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AN CRUITHRE



An Cruite 2023

CO-EDITORS

Rachel Duffy and Fiona Gryson

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Mary Louise O'Donnell and Luke Webb

REGISTERED CHARITY

No. CHY 9687

CONTACT

Email: cairdenacruite@gmail.com

Website: www.cairdenacruite.com

Social Media:  facebook.com/CairdeNaCruite

 instagram.com/cairde_na_cruite

 twitter.com/ccihf

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Eagarfhocal

Editorial

A chairde,

Fáilte chuig *An Cruitime 2023*.



Welcome to *An Cruitime 2023*. As ever, we are thankful to the many contributors who have generously shared their harping news with us. We have enjoyed hearing about concerts, festivals, competitions, recordings and publications across the country and further afield.

2023 has been a special year for Cairde na Cruite. Our president Sheila Larchet Cuthbert, one of the founding members of Cairde na Cruite, celebrated her 100th birthday this March. The breadth of harping activity currently taking place is testament to the pioneering work of Sheila and her contemporaries who paved the way for the harp's development in recent years. We owe them an enormous debt of gratitude and have enjoyed reflecting on their legacy throughout the year.

This year also marked the 250th anniversary of the birth of Edward Bunting. His life and work were celebrated by many in 2023, including at our annual festival, An Chúirt Chruitireachta. You can read more about the festival activities in our report on pages 10-15, as well as a fantastic article by Eilís Lavelle on pages 19-22 in which she provides information about online sources associated with the Bunting collection.

We hope this newsletter captures a sense of this vibrancy and the year ahead brings many more happy harping memories!

Thank you for your continued support. Wishing you and yours all the best for 2024.
Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise dhaoibh go léir!

Rachel Duffy and Fiona Gryson
Co-Editors

Message from the Chair

Dia dhaoibh a chairde,

2023 has been a remarkable year for the harp in Ireland as we celebrate the increasing numbers of players throughout the country, the flourishing harp ensembles and the continued success and creativity of our harpers both at home and on the international stage. The highlight of our calendar was the annual festival, **An Chúirt Chruitreachta**. Evening concerts showcased the best exponents of our vibrant and dynamic harping tradition collaborating with renowned international musicians, while students and participants were inspired by the wealth of knowledge and teaching excellence of our mentors. It has been a joy to pass on the festival directorship to Rachel and Fiona who have taken on the role with enthusiasm and passion.



This year marks the 100th birthday of the President and founding member of Cairde na Cruite, Sheila Larchet Cuthbert. It was wonderful to have Sheila present and delight in the special performances and anecdotes dedicated to this remarkable musician at her Cairde na Cruite birthday celebration in the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Sheila has inspired generations of harpers in Ireland and internationally over her long and prestigious career.

I hope you enjoy reading *An Cruitire 2023*.

Míle buíochas don coiste agus go háirithe do Rachel agus Fiona as ucht an obair de'n scoth a dhéanann siad thar ceann Cairde na Cruite.

Áine Ní Dhubhghaill, Chair, Cairde na Cruite

Cairde na Cruite Activities

Ceolchoirm an Earraigh | Spring Concert 2023

Pearse Museum, St. Enda's Park, Rathfarnham, Dublin, 26th March 2023

The beautiful Halla Mór was once again a haven for up-and-coming harpers, many experienced performers and some novice players who enthralled the captivated audience. Students from Kylemore College, TU Dublin Conservatoire and the Royal Irish Academy of Music provided a diverse harping treat. The concert concluded with a lively and uplifting performance of traditional tunes from Muireann Ní Mhaoildeirg followed by an eclectic programme from a trio featuring Ruth O'Hara, Irish harp, Maitiú Gaffney, double bass/ flute and Rossa Scully, guitar.



Chloe Daly, TU Dublin Conservatoire



Zoe Dong, RIAM

The audience were clearly delightfully engaged with the broad range of music and many thanks to all the performers, staff of the Pearse Museum and to Cairde na Cruite committee members for their generous support.

Áine Ní Dhubhghaill, Chair, Cairde na Cruite



Ruth O'Hara, Irish harp, Maitiú Gaffney, flute and Rossa Scully, guitar

Cairde na Cruite 100th Birthday Celebration for Sheila Larchet Cuthbert

Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM), 27th May 2023



President and founding member of Cairde na Cruite, Sheila Larchet Cuthbert was joined by friends and colleagues in the RIAM for a memorable birthday celebration. Sheila and her daughter Mary Cuthbert were greeted on arrival by Cairde na Cruite Chairperson, Áine Ní Dhubhghaill and RIAM director, Deborah Kelleher. Before joining the enthusiastic party of fellow harpers in the newly-opened Vernon Suite, Sheila enjoyed a private performance of her arrangement of Carolan's 'Miss Hamilton' by RIAM student Saoirse Pu.

Deborah and Áine welcomed Sheila and all guests to the newly opened RIAM campus where Sheila's father Dr. John F. Larchet, who was also professor of music at UCD, taught harmony



Mary Cuthbert and Sheila Larchet Cuthbert



Áine Ní Dhubhghaill

and counterpoint from 1920 to 1955. After warm greetings from all special guests, Sheila clearly enjoyed performances of music from her pioneering and influential book *The Irish Harp Book* which includes many arrangements by Sheila.

Jean Kelly, who flew over specially from London to be present at this memorable occasion, commenced

the afternoon's performances with a composition from Sheila's book, 'Interlude', composed by her grandfather T. C. Kelly, followed by Andreja Malir, former student of Sheila, playing the evocative arrangement of 'De Bharr na gCnoc' by Sheila's father J. F. Larchet.



Jean Kelly performed 'Interlude' by her grandfather T.C. Kelly



Sheila with her daughter Mary Cuthbert

Performances of Sheila's arrangements of 'Maurice O'Connor', 'John Kelly' and 'Tiarna Mhaigh Éo' by Cormac de Barra, Geraldine O'Doherty and Fiona Gryson and an impromptu air from Kathleen Loughnane were interspersed with many humorous and emotional anecdotes celebrating Sheila's vast and incredible career as an orchestral player both with the Hallé Orchestra and the RTÉ NSO, as founder member of Cairde na Cruite, inspirational teacher and arranger and as a member of the World Harp Congress Board where she was pivotally instrumental in Ireland hosting the World Harp Congress in 2005.



Andreja Malir

The relaxed afternoon concluded with a performance of Sheila's arrangement of 'Carolán's Concerto' played by Jean Kelly, Geraldine O'Doherty, Cormac de Barra, Mary Louise O'Donnell, Áine Ní Dhubhghaill, Fiona Gryson, Deirdre Ní Bhuachalla and Denise Kelly.

The celebrations continued with much chat,



Kathleen Loughnane

remiscing, cutting of the cake and a toast to Sheila. Sheila spoke eloquently and modestly responding to the audience's acclamation, praising all the harp performances and generously acknowledging all the glowing tributes to her.

Lá breithe shona Sheila from Cairde na Cruite.

Áine Ní Dhubhghaill, Chair, Cairde na Cruite

Denise Kelly McDonnell delivers an appreciation of Sheila Larchet Cuthbert with harpers Geraldine O'Doherty, Cormac de Barra, Mary Louise O'Donnell, Áine Ní Dhubhghaill, Fiona Gryson and Deirdre Ní Bhuachalla



An Chúirt Chruitireachta International Festival for Irish Harp 2023

An Grianán, Termonfeckin, Co. Louth, 25th-30th June 2023



Workshop with Rachel Hair for Ensemble Day

Harpers and harps descended on An Grianán on Sunday 25th June for the 38th Cúirt Chruitireachta. It was wonderful to return to Termonfeckin for our first full, week-long, in-person festival since 2019. Despite the rain, there was a great atmosphere on Sunday as participants arrived from America, England, France, Israel and all corners of Ireland. Harps were everywhere to be seen with a visit and displays from six wonderful harp makers, Callan

Harps, Graham Wright, Harrington Harps, Hollytree Harps, Killarney Harps and Turmennan Harps.

We had a great start to the week's performances with a pop-up concert by Music Generation Louth Harp Ensemble, led by their tutor Deirdre Ní Bhuachalla. It was then time for the participants to gather together for the first time and to meet



Deirdre Ní Bhuachalla and the Music Generation Louth Harp Ensemble pop-up concert in the drawing room at An Grianán

their tutors. Festival 2023 was led by an incredible tutor team who generously shared their knowledge and enthusiasm throughout the week:

Cormac de Barra, Deirdre Ní Bhuachalla, Máire Ní Chathasaigh, Áine Ní Dhubhghaill, Úna Ní Fhlannagáin, Kim Fleming, Deirdre Granville, Gráinne Hambly, Kathleen Loughnane, Tríona Marshall and Anne-Marie O'Farrell. We were also delighted to welcome Scottish harper Rachel Hair back to the festival as artist-in-residence.



Deirdre Granville and participants



Cormac de Barra and participants



Kim Fleming and participants



Deirdre Ní Bhuachalla and participants



Anne-Marie O'Farrell and participants



Gráinne Hambly and participants



Máire Ní Chathasaigh and participants



Úna Ní Fhlannagáin and participants



Kathleen Loughnane and participants

Clíona Doris opened the evening concert series with an impressive performance of R. Murray Schafer’s ‘The Crown of Ariadne’ – a tour de force for solo harp with percussion in which the performer is called on to play a wide array of instruments.

This was followed by immersion in a totally different sound world as the Granville sisters Deirdre and Aoife treated us to an exploration of their heritage, leading us through the rich traditions of music and song from Dingle and the Blasket Islands on harp, fiddle, flute and even a fife duet!

It was down to work on Monday with classes in full swing. Small group tuition in the mornings

was followed by larger workshops each afternoon in which participants learnt together, exploring an exciting range of topics under the guidance of tutors and visiting artists.

The first workshop, led by artist-in-residence Rachel Hair, focused on Strathspeys, giving us a fascinating insight into the neighbouring world of Scottish harping.

This was followed by an eye-opening exploration of our own rich harping traditions. Siobhán Armstrong shared her expert knowledge of the early Irish harp in ‘Getting to the heart of it: the music of the old Irish harpers as notated directly from them’.



Clíona Doris



Festival co-directors Rachel Duffy and Fiona Gryson



Ron Jappy and Rachel Hair

Central to this topic was the work of collector Edward Bunting, celebrated throughout the festival on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of his birth. Particular tribute was paid to Bunting in Monday evening's concert, *Ceiliúradh Bunting 250*. We were enthralled by performances from early music trio

Nobody's Jig, from Gerry Cullen and the Drogheda Singers, and from festival tutor Gráinne Hambly.

Tuesday's musical explorations led us to the Isle of Man with a wonderful workshop of music and dance led by Rachel Hair, while Triona Marshall guided us through a detailed and fascinating exploration of harp technique. *Stars Aligned* for a constellation of stunning performances on Tuesday evening by pedal harpist Jean Kelly and Trio Táin.

On Wednesday we welcomed visiting ensembles from across Ireland to join the festival for our annual Ensemble Day. Artist-in-residence Rachel Hair guided over 100 harpers through a series of workshops in which they learnt 'McLeods of Waipu', a beautiful piece based on the theme of emigration, inspired by a group from her local village who emigrated to New Zealand. We were then treated to an array of wonderful performances by the visiting ensembles in Wednesday evening's concert. Our thanks to Rachel Hair and the harpers, tutors and



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



Harpist Jean Kelly facilitated the festival's 'Goltraí agus Geantraí – Music for Babies and Toddlers' workshop at Ferndale Crèche, Drogheda

helpers from Music Generation Mayo, Inishowen, Elver, Bray CCÉ, Music Generation Louth and TU Dublin harp ensembles for making the day such a success.

Thursday afternoon saw Frank Bunting generously share his research in a talk entitled 'Edward Bunting (1773-1843): his Anglo-Irish ancestry, plus a few



Gerry Cullen and the Drogheda Singers



Cormac de Barra trying out some of the harps from our finest Irish harpmakers – Turmennan Harps, Brian Callan Harps, Hollytree Harps, Graham Wright Harps, Harrington Harps and Killarney Harps

snippets from later generations'. This was followed by an interactive workshop in which Máire Ní Chathasaigh gave a fascinating insight into her approach to tune arranging and ornamentation. The final festival concert, *Ceolchoirm na Féile*, featured festival tutors Anne-Marie O'Farrell and Cormac de Barra, and Scottish duo Rachel Hair and Ron Jappy. Both duos gave characteristically polished and energetic performances which definitely ended the concert series on a high!

On Friday we welcomed friends and family to the final event of the festival, a concert by the participants. Performing in their class groups, they gave a wonderful snapshot of their week's work. We would like to extend a big thank you to the wonderful group of day and residential students who attended the festival. It was a pleasure to meet them and we hope that they enjoyed the festival as much as we did!

Fringe Events



Donnchadh Mac Aodha at Sandpitt National School as part of the festival's outreach programme for schools

We were also delighted to bring the festival to a wider audience through a series of accompanying fringe events. Beginning in early June with visits to local primary schools by Louth harper Donnchadh Mac Aodha, the series continued throughout the week of the festival with a range of diverse performances. On Monday 26th June, we were warmly welcomed to Drogheda Daycare Centre. In addition to those attending the centre, through the use of zoom we were able to engage with clients at home and in neighbouring centres. We had a wonderful morning and we look forward to expanding further on this partnership in the future.

This year's *Rising Stars* series was generously hosted in the beautiful surrounds of the Highlanes Gallery in Drogheda and featured wonderful performances by harper Muireann Ní Mhaoildeirg, Skryne Traditional Group and two sibling duos Aoife Ní Bhriain and Colm Ó Briain, (harp and bodhrán) and Doireann Ní Chonaill and Brendan Ó Conaill (harp and concertina).



Rising Stars – Doireann Ní Chonaill agus Brendan Ó Conaill

A festival-first saw Jean Kelly lead a workshop for toddlers on Wednesday 28th June as part of a new initiative, *Goltraí agus Geantraí*. Our youngest ever festival participants were treated to a morning of music in Ferndale Crèche, Drogheda, sponsored by a new partner Drogheda Credit Union.

The festival would not be possible without generous support from a number of sponsors. We are particularly grateful to our key sponsors An Chomhairle Ealaíon | The Arts Council, and to our local sponsors Louth County Council. We would also like to acknowledge the support of Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland who gave the opportunity for three students to attend the festival. Thank you also to the wonderful venues who welcomed us so warmly, particularly An Grianán in Termonfeckin which has been home to the festival since 1986.

Thank you to Cairde na Cruite committee for their help and support throughout the year. Our next festival will be held from Sunday 30th June to Friday 5th July 2024. We hope to see you there!

Rachel Duffy and Fiona Gryson
Festival Co-Directors

An Chúirt Chruitireachta 2024

Planning is currently underway for our next harp festival, which will be held in An Grianán, Termonfeckin, Co. Louth from 30th June - 5th July 2024. Stay tuned on our [website](#) and social media for updates.

Instagram: [cairde_na_cruite](#) | Facebook: [Cairde Na Cruite](#) | Twitter: [@CCIHf](#)



Cairde na Cruite



An Chúirt Chruitireachta International Festival *for* Irish Harp

30th June - 5th July 2024
An Grianán, Termonfeckin,
Co Louth









Cairde na Cruite Lá na Cruite | Harp Day Concert

Pearse Museum, St. Enda's Park, Rathfarnham, Dublin, 21st October 2023



Cairde na Cruite's open call to performers produced a concert with a different flavour to celebrate Harp Day 2023. Autumn leaves fell in the magnificent gardens of St. Enda's Park as harpers performed a diverse programme on both Irish and pedal harps including works by Thomas, Hasselmans, Andrés, Henson Conant, Wagner and some traditional Irish tunes to add spice to the mix. Heartfelt

thanks to the players Jane Sun, Saoirse Pu, Ruby McMahon, Conor O'Brien and Giulio Bryant.

A feast of harping from outstanding young harpers was warmly and enthusiastically acknowledged by a packed audience celebrating Harp Day 2023.

Áine Ní Dhubhghaill



Scéim Ligin Cruite

Cairde na Cruite are delighted to have purchased two 26 string harps in November 2023. There is an increasing demand for harp rental which is primarily provided for beginner students in Ireland. All donations of harps in any condition are welcome.

Contact Áine at 087 2629136 or email cairdenacruite@gmail.com with any enquiries. Prospective harpers can find information about how to rent a harp [here](#).

Áine Ní Dhubhghaill



Harp Hire

Congratulations



Dr Clare McCague

Congratulations to concert harpist and researcher **Dr Clare McCague** who has received the annual **Society for Musicology in Ireland** post-doctoral fellowship in recognition of her continuing research into the nineteenth-century Irish pedal harp tradition. Although Clare has done extensive research on the origins and development of the pedal harp tradition in Ireland and the repertoire of Irish significance, her current research is exclusively focused on the life, career and repertoire of Ireland's most successful pedal harpist of the era, Boleyne Reeves (1820-1905). Clare has recently initiated the recording of Reeves' impressive

catalogue of solo harp repertoire and songs. She was delighted to work with Laoise O'Brien and Ben Rawlins for her debut album, recorded in Calary Church, Co. Wicklow in October 2023. Featuring the first recording of Reeves' *Pastorals for Harp Opus 12* - among other Irish pedal harp treasures - this album will be released in 2024.

Congratulations to Fiana Ní Chonaill who was recently awarded the **Ashling Murphy Scholarship in Research at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2023**. Fiana's forthcoming research will focus on historical harpers and explore their connection with Limerick and the impact of their music on Limerick's cultural landscape.



Fiana Ní Chonaill receives the award from Ashling Murphy's father Ray Murphy and mother Kathleen.

Céiliúradh Bunting

Eilís Lavelle explores online access to Edward Bunting's collection

Introduction

2023 marks the 250th year of the birth of music collector Edward Bunting. Bunting is celebrated as one of the leading collectors, having preserved one of the largest collections of Irish traditional music. With over fifty manuscripts, Bunting's collection is housed in the **Special Collections and Archives at Queen's University, Belfast (QUB)**. This article celebrates the influence of Edward Bunting and his music through his legacy as a collector by focusing on the availability of his material and shining a light on available online sources to access some of the material in the collection. Many performers and scholars have focused on various aspects of Bunting's work and this article aims to let readers learn of some of the existing scholarship and research concentrating on Edward Bunting's collection.¹

Background

Edward Bunting was born in Armagh in 1773 and was raised surrounded by music. Edward, along with his older brother Anthony, were educated on the organ from a young age. Demonstrating great promise on the organ, by the age of eleven he was asked to move to Belfast and become apprentice to William Ware, the organist at St.



Edward Bunting

Anne's Cathedral. In Belfast, Edward Bunting flourished and quickly became immersed in the musical life Belfast City had to offer at the time. Bunting became involved in the organisation of concerts and performances during his role in St.

¹ Not all material associated with Edward Bunting's manuscripts will be examined or mentioned here. We would need an entire book to get through and mention all of the invaluable work undertaken which focuses on Edward Bunting. For the purpose of this article, online material is the focus.



Sample of a page from Edward Bunting's notation from his Special Collections and Archive at Queen's University Belfast

Anne's Cathedral. At the age of nineteen Edward Bunting was invited to notate music from harpers at the Belfast Assembly, held in the Exchange Rooms in July 1792. In total, eleven harpers attended the event and Bunting attempted to notate music exactly as performed by the harpers at the festival. The Belfast Assembly marked Bunting's first known introduction to the music of the harpers and the beginning of his future as a collector of traditional Irish music.

For the remainder of his life, Edward Bunting collected and notated music from a range of musicians, with a particular focus on the music of the harpers. During his lifetime, Bunting published

three volumes of work for the piano: *A General Collection of the Ancient Irish Music* in 1796, *A General Collection of the Ancient Music of Ireland* in 1809, and *The Ancient Music of Ireland* in 1840. The source material for the three publications can be found in Bunting's unpublished manuscripts. Following his death in 1843, Bunting's collection was forgotten in the public domain, until it was discovered by Charlotte Milligan Fox. Milligan Fox later donated her findings to the **Special Collections and Archives at Queen's University Belfast (QUB)** in 1916, following her passing. The remainder of the collection housed in QUB was purchased by the university from a granddaughter of Edward Bunting, Lady Florence Deane in 1917.

Unpublished manuscripts

The unpublished manuscript collection holds approximately 250 items, with a wide range of material including music notation, notes, correspondence, songs (in both English and Irish), publications, memoirs, and material notated by numerous handwritings. The inventory of Edward Bunting's collection can be found [here](#).

Many developments have occurred since Bunting notated the music from the harpers at the Belfast Assembly in 1792. Most recently, the library in QUB has been digitising manuscripts found in the Edward Bunting collection and is in the process of uploading these to their website: <https://digital-library.qub.ac.uk/digital/collection/p15979coll9/search>. MS4/29 is among the manuscripts currently available to view online, with others being added continually. MS4/29 was Bunting's first manuscript, where his earliest notations from the Belfast Assembly in 1792 can be found. You will see that some entries in this manuscript are more difficult to decipher than others, and scholars and performers alike have spent a great

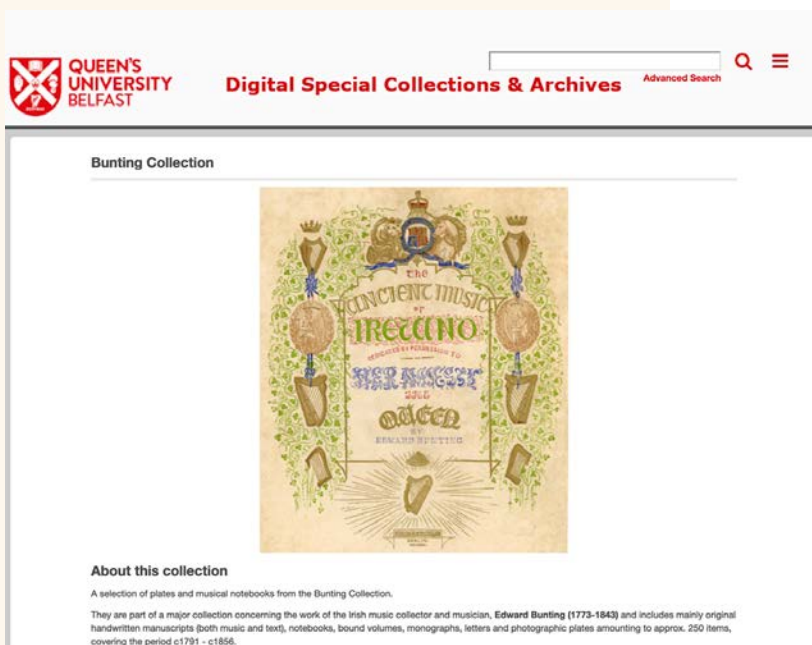
deal of energy and time trying to piece together the notations found in this manuscript.² Other listings available to view online are some of Patrick Lynch's notebooks. Patrick Lynch was an Irish scholar during Bunting's lifetime who collected the greatest number of song lyrics found in the collection. Some (not all) of Lynch's notebooks are available to view online. Other listings include the memoirs of the harper Arthur O'Neill. This listing MS4/46 recounts his experiences and memoirs in a diary-like format, all written down by Thomas Hughes, Edward Bunting's copyist.

Other online links

A useful link to explore Bunting's three publications is the Wire Strung Harp website, <https://wirestrungharp.com/>. Here, the three publications: **A General Collection of the Ancient Irish Music**, **A General Collection of the Ancient Music of Ireland** and **The Ancient Music of Ireland** can be examined and viewed. This is a fantastic resource if you don't have access to the printed versions of the publications. This website holds a wealth of information about

the wire-strung harp with material available on all things to do with the instrument, from historic performers (many from whom Bunting collected), to a catalogue of resources, to the story of the revival of the wire-strung harp.

Another informative website is <https://simonchadwick.net/> where information on Irish harpers and their lineage of tradition can be explored. Chadwick also examines notations from live performances, with many of his examples taken from Bunting's




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Bunting Collection



About this collection

A selection of plates and musical notebooks from the Bunting Collection.

They are part of a major collection concerning the work of the Irish music collector and musician, Edward Bunting (1773-1843) and includes mainly original handwritten manuscripts (both music and text), notebooks, bound volumes, monographs, letters and photographic plates amounting to approx. 250 items, covering the period c1791 - c1856.

2 See studies and performances by Siobhán Armstrong, Ann Heymann, Simon Chadwick and Sylvia Crawford to name a few examples.



Simon Chadwick's lecture on Edward Bunting for Harp Ireland notations. Chadwick incorporates a tune list spreadsheet on the website providing information on live transcriptions, most of which are found in MS4/29 of Bunting's collection, in Edward Bunting's handwriting. This spreadsheet links Bunting's earliest transcriptions to his published version of the tune where possible.

In a recent project, **Music Network** and the **Irish Traditional Music Archive** gathered ten harpers to record music and melodies published in Edward Bunting's first publication: <https://www.itma.ie/?s=edward+bunting+digital+harp+collection>. In this project, Bunting's notated music was brought to life through the recording of ten harpers who learned Bunting's versions of tunes from his first publication in 1796.

Sylvia Crawford has compiled information on harpers in the Oriel region on the website: <https://www.orielarts.com/harp/>.³ Readers can undertake a focused search on some of the harpers from whom Edward Bunting notated (Patrick Byrne for example, who hailed from Co. Monaghan). On this website, Crawford has incorporated YouTube clips of her



performing some of the music notated by Bunting from harpists of the Oriel region. This is a fantastic resource for anyone interested in music from a specific region.

Conclusion

Websites like these are invaluable for people to connect and to access music found in Bunting's collection, particularly his unpublished manuscripts. They are developed through the trojan work of their authors and compilers, making it more straightforward to observe and access some of Bunting's work.

This article attempts to highlight and celebrate the influence of Bunting by drawing attention to some of the wide range of material and sources available for harpers today. Of course, this list does not include all resources available, rather it gives readers an insight into what is accessible. There is no doubt that the world of harp music and performance has gone from strength to strength since Edward Bunting began notating music from harpers at the Belfast Assembly in 1792.

Sylvia Crawford's performance on the Oriel Arts website

³ The Oriel region (Oirialla), spans through areas in the counties Monaghan, Louth, Fermanagh, Tyrone and Armagh.

Highlights from the Harping Calendar Launch of Young Harpers' Forum

For some time now, it has been clear to us that the younger generation of Irish harpers needs a platform to raise their voices and share their inspiring new ideas about harping with other, like-minded harpers of their age.

During the summer of 2023, Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland initiated a survey/questionnaire providing an opportunity for harpers aged between 12 and 25 to tell us more about their harping journeys, and what they would like to see for the future of harping in Ireland. We received many responses and very interesting ideas from a large number of harpers.



As the dust settled after our largest Lá na Cruite | Harp Day celebration to date, it was time to have the first meeting of the Young Harpers' Forum. Our first online gathering took place on Wednesday 15th November. Around forty young harpers aged between 12 and 25 gathered together to hear more about the work of Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland. These harpers logged on from Derry, Dublin, Kerry, Laois and right across Ireland - we covered almost every county! They were further inspired by the appearance of our mystery guest - renowned harper Lisa Canny from Co. Mayo who joined in live from Stuttgart, Germany where

she was on tour. Lisa enthralled the young harpers with anecdotes about her harping journey, how she has ended up collaborating with gospel choirs and rap artists, and how her harp is at the heart of her creative work.

CÉHI's Young Harpers' Forum will meet again and have some exciting projects in the pipeline for 2024 including the **Sugar Club Harp Sessions** which begins on the 11th January with the fabulous

BRÍDÍN and continues throughout 2024 with an amazing line-up of young harpers, including Aisling Lyons with her band **HARPANNO** in March at the Sugar Club, Leeson Street, Dublin.

If you know someone who would like to join Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland's Young Harpers' Forum, please email us at info@harpireland.ie

Cruit Éireann, Harp Ireland

The Sugar Club Harp Sessions

HARPANNO
with Aisling Lyons

Thurs 28 March
Doors 7.30pm, concert 8pm | Tickets €25 (€18 cons.)

Tickets at [eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.ie).ie

Logos: **HARP IRELAND**, **CRUIT ÉIREANN**, **arts council funding traditional arts**, **An Chomhairle Oidhreacht The Heritage Council**

Harp at Scoil Samhradh Willie Clancy 2023



Kathleen Loughnane, Co-ordinator of Harp Classes at Scoil Samhradh Willie Clancy

I left Termonfeckin on 30th June having participated in a splendid Cairde Na Cruite festival, with its wonderful energy and focus on teaching, friendship and a concert line-up of remarkable and talented harpers.

The following day, without unpacking my bags, I headed to Miltown Malbay for the annual Scoil Samhradh Willie Clancy. Having co-ordinated the harp classes for the previous 17 years, I was delighted to meet and plan with the festival organisers, Harry Hughes, Séamus Ó Rócháin, Éamon McGivney and Deirdre Comber.

The number of students enrolling for harp classes has increased steadily over the period, reaching

a record attendance of almost 50 this year. Particularly gratifying is the significant increase in the number of students from Ireland, whilst the flow of students from mainland Europe, Australia, the US and the UK remains steady.



Paul Dooley (early Irish harp) performed a duet with Kseniya Rusnak on Ukrainian bandura

Harping has certainly flourished at the Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy, with the Monday evening Harp Concert, which showcases the talent of the distinguished teaching panel, drawing a full and appreciative attendance each year. We have always welcomed an unexpected harp guest, and this year featured a duet from Paul Dooley on harp and Kseniya Rusnak on bandura, playing music from Ireland and from Kseniya's native Ukraine.



Aisling Lyons performed at the SSWC harp recital on Monday afternoon

A highlight of the week was the tribute to Mary Bergin, musician, tutor, recording artist and member of Dordán. Aibhlín Mc Crann gave a fitting account of Mary's remarkable career and shared some amusing anecdotes of their time in Ceoltoirí Laighean. Mary also invited Dearbhaill

Standún and myself to play some tunes from the Dordán repertoire.



Mary Bergin honoured at SSWC 2023

Inspired by the legacy of Willie Clancy, who died in 1973 – a half century ago – the Scoil Samhraidh continues to host and celebrate the best of our traditional musicians, who provide excellent tuition and inspiration to young and old over the week-long festival. Regional styles, lively conversations, a love of tradition and a sense of carnival is ever-present throughout the week.

Over the years, the regular teaching panel has consisted of Máire Ní Chathasaigh, Laoise Kelly, Gráinne Hambly, Cormac de Barra, Aisling Lyons, Paul Dooley and Kathleen Loughnane. When occasion demanded, these have been substituted/augmented with guest tutors who include Holly Geraghty, Úna Ní Fhlannagáin, Catriona Cannon, Deirdre Granville and Noreen O'Donohue.

Kathleen Loughnane



Tionól Harp + Pipes 2023

Harpers and uilleann pipers at Tionól 2023 with musicians from Music Generation

Over 175 musicians took part in this year's Tionól Harp and Pipes!

Music Generation Laois' annual Tionól Harp and Pipes took place from 3rd to 5th November in Portlaoise and Stradbally. The festival attracts young musicians from all over Ireland. This year's

Tionól included a group of young harp players, 'Claasach' from The Isle of Man, under the direction of Scottish harper, Rachel Hair.





The Spirit of Laois Suite a new album of harp music composed by Michael Rooney, directed by Siobhan Buckley, and performed by Siobhan, Michael and the Music Generation Laois Senior Harp Ensemble had its Irish launch at Tionól '23

Young musicians travel to Laois from all over Ireland to take part in the festival across 3 days in November each year. Highlights from the 2023 festival included the world premiere of a brand new suite of music to celebrate 10 years of Music Generation Laois, *The Tionól Suite* composed by Ernestine Healy. Another highlight for Tionól 2023 was the Irish launch of *The Spirit of Laois Suite* a new album of harp music composed by Michael Rooney, directed by Siobhan Buckley, and performed by Siobhan, Michael and the Music Generation Laois Senior Harp Ensemble. This album was first launched in Japan in August 2023.

Tionól Harp and Pipes 2023 festival first started in 2016 as Music Generation Laois recognised the interest and significant expansion of their harp and pipe programmes in the county and wanted to provide an annual event to celebrate and nurture this development.

Speaking after the festival, Rosa Flannery, Music Development Officer with Music Generation

Laois said, 'Tionól 2023 was our most ambitious Tionól to date. Over 175 musicians took part in our premiere of *The Tionól Suite*, by Mayo composer Ernestine Healy on Saturday evening, 4th November. This very special performance marked 10 years of Music Generation Laois.'



Rosa Flannery, Music Development Officer, Music Generation Laois

Tionól 2023 included harpers and pipers from Music Generation programmes in Sligo, Offaly, Cavan-Monaghan, Clare, Louth, Mayo, Waterford and Laois, as well as a group from The Isle of Man. Tionól was established to create



Tionól 2023 included a group of young harp players, 'Claasach' from the Isle of Man, under the direction of Scottish harper, Rachel Hair

an outlet for young harpers and pipers in Music Generation Laois, and throughout Ireland.

Tionól Harp and Pipes is supported by the Music Generation / Arts Council Partnership Creativity and Collaboration Fund. Music Generation Laois is part of Music Generation, Ireland's national music education programme, co-funded by

U2, The Ireland Funds and the Department of Education. Locally Music Generation Laois is part of Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board and supported by Laois County Council.

Rosa Flannery
Music Development Officer
Music Generation Laois





Fairy Harp *Ceol Sí*

Library Recital Tour 2023 | Aisling Ennis

Fairy Harp Ceol Sí is an hour long harp concert that explores the 19th-century obsession with all things fairy through the lens of European Art Music and our own ancient Irish culture and lore. It features a selection of poetry, fairy stories and fairy harp music in an informal but very informative style by harpist Aisling Ennis. After an extensive research and development period, which included research in the Irish Traditional Music Archive and the National Library of Ireland, the recital visited all 13 library branches in County Wicklow as well as a number of residential care settings and a lecture recital presentation to UCD Folklore Department.

The recital tour reached an estimated 600 audience members with an average of 40 attendees in larger branches (Bray, Arklow, Wicklow, Aughrim) and

capacity audiences in most other branches. All recitals were free entry and funded via Wicklow County Council Strategic Project Funding. It provided an opportunity for people to experience music of the highest calibre at the most local and accessible level.

“... that little girl might well grow up to be a harpist as a result of the recital today. She was awe-struck for the entire concert. An amazing thing to witness.”

The nature of the library environment allowed for several impactful, organic, first time music experiences for young members of the public:

A class of young school girls arrived unexpectedly into the library (Rathdrum) causing quite a racket at first. One girl, on seeing the big golden harp became transfixed and sat in awe for the remainder of the recital. She brushed away her friends who tried to convince her to go select a book with them and sat wide-eyed listening to the fairy music until



The scene is set at Dunlavin Library, Co Wicklow

her teacher came over to explain that the class really had to go back to their school. An audience member commented after this recital: “that little girl might well grow up to be a harpist as a result of the recital today. She was awe-struck for the entire concert. An amazing thing to witness.”

For many audience members, the concerts represented their first time coming into contact with the large concert harp and learning about the important connection between the harp and our Irish fairy lore and culture.

The role of Wicklow Library Services in communicating the recitals through social media was hugely beneficial to audience numbers. Librarians who actively promoted the concerts locally and online enjoyed capacity/standing room only audiences, demonstrating the countywide appetite for culture at a very local level.

Fairy Harp Ceol Sí provided Aisling Ennis with an opportunity to dive deep into this fascinating and enormous sub genre and to explore her artistry on the Irish harp and the concert harp. It has led to future projects which will see her return to the National Library of Ireland in collaboration with UCD Folklore Department as well as creating a bespoke childrens’ presentation of *Fairy Harp Ceol Sí* in 2024. There is a big appetite for informal recitals of the highest calibre throughout the library network and an opportunity for artists to present work at a local level in an ongoing manner.



Dunlavin Library, 22nd September 2023



Bray Library, 5th October 2023



Aisling Lyons | This Year's Recap

2023 was a year of collaboration, exploration and composition in different forms for Clare harpist, Aisling Lyons. During the year, Aisling created new pieces of work with different bands, poets, storytellers and even played for some animal species along the way...



Aisling performing at the Templebar Trad Fest in January 2023

Aisling performed a sold-out solo harp concert at Templebar Trad Fest, performed on *The Late Late Show* 'Trad Fest' special, performed with Clare Sands on TG4's 'Buille', performed on Lorcan Murray's RTÉ Lyric FM's programme for Culture

Night, supported Frankie Gavin at the Russell Weekend in Doolin with accompanist Alan Reid, taught at Imbolc International Festival in Derry,



Aisling teaching at the Imbolc Festival in Derry

Féile Chois Cuain (Louisburgh, Co. Mayo), Belfast Trad Festival, Somerset Harp Festival (U.S.A), Keadue O'Carolan Harp Festival, Milwaukee Irish Fest (U.S.A) and Proitzer Muele (Germany). Aisling performed at Milwaukee Irish Fest with



Aisling and her brother Seán Lyons performing as 'Merfolk'

her new band 'Merfolk'; with Seán Lyons & Dermot Sheedy. They released their first single the same week called 'The Ballad of Killone' which tells the story of a mythical mermaid who haunts Newhall lake after stealing wine from the cellar of

the baron of Killone. Aisling and her brother Seán also played for President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins for the first time at Arás an Uachtaráin which was a huge honour for the Newmarket-on-Fergus siblings.

Aisling released an album with her band Harpanno in April; a band which fuses harp together with the handpan and piano. They embarked on an Irish Spring tour and performed at Doolin Folk Fest, Ahakista (West Cork), Cornstown House (in Meath where they played to a family of lovely alpacas!), Melody (Limerick), Whelans (Dublin), Galway Aquarium, Cork Opera House, The Guinness Storehouse and at the Dunamais Arts Centre (Portlaoise).



Aisling and Kseniya Rusnak performing at glór, Ennis, on Lá na Cruite | Harp Day in October 2023 (Photos John O'Neill)

The month of October was packed with new and interesting collaborations. Aisling created a musical soundscape to accompany live sold-out shows for seanachaí, storyteller and musician; Andrais de Staic during his Irish tour ‘By the Light of the Silvery Moon’.

To celebrate 250 years since the birth of Edward Bunting, Aisling was commissioned by Crúit



Aisling and Aosdána poet Moya Cannon performing at the Lá na Cruite | Harp Day Gala Concert in the Pepper Canister Church, Dublin’

Éireann | Harp Ireland (CÉHI) to compose a new piece of music with Aosdána poet Moya Cannon. This new piece *Bunting’s Honey* was performed by Aisling and Moya at Bunting’s grave and also at the Lá na Cruite | Harp Day Gala Concert in the Pepper Canister Church, Dublin. One final collaboration which took place during this month was with Kseniya Rusnak, Ukrainian Bandura player. Aisling and Kseniya received funding from Creative Ireland and Clare Arts Office to create new compositions based on the similarities between Irish and Ukrainian cultures. This concert took place on Harp Day in glór, Ennis and was also supported by CÉHI.

Aisling brings a busy 2023 to a close with a Christmas tour of Germany with musicians Muireann Ní Shé, Colm Broderick, Danny Collins, Eimear Coughlan and Becky Ní Eallaithe.

Aisling Lyons

Below: Aisling and poet Moya Cannon at Bunting’s grave in Mount Jerome Cemetery in Dublin as part of Lá na Cruite | Harp Day



Niamh O'Brien & Aisling Urwin

This Year's Recap



Niamh and Aisling at Ionad Cultúrtha Baile Mhúirne as part of the Music Network 'Resonate' residency programme

Niamh O'Brien and Aisling Urwin are a duo of harpers from the Southwest of Ireland. Their music is rooted in the Irish tradition but has expanded throughout their careers to include world, contemporary, original, folk and electronic influences.

In 2021, after doing some performances together for Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland's Lá na Cruite, they decided to embark upon a duo project. Aisling and Niamh believe there is something unique and wonderful in the sound of two harps playing together. Harpers so often play solo, so it has been exciting for them to play and arrange together. They combine their own individual styles of playing, the particular complexities of their harps which come from different makers,

‘During this time, they composed a new body of work inspired by the Irish landscape and how it shapes their music.’

and their voices, as they are both singers. They are deeply passionate about the harp, its community and its rich history.

Niamh and Aisling were given the opportunity to undertake a residency this year at the Ionad Cultúrtha in Ballyvourney as part of the Music Network 'Resonate' residency programme. During this time, they composed a new body of work inspired by the Irish landscape and how it shapes their music.

This duo project, 'place', is a nod to harpers of the past as journeys through place were strong presences in their music. They also spent time in the Irish Traditional Music Archive collecting old material with the aim of making new innovative arrangements for two harps, celebrating the idea of a community of harpers. Both of them have benefited greatly from the support and creative inspiration provided by fellow harpers. The duo collaborated with visual artist Colm O'Neill as part of the residency. Colm's thoughtful and immersive artwork, creative projections and

whimsical set design added a whole other layer of meaning, emphasising 'place,' and was exhibited during Niamh and Aisling's final performance at the Ionad, marking the end of their residency.

The duo were also awarded a residency at the Tyrone Guthrie centre by Harp Ireland which will start in January 2024. They will use this time to further develop their collaborative work and to begin recording their compositions with the goal of making an EP inspired by the landscape around their home places.



Niamh and Aisling collaborated with visual artist Colm O'Neill as part of the residency at Ionad Cultúrtha Baile Mhúirne



Ellen Gibling This Year's Recap

Ellen Gibling is a harpist in Halifax, Canada. She studied classical harp in Montreal and spent a year in Ireland studying Irish traditional music at UL. She had a wonderful time attending the Cairde na Cruite summer school in 2019. Here are a few of Ellen's favourite events from her year playing harp on Canada's east coast!

Ellen plays with folk duo **The Bombadils** which released the album *Dear Friend* in January. It's a collection of heartfelt songs which are love letters to family, friends, cities, and landscapes. The band was very active in 2023, sharing the record through playing shows and filming music videos for each track.

In February, Ellen played a free sensory accessible concert, presented by Cecilia Concerts and led by pianist, Jennifer King, and music therapist, Anna Plaskett. These concerts are carefully designed to be inclusive, accommodating, and enjoyable for everyone, including autistic, neurodivergent, and intellectually disabled community members of all ages. Ellen played pedal, lever, and mini cross-strung harp solos and a piano-harp duet with Jennifer.

Ellen belongs to an interdisciplinary artistic community called the Creative Music Workshop that organises a week-long summer intensive and regular events



A cast of 12 musicians and dancers performed in *Where Dance and Music Meet*. Photo Kevin MacCormack, courtesy of Mocean Dance



The Bombadils - *Tell Me I'm Not Dreaming*



Ellen leads a workshop at the Huron Harp Festival in Goderich, Ontario, Canada. Photo: Crystal Brennan

throughout the year. In the spring, performers from that community put on a show called *Where Dance and Music Meet* directed by Susanne Chui. The show blurred the boundaries between dancer and musician and included a quartet where Ellen played pedal harp with two dancers and a percussionist.

Since 2017, Ellen has been a member of New Hermitage, an ambient improvising quintet of cello, saxophone, electric guitar, harp, and

percussion. In April, the band played in an installation at the public library called 'Fictional Music' by Tom Richards. Groups of musicians were placed on four floors of the library, connected sonically through a central atrium. The groups played pieces synched up with a clock - some very closely related to each other and some more loosely linked. The audience created their own unique blend of sounds by travelling throughout the library!



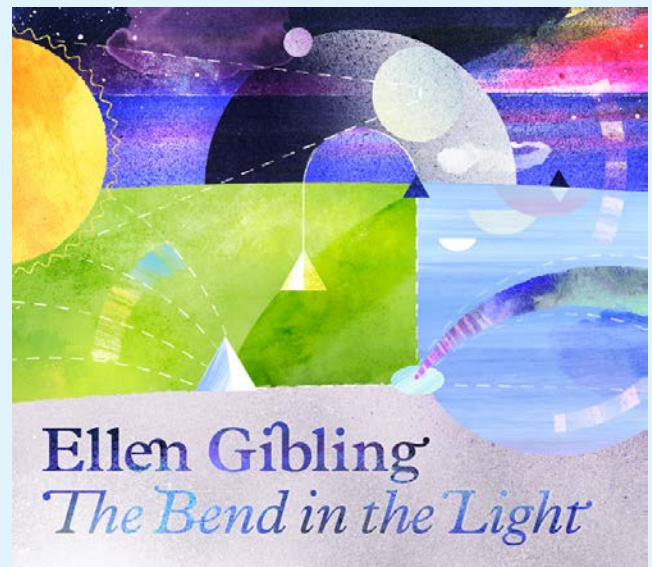
Ellen's harp students pose for a group photo after their spring recital at the Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts



A week of recording in a church with a new large ensemble, Scions. Photo: Jamie Kronick

This fall, Ellen was thrilled to travel to the Huron Harp Festival in Goderich, Ontario for the first time. There, she led workshops on relaxation, ensemble playing, graphic scores, and tune accompaniment, and performed new tunes written by composers in Nova Scotia, along with five brilliant fellow faculty members. Goderich is an exciting hub of community-minded harp activity thanks to the leadership of Sharon Johnston and many volunteers.

Ellen was delighted that her solo album *The Bend in the Light*, was nominated for a Canadian Folk Music Award in 2023!



Ellen is looking forward to new adventures in 2024 including composing for a dance and circus parody of the Wizard of Oz, and premiering a harp concerto by Jeff Reilly with Symphony Nova Scotia in January.



Audience members were excited to come and meet the harps after the Sensory Accessible Concert at the library. Photo: Cecilia Concerts

Emer Ní Scolaí This Year's Recap

During the Spring and Summer months, Emer Ní Scolaí played solo and with her group Sult which includes her sisters Caoilfhionn on concertina and Sorcha on uilleann pipes and vocals.



Emer played in Áras an Uachtaráin for President Michael D. Higgins

Four performances were particularly eventful. Emer played in Áras an Uachtaráin for President Michael D. Higgins and guests during a Labour Movement celebration in May.

Earlier in the Spring Emer, along with Siobhán Bhreathnach, Áine Martin, Noreen O'Donoghue, Fiona Gryson and Alannah Thornburgh participated, with much acclaim, at the Skerries Tradfest Harp Recital and then with her group, Emer went on to headline the General Liam Mellows Centenary Concert held in Fermoy Co. Cork.

The highlight of the Summer, however, was taking to the main stage at Doolin Folk Festival with Sult. The group's set was a homage to many of the great Clare musicians and featured song, airs and dance tunes of old.

Emer is currently studying Chemistry in UCD, and has been fortunate to take a music elective with Dónal Lunny. Here she has had the opportunity to further develop some of her own compositions. We hope to see some of these compositions performed in the near future.

Emer playing at the Doolin Folk Festival





Gráinne Meyer This Year's Recap

Harps Alive Ensemble Belfast 2023

Wales International World Music Competition

In April this year, Gráinne took part in the World Music Competition at the Wales International Harp festival and was awarded first place by judges Parker Ramsay, Li Lan Liao and Pwyll ap Sion who commented that the performance showed an “evolved and multidimensional approach to melody”. The competition involved two rounds where a wide variety of musical traditions were represented, including Tara Viscardi and Robert Harvey, whose duo was awarded 3rd place. Gráinne plans to use the award to fund a recording project in 2024.

Harp Ireland Commission

Gráinne was commissioned to arrange a piece

of music to be performed by TU Dublin Harp Ensemble and the Elver Harp Ensemble at the Harps Alive festival 2023 at both the Belfast and Dublin gala concerts. The piece is based around ‘Trigger’s Lament’ by Brian Finnegan and ‘The Crosskeys’ by Stevie Dunne. Having previously written for each ensemble separately, the piece was tailored to the ensemble’s styles and allowed for improvised elements to encourage the groups to listen and grow with each other.

Eascair Trio

The newly formed harp trio Eascair (Fiona Gryson, Méabh McKenna and Gráinne Meyer) had their début performance at Cornstown House in August of this year. The group’s sound is rooted in traditional melodies shared and explored in

contemporary arrangements. The group has plans to continue developing their unique and organic approach in the coming months.

Duo with Scott Flannigan

Since March of this year, Gráinne and renowned jazz pianist Scott Flannigan have been working on a unique project combining the melodies of traditional music with improvised accompaniments and ideas inspired by jazz. They debuted the project at the Hollywood Creative Festival and plan to develop this further in 2024.

Moving on Music *FreeTime* Project

Over the last couple of months, Gráinne has had the opportunity to take part in Moving On Music's ongoing *FreeTime* project which has brought together a group of women to workshop and build skills in jazz and improvisation under the guidance of saxophonist Meilana Gillard.



Eascair (Fiona Gryson, Gráinne Meyer and Méabh McKenna)

The project has provided a platform to perform with the backing of a jazz band and the freedom to experiment with new ideas that will be further explored in 2024.

Gráinne took part in the World Music Competition at the Wales International Harp festival and was awarded first place by judges Parker Ramsay, Li Lan Liao and Pwyll ap Sion



Tara Viscardi This Year's Recap



Nobody's Jig at *Little Things in Odd Shapes* baroque series

It has been a busy Autumn with the launch of saxophonist Robert Finegan and my début EP *Uncovered Roots*, supported by a kickstarter campaign and the Bloomsbury Institute. The EP features folk music from Ireland and the UK in different contexts: music by Turlough Carolan, Eithne Ní Uallacháin, David Owen and traditional tunes with arrangements by John Buckley, Benjamin Britten and ourselves. We launched at the Art Workers Guild as part of the Bloomsbury Festival in London in October as well as at the Oriel Centre in Dundalk in November, where prints of artwork by Claudio Viscardi and Ken Finegan (our dads!) were available to purchase with QR codes which link to the music. These are available via Bandcamp [Uncovered Roots | Finegan Viscardi Duo \(bandcamp.com\)](#) and the

music is streaming on all major platforms. A new commission 'The Jolly Figs' by the wonderful Anne-Marie O'Farrell was also showcased as part of the project, commissioned with support from the RCM Accelerate Scheme.

In November, I recorded an album of music entitled BEARA with traditional flute player Dr Robery Harvey, comprising original compositions inspired by the Beara Peninsula as well as traditional music written by the Dwyer family of Eyeries, and tunes from the Goodman Collection and O'Neill's Music of Ireland. It meant so much to be able to record this music in Dawros Church on the peninsula, in the parish in which I grew up, in the very experienced hands of producer

Nobodys Jig Family Concert - *Shining the Spotlight* at Wigmore Hall, London





Robert Finegan, Tara Viscardi and Anne-Marie O'Farrell at London launch of EP *Uncovered Roots* as part of the Bloomsbury Festival, UK

Laoise O' Brien and engineer Ben Rawlins. Having presented the project at the 14th World Harp Congress Cardiff (generously supported by Culture Ireland), the Wales International Harp Festival 2023 and The Return to London Town Festival 2023, we're very much looking forward to releasing and sharing this music in April next year!

I recently accompanied countertenor Hugh Cutting for a programme of Shakespeare Song in the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse of the Globe Theatre for the BBC's launch of their 'Shakespeare Focus', celebrating the 400-year anniversary of the publication of Shakespeare's First Folio. This was an incredible event to be a part of and the atmosphere in the theatre was truly magical, with real candles hanging in four chandeliers above the stage! I will accompany Hugh for a BBC Radio 3 lunchtime concert at Wigmore Hall next summer which we're both very much looking forward to!

My early music/folk group **Nobody's Jig** were busy this summer with performances at Wigmore Hall for a series of school and family concerts which explored women's contribution to the 17th century stage through the music and song

of the period. We also performed at the Royal Academy of Music Museum and the *Little Things in Odd Shapes* Baroque series near the beautiful Hampstead Heath. I have been very fortunate to be mentored by the wonderful Dr Siobhán Armstrong on Italian baroque triple harp this past year with support from an Agility Award from the Arts Council of Ireland, and have been enjoying getting to know this beautiful and unique instrument.`

Nobody's Jig were also extremely fortunate to perform at the **Ceiliúradh Bunting 250 Concert** at the **Cairde na Cruite International Harp Festival** this summer, brilliantly curated by Fiona Gryson and Rachel Duffy. It was an honour to perform alongside so many incredible harpers at the festival. Thank you to Rachel and Fiona for all their hard work in compiling *An Cruitime* again this year!

Tara Viscardi and Hugh Cutting at the Sam Wanamaker Theatre for BBC Shakespeare Focus event



Harrington Harps This Year's Recap



Kevin Harrington

Another year draws to a close at the Harrington Harps workshop. A better year than the previous few in many ways, where we saw the first full year of the return to music festivals and exhibitions in person.

These are so important to instrument makers like Kevin Harrington who operate entirely on their own, toiling away in their workshops with only their chisels, saws and drills for company. It's good to be reminded that there's a whole world out there of people that play these instruments and also to catch up with other harp makers and kick the tyres of their harps (metaphorically, sometimes).

The world is settling down in some ways, while continuing to go mad in other ways, so supply chain issues are behaving likewise. Most suppliers are back to stocking the materials needed to make these harps again, while others are demanding arms and legs and some are almost offended that you're asking at all.

Over the course of the summer some significant changes were made to the design of the Harrington Harp, the most important being the overall size of the harp. After listening to a lot of very helpful feedback it was decided to make some adjustments to the harp's dimensions to make it more comfortable for a broader spectrum of harpers. This was quite a challenge as the sound quality cannot be compromised, and every hour that's spent on redesigning and making new jigs and fixtures is an hour not spent working on a customer's harp.

It took about a month. But when all was said and done and the harp making began in earnest again it was clear that it was worth it.

Earlier this year unfortunately saw the closure of McCullough Piggotts in Dublin, and Joe Lynch's along with it. Apart from the obvious sadness of seeing yet another brick-and-mortar music shop closing its doors, Joe Lynch's was a great place to buy harp strings and Trish Lynch was always very helpful. With their closure there's a huge gap in the market for purchasing strings from someone who knows the ins and outs of Irish harps.

Kevin doesn't mind sending out the odd string or two and anyone who has bought a Harrington harp will know that payment is rarely requested. If there's any enterprising young harper out there, some sort of online harp string shop would be a great service to the Irish harping community. Kevin is far too long in the tooth to be getting his head around the internet and too busy cutting



Camille Heffernan and Lucy Bampton with their Harrington Harps at Russborough House on Harp Day

lumps of wood into funny shapes and chatting to his chisels, saws and drills...

Kevin Harrington



Behind the scenes of Kevin Harrington's workshop

Music on the Farm Concert Series

At 3pm on the first Sunday of each month from March to December 2023, audiences and musicians were welcomed to the third year of the *Music on the Farm* concert series held at Cornstown House.



Alfi perform at Music on the Farm at Cornstown House

This year, the concerts took place in a newly renovated farm building which was originally built in the early 1700s. Before and after each concert, audiences were once more encouraged to greet the friendly animals of all shapes and sizes around the farm and enjoy some beverages and tasty treats from the coffee hut.

Curated by Fiona Gryson in association with Dominic and Fionnuala Gryson, the 2023 programme featured fantastic performances by the Vicelt singers with vocalists Daithí Ó Nuanáin, Rachel Nic Thomás, Sorcha O'Regan in March, Harpanno with Aisling Lyons (harp), Dale McKay (handpan) and Conor Broderick (piano) in April, Róisín Ward Morrow (fiddle and vocals),



Scott Flanigan

Breifne Holohan (guitar) in May, Máire Ní Chaoimh (fiddle), Aoife Ní Chaoimh (fiddle) and Róisín O'Connor (fiddle) joined by Fiona Gryson (harp) in June, a harp ensemble extravaganza featuring Bray CCÉ ensemble directed by Rachel Duffy, Elver ensemble directed by Gráinne Meyer, and TU Dublin ensemble co-directed by Rachel Duffy and Fiona Gryson in July, Fiona Gryson (harp) in August, Alfi with Alannah Thornburgh (harp and vocals), Fiachra Meek (uilleann pipes, bodhran, vocals, whistles), Ryan McAuley (banjo, fiddle and vocals) in September, Scott Flanigan (jazz piano) supported by Jaymee Martin (harp and fiddle), Ryan Martin (harp) and Kayla Martin (harp) in October, Eascair and Triad harp trios in November and Maria Matthews (soprano) and Fiona Gryson (harp) in December.

Plans are well underway for the 2024 series so keep an eye on the [Cornstown House website](#) and [social media](#) for details and to book tickets. Please contact Fiona at fionagryson@gmail.com if you would be interested in performing in a future concert.

Fiona Gryson



Breifne Holohan and Róisín Ward Morrow performed at *Music on the Farm* in May

Ensemble News

Cruitirí ar Chnoic | Harpers on Hills

with Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland

In the midst of our busiest year of harping to date, Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland, with support from the Donegal Culture and Creativity Scheme, The Esmé Mitchell Fund, Donegal County Council, Creative Ireland and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media initiated a cross-border collaborative project which brought young harpers together to celebrate our harping heritage and to provide our launch for Lá na Cruite | Harp Day 2024.



Between the 2nd and 4th August 2023, over fifty harpers from Donegal, Derry, Antrim, Tyrone and Louth gathered for the greatest gathering of harpers ever in Donegal. This newly established group of harpers performed a specially

commissioned piece of music arranged by local harper, Joleen McLaughlin, in celebration of the rich heritage and connections between our Irish harping tradition and the prehistoric, iconic landmark of An Grianán.

After a day of audio recording in Moville, all fifty harpers made their way up to the top of An Grianán, some 250 metres above sea level with constantly changing weather conditions. We experienced a true Irish summer with heavy gusts of wind, fog and rain, but eventually the sunshine began to pierce through the clouds, allowing Dearcán Media to record an epic music video which launched **Lá na Cruite | Harp Day 2023**. Harpers laughed, made friends, and most of all, made memories that will stay with them forever as part of their individual harping journeys.

The three-day collaboration concluded with an evening concert in St. Pius X Church, Moville, with performances from acclaimed harper with The Chieftains, **Triona Marshall** and Donegal accordionist, composer and producer, **Martin Tourish** to a packed, sold out audience. The **Cruitirí**

ar Chnoic | Harpers on Hills commission was also performed by **The Inishowen, Scoil Ruaidhrí Dall, Colmcille, Elver, Music Generation Louth,** and **Derry Harp Ensembles**, but this time in dryer, warmer conditions! A comment from one young harper summed up the encounter. 'It felt special to be part of this project, it was a great experience and I made lots of new friends.'

Our thanks to the Harp Ensemble directors and their harpers for their enthusiastic engagement. We hope it will be the first of many.

Check out **Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland's Grianán an Aileach Suite** on our website: <https://www.harpireland.ie/grianan-an-aileach-suite/>

Cruit Éireann, Harp Ireland



Rehearsals for the Harpers' Gathering in Moville

An Imagination of Harps



She watched the sixty harpers carry their instruments in a single file along the narrow path and through the narrow gateway into the **Grianán of Aileach**, an ancient fort that has stood impassive on a Donegal hillside through many iterations of Irish culture. It was a blustery day in August, and the harpers, spanning every age group, scurried between the showers to take their places in the grassy centre. Situated on a hill near Burt with

panoramic views over many counties, the origins of the Grianán are as ancient as they are obscure. Maybe home to druids, or chieftains, or sun-worshippers; certainly this imagination of harps would be one of its more unusual gatherings.

When someone pitched the idea of assembling harps from across the north of the country and recording them as they played the specially



commissioned ‘Grianán an Aileach’ Suite in the Grianán itself, were there any dissenting voices? Did the governing bodies consider the difficulty of gathering so many harpers, rehearsing the suite, (so artfully arranged by **Joleen McLaughlin**), recording audio, transporting the group to that remote hilltop, up a narrow road, and an even narrower path? Maybe parents wondered about contingency in the event of bad weather, how the harps, and the harpers, would be protected. Maybe some wondered at the wisdom of going ahead at all.

But the organisers, the governing body, the teachers, the funders, had no failure of imagination. Maybe they saw the national instrument being played in this ancient space as a homage to history, placing the resurgence of the harp – epitomised by this group of mostly young harpers and teachers – literally uppermost and central. Six harp ensembles combined from Donegal, Derry, Antrim and Louth, demonstrating the strength of harping here. The weather wasn’t kind on the filming days, harpers huddled over their harps during showers, trying to protect them. Between showers, they shivered, willing their cold hands

to cooperate. But they prevailed. They occupied the sun-shaped space, and their music soared. When the music sounded on the hill on that blustery August day, the notes echoed and pinged on the ancient walls and rose on the wind, over the Foyle and Swilly, over Inishowen, Donegal, Derry, Tyrone, Antrim, Fermanagh, notes caught like sunshine breaking through clouds, so intense and so beautiful. The old tunes reimagined, the old spaces energised, this gathering of present-day bards was an acknowledgement of tradition, of respect for the past and a statement of confidence in the future.

This was an adventurous undertaking, and the results can’t just be measured on the resulting glorious video. The harpers will forget the cold, the rain, but none will forget being part of this most magical event. The day on the Grianán hill is a testament to the imagination and creativity of those who conceived and organised the production. *Iompraíodh na cruiteanna go dtí ard an Ghrianáin chun an ceol a sheoladh chuig na déithe.*

Brid McGinley



Blossom Harp Ensemble



At Samhain 2022, the start of the Celtic year, Blossom Harp welcomed Harp in Bag, a French 18-harpist ensemble, directed by Aude Fortict, to Ballinasloe for a concert which finished with both ensembles performing with the Ballinasloe Town Band!

Created in 2013 by **Lizzie Affolter** with her students from Tuamgraney (Co Clare), Tipperary, Galway and Roscommon, Blossom Harp Ensemble play regularly at events around the country. They performed at the All-Ireland Credit Union X-Factor, the Strings Festival in Ballinasloe, the Connacht Fleadh in Ballimore, the 'Gig Rig' at the Ennis Munster Fleadh, in Albi (France), as well as at the European *Rencontres Internationales de la Harpe Celtique* of Dinan (Brittany) in 2018 and Paris in 2019. The exchanges with the French groups offered the occasion to learn new tunes in different ways and to visit some of France. They recorded and published a CD too, *Strings made from Angel Wings*.

As for every group, things changed, girls grew up, went to college and had their own lives! Nowadays it is an almost new Blossom Harp Ensemble (including a boy) which celebrated Harp Day in Ballinasloe to finish the Celtic Year this October

2023, together with the new Music Generation Roscommon Moore Trad Hub. Those talented harpists aged 5 to 18 years, from three counties, told the story of the Irish harp to a packed audience. They learned a lot about the harp from harpmaker Brian Callan from Craughwell. They are learning the strict discipline of playing with others and with different harmonies through pleasure and fun.

After touring in Europe for about 30 years, Lizzie Affolter came from France to Ireland in 2010. She was asked by Janet Harbison to come to teach at the Irish Harp Centre until she became independent and started her own harp activities (including creating the then Blossom Harp Festival which became the Tuamgraney Harp Festival).

Lizzie is now settled with her Blossom Harp in Ballinasloe and teaches the harp with Music Generation Longford and Music Generation Roscommon. She has projects for the coming year with Blossom Harp Ensemble... but that will be for another story!



Inishowen Harp Ensemble

2023 has been a great year for the Inishowen Harp Ensemble. Despite the fact that Inishowen is geographically very remote, situated in north Donegal, the ensemble has grown in number of participants and they have taken part in many exciting events.

The year started with the recruitment of the fabulous **Lauren O'Neill**, CEO of Harp Ireland. She joined the equally fabulous **Joleen McLaughlin** as co-director of the ensemble. Regular Saturday morning meet-ups were full of fun and musical arrangements for the avid harpers.

The first big project for the group was a performance in the concert at **Feile na hInse** on 1st April. The harpers took part in a day of workshops with **Laoise Kelly** which was followed by a symposium discussing harp traditions in the area with particular focus on **Denis Hempson**. Did you know he married an Inishowen woman when he was 95?! This was a great festival that everyone enjoyed.



Inishowen Harp Ensemble performing with Lauren O'Neill, Laoise Kelly and Joleen McLaughlin

June saw members of the ensemble on the road as they were invited to take part in a workshop as part of the **Cairde na Cruite** festival in Co. Louth. The workshop was delivered by the amazing Scottish harper **Rachel Hair**. The girls were delighted to also get the chance to play a few tunes at the concert afterwards. The craic was great on the way home despite nearly running out of petrol! We would happily have slept in the car but certain people wouldn't stop singing...





Inishowen Harp Ensemble at Grianán an Aileach

The next two months were then spent preparing for Lá na Cruite 2023. Sixty harpers were invited to our area for a historic Inishowen welcome. The harpers came from all over the north and as far away as Co. Louth. They all practised hard together for two days - and then the fun began! They held a ceilí, a barbecue, a quiz (we were cheated out of first place!!) and a few sessions. They chatted, made friends and had great craic altogether.

All sixty then travelled to An Grianán for the filming of a video that would be released as the opening segment of Harp Day in October. This was followed by more food, more craic and then a brilliant concert in the local church featuring each ensemble present, plus the amazing **Martin Tourish** and **Triona Marshall**. The harps finished

off the night with a performance of the *An Grianán of Aileach Suite*.

In October, all roads pointed to An Cultúrlann, Doire, for Harp Day on the 21st. The ensemble was invited to take part and came together with other ensembles from Donegal and Derry. The day started with workshops led by **Lucia McGinnis** and **Emer Mallon**. Then came the inaugural showing of the film "*Harpers on the Hill*" featuring the soundtrack of the *An Grianán of Aileach Suite*. Everyone was delighted to see themselves on the big screen.

That's it to date! More fun to follow no doubt!
Aoibhin McIvor

Left: Inishowen Harp Ensemble with Lauren O'Neill and Joleen McLaughlin

Below: In rehearsal



TU Dublin Conservatoire Harp Ensemble



TU Dublin Harp Ensemble at Harpes au Max

TU Dublin Harp Ensemble enjoyed partaking in a wide array of projects and performances during 2023. In March we were fortunate to participate in an inspiring Jazz Masterclass with Felice Pomeranz, professor of harp at Berklee College of Music. We were challenged to improvise and think outside the box and came away with lots of ideas and new ways to reinterpret our repertoire.

One of the highlights of the year was the 'Harpes au Max' International Harp Festival in Ancenis, France in May. Members of the TU Dublin Harp Ensemble (Julieta De Cicco, Síofra Ní Dhubhghaill, Rachel Duffy, Fiona Gryson, Kara Lord Bissett, and Gaia Sessa) and Phoenix

traditional ensemble (Rachel Duffy (harp), Neil Dignam (banjo), Jack Hennessy (flute, bodhrán) and Eoin Kearns (uilleann pipes, flute) were invited by Jakez François, President of Harpes Camac to



Phoenix at Harpes au Max

perform at the festival. The ensemble delivered a series of outreach programmes all across the city and countryside and performed at the closing concert of the festival. Phoenix played at the opening concert, presented a festival recital and joined the ensemble in a number of performances. We had a wonderful week performing, listening to harp players from across the world and learning all about the construction of lever and pedal harps at the Camac Factory. We are very grateful for the support we received from Culture Ireland, Camac Harps, the Harpes au Max festival team, Clíona Doris, TU Dublin Conservatoire and a wonderful group of local volunteers who made us feel very welcome during our stay.



TU Dublin Harp Ensemble performing at the opening of the East Quad at TU Dublin

Performances continued throughout the summer months. On 1 June 2023, the ensemble played at the official opening of the TU Dublin East Quad Campus, the section of the campus in which the Conservatoire is located. The performance

took place outdoors on a purpose built stage and was followed by speeches and a performance by dancers from the University.

In June and July, we were delighted to join with other ensembles from across Ireland for performances at An Chúirt Chruitreachta Ensemble Day and a Harp Ensemble Extravaganza as part of Cornstown House's 'Music on the Farm' Series.



TU Dublin Harp Ensemble with Gráinne Meyer at the Pepper Canister Church for Lá na Cruite | Harp Day 2023

More recently, ensemble members Fiona Gryson, Síofra Ní Dhubhghaill and Rachel Duffy gave a pop-up performance in the East Quad in October to celebrate Lá na Cruite | Harp Day 2023.

Our latest project has been the performance of a piece commissioned by Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland as part of their Harps Alive initiative.

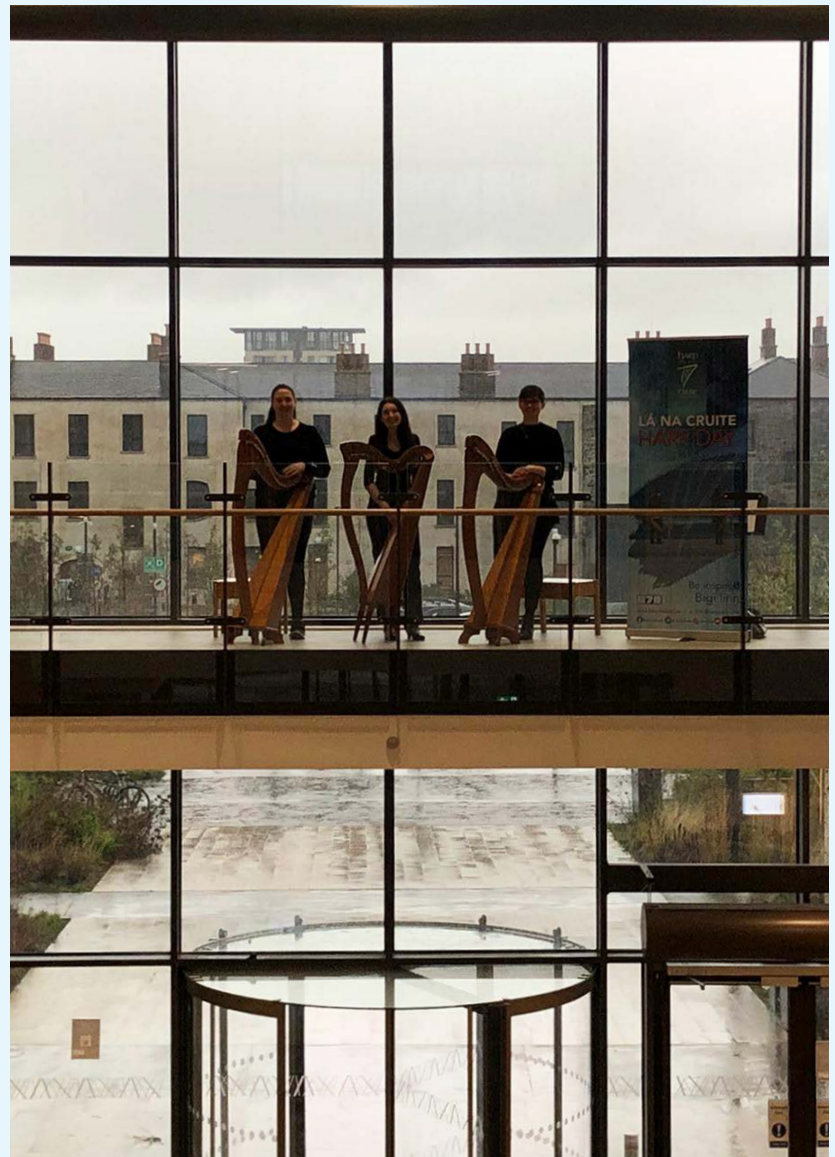


TU Dublin performing at Cornstown House 'Music on the Farm' concert series

We enjoyed performing with former ensemble member Gráinne Meyer who arranged two pieces for the TU Dublin and Elver Harp Ensembles, 'Trigger's Lament' by Brian Finnegan and 'The Crosskeys' by Steve Dunne. This led to two collective performances at the First Presbyterian Church, Rosemary Street, Belfast in September and at Harp Ireland's Gala Harp Day Concert at the Pepper Canister Church in Dublin in October.

We are currently preparing for another busy year of performances and we were pleased to welcome three new members to the ensemble for the year 2023/2024, Lucy Brennan, Hannah Tighe and Lara Villing.

Right: Síofra Ní Dhubhghaill, Rachel Duffy and Fiona Gryson performing at TU Dublin for Lá na Cruite



New Releases

Harp Albums and Publications

Finegan Viscardi Duo | *Uncovered Roots*

Available at <https://fineganviscardiduo.bandcamp.com/album/uncovered-roots>



Uncovered Roots features folk music from the UK and Ireland in different contexts, arranged for saxophone and harp, and includes music and arrangements by Benjamin Britten, James Oswald, Robert Owen, John Buckley, Turlough Carolan, Eithne Ní Uallacháin and Tara Viscardi. It is the debut release of the Finegan Viscardi duo (Robert Finegan, saxophone and Tara Viscardi, harp).

Nodlaig Ní Bhrollaigh | *Cuimhní Rúnda* | *Hidden Memories*

Available at <https://nodlaig.com/>

Cuimhní Rúnda is a compilation of new music and songs composed by harper and singer, Nodlaig Ní Bhrollaigh.

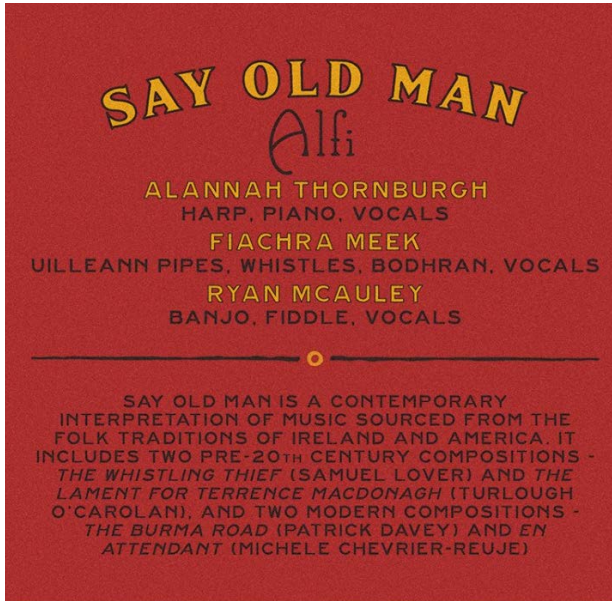


It is a journey through the times and places that have inspired her music and reflects her classical and traditional training and influences. From the memories hidden in the depths of Lough Swilly to the strains of the ancient harp in the Roe Valley that echo in Gaelic Scotland, to the emigrants leaving their mark at the top of the Carn, to the artistic reimagining of Narnia at CS Lewis Square.

Cuimhní Rúnda features guest musicians: acclaimed saxophonist Gerard McChrystal, Martin O’Kane (fiddle), Lucy Kerr (harp), Plunkett McGartland (fiddle), Paul Gillespie (cello and pipes) and Jonny Toman (guitar). Available on Spotify/ Bandcamp/ iTunes/ Apple Music

<https://nodlaig.com/>

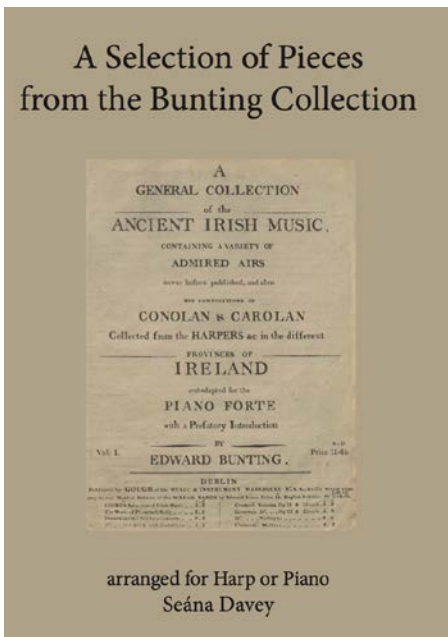
Alfi | Say Old Man



Featuring an unusual line-up of harp, five string banjo and uilleann pipes, Alfi's music explores a combination of traditional Irish and Appalachian music and song. *Say Old Man* is the trio's debut album.

Available at <https://alfi.bandcamp.com/album/say-old-man>

Seána Davey | A Selection of Pieces from the Bunting Collection



Seána Davey launched *A Selection of Pieces from the Bunting Collection* at a reception in the Bencher's Room, The Honorable Society of King's Inns on November 6th supported by the Institute of Digital Archaeology. Having been given a gift of the Gough publication of Bunting's collection of Ancient Irish Music, Seána chose ten pieces and arranged them for harp or piano. Seána performed on her Irish Colm Ó Meachair harp and Camac pedal harp. She was joined also on flute by the multi-instrumentalist, Stephen Doherty for some of the music performed and it was launched by musician, author and speaker, Fintan Vallely. The book is dedicated to Seána's sister, Amanda Davey: 1977-2022. It can be purchased from her website: <https://www.seanadavey.com/>

LÉDA



LÉDA are Éadaoin Ní Mhaicín and Emily Jean Flack from Balla, Co Mayo and London, Ontario. The duo's first single 'Oh Honey' hit No. 2 on the Singer/Songwriter iTunes Charts in Ireland and was played on RTÉ One, BBC Ulster and BBC Scotland. Their debut EP, released in July, was awarded 'Album of the Week' by Marty Whelan on RTÉ Radio. Éadaoin and Emily have collaborated in creating newly composed music, a fusion of folk and traditional with the Canadian influence weaving its way through the intricate sounds.

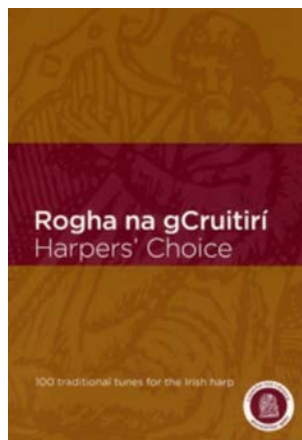
Video: LÉDA | *Close Distance* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5Ab-Iegqq4ube.com>

Audio: <https://sptfy.com/PdoN>

Cairde na Cruite Publications

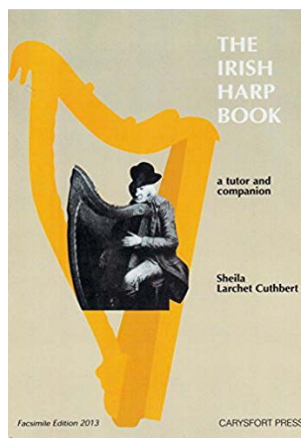
Available at: <https://www.cairdenacruite.com/shop>

Rogha na gCruitirí edited by Áine Ní Dhubhghaill, Anne-Marie O'Farrell and Aibhlín McCrann



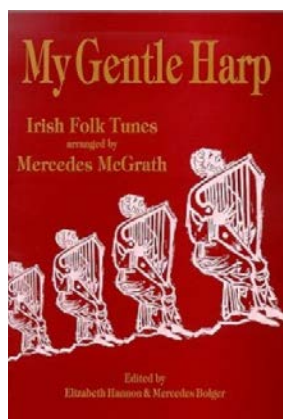
100 traditional tunes for the Irish harp contributed by no less than 52 foremost harp players, giving a unique insight into the diverse character and style of Irish harping in the 21st century.

The Irish Harp Book edited by Sheila Larchet Cuthbert



Cairde na Cruite's first publication. A collection of studies and exercises for the use of teachers and pupils of the Irish harp, featuring contributions from leading Irish harpers and composers of the 20th century.

My Gentle Harp edited by Elizabeth Hannon and Mercedes Bolger



A selection of Irish harp solos and duets arranged by Mercedes McGrath, founder-member of Cairde na Cruite.

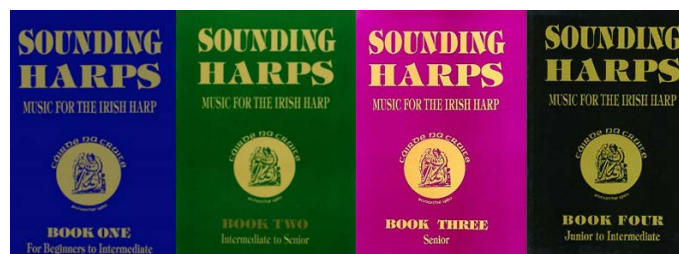
Masters of the Irish Harp CD (2011)

Produced in association with Cairde na Cruite, this CD released on the RTÉ lyric fm label celebrates the virtuosity of sixteen of our leading harpers playing music ranging from solo harp tunes collected at the Belfast Harp Festival in 1792 right up to compositions created in the 21st century for harp, trumpet and guitar. Artists include Gráinne Hambly, Aibhlín McCrann, Laoise Kelly, Helen Davies, Paul Dooley, Anne-Marie O'Farrell, Siobhán Armstrong, Michelle Mulcahy, Máire Ní Chathasaigh, Kathleen Loughnane, Áine Ní Dhubhghaill, Cormac de Barra, Triona Marshall, Janet Harbison, Dearbhail Finnegan and Gráinne Yeats.



Sounding Harps edited by Mercedes Bolger and Gráinne Yeats

This series consists of four books containing graded music for Irish harp suited to beginners, intermediate, senior, and junior to intermediate students respectively. The *Sounding Harps* series contains traditional tunes - traditional slow airs, songs and dance music arranged by well known exponents of the harp.



Harp Makers in Ireland

With a view to promoting awareness among harpers, harp organisations and potential harpers of the range of harps and services harp-makers in Ireland provide, *An Cruitime* has included the following list of full-time and part-time harp-makers currently operating in Ireland

HARP MAKER	COMPANY NAME	TYPE OF HARP	LOCATION	CONTACT
Brian Callan	Callan Harps	Lever	Co. Galway	www.callanharps.com facebook.com/callanharps
Pat Cawley & Indra Karklas	Indra's Celtic Harps	Lever	Co. Westmeath	www.indrakarklyte.wixsite.com/indrasharps
Gerard Doheny	Irish Crafted Instruments	Lever	Co. Laois	www.irishcraftedinstruments.ie
Paul Dooley		Early Irish	Co. Clare	www.pauldooley.com
Kevin Harrington	Harrington Instruments	Lever	Co. Cork	www.harringtonharps.ie
Tomás Mac Uilleagóid	Eala Harps	Lever	Co. Dublin	facebook.com/p/Eala-Harps
Ruairí McCann	Narrow Water Harps	Lever	Co. Louth	http://mccannruairi.wixsite.com/narrow-water-harps
Jan Muyliaert		Lever	Co. Meath	www.irishharps.ie/
Tim O'Carroll	Killarney Harps	Lever	Co. Kerry	www.killarneyharps.com
Davy Patton	Early Irish Harps	Early Irish	Co. Roscommon	
Seán Smyth	Hollytree Harps	Lever	Co. Dublin	https://www.facebook.com/sean.smyth.77770
Natalie Surina	Ériú Harps	Early Irish Lever	Co. Galway	www.eriuharps.com facebook.com/eriuharps
Brian & Mervyn Waugh	Turmennan Harps	Learner	Co. Down	www.turmennanharps.com
Graham Wright	Graham Wright Violins & Harps	Lever	Co. Mayo	facebook.com/grahamwrightviolinmaker

This list of harp makers is provided to assist people who may wish to procure a harp from one of the many Irish harp makers. Publication of this list is not an endorsement of any harp maker and we cannot vouch for or recommend any one harp maker over another. Harps are expensive instruments and accordingly we urge consumers to proceed with caution and conduct their own due diligence when purchasing an instrument. Accordingly, the principle of caveat emptor should be applied.

Support Cairde na Cruite



We greatly appreciate donations to help support our festival, our regular concerts and our activities. [Click here to donate](#). Harpers can also support the society through our [online shop](#) which features a range of harp music and recordings.

2024 Harp Dates for your Diary

JANUARY

Temple Bar TradFest

FEBRUARY

Remembering Bunting Festival

Féile na Tána

Scoil Cheoil an Earraigh

MARCH

Cairde na Cruite Spring Concert,
4th February 2024, 3pm
Pearse Museum, Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin

Corofn Traditional Festival

Feis Ceoil

The Gathering Festival

APRIL

Tuamgraney Harp Festival

Féile Patrick Byrne

Clifden Traditional Music Festival

MAY

Tulla Traditional Music Festival

JUNE

Blas International Summer School of Irish Traditional Music and Dance

**An Chúirt Chruitireachta
International Harp Festival -**
Sunday 30th June - Friday 5th July 2024,
An Grianán, Termonfeckin, Co. Louth
www.harpfestival.ie

JULY

Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy

South Sligo Summer School

Joe Mooney Summer School

Meitheal Summer School

Scoil Acla

Scoil na gCláirseach

O'Carolan Harp Festival, Keadue

AUGUST

Scoil Éigse

National Heritage Week

SEPTEMBER

Dingle TradFest

Culture Night

OCTOBER

Lá na Cruite | Harp Day,
19th October

NOVEMBER

Cairde na Cruite Winter Concert, Pearse Museum, Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin

Harp and Pipes Tionól, Music Generation Laois
William Kennedy Piping Festival
Féile Patrick Byrne

DECEMBER

Scoil Gheimhridh Ghaoth Dobhair

International Events:

Edinburgh International Harp Festival,
5th - 9th April 2024

Somerset Folk Harp Festival, 18th - 21st July and
27th - 28th July 2024

Wales International Harp Festival, April 2024

Harp on Wight Festival, 2024



Cairde na Cruite

CAIRDE NA CRUITE
BUNAITHE 1960

**An Chúirt Chruitireachta
International Festival
for Irish Harp**

30th June - 5th July 2024

An Grianán, Termonfechin, Co Louth

Cairde na Cruite Website

Visit <https://www.cairdenacruite.com/> to stay tuned with all things Cairde na Cruite. There is something that will resonate with everyone – find information on harp hire and upcoming events, visit our online shop, renew your membership, or take a trip down memory lane with videos, photos and previous issues of our newsletter.

Stay Tuned

Follow us on social media to stay up to date with our latest news and events.
You can also stay in the loop by following us on social media or by joining our mailing list.

 Facebook: [@CairdeNaCruite](https://www.facebook.com/CairdeNaCruite)  Instagram: [@cairde_na_cruite](https://www.instagram.com/cairde_na_cruite)  Twitter: [@CCIHF](https://twitter.com/CCIHF)

Email: cairdenacruite@gmail.com

Website: www.cairdenacruite.com



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