Creativity, culture and the arts are fundamental to our Irish identity. Ireland’s literature, language, art, music and dance are central to our place in the world and express our distinctive national story. Recent national initiatives such as Creative Ireland, Global Ireland and Ireland’s Decade of Centenaries highlight the intrinsic and strategic importance of the arts for Ireland. Here in Galway we share in a rich and distinctive culture of the West of Ireland, vital and dynamic, and informed by our unique hinterland. Drawing from ancient traditions, our culture and artistic perspective is outward-looking, embracing new traditions and cultures as we look over the horizon.

Distinctive NUI Galway has always played a part in nurturing artistic creativity. From this campus some of Ireland’s most significant cultural organisations and initiatives have begun and flourished – among these, Druid Theatre Company, An Taibhdhearc, Macnas, Music for Galway, and Galway International Arts Festival - each founded and sustained by students and members of the University community.

We are determined that our students will continue to have opportunities to access the cultural richness of our region. For over 12 years, Arts in Action has offered the highest-quality artistic events to our community, offering a distinctive academic experience and bringing the arts to our staff and friends in an accessible and inclusive way. Accessible to every student on campus, we signal the value we place on the creative arts for students, by officially embedding the creative arts into academic modules open to students from across all disciplines with Arts in Action as a five-credit module.

This year’s Arts in Action programme is especially wonderful! Strands which stand out include an emphasis on folk music of England, Scotland and Wales, highlighting the bonds which link us to our nearest neighbours. The special focus on the culture of Aran and the Blasket Islands showcase these unique places in the Irish cultural cannon and our physical landscape. 2020 is a special year in our city, when the eyes of the world will look to Galway as European Capital of Culture. It is fitting then in the coming year that some of Ireland’s foremost artists join us to celebrate and acknowledge the Creative Arts in an academic setting.

We acknowledge and respect the excellent work of Arts in Action – and to applaud the artistic vision and implementation of this programme. I look forward to joining with colleagues and students in experiencing this tremendous wealth of creativity over the coming months.

Mholfaín clár Arts in Action do gach ball de phobal an champais. Tá súil agam go mbainfidh muid go léir antaitnemh as Arts in Action i rith na bliana.

Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh,
BComm (Galway), DipPrAcc (UCD), PhD (Leeds), FCA (Ireland)
Uachtarán, OÉ Gaillimh
President, NUI Galway
On behalf of the College of Arts Social Sciences and Celtic Studies, I would like to welcome you to the Arts in Action series for 2019 – 2020.

We are resolutely committed to the Creative Arts as an integral part of what we do as a College. Artistic expression both in its production and enjoyment helps foster innovative and critical reflection in students and staff alike. Arts in Action opens us to the rich diversity of artistic life in Galway and wider afield and through its productions enriches our campus with world class performances in music, drama, literature, dance and other art forms.

In line with our commitment to the Creative Arts we have taken active steps to ensure through Arts in Action that multi-disciplinary art forms are embedded into a growing number of academic programmes where that is possible. This coming year will see the establishment of the new School of English and Creative Arts in which music, drama, film and creative writing play a central part of the academic curriculum. Arts in Action is closely entwined with these academic programmes. Throughout all of this there is an emphasis on the critical engagement with cultural identity, linguistic expression, music, literature and place and the programme for the coming year celebrates the diversity of artistic expression in these islands and looks out confidently towards the world around us, welcoming students from diverse countries and cultural traditions to come together in appreciation of creativity and artistic flair.

The naming of Galway as the 2020 European Capitol of Culture recognizes the artistic heritage of the city at the heart of the West of Ireland with its centuries of cultural development, of rich linguistic diversity, all of which manifest in literature, music, song and dance. Through Arts in Action this unique richness which is all around us is reflected daily at NUI Galway for the benefit of our Irish and International students. As we enter into 2020, now more than ever is a time to celebrate on campus the vibrant artistic life of this part of the world.

Mary Mc Partlan, Innovator and Artistic Director of the Arts in Action has created a programme that reaches out to engage with our students and our staff and creates a vehicle to celebrate, enjoy and reflect on society and its many layers.

From folk music to drama and theatre to jazz and classical music, the programme of events provides us with a weekly oasis of artistic creativity within the busy University timetable.

It’s the first thing that goes into my diary for the year. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

–

Professor Cathal O’Donoghue, Dean, College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies
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The Annual Jean Ritchie Lecture

delivered by

CHRISTY MOORE

⏰ 1-2pm – Wed. September 11
📍 O’Donoghue Centre

Arts in Action presents Irish folk legend, Christy Moore, who will discuss his lifelong research of song material, his influences and his songwriting, and his journey as Ireland’s greatest folk singer.

‘The folk singer who can distill the essence of what it means to breathe, remember, and contextualise. Inspirational.’

Irish Times

‘A legendary singer-songwriter, there’s none who can range across such a spectrum of feeling with the sole aid of a guitar and a microphone’

Hotpress

www.christymoore.com
Described by Songlines magazine as a “Welsh supergroup”, ALAW is three leading musicians who bring a wealth of experience to a shared passion - the traditional music of Wales. Whether unearthing rare gems or re-imagining a well loved melody, they treat their music with a deftness and sensitivity that is thoroughly absorbing. Combined with powerful song writing and original tunes, this makes for a musical experience that will stay with the listener long after the performance ends.

From stirring songs to driving jigs - they communicate their music with relaxed humour and a genuine affection that is truly infectious.

“Welsh musicians don't come more sensitive, accomplished and exploratory than this crew”

fROOTS

Oli Wilson-Dickson  fiddle / vocal
Dylan Fowler  guitar / vocal
Jamie Smith  accordion / vocal
Music for Galway in association with Arts in Action presents renowned violinist, Patrick Rafter.

For the first Music for Galway-curated concert of this series we are delighted to present violinist Patrick Rafter in a solo recital performing works by Bach, Paganini, Sivori and Ysayé. Celebrated as one of Ireland’s most gifted and exciting musicians, he has compelled and inspired audiences throughout the world. A personal invitation to study under Maxym Vengerov has led to 1st prizes in International Competitions and has been a catalyst to an international career. Upcoming projects include an album recording, performances throughout Europe and debuts with leading orchestras such as the London Mozart Players.

Born into an exceptionally musical family, Patrick quickly rose to attention with over 50 national accolades. He is incredibly grateful to the department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht to perform on a Jean Baptiste Vuillaume violin made in Paris in 1840 and a Eugene Sartory bow from Paris 1925.

1-2pm – Wed. September 25
O’Donoghue Centre
Arts in Action in association with Galway Jazz Festival present the Cormac McCarthy Jazz Trio.

Cormac McCarthy is a composer, arranger and pianist. He began studying piano aged four, and soon after discovered the joy of composition. He has gone on to perform and compose in a wide range of musical genres; from classical, jazz, pop, to Irish traditional music.

His compositions and arrangements have been recorded by such jazz icons as Phil Woods and Jeff Hamilton. As a pianist, he has performed extensively throughout Europe and the US, recording and performing with artists across numerous genres, including Peter Washington, Billy Drummond, Liz Carroll, Mark Lettieri, Jason Thomas, Padraig Rynne, The RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, The RTÉ Concert Orchestra, and The New Irish Jazz Orchestra.

“Cormac McCarthy's superb arrangements for a mixed jazz ensemble defy categorization.”

Carl Corcoran, RTÉ Lyric FM
Séamus Ennis was one of the most important figures in Irish traditional music in the 20th century through his skills in uilleann piping, singing, broadcasting and much more.

Our presentation, Mise an Fear Ceoil shines an interesting and entertaining light on this one part of Séamus's work. We hear Ríonach Úi Ógáín tell us about the daily life of the folklore collector at that time – the 1940s – and Seamus' visits to Colm Ó Caodháin to gather songs and music. She has given descriptions of this in her two books on the subject Mise an Fear Ceoil and Going to the Well for Water and they give a fascinating background insight into Ó Caodháin's repertoire and the interaction between the two men.

Also in this presentation, Róisín Elsafty, a celebrated traditional singer who is herself from the Conamara Gaeltacht, will perform songs which come to us from the Ó Caodháin collection and uilleann piper Peter Browne who learned music directly from Séamus Ennis will play tunes from both Ó Caodháin and Ennis.

This is the centenary year of Ennis's birth in May 1919 and Mise an Fear Ceoil is a uniquely entertaining and informative hour of speech, song and music.

1-2pm – Wed. October 09
O'Donoghue Centre
From England, Lisa Knapp, an award winning artist, has established herself as one of the brightest and most innovative stars of a newly invigorated British Folk movement. Lisa has found herself drawn to the honesty of folk ballads and Irish fiddle tunes. Working with partner and producer - Gerry Diver - she has forged a new, inventive path through these old songs which is uniquely hers.

Gerry Diver is an Irish fiddler/composer and award winning producer. His last solo album, ‘Speech Project‘ explored the inherent musicality of speech. The album featured archive recordings of Margaret Barry and Joe Cooley as well as guest appearances from Shane MacGowan, Christy Moore, Martin Hayes and Damien Dempsey. Gerry recently co-scored (alongside David Holmes) the soundtrack to ‘Death & Nightingales‘ and has recently been performing with Damon Albarn’s supergroup - The Good the Bad & the Queen.

“Knapp and Diver deliver ancient tradition with respect and beauty.”

Mojo magazine
...in achrann leis an saol

Ag coraiocht leis an gcarraig lom...

...struggling with life,

wrestling with the sheer rock...

Máirtín Ó Direáin
Martin Hayes (Honorary Doctorate from NUI Galway 2019) is recognised all over the world for his soulful interpretations of traditional music, his exquisite musicality and irresistible rhythm. He will talk about the music of his home county of Clare, his influences and his journey through musical genres. He has toured and recorded with guitarist Dennis Cahill for over twenty years, and has collaborated with extraordinary musicians in the classical, folk and contemporary music worlds. He founded the seminal Irish American band, The Gloaming, with whom he tours internationally and with whom he shared the prestigious Meteor Prize in 2014 for their debut album.

‘The great fiddler Martin Hayes speaks with the soul of a poet. A remarkable artist, the only one of his type.’

The Sunday Independent, Ireland.
Maireann a gcuimhne fós i m’aigne:
Báiníní bána is léinte geala,
Léinte gorma is veistí glasa,
Trebhsair is dráir de bhréidín baile...

Maireann a gcuimhne fós i m’aigne:
Cótaí cóirithe fada dearga,
Cótaí gorma le plúirín daite
Seálta troma aníos as Gaillimh,
...Is mairfidh fós go dté mé i dtalamh.

Their memory still remains in my mind
White homespun and bright shirts
Blue shirts and grey waistcoats
Trousers and drawers of home made tweed

Their memory still remains in my mind
Long red, elegant skirts
Blue skirts dyed with iodine
Heavy shawls down from Galway
...that memory will live until I go to my grave.

Máirtín Ó Díreáin
Christopher Moriarty is quickly becoming one of the most sought-after young artists of his generation, making his international debut as clarinet soloist with the New York Sinfonietta in Carnegie Hall, New York. Christopher is passionate about the creation and performance of new works featuring the clarinet, expanding upon the Irish repertoire of works for his instrument and bringing them to new audiences. His music has been performed both nationally and internationally, with premieres in Dublin, London, New York and Stockholm.

Gabriele Dikciute. She came to Ireland to start her Bachelor Degree in cello performance at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. In 2017 she was invited to play a piece Snow In June for percussion ensemble and cello solo by Chinese composer Tan Dun in New York University. Gabriele has a keen interest in Baroque music and often performs with her ensemble Westland Baroque. She recently gave a solo performance of Shostakovich’s Cello Concerto with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra.

Christopher is joined by Lithuanian cellist Gabriele Dikciute. She came to Ireland to start her Bachelor Degree in cello performance at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. In 2017 she was invited to play a piece Snow In June for percussion ensemble and cello solo by Chinese composer Tan Dun in New York University. Gabriele has a keen interest in Baroque music and often performs with her ensemble Westland Baroque. She recently gave a solo performance of Shostakovich’s Cello Concerto with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra.
Shetlander Chris Stout, Fiddle Player, and Dundonion Harpist, Catriona Mckay have taken these most traditional of instruments and catapulted them into the contemporary world of music making. They have excited audiences all over the world with their own unique brand of music inspired by the traditions of their native Shetland Islands and Scotland. Chris and Catriona’s music is almost entirely self-penned and draws inspiration from traditional music, culture, land and seascapes.

Both musicians share a unique relationship with music in bringing together the rich traditional music of their upbringing with their experience in Classical music.

This music knows no boundaries. In so many respects it defies categorisation while there is a purity and a heartfelt honesty that is true to the traditions Catriona and Chris are so proud to have come from.

“clear and strong...always a startling freshness and spontaneity at work...virtuosic and physically engaging...”

_The Herald_
The world famous comedian Tommy Tiernan talks to broadcaster and writer, Vincent Woods, on being an actor.

'Not only is Tiernan a genius with words, but he is a clever performer with a quick and wise eye that takes in everything around him'

Evening Herald

'A wide eyed philosopher of love and life who performs as if appalled by the idea of being bland'

The Guardian

1-2pm – Wed. November 13
O’Donoghue Centre
Arts in Action in collaboration with Tulca Festival of Visual Arts have arranged a special evening event and invite students and staff to partake in a curator’s tour of this year’s festival. Now in its 17th edition, TULCA is an annual exhibition and programme of contemporary visual art, drawing audiences to venues across Galway City and County. This year’s festival is curated by artist Kerry Guinan and is titled ‘TACTICAL MAGIC.’ The festival’s theme explores the longstanding relationship between art and magic while speculating on the future of magic in an increasingly secular Ireland.

TULCA Festival of Visual Arts
TULCA 2019: TACTICAL MAGIC
1 - 17 November 2019

www.tulca.ie

Image: Alpha, Diana Copperwhite, oil on canvas, 190x230cm, 2016.
Evening concert featuring Macdara Ó Fátharta, actor, born in Synge’s Cottage, Inis Meáin, he has translated a selection of the writings of John Millington Synge about this island.

The Evening concert will feature:

- Macdara Ó Fátharta, Inis Mór, singer
- Mary O Malley, Poet
- Oisín Ó hIarnáin, Inis Mór, musician
- Treasa Ní Mhiolláin, Inis Mór, singer
- Dara Ó Conaola, Poet
- Deirdre Ni Chonghaile, Musician

These artists represent the culture of the Aran Islands in poetry, in music and song. You will hear some of the greatest treasures in literature and Sean Nós singing.

The artists featuring:

- Mary O Malley, Poet
- Treasa Ni Mhiolláin, Sean Nós Singer
- Lasairfhiona Ni Conaola, Sean Nós Singer
- Dara O Conaola, Poet
- Deirdre Ni Chonghaile, Musician

An toisc a thug tú chun mo dhaoine
The thing that brought you among my people

Ón gcéin mhéith don charraig gharbh
from rich distance to rough rock

Ba chéile léi an chré bheo
was something in the vital clay,

Is an leid a scéith as léan is danaid.
a trace escaping of woe and loss.

Níor éistis scéal na gcloch,
It was not from stone you took your stories,

Bhí éacht i scéal an teallaigh,
but the wonders in stories by the fire,

Lines from: ‘Ómós do John Millington Synge’ by Máirtín Ó Direáin with the poet’s own translation into English.
Mo Mháthair

Nuair a chímse ar an tsráid puisbhean chathrach,
A geansaí uirthi thuas, a maidrín ar a baclainn,
Ag muirniú chuici ansacht a hanama,
Chím arís mo mháthair ag baile
Ag cniotáil go ciúin ar theallach falamh.

When I see on the street an aging city spinster
Wearing her sweater, her lapdog in her embrace
Cuddling to herself her heart’s beloved
I see again my mother at home
Knitting quietly at an empty hearth.

Máirtín Ó Díreáin

Heinrich Becker Archive, Hardiman Library
Music for Galway is proud to be funded by the Arts Council. This event is kindly supported by SAP.
In association with TG4’s MOLSCÉAL, Arts in Action presents the 2019 Gradam Ceol ‘Young Musician of the Year’, accordion player Conor Connolly & Guests.

Conor Connolly comes from Clarenbridge in South County Galway. He started playing the tin whistle at age 8 in Killeeneen N.S. and moved onto the accordion at age 12, with lessons from Mary Murray. He then attended the Anne Conroy Burke and Joe Burke school of music, while playing with the local Kilnadeema branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann.

He is influenced by the music tradition of South Galway, particularly that style which was popularised by the late Joe Cooley of Peterswell. In his late teens, after hearing Joe’s music for the first time, it spurred him to change from the conventional B/C style of playing to the C#/D system. Other big influences include Charlie Harris, Tony MacMahon and Andrew McNamara.

1-2pm – Wed. January 15
O’Donoghue Centre
GALWAY EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE, CELEBRATING CREATIVITY, ARTS AND EDUCATION

O’DONOGHUE CENTRE
JANUARY 22, 2020

Image: Detail, Untitled, Patrick Scott HRHA, Tapestry, 1974. From the NUI Galway collection.
Symposium & Performances
at the O’Donoghue Centre – Wednesday January 22nd 2019

1pm-2pm  Léacht Chuimhneacháin Sheosaimh Uí Éanaí

Presented by Steve Coleman, NUI Maynooth.
Title: ‘What is the ‘life’ in ‘living culture’?'

What will Ireland look like in 2119? If current trends continue it might strongly resemble the Connemara of 1919 – the land stripped to bare rock by ecological disaster and a hyper-exploitative social system. As we celebrate Joe Heaney’s 100th anniversary, let us consider himself, and the writer Máirtín Ó Cadhain, as members of a distinguished lineage of indigenous spokespeople who issue warnings to the world based on the experience and wisdom of their own local societies. Both Ó hÉinniú and Ó Cadhain counterposed the desperate social history of their places with what they both termed “life” - the vitality of community which goes beyond the human to embrace an alternative vision of the world.

2pm-3pm  Lunch

3pm-5pm  European Capital of Culture Seminar

Curated by Catherine Morris and Mary Mc Partlan

Bringing together a panel of artists, cultural practitioners, teachers, students, this symposium will explore the dynamic role of arts and culture in university education.

How does creativity feature across the curriculum? How can artistic practice be taught? How do we assess artistic creativity in the humanities?

5pm-6pm  Dinner

6pm-7pm  Ceolchoirm Chomórtha an Chéid in Ómós do Sheosamh Ó hÉanaí

This event will showcase international performances - illuminating and examining how engagement in the arts helps support students meet the challenges and opportunities of a twenty first century life and workplace- discovering new methods of teaching and learning that involves the arts, engineering, medicine, science and humanities. Artists/Musicians include Mairtin O Connor, Garry O Briain, Ronan Browne, Niamh Ni Carra, Mary Mc Partlan, Lillis O Laoire, Steve Coleman, Lorna Shaughnessy.

Additional guests to be announced later.
Music for Galway in association with Arts in Action present Andreea Banciu and Aileen Cahill.

Andreea and Aileen have put a programme together that celebrates women composers and includes works by Clara Schumann, Rebecca Clarke and “little pieces by Jewish female composers”.

Andreea is well known as violist and founding member of the ConTempo Quartet. She is a lecturer in viola at DIT Conservatory and a Chamber music visiting teacher at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. In 2016 she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Music degree from NUI Galway. Andreea has won 14 International Prizes in Chamber Music Competitions (London, Munich, Berlin, Prague, Graz, Hamburg, Rome). She has performed over 1600 concerts around the world in 40 countries.

A native of county Sligo, Aileen Cahill is a pianist best known as a repetiteur and chamber musician.

These days, she performs regularly with members of RTÉ ConTempo Quartet, Concorde contemporary music ensemble and DIT colleagues such as Paul Roe (clarinet) and Ian Dakin (horn). Aileen lectures in Piano Accompaniment at DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama and is repetiteur at Maynooth University.
Renowned uilleann piper, Paddy Keenan, has brought traditional Irish music to audiences around the globe, playing across Japan, Europe, Australia, and North America. A founding member of the Bothy Band, who forever changed the face of Irish traditional music, they merged a driving rhythm section with traditional Irish tunes in ways that had never been heard before. Bothy Band-mate Donal Lunny once described Paddy as "the Jimi Hendrix of the pipes"; more recently, due to his genius for improvisation and counter-melody, he has been compared to jazz great John Coltrane.

Paddy’s contributions to traditional Irish music have been honoured by the TG4 Gradam Ceoil Musician of the Year award, which is presented to musical heroes of the modern age, and by the Irish Music Association, with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

**International World Class Piper**

**PADDY KEENAN**

**1-2pm – Wed. February 5**

**O’Donoghue Centre**

Renowned uilleann piper, Paddy Keenan, has brought traditional Irish music to audiences around the globe, playing across Japan, Europe, Australia, and North America. A founding member of the Bothy Band, who forever changed the face of Irish traditional music, they merged a driving rhythm section with traditional Irish tunes in ways that had never been heard before. Bothy Band-mate Donal Lunny once described Paddy as “the Jimi Hendrix of the pipes”; more recently, due to his genius for improvisation and counter-melody, he has been compared to jazz great John Coltrane.

Paddy’s contributions to traditional Irish music have been honoured by the TG4 Gradam Ceoil Musician of the Year award, which is presented to musical heroes of the modern age, and by the Irish Music Association, with a Lifetime Achievement Award.
FOND PAGEANT

Written & performed by Daniel Reardon

Arts in Action, in association with Irish Theatre Institute, presents ‘Fond Pageant’, written and performed by Daniel Reardon.

An illustrated, poetic, theatrical meditation, celebrating the redemptive and healing powers of art. The show is based on ‘Fond Pageant’, the author’s book of poems published in 2018.

The concept for the show was sparked by an unprovoked and inexplicable epileptic seizure suffered by Reardon while attending the opening night of “Ulysses” at the Abbey Theatre in October 2017.

The historical and autobiographical links in the show contextualise the paintings and the poems, marking the various milestones in Reardon’s life; from early education in New York, arrival in Dublin, embarking on a career in the arts, marriage, children and career to date as a 72 year old man.

1-2pm – Wed. February 12
O’Donoghue Centre
1-2pm – Wed. February 19
O’Donoghue Theatre

Having performed all over the world Laoise, Grainne and Kathleen welcome the opportunity to present a concert of harp music at NUI Galway. Each player is rooted in the traditions of Irish music, with a strong focus on the music of the harper composers of the 16th and 17th centuries. At the same time each player brings her own innovations to the instrument which are reflective and in harmony with the spirit and continuity of Traditional Irish Music

Laoise Kelly
“Laoise Kelly is a young harpist with the disposition of an iconoclast and the talent and technique of a virtuoso.”
Irish Times

Grainne Hambly
“a dazzling rhythmically complex performance showcasing her unique playing style, an artful balance of power and finesse ”
IrishPhiladelphia.com

Kathleen Loughnane
“Kathleen’s deft touches are a sublime pleasure”
Mojo magazine
Ionracas

Dúirt file mór tráth
Go mba oileán is grá mná
Ábhar is fáth mo dháin;
Is fíor a chan mo bhráthair.

A major poet said once
That an island and the love of women
Were the sum total of my poems
My brother spoke truly.

Coinneod féin an t-oileán
Seal eile i mo dháin
Toisc a ionraice is átá
Cloch, carraig is trá.

I will retain the island
a while longer in my poems
Because of the honesty
of stone, rock and strand.

Máirtín Ó Direáin
INO STUDIO ARTISTS

1-2pm – Wed. February 26
O’Donoghue Centre

Music for Galway in association with Arts in Action present INO Studio.

INO Studio is Irish National Opera’s artistic formation programme. The studio makes an annual selection of operatic talent in Ireland — singers, repetiteurs, conductors, directors, designers, composers — and provides specially tailored training, professional mentoring and high-level professional engagements for a group of individuals whose success will be key to the future development of opera in Ireland. Members of the studio take part in a number of INO’s productions and benefit from individual coaching, masterclasses and mentorship with leading Irish and international singers and musicians.

In this lunchtime concert, singers from the 2018/19 intake of the INO Studio will perform a selection of arias and other operatic excerpts from across the canon. It’s a fantastic opportunity to hear some of Ireland’s most promising talent.
He saw and scrutinized each bright hardy being
Saw the young women testing him
Measuring him, assessing him, tormenting him all at once,
His burgeoning male blood responded
Raced through his body, reddened his face,
Drove him to hasty demands

Máirtín Ó Direáin
Ulaid features three supreme instrumentalists, gifted composers and talented interpreters of traditional and original music in one explosive package. John McSherry (Uilleann Pipes), Dónal O’Connor (Fiddle) & Seán Óg Graham (Guitar) are considered to be some of the finest players of their generation. Featuring new compositions which sit comfortably alongside traditional pieces from 19th Century collections, plus fresh and progressive arrangements, coupled with occasions of free form solos, Ulaid will take you on an emotive and uplifting musical journey. From Ireland to the neighbouring Celtic regions, these three fearless musical adventurers chart a path from the ancient music of the Gael to the contemporary shape of traditional Irish music today.

‘This is state-of-the-art Irish traditional music played with heart, skill, imagination and sensitivity’

Irish Times
CELEBRATION OF THE BLASKET ISLANDS

An Taibhdhearc in association with Arts in Action

1-2pm – Wed. March 11
The Cube, Áras na MacLéinn

Suantraí na hlnise / Island Lullaby is a unique and innovative music/theatre event, originally premiered in 2013 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Blasket evacuation and to celebrate the islands’ rich cultural legacy. Composed and directed by Colm Ó Foghlú, and featuring internationally renowned musicians Niamh Ní Charra (concertina), Noreen O’Donoghue (harp) and members of the Orchestra of Ireland, Suantraí na hlnise also includes historical images and film from The Blasket Centre archive.

“Tragic it is to look out at the Blasket Islands and know that human life itself is ceasing on them, even if we think that living souls should never have had to shelter themselves at all on such windswept rocks… all that seaboard is a silent land, or so we have felt it, as we walked the roads of it. It is however a silence that excites, rather than assuages: there are always presences.”

Daniel Corkery

Composed and directed by Colm Ó Foghlú
for
Niamh Ní Charra (concertina)
Noreen Ó’Donoghue (harp)
And members of the Orchestra of Ireland

8pm – Wed. March 11
An Taibhdhearc

Featuring Muireann Nic Amhlaibh and her band. Muireann Nic Amhlaibh grew up in Dún Chaoin, Co Kerry overlooking the Blaskets. She is an award-winning traditional singer and musician and a leading exponent of the sean nós style. She has enjoyed a successful career as a touring solo artist and was lead singer and flute player with the Irish traditional group Danú. Muireann is also a popular television presenter, having hosted a range of programmes for Irish and Scottish TV over the past decade including the celebrated traditional music series ‘Port’.

“One of the earthiest and most distinctive voices, not just in traditional circles, but anywhere”

The Irish Times

We welcome again for their Second performance the Dublin Orchestra Ensemble with Niamh Ní Charra (concertina) and Noreen O’Donoghue (harp).
Students of the MA in Producing and Curation present theatre, music, literature, and visual art in a special production from the special archives of the James Hardiman Library.

The MA in Creative Arts: Producing and Curation defines creative producing as the practice of realising an artistic vision by putting in place the practical steps needed to deliver that vision to an audience—whether the work is in the performing arts, literature, visual arts, or an interdisciplinary area. It sees curation as the assembly and delivery of artistic experiences for audiences, whether those experiences are in the form of arts collections, digital objects on a website, or a programme of performances in a festival (among other possibilities).

This Arts in Action event will be a joint offering from students on the inaugural year of this programme working in partnership with Mary McPartlan, Catherine Morris, Mairéad Ní Chróinín.

(They're all gone now, and there isn't anything more the sea can do to me... I'll have no call now to be up crying and praying when the wind breaks from the south, and you can hear the surf is in the east, and the surf is in the west, making a great stir with the two noises, and they hitting one on the other..."

Riders to the Sea,
John Millington Synge.

1-2pm – Wed. March 18
The Cube, Áras na MacLéinn

(c) Heinrich Becker Archive, Hardiman Library
After the demise of the proper chieftain

Rónán son of Conn son of Conán

Cathal took on his customary rights

His estates and his privileges

His stewards and bailiffs by right of law

He assumed his title and his grasp

Máirtín Ó Direáin
Music for Galway in association with Arts in Action present Collegium.

As one of five choirs making up St Nicholas Schola Cantorum, Collegium has its home in the medieval Collegiate Church of St Nicholas in Galway, and takes its title from the ancient designation of the church dating back to 1486. The choir comprises 16–24 singers depending on the type of project undertaken, and is made up of Galway’s finest choral singers. Most members sing in one of the Schola’s other choirs and many also sing in other Galway choral ensembles. Membership is by invitation or audition. The choir is project-based, in that it doesn’t meet regularly for weekly rehearsal but comes together for a short period of intensive rehearsals leading up to a concert performance. The principal artistic focus of the choir is music from the Renaissance period, and on presenting unusual programmes with a strong thematic and seasonal flavour. Under the direction of founder-conductor Mark Duley, Collegium will be heavily involved in various performances for Soundscapes, Music for Galway’s programme for Galway 2020.
Contributors

Producer and Artistic Director – Mary Mc Partlan
Technical Manager – Mike O Halloran
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Production Manager (Semester 1) – Catherine Denning
Use of Artwork – Robyn Carey
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Very Special Thanks to:
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Also to:
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Emma Brinton
Liz Mc Connell
Kieran Hoare
Niamh Ni Charra
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Riona Hughes
Ellen Cranitch
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Catherine Mc Curry

The featured photographs are sourced from across the archive collections of the James Hardiman Library, curated by Archivist, Dr. Barry Houlihan.