



An Chúirt Chruitireachta
International Festival
for Irish Harp

Thursday 30 June to
Saturday 2 July 2022

An Grianán, Termonfechin,
Co Louth

www.harpfestival.ie





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. It's great to be back in person after two years of online festivals and we look forward to meeting everyone once again.

Cairde na Cruite is passionate about the music of the harp tradition and its place within Irish traditional music. We guarantee top quality workshops, classes, concerts and sessions. You will have an opportunity to engage with other harpers, gain a better understanding of Irish music, song and dance as well as learning more about the harp and its music.

This year our festival takes place from **Thursday 30th June to Saturday 2nd July** at **An Grianán, Termonfechin, Co. Louth**. We have put together a panel of exceptional tutors and talented artists to deliver an outstanding celebration of harp music for you.

Táimid ag tnúth le teach lán na gcruitirí anseo i rith na féile dordán draíochta na cruite, ceol den scoth agus cabaireacht chairde timpeall orainn.

BOOK NOW on www.eventbrite.ie

- Full 3 day all-in package, includes classes, workshops, concerts, accommodation and all meals. Cost €200
- Non-residential package, includes classes, workshops, concerts and lunch (9.30 am to 6pm). Cost €120

Thursday Evening Concert, 30th June, 8pm. (Free adm.)

Friday Evening Concert, 1st July, 8pm. (Tickets €20/€15)

FRINGE EVENTS:

Thursday 30th June, Tholsel Lunchtime Concert at 1pm (Free adm.)

Friday 1st July, Tholsel Lunchtime Concert at 1pm (Free adm.)

Fáilte Isteach

Welcome to Cairde na Cruite's 36th Annual International Harp Festival, An Chúirt Chruitreachta.

It's wonderful to be back in person once again and we all look forward to meeting old friends and new aspiring harpers and lovers of the harp. I hope you will enjoy the wonderful line up of concerts, workshops and events celebrating our rich, diverse, and vibrant harping tradition. As we embrace the past traditions, we are also excited to present to you a programme in which artists will also explore innovative and creative performances and collaborations.

Whether you are joining us for the entire festival or attending one or more of our concerts, I hope that the richness of the experience will remain with you as an inspiration for many years.

Bainigí sult slán as an bhFéile

Áine Ní Dhubhghaill,
Festival Director



Áine Ní Dhubhghaill, Festival Director
Áine 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*.

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.



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, was premiered at New Music Dublin on 23 April 2021. Anne-Marie is currently Tutor in Harp at RNCM, Manchester.



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 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 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.

Evening Concerts

Thursday, 30th June 8.00 pm & Friday, 1st July 8.00 pm

Réaltaí Ceoil Chonamara agus Teach Lán le Cruitirí

Thursday 30 June, 8pm

Virtuoso harper Séamus Ó Flatharta and multi-instrumentalist Caoimhe Ní Fhlatharta join internationally acclaimed harpers Máire Ní Chathasaigh, Kathleen Loughnane, Deirdre Ní Bhuachalla, Kim Fleming, Deirdre Granville and the Triad Harp Trio



Séamus Ó Flatharta and Caoimhe Ní Fhlatharta are a brother and sister duo from Conamara. Born into the heart of the Gaeltacht, they have been immersed in the traditions of Irish music, song and dance from a very young age. Talented vocalists, multi-instrumentalists and dancers, Gaelge is often at the heart of their

performances. Caoimhe is a multi-instrumentalist and sean-nós singer. She has received many accolades including two All-Ireland titles at the age of 14. She has amassed a vast repertoire of songs and tunes. Séamus has been making waves on stages in Asia, North America and mainland Europe. He was a guest musician on the 25th Anniversary Tour of *Riverdance* at Radio City Music Hall, NYC. With 23 All-Ireland titles from the age of 7, he has performed alongside the finest ambassadors of Irish Music and has contributed to numerous albums to date. The duo received great attention for their appearances on TG4's *Fleadh 2020*, RTE's *The Late Late Show* and *Other Voices*.

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.





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.



Deirdre Ní Bhuachalla



Kim Fleming



Deirdre Granville

The Triad Harp Trio (Fiona Gryson, Rachel Duffy and Síofra Ní Dhubhghaill)



The Triad Harp Trio, featuring award-winning harpers Fiona Gryson, Rachel Duffy and Síofra Ní Dhubhghaill, met while studying at TU Dublin Conservatoire. They each enjoy varied careers as performers, researchers and teachers in

Dublin, Meath, Wicklow, Wexford and Westmeath. They have performed extensively individually and in various ensembles nationally and internationally and on television and radio. Following their inaugural performance at the Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda as part of An Chúirt Chruitreachta 2021, the trio are looking forward to returning to perform at the 2022 festival this year. Recent performance highlights include the Cornstown House 'Music on the Farm' concert series and the Smithfield Fleadh. Triad have also featured in CÉHI's Lá na Cruite | Harp Day, St. Patrick's Day celebrations and their '12 Days of Christmas' series. The trio will perform as members of the TU Dublin Conservatoire Harp Ensemble at the World Harp Congress in Cardiff, Wales this July.

A Feast of Music from East to West Friday 1 July, 8pm

Alannah Thornburgh and Ryan McAuley, Anne-Marie O'Farrell,
Cormac de Barra, Gerry Cullen and the Drogheda Singers



Alannah Thornburgh & Ryan McAuley

Alannah Thornburgh is an award-winning instrumentalist and composer with a focus on traditional Irish harp. Her music explores the re-imagining ancient music from the Irish harping, American Appalachian and jazz traditions. This cross-genre interaction and juxtaposition of old melodies with contemporary harmonies is interwoven throughout her music, described as 'unforced, fluid and utterly at home in her own sound' (*The Irish Times*).

Alannah's debut solo single *The Front*, a homage to the late Conor Walsh, was premiered on Seattle's KEXP to great critical acclaim. She was nominated for two awards at the 2021 RTE Folk Awards - Best Emerging Artist and Best Folk Instrumentalist. Alannah and Ryan McAuley are members of Alfi, a trio who combine traditional Irish and Appalachian music and song. **Ryan McAuley** is a 5-string banjoist from Dundalk. He specialises in 'old-time' music, an American musical tradition from the Appalachian mountains and adapts Irish traditional melodies to the 5-string banjo.

Anne-Marie O'Farrell & Cormac de Barra



Cormac de Barra has performed across Europe, the USA and Asia. With Anne-Marie O'Farrell he has frequently appeared in concerts for harp duet. He performs regularly with singer Máire Ní Bhraonáin and her band and with Julie Feeney. **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.

Gerry Cullen & The Drogheda Singers



Gerry Cullen has been a stalwart of the-unaccompanied traditional music scene for the past 50 years. He first came to national prominence as a member of the acclaimed harmony trio Voice Squad. Gerry possesses a wonderful resonant, rich voice and includes many local Drogheda songs in his repertoire.

The Tholsel Interludes

Lunchtime Concerts

Thursday, 30th June 1.00 pm & Friday, 1st July 1.00 pm

Thursday, 30th June 1.00 pm (free admission)

Rising Stars of the Harp from Louth and Beyond.

Recent Sean Ó Riada gold medal winner, Fionnuala Donlon will be joined by Rachael Dooley and Hannah Nic Eindrí.

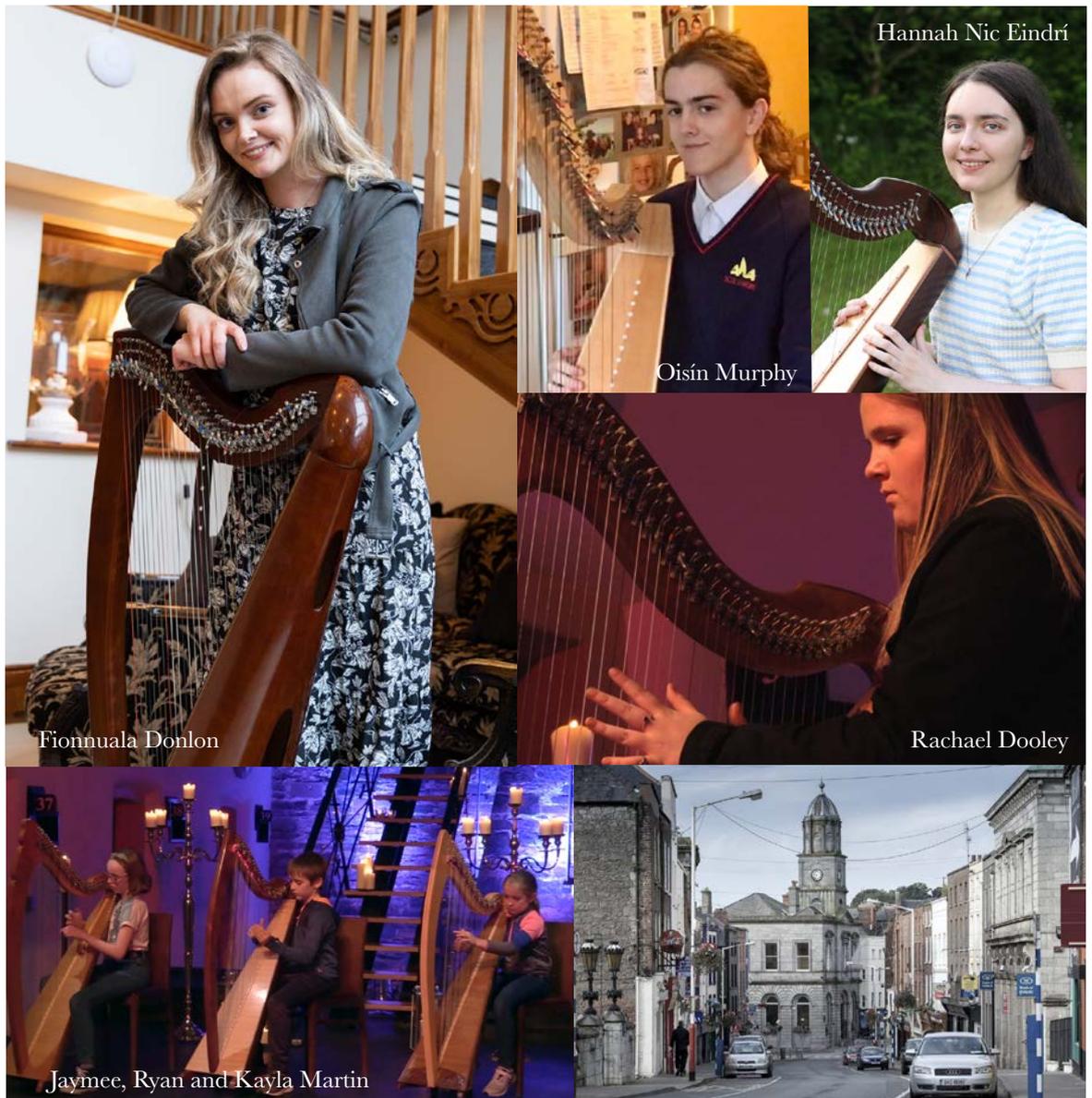
Friday, 1st July 1.00 pm (free admission)

Younger Rising Stars of the Harp from Louth and Beyond.

Featuring Oisín Murphy, Jaymee, Ryan and Kayla Martin.

Tickets at Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/international-festival-for-irish-harp-2022-an-chuirt-chruitireachta-2022-tickets-338542338247>



Full Programme at a Glance

Thursday 30th June

1.30 pm	Arrival/Fáilte
2.00 pm	Classes
3.30 pm	Break
3.45 pm	Classes
4.45 pm	Break
5.00 pm	Meet the Teachers/Workshop
6.00 pm	Tea
7.00 pm	Individual/Ensemble Practice
8.00 pm	Concert 'Réaltaí Ceoil Chonamara agus Teach Lán le Cruitirí' Séamus Ó Flatharta and Caoimhe Ní Fhlatharta, Máire Ní Chathasaigh, Kathleen Loughnane, Deirdre Ní Bhuachalla, Kim Fleming, Deirdre Granville and the Triad Harp Trio
10.00 pm	Seisiún Ceoil

Friday 1st July

8.30 am	Breakfast
9.30 am	Classes
11.00 am	Break
11.15 am	Classes
1.00 pm	Lunch
2.00 pm	Classes/Workshop
3.30 pm	Break
3.45 pm	Workshop
5.00 pm	Break
6.00 pm	Tea
7.00 pm	Individual/Ensemble Practice
8.00 pm	Concert 'A Feast of Music from East to West' Alannah Thornburgh and Ryan McAuley with Anne-Marie O'Farrell, Cormac de Barra, Gerry Cullen and the Drogheda Singers
10.00 pm	Seisiún Ceoil

Saturday 2nd July

8.30 am	Breakfast
9.30 am	Classes
11.00 am	Break
11.15 am	Classes
1.00 pm	Lunch
2.00 pm	Classes/Ensemble Workshop
3.00 pm	Break
3.30 pm	Final Student Session/Performances
5.00 pm	Slán Abhaile

Fringe Events at The Tholsel, Drogheda

Thursday, 30th June 1.00 pm (free adm.)

Lunchtime Concert, Rising Stars of the Harp from Louth and Beyond.

Friday, 1st July 1.00 pm (free adm.)

Lunchtime Concert, Younger Rising Stars of the Harp from Louth and Beyond.

Booking at www.eventbrite.ie

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Full Festival Package (Residential)

Full 3-day (Thursday - Saturday)
all-in package, includes classes, workshops,
concerts, accommodation and all meals.
Cost €200



Non-residential Package

includes classes, workshops, concerts
and lunch (9:30am - 6pm).
Cost €120

Evening Concerts

Thursday, 30th June 8.00 pm (Free adm.)

‘Réaltaí Ceoil Chonamara agus Teach Lán le Cruitirí’

Séamus Ó Flatharta and Caoimhe Ní Fhlatharta, Máire Ní Chathasaigh, Kathleen Loughnane, Deirdre Ní Bhuachalla, Kim Fleming, Deirdre Granville and the Triad Harp Trio

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‘A Feast of Music from East to West’

Alannah Thornburgh and Ryan McAuley, Anne-Marie O’Farrell, Cormac de Barra, Gerry Cullen and the Drogheda Singers

Lunchtime Concerts at the Tholsel (free adm.)

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Lunchtime Concert, Rising Stars of the Harp from Louth and Beyond.
Featuring Fionnuala Donlon, Rachael Dooley and Hannah Nic Eindrí.

Friday, 1st July 1.00 pm

Lunchtime Concert, Younger Rising Stars of the Harp from Louth and Beyond.
Featuring Oisín Murphy, Jaymee, Ryan and Kayla Martin.

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



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