

An Chúirt Chruitireachta International Festival for Irish Harp



Sun 25th to Fri 30th June 2023 An Grianán, Termonfechin, Co Louth

















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Fully levered harp
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Established in 1986, our harp festival An Chúirt Chruitireachta ranks among the top international festivals for Irish harp.

Cairde na Cruite is passionate about the music of the harp tradition and its place within Irish traditional music. We provide top quality workshops, classes, concerts and sessions. We warmly welcome harpers of every standard from all over the world, and provide them with an opportunity to engage with other harpers, gain a better understanding of Irish music, song and dance, and to learn more about the harp and its music.

This year our festival takes place from Sunday 25th June to Friday 30th June 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.

Full Festival Package (Residential)

All-in package, includes classes, workshops, concerts, accommodation and all meals.

Rental harps are available for international participants at €100

Student: €495 (plus booking fees)

Adult: €845 (plus booking fees)

Listener: €700 (plus booking fees)



Scan this code to access the Harp Festival booking form.

Non-residential Packages

A. Morning Package
(morning classes: 9.30am - 1pm)
Cost: €120 (plus booking fees)
B. Half Day Package
(includes morning classes, lunch and afternoon workshops: 9.30am - 5pm)
Cost: €200 (plus booking fees)
C. Full Day Package
(includes morning classes, lunch and afternoon workshops, tea/evening meal and concerts: 9.30am - 10pm)
Cost: €300 (plus booking fees)

Booking at www.eventbrite.ie

Evening Concerts:

Daily Sunday 25th June - Thursday 29th June, 8pm. (Tickets €15)









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Fáilte Isteach

We are delighted to welcome you to An Chúirt Chruitireachta, Cairde na Cruite's Annual International Harp Festival.

We are excited to return to An Grianán for a week filled with harping morning, noon and night, and we are delighted you are joining us! An Chúirt Chruitireachta 2023 celebrates the rich and diverse range of the harp, delving into soundscapes both historical and contemporary with a host of world class artists and tutors.

Each contributor brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, and enthusiasm, creating a memorable festival experience which we hope will be a source of inspiration for years to come.

Festival 2023 sees a focus on music collected by Edward Bunting, on the 250th anniversary of his birth. It looks to the past, honouring the work of the harpers who have come before us, and to the future as a cohort of student harpers immerse themselves in an intensive week of harping. We would like to extend our thanks to the Cairde na Cruite committee for all their help and support in preparing for the festival, and throughout the year.

Whether you are returning or joining us for the first time we hope that An Chúirt Chruitireachta 2023 resonates with you and you enjoy all it has to offer. Bainigí sult slán as an bhFéile

Rachel Duffy and Fiona Gryson Festival Co-Directors

Rachel Duffy Co-Director



Rachel Duffy is a harper from Bray, Co. Wicklow. She is currently completing doctoral studies in Technological University Dublin under the supervision of Professor Clíona Doris. Her research focuses on the twentieth-century

development of the Irish harp and is funded by a Fiosraigh PhD Scholarship. In addition to performing across Ireland, Rachel has appeared at festivals in France, China, Germany, Spain, Wales and Scotland and has featured in radio and television broadcasts. She enjoys collaborating with other musicians and plays with a range of groups including Na Cauci, the Triad Trio and the National Folk Orchestra. She holds a First Class Honours Degree in Music Education from Trinity College Dublin and the Royal Irish Academy of Music and a TTCT Diploma in Traditional Harp Teaching from Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann.

Fiona Gryson Co-Director



Fiona Gryson is a harpist based in Meath. She is a freelance harpist and teacher, and has performed as Principal Harpist with the RTÉ National Symphony and Concert Orchestras, the Irish Chamber and the

Ulster Orchestras. She has performed extensively nationally and internationally, both live and on tv and radio. She is director of the Fingal Harp Ensemble and co-director of the TU Dublin Conservatoire Harp Ensemble with Rachel Duffy. Fiona recently received funding from the Irish Research Council to pursue PhD research at TU Dublin Conservatoire. She has studied at the Civica Scuola di Musica Claudio Abbado, Milan with Irina Zingg. She graduated with a Master Degree in Music Performance from the DIT Conservatory of Music having previously graduated with a First Class Honours BMus degree in Performance and Pedagogy and the Nuala Levins Perpetual Award for Pedagogy from the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama.

Festival at a Glance

Sunday 25 June, 8pm

Concert: Oscail and Doras

Clíona Doris • Deirdre and Aoife Granville

Monday 26 June, 3:45pm

Workshop: Getting to the heart of it: the music of the old Irish harpers as notated directly from them with Siobhán Armstrong

Monday 26 June, 8pm

Concert: Ceiliúradh Bunting 250

Gerry Cullen and the Drogheda Singers Nobody's Jig • Gráinne Hambly

Tuesday 27 June, 2pm

Workshop: Performance practice and collaboration with Triona Marshall

Tuesday 27 June, 8pm Concert: Stars Align Jean Kelly • Trio Táin

Wednesday 28 June, 8pm Concert: All Together Now | Ensemble Concert

Thursday 29 June, 2pm

Talk: Edward Bunting (1773-1843): his Anglo-Irish ancestry, plus a few snippets from later generations with Frank Bunting

Thursday 29 June, 3.45pm

Workshop: Approaches to tune arranging and ornamentation with Máire Ní Chathasaigh

Thursday 29 June, 8pm

Concert: Ceolchoirm na Féile Scarúint na gCompánach | The

Parting of Friends

Anne-Marie O'Farrell and Cormac de Barra Rachel Hair and Ron Jappy

Fringe Events

Tholsel Lunchtime Concerts
Young rising stars of the harp

at the Tholsel, Drogheda, 1pm (Free adm.)

Monday 26 June, 1pm Muireann Ní Mhaoildeirg Skryne Traditional Music Group

Tuesday 27 June, 1pm Aoife Ní Bhriain agus Colm Ó Briain Doireann Ní Chonaill agus Brendan Ó Conaill



Goltraí agus Geantraí Music for Babies and Toddlers

Drogheda Library at 11am (Free adm. Booking essential)



Wednesday 28 June: with Jean Kelly

Thursday 29 June: with Aisling Ennis



Harp Makers' Exhibition Sunday 25 June from 3pm - 6pm

Our Festival Tutors and Artists



Áine Ní Dhubhghaill Festival Tutor

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 Ceoil Award. She is also co-editor of *Rogha na gCruitirí*, *Harpers' Choice*, *100 Tunes for Irish Harp*.



Kim Fleming Festival Tutor

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.



Gráinne Hambly Festival Tutor, Céiliúradh Bunting 250 - Monday 26th June, 8pm

Gráinne Hambly from Co. Mayo is an internationally recognised exponent of the Irish harp, and is in great demand as a performer and teacher, both at home and abroad. She studied music at Queen's University Belfast and also plays concertina. Gráinne has toured and recorded with various artists, including performances as far afield as Japan, Brazil and Colombia as well as frequent tours to the USA. She has released 3 critically acclaimed solo CDs, as well as 2 books of harp music. Her most recent collaboration is with her husband Scottish harper William Jackson, with whom she frequently tours. They have released a recording *Music from Ireland and Scotland* (2009) as well as publishing some arrangements of Irish music for harp ensemble.



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Úna Ní Fhlannagáin Festival Tutor

Úna Ní Fhlannagáin is an award-winning harper-composer and singer from Co. Galway, Ireland. An instrumentalist of verve and imagination, she is rooted in diverse musical influences such as the dance music tradition of North Clare, the sean-nós singing style of Maigh Seola, the American postminimalists and free jazz. She has performed her wildly energetic jigs and reels, delicate hornpipes and emotive slow airs throughout Europe, USA and the Middle East, winning multiple prizes at the All-Ireland Fleadh, Keadue International Harp Festival, Oireachtas, O'Carolan Harp Festival, and Granard Harp Festival along the way. She branched into jazz and contemporary music, studying and performing with Anthony Braxton, the legendary free jazz musician and composer. She's won a commission from the World Harp Congress, had a piece published by Cairde na Cruite, and performed with Grammy Award winner Bobby McFerrin.



Kathleen Loughnane Festival Tutor

Irish music Meteor Award (2010) nominee Kathleen Loughnane is highly regarded for her work in arranging traditional Irish dance tunes and airs for the harp and also for researching the music of Irish harp composers of the 17th and 18th centuries. In 1990 she co-founded Dordan, whose mix of Irish and Baroque music has received widespread acclaim. Kathleen has 4 CDs and accompanying books to her credit, *Affairs of the Harp, Harping On, Harp to Heart* and her most recent *The Harpers Connellan*. She has taught in Ireland and at major festivals in the US, Japan and throughout Europe. She was invited to play at the World Harp Congress in Dublin in 2005. Her arrangements feature on the Harp Syllabus of The Royal Irish Academy of Music. Kathleen is currently arranging a selection of tunes for harp from the MSS of Patrick O' Neill (1763-1830).



Deirdre Granville Festival Tutor, Oscail an Doras - Sunday 25th June, 8pm

Hailing from Dingle, Co. Kerry, a multi-instrumentalist and singer, Deirdre 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 including Kerry Chamber and Youth Orchestras, Aoife Granville, folk singing group Deluce's Patent and duo Sirmione, amongst others. A graduate from UCC and a MA performance graduate from University of Limerick, she has won numerous solo and group performance medals, including the first ever All-Ireland Senior Harp Slow Airs title at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. She is one of the most recognised names in contemporary Irish harping and has a particular interest in the Goodman Collection, slow air-playing and the music of the Blasket Islands, where her family are originally from. Deirdre released her first solo album, *Imram*, in 2015. She was Co-Director and founder of Dingle Tradfest.



Deirdre Ní Bhuachalla Festival Tutor

Deirdre Ní Bhuachalla is a harpist and educator based in Dundalk, Co. Louth. She inherits her love of traditional Irish music from both parents and particularly grandfather, piper Peter Carberry, who was a founding member of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and patron of Na Píobairí Uilleann. It was at Gaelscoil na Cille in Ashbourne where her journey with the harp began under the tutelage of Siobhán Ní Dhúill. Deirdre pursued formal training in harp with Nancy Calthorpe, Evelyn Hearns and finally Denise Kelly at DIT Conservatory of Music. Deirdre has won numerous titles at Fleadhanna Cheoil, harp festivals and Feis Ceoil and travelled extensively in Europe performing at festivals including Festival Interceltique de Lorient. In 2013 Deirdre received the Comhaltas TTCT Diploma in the teaching of traditional Irish Music where she is now a member of the mentor team. Deirdre works full-time with Music Generation Louth where she leads the traditional music programme, Harp Ensemble programme and is Co-Director and Project Manager of Nós Nua -Youth Folk Orchestra. Deirdre 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.



Triona Marshall Festival Tutor Workshop - Tuesday 27th June

Triona Marshall has played with The Chieftains since 2003, performing in concert halls around the world. During her time with The Chieftains she recorded multiple albums with them and other artists along with her own solo albums. Previous to this phase in her career, she was the principal harpist with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, which in itself was preceded by many dedicated years of study, primarily under the esteemed harp teacher Aileen McArdle and latterly under Professor Edward Witsenburg at Koninklijk at Conservatorium in Den Haag and Daphne Boden at London's Royal College of Music. In 2013, along with The Chieftains, Triona was awarded an honorary doctorate from Dublin Institute of Technology in recognition of the band's contribution to music.



Máire Ní Chathasaigh Festival Tutor Workshop - Thursday 29th June

Máire is "the doyenne of Irish harp players" (*Scotland On Sunday*) and recipient of Irish music's most prestigious Award, Gradam Ceoil TG4 – Musician of the Year – "for the excellence and pioneering force of her music, the remarkable growth she has brought to the music of the harp in Ireland and for the positive influence she has had on the young generation of harpers." A multiple All-Ireland and Pan-Celtic winner, she developed profoundly influential techniques for harp performance of traditional Irish music, heard on her pioneering *New-Strung Harp* (1985) and subsequent seven recordings with guitarist Chris Newman – with whom she tours worldwide. www.mairenichathasaigh.com and www.maireandchris.com



Anne-Marie O'Farrell Festival Tutor Ceolchoirm na Féile - Thursday 29th June, 8pm

Dr Anne-Marie O'Farrell has performed all over the world and is regularly featured in broadcasts. On lever harp, she is particularly recognized for her expansion of repertoire and levering techniques, as a result of which the world's leading harp makers Salvi Harps redesigned their lever harps to become concert instruments. She has performed with the Irish Baroque Orchestra, the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, the Irish Memory Orchestra, and the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra. Last year she premiered her lever harp concerto, In Light Anew (commissioned by RTÉ Lyric fm) with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales at the World Harp Congress in Cardiff. Her CDs, include Just So Bach, Harping Bach to Carolan, The Jig's Up, My Lagan Love and Embrace: New Directions for Irish Harp; Double Strung and Duopoly with Cormac de Barra; and Harp to Harp with harmonica player Brendan Power. She is Head of Harp at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. Recent commissions include a Civil War Cantata commissioned by UCD and a five-movement work for large harp ensemble for Harp Ireland. www.annemarieofarrell.com



Cormac de Barra Festival Tutor Ceolchoirm na Féile - Thursday 29th June, 8pm

Cormac de Barra first studied Irish harp with his grandmother, Róisín Ní Shé. He was awarded a scholarship to study concert harp in the United States at the age of fourteen. His performing career has taken him to Africa and Asia, where he spent six months playing at Expo '90 in Osaka, Japan and to Spain where he also spent six months playing at Expo '92 in Seville. In Japan he gave a command performance for Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at their Imperial Palace. He has made several recordings of traditional music with other members of his family. Cormac presented the award-winning traditional music series *Flosc* on TG4. He has also been involved in music for theatre, performing in *The Cúchulainn Cycle* by W. B. Yeats and *Mysteries 2000* at the SFX, both directed by Michael Scott and the first tour of Irish Modern Dance Theatre's Slam. Cormac also collaborated on the music and lyrics for Siamsa Tíre's latest production *Tearmann*. Cormac released his first solo CD *Barcó* in 2002. He has toured internationally and recorded several albums with Moya Brennan of Clannad. www.cormacdebarra.com



Clíona Doris Oscail an Doras - Sunday 25th June, 8pm

Clíona Doris is a Professor at TU Dublin Conservatoire where she lectures in harp, performance studies and artistic research, as well as co-ordinating postgraduate music performance programmes. She previously held the positions of Head of Orchestral Studies and Head of the Conservatoire. As a harpist, she has extensive performing and recording experience as a soloist and chamber musician, with a particular interest in contemporary music. Recent recordings include: Brian Boydell Mosaics and Sketches: Chamber Music for Harp with TU Dublin Conservatoire colleagues, and Cantares de la Frontera for Louth Contemporary Music Society featuring solo works by Peter Garland and Deirdre McKay. Clíona studied at Belfast School of

Music, Queen's University and Indiana University, USA, graduating with the Doctor of Music Degree in Harp Performance and Music Literature. Clíona is a member of the Board and Corporation of the World Harp Congress, having served as Chair of the Ninth World Harp Congress Dublin 2005. She has recently joined the Board of Directors of the National Concert Hall and is a former board member of the Contemporary Music Centre, Music Generation and Music Network. www.clionadoris.com



Deirdre Granville and Aoife Granville Oscail an Doras - Sunday 25th June, 8pm

Deirdre and her sister Aoife are descendants of Blasket Islanders who continue to sing and make music. Deirdre and Aoife spent a great deal of time with their grandmother, Léan Ní Dhálaigh, and this led to their love of, and interest in, Island culture. They have been particularly influenced by Dálaigh's music and that of Tom na hInise or Tom Pheaidí Mhuiris.



Nobody's Jig Céiliúradh Bunting 250 - Monday 26th June, 8pm

Nobody's Jig is a trio which formed to explore the lesser-known elements of 17th-century folk traditions as well as more mainstream approaches to folk music from across Ireland, Britain and further afield. Made up of harps, lutes and the voice, this combination of instruments draws on an old and intimate tradition of song accompaniment which travelled from Europe as far as Latin America in the 17th century. Ensemble members hail from musical traditions including traditional Irish and Mexican music as well as mainstream baroque and classical training. Since holding the prestigious Wigmore Learning/Royal Academy of Music Fellowship in 2021, the trio have performed regularly at the hall as well as at the 2021 Bloomsbury Festival, the Royal Academy of Music and Goodenough College for international postgraduate students. In July 2022 they gave the world premiere of *Air* by Clare Elton at the Wigmore Hall, commissioned by the Royal Philharmonic Society. Members comprise Victoria Hodgkinson (soprano), Sergio Bucheli (lutes) and Tara Viscardi (harps).



Gerry Cullen and the Drogheda Singers Céiliúradh Bunting 250 - Monday 26th June, 8pm

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 Drogheda Singers have had weekly singing sessions in Drogheda for many years and the regular singers have all sung at different festivals and sessions throughout the country. Some have researched local songs , singers and song-writers and, in line with one of their main aims, have brought many old songs back to life, many from the nineteenth century.



Jean Kelly Stars Align - Tuesday 27th June, 8pm

Jean Kelly hails from an Irish family of several generations of professional musicians. Jean studied harp at the Royal College of Music, London. She is in great demand as a versatile harpist, with an eclectic career ranging from Early Music to Contemporary Classical and Folk Music. She has recorded three CD's with the Locrian Ensemble. A CD of Chamber Music by Richard Arnell was Editor's Choice in *Gramophone* magazine. She has also recorded for the Guild and Stockfisch labels. Jean performs on commercial film and TV soundtracks, for composers such as Debbie Wiseman, Jonny Greenwood, Max Richter and Dario Marianelli. She played solo harp on Michael Kiwanuka's Mercury Prize winning album. Jean regularly guests with The Telling and The Society of Strange and Ancient Instruments. "Elegant, stylish and deliciously nuanced playing." Irish Independent



Trio Táin Stars Align - Tuesday 27th June, 8pm

Irish-based Trio Táin formed in 2020. All three musicians have played together since 2007 in various ensembles including the National Symphony Orchestra, RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Irish National Opera, Irish Chamber Orchestra and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, from China to Liverpool and throughout Ireland. Trio Táin's members all have wellestablished careers as professional musicians. Robin Panter (viola) is currently a member of the Irish Chamber Orchestra and a string faculty member at the RIAM. Vourneen Ryan (flute) was previously co-principal flute with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. Vourneen is on the flute faculty and lectures in Career Development at the RIAM. Aisling Ennis (harp) is a Wicklow-based artist. In 2022 she released her solo album, *The Folly of Melancholy*. 2023 will see her recital *Fairy Music: Ceol Si* performed throughout Co. Wicklow as well as appearances with The Irish Chamber Orchestra and collaborations with artists including Imogen-Blue Hinohosa, Una Palliser, Shiva R Joyce, and Anna Newell.



Rachel Hair (Artist in Residence) Ceolchoirm na Féile - Thursday 29th June, 8pm

"A superb Highland Harper" (BBC Radio 2)
Rachel Hair is "One of the UK's finest contemporary Celtic harpists and tunesmiths" (Songlines).

With her music deeply rooted in her Highland upbringing, she is now based in Glasgowe. She has toured extensively throughout Europe, the USA and beyond, and released 6 critically acclaimed albums, her 7th with guitar duo partner Ron Jappy due for release in May 2023. She has taught and performed at harp festivals in the USA, Russia, France, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Ireland, Germany and Scotland and published 5 books of harp arrangements and compositions. Her lockdown Harp at Home Youtube series was followed by thousands of harpists worldwide, helping unite celtic harp players through the challenge of the pandemic.



Ron Jappy Ceolchoirm na Féile - Thursday 29th June

A Graduate of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama Ron Jappy is highly sought after as an arranger, guitarist, fiddle player, pianist and producer. Influenced by a broad range of fantastic musicians and teachers, Ron has had a number of experiences presented to him through the rich and vibrant music scene of his current residence, Glasgow. Ron has travelled extensively throughout the world with performances in countries such as; America, Bahrain, Indonesia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Thailand and the UAE. Today, Ron is recognised as one of Scotland's prominent go to guitarists for Traditional and Folk music. He began his journey as an accompanist after being inspired by a performance by Ross Ainsle and Innes Watson at the Piping Centre in Glasgow and pinpoints this as a significant turning point in his career as a musician.



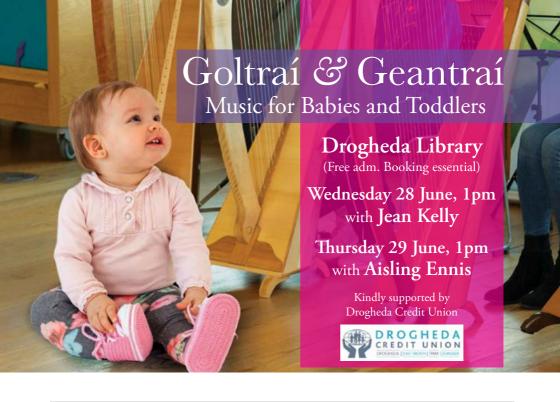
Siobhán Armstrong Workshop - Monday 26th June

Siobhán Armstrong is a performer, academic, passionate teacher and mentor, exploring historical music on reconstructions of medieval to baroque harps. She performs and records with many of Europe's most prestigious soloists, baroque orchestras and opera companies, and also collaborates with some of Ireland's best-known traditional-music performers. Siobhán is the founding director of The Historical Harp Society of Ireland, spearheading the international rediscovery of Ireland's ancient harp, strung in brass wires. She completed her PhD on early-Irish harp performance practice in 2020 (Middlesex University, London). The debut recording of her ensemble, The Irish Consort, entitled *Music, Ireland and the Sixteenth Century*, has shed light on a neglected century in Irish music. This was one of *The Irish Times*' top five international Classical Music picks of 2021.



Frank Bunting Workshop - Thursday 29th June

Frank Bunting is a collateral descendant of Edward Bunting. Frank's 4th great grandfather was Anthony Bunting - Edward's older brother, early music teacher in Drogheda. An Australian by birth and now living in Derbyshire, Frank has traced and published (*Duiche Neill, Vol. 24*) the history of his Buntings back to their roots in Co. Armagh, and collaboratively further back to the ancient Buntingfield Estate, Ashover parish, Derbyshire. He also published his research into the family history of Bunting's influential, but usually overlooked, mother Mary Quin (DN, Vol. 25). Frank is a retired mineral exploration geologist who has latterly redirected his research and exploration skills to investigate deeply some selected avenues of his ancestry. The results of his Bunting-line family history research provide new insights into the ancestry of Ireland's celebrated musicologist, Edward Bunting.



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Rising Stars of the Harp Lunchtime Concerts at The Tholsel

 $The\ Tholsel,\ Drogheda,\ 1pm\ (\textit{Free admission},\ no\ booking\ required)$



Monday 26 June, 1pm Muireann Ní Mhaoildeirg • Skryne Traditional Music Group



Tuesday 27 June, 1pm Aoife Ní Bhriain agus Colm Ó Briain Doireann Ní Chonaill agus Brendan Ó Conaill





P: 0879396883 E: harringtonharps@gmail.com W: www.harringtonharps.ie

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Cork City, Ireland







Evening Concerts at An Grianán

Daily Sunday 25th June - Thursday 29th June, 8pm. (Tickets €15)

Tickets at www.eventbrite.ie



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An Chúirt Chruitireachta International Harp Festival 2024

Save the date Sunday 30th June to Friday 5th July 2024







Email: cairdenacruite@gmail.com

Website: www.harpfestival.ie