true virtuoso’, a ‘brilliant player’ and ‘a pioneer of period harp practice’. She is noted for her improvisatory skills and ingenious basso continuo playing, combined with a particular care to create a beautiful sound on a perilous instrument. Specialising in historical harps, Maria performs on medieval harps, the Italian arpa doppia, the Spanish arpa de dos ordenes and the 18th century

harpe organisée. She has developed several innovative tuning systems for performing medieval and renaissance music, some of which can be heard on recordings with Ensemble Tetraktys. She has performed as soloist with the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra, American Bach Soloists, Bayerische Staatsoper, Portland Baroque Orchestra, Arion Ensemble Montreal and the RTÉ Concert Orchestra.

**Emily Cullen** is a Galway-based writer, scholar, curator and harper, originally from Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim. Emily was the inaugural Arts Officer of NUI Galway between 1999 and 2002. Her first collection, *No Vague Utopia*, was published by Ainnir Publishing in 2003. She was selected for the Poetry Ireland Introductions series in 2004. Emily was awarded an IRC Government of Ireland fellowship for her doctoral study on the Irish harp and completed her Ph.D. in 2008. She has performed throughout Europe, Australia and the United States. A former member of the Belfast Harp Orchestra, Emily has recorded on a number of albums and as a solo artist, giving lectures and recitals nationally and internationally. Emily’s second collection of poetry, *In Between Angels and Animals*, was published by Arlen House in 2013. For the past two years she has served as Programme Director of Galway’s Cúirt International Festival of Literature.





# Tradition Live

Monday 28 June, 8pm

with Úna Monaghan (harp and electronics), Anne Marie-O'Farrell, Cormac de Barra (harps) and Éamonn de Barra (flute)



**Úna Monaghan** is a harper, composer, and sound artist from Belfast. Her recent work has combined traditional music with bronze sculpture, sound art and movement sensors. Her compositions have been presented on BBC and RTÉ television and radio, in theatre productions, and at international festivals and conferences, such as the International Computer Music Conference,

York Festival of Ideas, and Belfast Festival at Queen's. Úna is co-founder of Quiet Music Night, an evening dedicated to performing quiet music of all genres, especially new and experimental music. She holds a BA in Astrophysics from Cambridge University, and a PhD on New Technologies and Experimental Practices in Contemporary Irish Traditional Music, from Queen's University Belfast.



**Anne-Marie O'Farrell's** development of the Irish harp as a concert instrument has led to performances and recordings for TV and radio throughout Europe, the USA, Scandinavia and Japan. Anne-Marie is especially noted for her transcriptions of keyboard, lute and pedal harp repertoire for the Irish harp, and for her unique levering techniques.

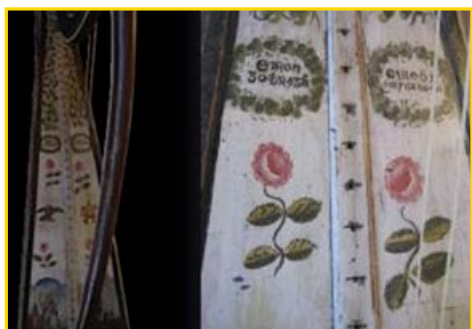
**Cormac de Barra** has performed throughout Europe, the USA and Asia. With Anne Marie O'Farrell he has frequently appeared in concerts for harp duet and tours with singer Hazel O'Connor as well as performing regularly with singer Máire Ní Bhraonáin and her band and Julie Feeney.



**Éamonn de Barra** played music from a young age under the instruction of his uncle Seán Ó Tuama. He comes from a family with a long tradition of music. he won the Young Traditional Musician of The Year Award in 2000. He has toured Europe, North America, Australia and Japan extensively. Éamonn joined the Damien Dempsey Band in 2003 and was creatively involved with the recording of four of his albums. Éamonn has also recorded with Moya Brennan, John Reynolds, Brian Eno, Sinéad O'Connor and Hazel O'Connor.

# Radharc Siar | The Drogheda Harp School Story

Tuesday 29 June, 8pm



Narrated by Dr Teresa O'Donnell with harpers Cormac de Barra, Deirdre Granville, Úna Ní Fhlannagáin, Deirdre Ní Bhuachalla, Anne-Marie O'Farrell and Gerry O'Connor, fiddle



**Teresa O'Donnell** is a freelance harpist and singer. She graduated with an honours degree in Music and Irish from Trinity College Dublin and a Masters in Performance and Musicology. In 2012, she was awarded a PhD in Music Education at St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra where she also lectured. Although originally from a classical background, she is equally at home in a multitude of genres from jazz, pop and traditional Celtic music to Broadway shows.



Cormac de Barra



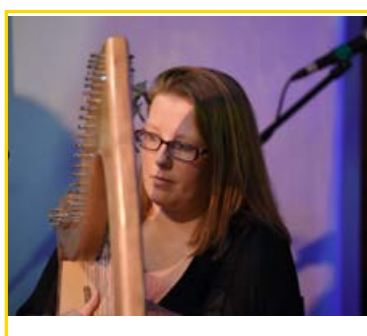
Deirdre Granville



Anne-Marie O'Farrell



Úna Ní Fhlannagáin



Deirdre Ní Bhuachalla



Gerry O'Connor

**Gerry O'Connor** from Dundalk, Co. Louth has won the Fiddler of Oriel title four times. He has toured extensively as a solo musician and with Lá Lugh and Skylark. He is also an accomplished fiddle maker, and is much in demand as a workshop tutor for fiddle players. As part of a master's degree in DkIT, he edited some of Luke Donnellan's manuscripts and he includes tunes collected by Donnellan in his core repertoire.



# Réalta ó Thuaidh | Stars Align

Wednesday 30 June, 8pm



with harper, Eilís Lavelle,  
Zoe Conway (fiddle) & John McIntyre (guitar)

**Eilís Lavelle**, a harpist from Monaghan, learned the harp at the Armagh Pipers Club. Eilís continued developing her musical skills with many tutors and has gained vast experience as a performer. Having completed her B.Mus degree at DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama she was awarded the Leo Rowsome award for the highest achievement in Irish Traditional music. She has gained much experience collaborating and performing with musicians from a

wide range of genres. Broadcasts include performances on TG4's Sé mo Laoch and Geantraí, RTÉ Television, BBC Television and Radio, RTÉ Lyric Fm and Radio na Gaeltachta. Eilís is currently undertaking a PhD at Queen's University, Belfast focusing on the Edward Bunting collection of music. In recent years she has gained extensive experience both on stage and teaching harp having performed throughout USA, Canada, Europe and further afield.



**Zoë Conway** and **John McIntyre** have been described as “simply one of the best folk duos on the planet” (BBC), and audiences in Ireland and beyond keep coming back for more. They have performed for rock stars, millionaires and dignitaries around the world, including Irish Presidents Mary McAleese and Michael D. Higgins. Zoë is a ‘Folk Instrumentalist of the Year 2018’ nominee from RTE Radio 1 Folk Awards. They were awarded Best Live Show from popular YouTube channel, Balcony TV, and have received in excess of a combined half a million views online. Zoë has performed internationally both as a solo artist and also playing with such as Riverdance, Damien Rice, Rodrigo y Gabriella, Lisa Hannigan,

Nick Cave and Lou Reed among others. She is a holder of the much coveted All-Ireland Senior Fiddle Champion title, winning the competition in 2001. She was voted Best Traditional Female of the Year in *Irish Music Magazine* and she is also a featured musician on the current Leaving Certificate music syllabus in Ireland.

# Ceolchoirm na Féile | Gala Concert

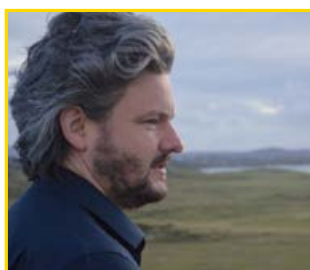


Thursday 1 July, 8pm

with Siobhán Armstrong (early harp)  
Doimnic Mac Giolla Bhríde (singer),  
Máire Ní Chathasaigh (harp) and  
Chris Newman (guitar)

**Siobhán Armstrong** is one of a small number of harpists worldwide who play harps from earlier centuries. She has a large collection of copies of instruments from the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and the baroque. Siobhán plays 17th century opera and chamber music with the main baroque directors

in Europe; has performed as a soloist on Hollywood film soundtracks and gigs at the world's biggest traditional music festivals. Her great passion is encouraging the revival of the early Irish harp. To this end she founded and chairs The Historical Harp Society of Ireland and is the director of Scoil na gCláirseach – Festival of Early Irish Harp, which takes place in July. Her solo recording, *Cláirseach na hÉireann: The Harp of Ireland*, was released in 2004.



**Doimnic Mac Giolla Bhríde** is a singer, composer, teacher and researcher of sean-nós singing, and an accomplished multi-instrumentalist. A native Irish speaker from the Donegal Gaeltacht, he has gone on to achieve a highly acclaimed career, winning the prestigious Corn Uí Riada competition in 2009.

*Siobhán Armstrong and Doimnic Mac Giolla Bhríde appear in association with The Historical Harp Society of Ireland's Discovery Day 2021 events.*



**Máire Ní Chathasaigh (harp) and Chris Newman (guitar)**

Máire Ní Chathasaigh is “the doyenne of Irish harp players” (*The Scotsman*), “the great innovator of modern Irish harping, a player of outstanding technique and imagination” (*The Rough Guide to Irish Music*) and one of Ireland’s most important and influential traditional musicians. She was described by the late Derek Bell as “the most interesting and original player of the Irish harp today” and is the

sole harper recipient to date of Irish music's most prestigious award, Gradam Ceoil TG4 – Irish Traditional Musician of the Year. Máire was awarded Gradam Cheoil TG4 – Irish Traditional Musician of the Year.

Her partnership with Chris Newman, “one of the UK’s most staggering and influential acoustic guitarists” (*Folk Roots*), has been described as “music of fire and brilliance from the high-wire act in traditional music” (*The Irish Times*), and their busy touring schedule has brought them to twenty-one countries on five continents.



# The Tholsel Interludes

## Lunchtime Concerts

Monday 29th June - Thursday 1st July, 1 - 1:30pm

Music Generation Louth Harp Ensemble Monday 28 June, 1pm



Under the leadership of tutor Deirdre Ní Bhuachalla the MGL Harp Ensemble play a mix of traditional and contemporary tunes. The Ensemble performed for Vice President (now president) of USA, Joe Biden in 2017. They have also performed at An Chúirt Chruitireachta, Cairde na Cruite's International Harp Festival and Féile na Tána in Carlingford. TV appearances include *Live on Fleadh TV* on TG4 at Fleadh Cheoil 2018, and *The Ray Darcy Show* on RTÉ to celebrate National Harp Day 2018.

The Triad Trio: Fiona Gryson,  
Rachel Duffy and Síofra Ní Dhubhghaill

Tuesday 29 June, 1pm



**Fiona Gryson** is a prize-winner at the Dublin Feis Ceoil and Sligo Feis Ceoil. In 2014, she was awarded the John Vallery Memorial prize for 'best performance by a string player' at the Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year competition and the RTÉ Lyric FM

Instrumental Bursary. Fiona is an active orchestral and chamber musician.

**Rachel Duffy** has a First Class Honours degree in Music Education from Trinity College and the RIAM. She has won prizes at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann and the Feis Ceoil, including the Carolan Cup in 2016. Rachel has appeared on RTÉ and TV3 and performed at the TG4 Gradam Ceoil.

**Síofra Ní Dhubhghaill**, a harper from Co. Wexford, graduated from TU Dublin Conservatoire with a BMus degree in Performance and Pedagogy studying with Prof. Clíona Doris. She has received multiple prizes in the ESB Feis Ceoil including the Contemporary Irish Music Cup and VHC in the Aileen Gore Cup.

Clann Uí Scolaí

Thursday 1 July, 1pm



The talented Uí Scolaí family from Dublin treat us to a session of traditional Irish music and amhránaíocht ar an sean-nós with Emer (harp), Caoilfhionn (concertina) and Sorchá (uilleann pipes). They have numerous Fleadh Ceoil and Feis Ceoil awards to their credit. They have guested at concerts, festivals and venues including the NCH and Electric Picnic.

# Cruit agus Cabaireacht

## Afternoon Events

Monday 29th June - Thursday 1st July, 2 - 5:30pm

### Discover the Early Harp

Monday 28 June, 2pm

in association with the Historical Harp Society of Ireland



#### Re-discovering Old Irish Harp Music and Traditions:

A Historical Harp Society of Ireland Discovery Day 2021 event in association with Cairde na Cruite.

**Simon Chadwick** will introduce you to the old Irish harp, its music, and to the old Irish harpers. Why did the tradition end, and how has it been rediscovered and revived? Simon is widely acknowledged to be one of the most important international experts on the history and traditions of the early Irish harp, helping to spearhead the current revival. Simon researches, teaches, and performs the ancient native music traditions of Scotland and Ireland.

**Siobhán Armstrong** presents **Would the 'Real' Carolan's Concerto Please Stand Up?** Revisiting Carolan composition sources, the versions of Carolan compositions we hear nowadays are often quite different to his 18th-century harp settings. Why? And how do we get closer to the originals? Siobhán shares her discoveries.

### Songs and their Stories

Monday 28 June, 3:30pm



**Seosaimhín Ní Bheaglaíoch** is a well-known traditional sean-nós singer steeped in the singing tradition of the Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht in West Kerry. She has worked in radio and TV for many years. Her unique interpretation of the great Munster airs enables an exciting collaboration of harp and voice in songs. Seosaimhín is Adjunct Professor at the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama.

### Seinn Linn



Monday 28 June, 4:30pm

Broaden your repertoire and learn new tunes in a one-hour workshop and play-along session, live on Zoom with **Gráinne Hambly**.



## Two Harper Brothers

with Kathleen Loughnane



**Kathleen Loughnane** is highly regarded for her work in arranging traditional Irish dance tunes and airs for the harp, and also for her research into the music of Irish harper composers of the 17th and 18th centuries. Her particular interest in two harper/composer brothers from Sligo - William and Thomas Connellan - resulted in an illustrated book *The Harpers Connellan* with new harp arrangements and an accompanying CD. Kathleen co-founded the group Dordán and was nominated in the Traditional Music Awards category for the Meteor Awards in 2010.

Tuesday 29 June, 2pm

## Songs and their Stories

More songs and the stories behind them  
with **Seosaimhín Ní Bheaglaoich**.

Tuesday 29 June, 3:30pm

## Seinn Linn



Set your harp fingers dancing with Kerry polkas and slides in a one-hour workshop and play-along session with **Deirdre Granville**.

Tuesday 29 June, 4:30pm

where harps inspire

# Lá na nÓg | Ensemble Day

## Fadó, Fadó: The Harp Journey

Wednesday 30 June, 2pm



Follow in the footsteps of the harpers with **Gráinne Hambly** as she traces the journey of the Irish harp from earliest times to the Belfast Harp Festival 1792. Hear about the adventures of harpers, their harps and their phenomenal legacy of unique harp music.

## A Welshman from Where?

with Helen Davies, Artist in Residence

Wednesday 30 June, 3pm



Photo © Svend Withfeldt

*A Welshman from Where?* is the name of an old Welsh jig. It possibly refers to the harpist Williams, who participated in the Belfast Harp festival of 1792. He is listed as “Williams (first name unknown) Wales”. This is as much as is known about him, apart from the fact that he sadly drowned on his way home to Wales from Belfast. This talk will set Williams into the context of the Welsh triple harp tradition of the 18th century – harpists performing at court and in settings like

that seen in Hogarth’s *Rakes Progress* series; the traditional music played, the harpist-composers and the connection with well-known classical composers of the day. **Helen Davies**’s career as a harpist is diverse and eclectic. Her wide-ranging musical life has seen her combine an orchestral and teaching career in Ireland and Scandinavia with scholarly research in 18th and 19th century harp music, arranging and performing traditional harp music from Ireland, Wales and Scandinavia. More recently, she has been working in the field of contemporary improvised music and electronics with her husband, trumpet player and composer, Palle Mikkelborg.

## Seinn Linn

Wednesday 30 June, 3:45pm

Tunes from Wales feature in this one-hour workshop and play-along session, live on Zoom with **Helen Davies**.

## Tionól na Féile

Wednesday 30 June, 5pm

Hear the haunting sound of *A Welsh Ground (Cynghansail Cymru)* in a unique collaboration of this Welsh traditional theme and variations, specially edited by Helen Davies for the 35th Harp Festival and performed by young harpers countrywide from their living rooms. Our thanks to teachers and harpers who worked together to make it happen.



## 60 Bliain ag Fás: The Cairde na Cruite Story

with Áine Ní Dhubhghaill



2020 marked the 60th anniversary of Cairde na Cruite's establishment. Over the past sixty years, the society has promoted the harp through a wide range of activities including its annual festival, recitals, lectures, student concerts, harp hire schemes, commissions, and publications, all driven by the work of volunteers.

**Áine Ní Dhubhghaill** takes us through the history of Cairde na Cruite and introduces us to the indefatigable founders who worked tirelessly to put the Irish harp firmly on the national stage.

Thursday 1 July, 2:00pm

## Songs and their Stories

More songs and the stories behind them with  
**Seosaimhín Ní Bheaglaoich.**

Thursday 1 July, 3:30pm

## Seinn Linn



**A Rainbow of Sound** - a unique opportunity to explore the colours of the harp with **Anne-Marie O'Farrell.**

'...unfailingly musical' – Martin Adams, *The Irish Times*  
'...this extraordinary concert artist plays the Irish harp as though she has a third arm with which to obtain dozens of chromaticisms' – Giorgio Calcara, *Keltika Magazine*, Italy

'O'Farrell's transformation of the harp from an instrument of gentility to one steeped in an earthy sensuality is remarkable' – Siobhán Long, *The Irish Times*

'Bright, effortless, cheerful playing from beginning to end' – Fintan Vallely

Thursday 1 July, 4:30pm

## That's a Wrap!

Wrap up a week of harping with a selection from the week's workshops as tutors and students perform together.

Friday 2 July, 12:30pm

# Full Programme at a Glance

## Sunday 27 June

- 4:00pm Fáilte Isteach  
4:30pm Seinn Linn: Play-along online  
5:00pm Meet the Harpmakers  
8:00pm **Oscail an Doras** with Maria-Christina Cleary (harp) and Emily Cullen (poet)

## Monday 28 June

- 11:00 am Workshop. Meet your tutor  
1:00 pm **Tholsel Interlude** with Music Generation Louth Harp Ensemble  
2:00 pm **Discover the Early Harp** with Simon Chadwick and Siobhán Armstrong  
*(in association with the Historical Harp Society of Ireland)*  
3.30 pm **Songs and their Stories** with Seosaimhín Ní Bheaglaoich  
4.30 pm Seinn Linn: Play-along with Gráinne Hambly  
8:00 pm **Tradition Live** with Úna Monaghan (harp and electronics) Anne-Marie O'Farrell, Cormac de Barra (harps) and Éamonn de Barra (flute)

## Tuesday 29 June

- 11:00 am Workshop  
1:00 pm **Tholsel Interlude** with The Triad Trio; Fiona Gryson, Rachel Duffy and Síofra Ní Dhubhghaill  
2:00 pm **Two Harper Brothers** with Kathleen Loughnane  
3.30 pm **Songs and their Stories** with Seosaimhín Ní Bheaglaoich  
4.30 pm Seinn Linn: Workshop and Play-along with Deirdre Granville  
8:00 pm **Radharc Siar, The Drogheda Harp School Story** narrated by Dr Teresa O'Donnell with harpers Cormac de Barra, Deirdre Granville, Úna Ní Fhlannagáin, Deirdre Ní Bhuachalla, Anne-Marie O'Farrell and Gerry O'Connor (fiddle)

## Wednesday 30 June

- 11:00 am Workshop  
**Lá na nÓg | Ensemble Day**  
2:00 pm **Fadó, Fadó: The Harp Journey** with Gráinne Hambly  
3.00 pm **A Welshman from Where?** with Helen Davies  
3.45 pm Seinn Linn: Workshop and Play-along with Helen Davies  
5:00 pm **Tionól na Féile** – a unique collaboration performed by young harpers countrywide  
8:00pm **Réalta ó Thuaidh, Stars Align** with Eilis Lavelle (harp) Zoe Conway (fiddle) and John McIntyre (guitar)

## Thursday 1 July

- 11:00 am Workshop  
1:00 pm **Tholsel Interlude** with Clann Uí Scolaí  
2:00 pm **60 Bliain ag Fás: The Cairde na Cruite Story** with Áine Ní Dhubhghaill  
3.30 pm **Songs and their Stories** with Seosaimhín Ní Bheaglaoich  
4.30 pm Seinn Linn: Workshop and Play-along with Anne-Marie O'Farrell  
8:00 pm **Ceolchoirm na Féile** with Siobhán Armstrong (early harp), Doimnic Mac Giolla Bhríde (singer) *(in association with HHSI)* Máire Ní Chathasaigh (harp) and Chris Newman (guitar)

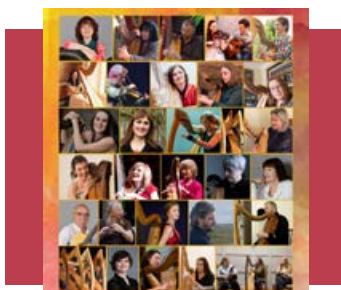
## Friday 2 July

- 11:00 am Workshop  
12:30 **Slán Abhaile:** Final open session with a selection from the week's workshops as tutors and students perform together.



# Booking

at [www.eventbrite.ie](http://www.eventbrite.ie)



**Full Package** @ €200 includes  
Sunday to Friday  
5 Morning Workshops, 3 Lunchtime Concerts  
All Afternoon Events  
5 Evening Concerts

Booking link for FULL PACKAGE

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/international-festival-for-irish-harp-2021-an-chuirt-chruitreachta-2021-tickets-154689549607>



**Workshops only** @ €120 includes  
Monday to Friday  
5 Morning Workshops with leading Irish harp tutors

Booking link for WORKSHOPS ONLY

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/international-festival-for-irish-harp-2021-workshops-tickets-154699523439>



**Afternoon Events only** @ €100 includes  
Monday to Thursday  
Tholsel Interludes - Lunchtime Concerts  
Workshops, play-alongs, talks, songs and stories.

Booking link for AFTERNOON EVENTS ONLY

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/international-festival-for-irish-harp-2021-afternoon-events-tickets-153753521923>



**Evening Concerts only** @ €45 includes  
Sunday to Thursday evening concerts with  
a stellar line-up of musicians.

Booking link for EVENING CONCERTS ONLY

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/international-festival-for-irish-harp-2021-evening-concerts-tickets-153751654337>

EVENING CONCERTS can also be bought as individual events @ €10 each

Follow us on social media to stay up to date with our latest news and events.



Facebook: @CairdeNaCruite



Instagram: @cairde\_na\_cruite



Twitter: @CCIHf

Email: [cairdenacruite@gmail.com](mailto:cairdenacruite@gmail.com)

Website: [www.cairdenacruite.com](http://www.cairdenacruite.com)

| [www.harpfestival.ie](http://www.harpfestival.ie)