

# Blas International Summer School of Irish Traditional Music and Dance



Irish World Academy of Music and Dance  
University of Limerick

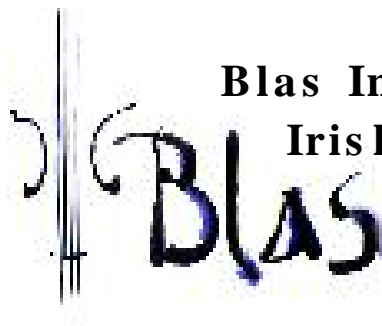
## FIDDLE TUTORS

### JOHN CARTY



*John Carty is one of Ireland's finest traditional musicians having been awarded the Irish Television station, TG4's Traditional Musician of the Year in 2003. He joins previous acclaimed winners Matt Molloy (Chieftains flautist), Tommy Peoples (Master Fiddler), Mary Bergin (whistle player, Dordan), Máire Ní Chathasaigh (Harpist) and Paddy Keenan (Uilleann Piper), all of whom are considered to be the leading exponents of their instruments within the Irish tradition.*

*Carty already has three solo fiddle albums, two banjo albums, two group albums and a sprinkling of recorded tenor guitar and flute music recordings under his belt so it's little wonder he should have joined such elusive ranks. John is a tutor at the Irish World Academy.*  
[www.johncartymusic.com](http://www.johncartymusic.com)



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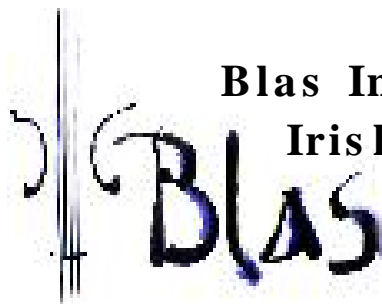
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## EILEEN O'BRIEN



*Eileen is the bearer of a musical dynasty which can be traced back through generations on both sides of her family, the legendary, O'Brien family from Newtown, Nenagh and her mother's family, the Seerys from Dublin who were founder members of C.C.E. Eileen's father, Paddy O'Brien established the B/C accordion-playing style in the 1950's. His innovative style both as a musician and a prolific composer continues to have a profound influence on Irish traditional music. Eileen carries this musical tradition forward through performance,*

*teaching and composition. Eileen received a classical music education at The Municipal School of Music, Limerick and is also a graduate of I.W.A.M.D. having achieved first class honours in the postgraduate programme M.A. Irish Traditional Music Performance in 2006.*



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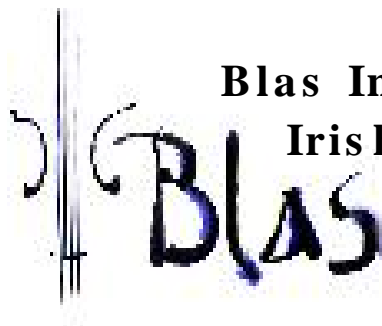
## SIOBHÁN PEOPLES



*Siobhán Peoples is a mighty fiddle player, and a highlight of a trip to Ennis for many a musical tourist has long been the chance to hear her play in a session around town. With the recent release of a duet album with accordion player Murty Ryan, Time On Our Hands, many more people will have the pleasure of hearing her play. She is also a strong argument for a gene of musical talent that's yet to be found on the DNA maps: her father, of course, is the legendary Tommy*

*Peoples, and her grandmother on her mother's side was Kitty Linnane, the piano player with the storied Kilfenora Ceili Band. For all that one might expect a certain quest for fame, or sense of self-importance, but Siobhán is interested only in the music. In her own words, she's "mad for it."*

*She may be a Clarewoman but Siobhán Peoples is also heir to a peerless Donegal fiddling tradition. The precision and intricacy of her performance of both Clare and Northern music has made her one of our most sought-after fiddlers. She has carved a niche as an outstanding performer and teacher. Siobhán presently lives and plays music in Ennis. There is a huge catalogue of recordings by Siobhán, the most recent being Time on our hands, a collaboration with box-player Murty Ryan. Siobhán is a fiddle tutor on the BA Irish Music and Dance at the Irish World Academy.*



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## TARA BREEN



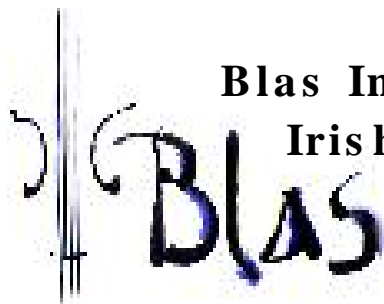
*Tara Breen, a highly talented multi-instrumentalist from Co. Clare, started playing the flute at the tender age of six, and the fiddle at the age of seven. She has achieved All-Ireland titles on fiddle in every age category over the years, culminating with the All-Ireland Senior Fiddle Title in 2012. Tara is also an All-Ireland winner on the flute and saxophone. In 2006 Tara won the coveted 'Fiddler of Dooney' competition, and in 2009 she added the prestigious 'Michael Coleman Fiddle Competition' to her list of accolades. In 2011 Tara won the senior Oireachtas fiddle title, and also in 2011, Tara was chosen to play at Dublin Castle for the Queen of England during her State visit to Ireland.*

*She was selected by Donal Lunny for the T.V. series, 'Lorg Lunny', which culminated in*

*the band Ciorras, and from there went on to join the Galician piper Carlos Núñez, with whom she continues to play on a regular basis throughout Europe. In 2014 Tara joined The Chieftains for their North American tour, and currently plays with them at various venues both at home and abroad. Tara joined the legendary band, Stocktons Wing in 2015. Tara is a founding member of the band Rianta, formerly known as The Trí Tones, who are currently working on launching their second album.*

*She achieved her Dip. ABRSM in 2007 in classical flute, and also qualified as a Traditional Irish Music teacher with Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, achieving her TTCT in 2011. She attended the National University of Ireland, Cork, graduating in 2011 with a BA(Hons) in Music and Arts, and in 2012 graduated with a B Mus. Degree.*





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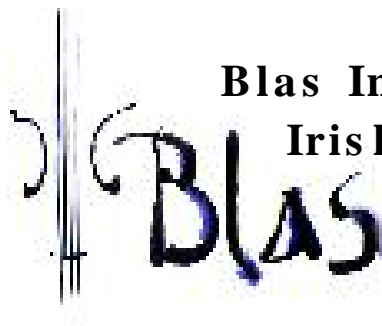
## ÁINE MCGEENEY



*Since graduating with a BA in Irish Music and Dance, Áine has captured the hearts of Irish Music fans all over the world with her unique and captivating voice. Singing both in the English and Irish Language, her voice has been described as having 'an attractive innocence'. Combined with her energetic, high octane fiddle playing she is now one of the leading young musicians in Irish music today. As a result, her teaching skills has been highly sought after. From the young age of sixteen, Áine has been teaching music and has given workshops alongside musical heroes such as Cathal Mc Connell and Tommy People's in major summer schools such as 'Blas' and 'Meitheal.'*

*Áine has also established herself as a highly regarded composer with many of her compositions featuring on several albums to date. Her musical talents have led her to tour the world taking in places such as Sweeden, Switzerland,*

*Slovakia, Czech Republic and even places as far a field as Malawi, Bahrain and Abu Dhabi. Having been a member of Michael Flatley's world-renowned dance show 'Lord of the Dance', Aine's remarkable stage presence is extremely evident when performing and is a contributing factor to any show.*



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## NIAMH DUNNE



*Niamh Dunne is a highly accomplished singer, fiddler and composer from Co. Limerick, and has just released her debut solo song album, "Portraits". With master guitar player and producer Sean Og Graham, Niamh's first song album is a mix of traditional songs and folk material with an emphasis on her home town of Limerick.*

*She has been a member with the world renowned band Beoga for the last 7 years with whom she has toured extensively and recorded 6 CDs, including the Grammy short listed "The Incident" in 2009 and the Irish Echoes number 1 album of 2011, "How to tune a fish". The Wall Street Journal describes them as "the most exciting new traditional band to emerge from Ireland this century."*

*Niamh has toured extensively on the world wide stage, both at home and abroad. Highlights have included Boston ICONS festival, Kansas City, Milwaukee Irish Fest, Tonder, Dranouter, Temple Bar Trad Fest, Germany's Irish Folk Festival tour, Irish Unplugged tour of Holland, Guinness Christmas Austria tour, Cambridge Folk Festival, the National Celtic Festival in*

*Australia and Glasgow's Celtic Connections.*

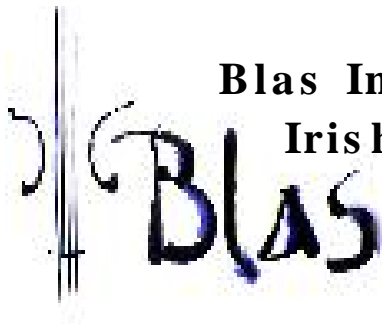
*She began to play fiddle at the age of 4, and learned her music from Mickey Dunne, the well-known piper from Limerick who is part of a rich cultural heritage of traveling musicians. For generations, the Dunne's traveled the country playing fiddles and pipes at any social events (football matches, markets days, fairs), and had a rich understanding of the musical traditions of Ireland that existed all over the country, especially at a time when there were no recordings and this was the only means of transmission.*

*Niamh has grown up steeped in music, song and tradition. She recorded a CD in 2005 with her Dad and sister, Brid, called Legacy, an album which celebrated the rich musical heritage that has been in her family for generations, as well as showcasing her singing and love of song. A well-respected classical violinist, she twice received the high achievers award from the London Associated Board of Western Art Music, with whom she is a qualified teacher. Niamh regularly teaches in The Limerick School of Music. She is also a graduate of the Irish World Academy of Music in Limerick University with first class honors.*

*Hailing from County Limerick, Niamh Dunne has a beautifully warm, smoky voice... she's also a classically trained violinist whose smooth fiddling is the perfect addition to the [Beoga's] existing four-piece lineup – **HOT PRESS***

*"Niamh Dunne is a real find for Beoga" – **IRISH ECHO***

*"Gorgeous vocals" – **IRISH MUSIC MAGAZINE***



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## FLUTE TUTORS

### Dr. NIALL KEEGAN



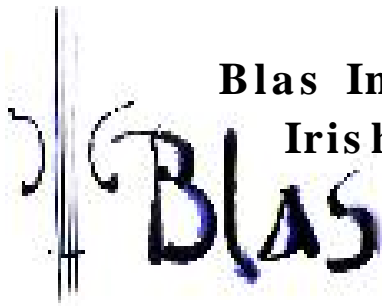
*In 1990 Niall began studying under Dr Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin for a Masters degree which he completed in 1992 with the submission of a thesis entitled The Words of Traditional Flute Style. He is course director of the new Traditional Irish Music performance masters at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick and also teaches on the ethnomusicology program there. He has given occasional lectures and taught instrumental classes at the Music Dept. of University College, Cork and University College, Galway, Sibelius Academy, Dublin Institute of Technology, Newcastle University, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama among others.*

*Since moving to Ireland Niall has performed extensively throughout the country and abroad in a variety of contexts and venues, including*

*the Royal Albert Hall, Barbican, Project Arts Centre in Dublin, the University of Limerick Concert Hall, The National Concert Hall in Dublin, The Waterfront Hall in Belfast and the Galway Arts Centre. In 1992 he was invited to record at the Traditional Music Archive in Dublin with the bodhran player / percussionist Mel Mercier. Niall has performed Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin's concerto for flute and chamber orchestra, Oilean on several occasions in Ireland and Britain and as part of the jazz/trad fusion group Hiberno Jazz. He is featured on both the recording of the 1994 Eigse na Laoi, Across the Water and the television series A River of Sound made by Hummingbird Productions. Niall also features on the Realworld CD The Gathering. Niall's solo recording, Don't Touch the Elk, was released in June 1999 on his own independent label.*

*Niall performed as part of the Eurovision interval piece Lumen and features on the commercial recording of that piece. Niall usually performs with Sandra Joyce, an innovative bodhran player and vocalist, and guitar players such as Chris Kelly and Clive Carroll. Other performances have included a six week tour in Britain and northern Ireland with a South Indian Katakali dance drama group, a two week tour of India, appearances at several European festivals and the North Texas Flute festival in Dallas, the second largest flute festival of its kind in the world. In December 1999 Niall performed with Sandra Joyce (vocals / bodhran) and Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin (piano) for De Tiende Nacht van Radio 3. This performance was recorded and broadcast in January 2000. Current projects include collaborative performances with saxophonist Ken Edge and the contemporary Dahdga Dance Company.*

*Niall is currently director of the MA Irish Traditional Music Performance at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick. He keeps telling everyone that he's nearly finished his PhD entitled The Art of Juncture: The Creative Transformations of Traditional Irish Music which*



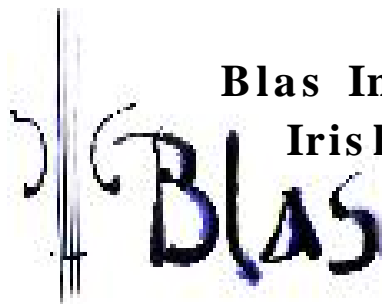
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*examines cognitive structures that traditional musicians use to organise their oral music in a literate world. He has been on the committee of the Folk Music Society of Ireland and director of the University of Limerick based projects Nomad (aimed at honouring the music cultures of the traveling peoples at the University), Niall was formerly co-director of the Sionna Festival of European Traditional Music, and the Blas International Summer School of Traditional Irish Music and Dance, a university accredited programme. He has been guest director of the Adult Folkworks summerschool in Durham, England. He is the author of articles concerning issues of style and literacy in traditional Irish music and editor of the online journal for Irish music and dance, Inbhear.*





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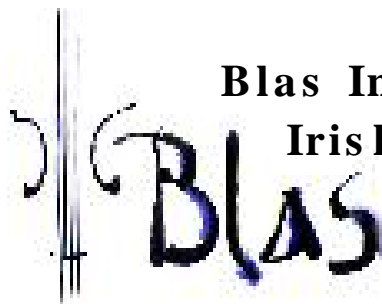
## LOUISE MULCAHY



*'Tuning the road' is the debut solo album by Louise Mulcahy featuring flute, uilleann pipes and whistle. "A complete wonder of an album from a truly brilliant musician – Bill Margeson". Alongside three highly acclaimed album releases with father, Mick, and sister Michelle, Louise appeared a number of years ago on Na Píobairí Uilleann's compilation of young pipers entitled "A New Dawn". Musical families are often the backbone of multi-generational continuity within that global community, and no musical family today is more impressive in upholding the best principles of the tradition than the Mulcahy's of Abbeyfeale, West Limerick. Louise is a well-established performer and tutor on both flute and uilleann pipes. Louise has toured extensively throughout the world including performances in Asia, New Zealand, Australia, Europe, America and Canada. She*

*has been a guest tutor at many festivals across the globe including Augusta Irish Week in the United States, The Catskills Irish week, Ceol Aneas- New Zealand, The Willie Clancy Summer School, Masters of Tradition Festival in Bantry and Cruinniú na bhFliúit, Baile Bhuirne amongst others. Louise has also performed at many Uilleann Piping events including The North East Coast Piping Tionól and The Chris Langan Piping Tionól in Toronto.*

*Louise is a regular contributor to many television and radio programmes, nationally and internationally and has also presented the traditional Irish Music series "Geantraí" for the Irish language television station TG4. Louise graduated with her masters degree from Trinity College Dublin in 2015. She has a particular interest in research and has lectured on Irish Traditional Music both in Ireland and the United States. She has performed for such dignitaries as An t-Uachtarán Michael D. Higgins, his wife Sabina and the Irish Ambassador of Ireland to Vietnam. Louise has won many All Ireland Titles including four senior All Ireland titles on the same day at the All Ireland Fleadh Cheoil. Most recently, Louise won Female Musician of the Year 2017 with her sister Michelle Mulcahy - Live Ireland Awards.*



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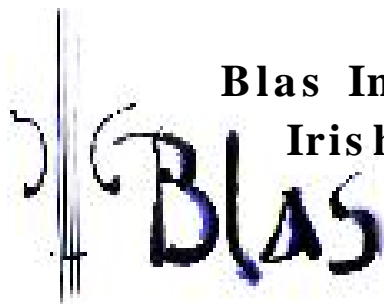
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## KIERAN MUNNELLY



*Flutes, whistles, bodhrán, snare and vocals*

*Kieran Munnelly is a young flute player and percussionist hailing from the West of Ireland and is a founding member of the David Munnelly band. Kieran released "In Safe Hands" with Aidan O'Donnell (TG4 Young Musician of the Year 2010) to critical acclaim, and most recently recorded a flute trio album with Niall Keegan, Philippe Barnes and Piano player Ryan Molloy, under the group name Flunked. He continues to work on the live circuit with some of the freshest talent on the Celtic/folk/roots scene including Irish music band Project West. Despite basking amongst the success of today's best known traditional musicians, Kieran has by no means reached the peak of his career. He will go on to influence a generation to follow.*



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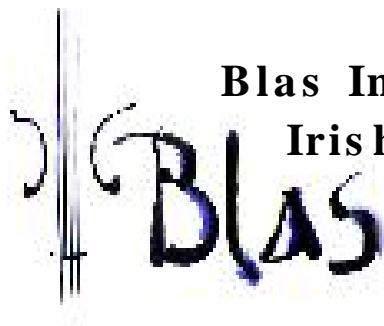
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## CONOR CRIMMINS



*Conor is a flute player from Co. Clare. He is a BMus graduate from University College Cork and later went on to complete the MA Irish Traditional Music Performance at the University of Limerick. Whether teaching group or private classes, Conor always focuses on the individual needs of each student. He is currently a flute tutor in the Irish World Academy and performs with a variety of groups in a range of styles.*





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## PERCUSSION TUTORS

### JIM HIGGINS

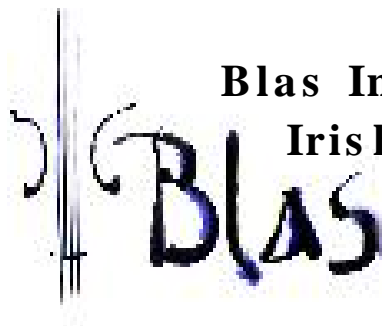


*Jim hails from Renmore in Galway. Born into a musical family, he went on to study music in University College Cork under Micheal O Suilleabhain amongst others. While in Cork, Jim caught 'the bodhran bug', playing alongside players such as Mel Mercier, Colm Murphy and Frank Torpey. During this period Jim was an active member of 'The Stunning' rock band playing trumpet and keyboards as well as percussion. He went on to play drums with fellow Galwegians 'The Sawdoctors' following a four year*

*stint with 'The Riverdance Show' which took him around the world.*

*He is an honorary member of the Donegal based traditional group 'Altan' having recorded and toured extensively with them for the last fifteen years from the Hollywood Bowl to the Sydney Opera House. He has recorded and performed with such luminaries as Paul Brady, Christy Moore, Liam O'Flynn, Donal Lunny, Bill Whelan, Martin O'Connor and Lunasa. Jim also specializes in ethnic percussion encompassing the djembe, the darabukkas, the dumbek and the mbira.*





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## PROFESSOR MEL MERCIER



*Mel is the Chair of Performing Arts at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance. Mel completed a BMus at UCC in 1989, and a Master of Fine Arts in World Music at the California Institute of the Arts, Los Angeles, in 1991, and was awarded a PhD from the University of Limerick in 2011. Mel has an outstanding record of creative output as a composer and performer, and an excellent record of academic leadership and engagement in scholarly activity. He has an international reputation as a composer for theatre, having composed music for many critically acclaimed, award-winning productions and installations, and an international profile as a performer of Irish traditional music, and as a collaborator across a range of music genres. He has twenty-five years experience of teaching and mentoring at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, alongside initiating and directing academic projects, conferences and symposia, and curating festivals, concert series, and community outreach initiatives.*

### **Current Projects**

Mel is currently working on several collaborative projects, including publication of *My Name is Lancelot*, a CD of his original compositions for theatre and dance; *How it Is*, a production of Beckett's epic prose piece with Gare St. Lazare Ireland; *CONCERT* a new dance show with Colin Dunne; and *PULSUS*, the first Irish traditional music percussion ensemble.

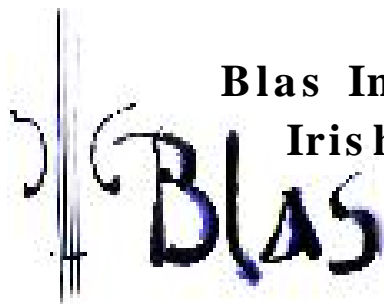
### **Recent Projects**

*King Lear* (Shakespeare) Produced by the Old Vic, London, in November 2016. Original Music and Sound Design by Mel Mercier. Directed by Deborah Warner, with Glenda Jackson in the role of King Lear.

*Sacrifice at Easter* Co-devised by Pat McCabe, Pat Kiernan Mel Mercier. Produced by Corcadorca Theatre Company and created as part of Ireland 1916 Centenary Celebrations. Presented at Elizabeth Fort, Barrack Street, Cork from 17 June to 2 July 2016. Corcadorca celebrated the company's 25th year with this staging of an ambitious, outdoor, site-specific production, which featured a score of original music and a soundscape that included the iconic voices of Éamon De Valera, Dana and John McCormack.

*The Tempest* (Shakespeare) Produced by the Salzburg Festival in July/August 2016. Directed by Deborah Warner, Shakespeare's *The Tempest* (Der Sturm) was played in a German translation with original music and sound design by Mel Mercier. With the exception of the British lip-sync artist Dickie Beau (the role of Ariel) the play was performed by an all-German and Austrian cast.

*RTÉ Documentary on One: Peadar Mercier* Radio documentary written and narrated by Mel Mercier. Produced by Mel Mercier and Liam O'Brien, and first broadcast on 10 September 2016. Peadar Mercier was a member of the Chieftains and Seán Ó Riada's Ceoltóirí Cualann, and the first-ever professional bodhrán and bones player. 25 years after his death, his son Mel has produced a radio documentary that gathers together the traces of his father's life, creating a memory space filled with his voice and music, and the reflections of his family and friends. <http://www.rte.ie/radio1/doconone/2016/0826/812103-peadar-mercier/>



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## Academic Background

Over the last two decades, before he was appointed to the Chair of Performing Arts at UL, Mel played a pioneering role in the strategic development and delivery of University College Cork's cross-cultural music curricula, and the cultivation of its progressive ethos and creative educational environment. During that period he led the development of Irish traditional music, ethnomusicology and performance studies at UCC, developing and delivering courses in Irish traditional music, ethnomusicology, music education, Indian classical music, West African traditional and popular musics, Javanese gamelan and performance theory. He played a leading role in the development of a vibrant interdisciplinary research environment at the Department of Music at UCC, working with his colleagues there to create a research culture that integrates scholarship and creative practice, embracing practice-based research – including composition and performance – alongside musicological, ethnomusicological, and interdisciplinary approaches to the study of an inclusive range of music genres, from art and popular music, to traditional and experimental music. In 2010, he oversaw the formation, and was appointed as the first Head of the newly established UCC School of Music and Theatre. In 2016 he was appointed as the Chair of Performing Arts at the University of Limerick.

## Research

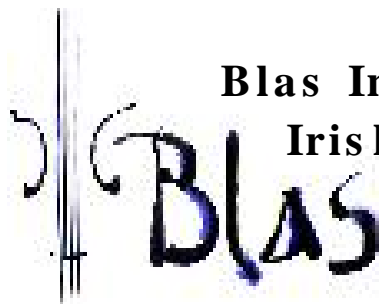
Mel's own research encompasses creative practice, in composition and performance, as well as more traditional, academic scholarship, most often within the disciplinary frameworks of ethnography and performance studies. Mel has a record of sustained, award-winning, creative output as a composer, and has built an international reputation as a composer of music for theatre. Over the last two decades has composed the music for many critically acclaimed, award-winning theatre productions and installations that have been presented in Ireland, the UK, Europe and America.

## Music Composition for Theatre

Since 2000, he has collaborated with some of the world's most respected theatre practitioners, including director Deborah Warner, actor/director Fiona Shaw and director Phyllida Lloyd. In 2013, he won the New York Drama Desk Award and was nominated for a Tony Award for his score for the Broadway production of *The Testament of Mary*. In 2002, he was nominated for a Drama Desk Award for the Abbey Theatre/Broadway production of *Medea*, and, in 2012, he received a nomination for an Irish Times Theatre Award for the Abbey Theatre/Fibín production of *Sétanta*. In addition to commissions from the Abbey Theatre (Dublin), he has received commissions from the Royal Court (London, UK), The Barbican (London, UK), The National Theatre of Great Britain (London, UK) and Theatre National De Chaillot (Paris, France).

## Art Installations

In addition to composing for theatre, Mel has played a leading role in the creation of several, large-scale art installation projects in recent years, including *From the Sources* (2010) and *Peace Camp: A Coastal Installation* (2012). In 2010, he created the multi-media installation, *From the Sources*, to celebrate the Centenary of Professor Aloys Fleischmann. *From the Sources* featured audio and film recordings of 840 tunes, compiled by Fleischmann in his *Sources of Irish Traditional Music*, performed by 96 traditional musicians, all of whom are students, tutors and graduates of UCC. In 2012, he created the poetryscape and soundscape for *Peace Camp* with director Deborah Warner and actor Fiona Shaw. The piece was commissioned by London 2012: Cultural Olympiad. Celebrating love poetry and landscape, *Peace Camp* took place over four nights between 19 and 22 July, 2012, at eight coastal locations in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.



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## **Performance**

Mel also has an international reputation as an innovative performer, rooted in Irish traditional music, and committed to collaborating across music genres and across art forms. In a performance career that spans four decades he has collaborated with a wide range of traditional, classical, jazz, and non-western musicians and ensembles, and has performed in hundreds of concerts and recitals throughout Ireland, the UK, Europe, North America, India and China.

For almost four decades he has performed extensively in Ireland and internationally as a traditional percussionist with Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin, and has played on 11 of his album/CD recordings. Throughout the 1980s, with his father Peadar Mercier, Liam O'Flynn, Paddy Glackin, Joe Heaney and Seamus Tansey, he performed American composer John Cage's experimental composition *Roaratorio: An Irish Circus on Finnegans Wake* and *Inlets*, in Europe and the USA, with John Cage the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. In 1999-2000, he represented Ireland as a member of the cross-cultural, European Percussion Ensemble *On the Outer Edges of Europe*, which featured some of the leading percussionists from several European countries, performing self-composed, pan-European, trad-jazz fusion music.

## **Gamelan**

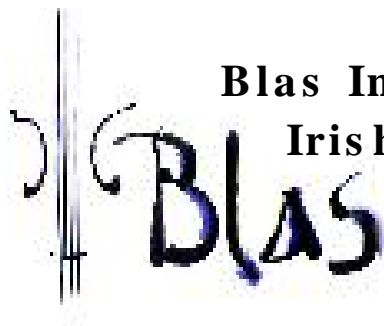
Mel has been performing Javanese Karawitan (traditional music) and composing new music for gamelan since the mid 1990s. As Director of the Cork Javanese Gamelan, he has led the ensemble in a pioneering series of recitals of traditional and new music in Cork, Limerick, Galway, Dublin and London. Under his direction, the ensemble has collaborated with leading Javanese musicians and dancers, and, in more recent years, in a unique series of collaborations, with Irish and international artists, including actor Fiona Shaw, cellist Kate Ellis, dancer Colin Dunne, singer Iarla Ó Lionáird, saxophonists Ken Edge and Nick Roth, singer-songwriter Duke Special, and poets Matthew Sweeney and Leanne O'Sullivan. The ensemble presented its 20-year anniversary concert series in March 2014, and launched its debut CD of new compositions (*The Three Forges*, Diatribe Records) in 2015 at Kilkenny Arts Festival.

## **TRASNA**

In 2009, in response to the developing intercultural soundscape of Cork and Ireland, Mel established the intercultural music ensemble TRASNA. The ensemble represented UCC, Cork and Ireland at the Shanghai World Expo in September 2010. In Shanghai, TRASNA performed with the renowned musician, Ma Xiaohui, one of the leading Chinese erhu players and the featured soloist on the soundtrack of the movie, *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon*. This collaboration was recognized as a "unique cultural experience" by the United Nations.

## **Recording**

Mel has extensive experience as a recording artist, both as a performer and composer, and as a producer and music arranger. Since the mid-1970s he has been professionally engaged to play on more than fifty recordings, with many Irish and international musicians, composers and ensembles, including Donal Lunny, Bill Whelan, Alan Stivell, Bobby Gardiner, Dúlra, Stockton's Wing, Palle Mikkleborg, Helen Davies, Mary Black and eX Ensemble.



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## COLM PHELAN



*“Colm Phelan Encompasses Innovation & Tradition with every beat” – Junior Davey (Five Time All Ireland Champion)*

*“Colm Phelan is one of Ireland’s leading young percussionists, and an exceptional Bodhrán player, providing new dimensions to the voice instrument” – Niall Keegan, Course Director, BA Irish Music and Dance.*

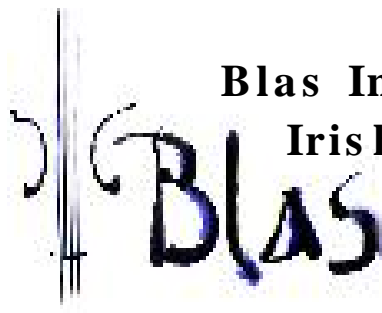
*Portlaoise-born Colm has been playing bodhrán and CeiliBand drums since childhood and has been a prominent contender in the All Ireland competition since his earliest year of playing both Bodhran and Drums; in fact Colm qualified for the All-Ireland finals in his very first year of playing. Colm is a winner of numerous medals down through the years with his proudest achievements being the first ever World Bodhrán Champion, in Miltown, Co Kerry in 2006 ,and in the same year winning the All Ireland in Letterkenny for the second year in succession. This back-to-back achievement was closely echoed in his unique multiple Ceili Band drum competition*

*successes. An All Ireland winner on both Bodhrán and Ceili Band drums is no mean feat.*

*Colm is one of the most sought after Bodhrán tutors in Irish Music. He has given workshops in France, Germany, Finland, Holland, Italy, USA, at the International summer school Craiceann on Inis Oirr and for the past few years he has been leading the advanced and master class at Junior Daveys Bodhrán School in Sligo.*

*He graduated with a BA in Irish Music and Dance at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick in 2011. The University experience has quickened his pride in his Irish heritage and reinforced his desire to ground himself firmly within that tradition. To further this approach Colm has become involved in the design and development of the instrument to advance his expertise.*





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## ROBBIE WALSH



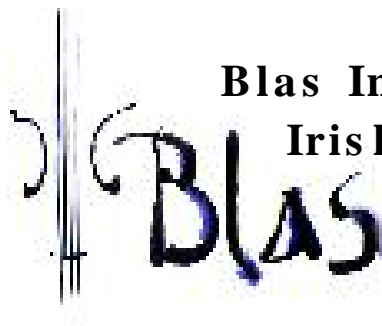
*Robbie Walsh is a bodhrán player who hails from Dublin. Brought up through a strong musical background in all genres, his style is the definition of diversity. Inspired by the fantastic playing of his uncle, Robbie began to learn the ropes from the great Noel Dowling of Kilkenny in what he feels is his second home Áras Chrónáin. Taking these skills to the vibrant session culture throughout Dublin Robbie began to shape his style.*

*In 2008 Robbie became the Dublin, Leinster and All Ireland Champion*

*thereby opening him up to further opportunities. He has played with various different bands including Ciorras, Coras, The Hunters, Keeva, Blasta and The Jeremiahs. He is also currently working with bands such as Perfect Friction FourWinds and the Temple Bar All Stars and The Daoirí Farrell Band of which he is a co founding member of all. He has also worked closely with dance shows and companies such as Celtic Céilí, Celtic Legends and Damhsa to entertain and teach audiences at theatres, festivals and corporate functions stretching as far as the United States and the Middle.*

*Robbie has also worked on albums with musicians such as Daoiri Farrell, Alan Doherty, Laoise Kelly, Gerry O'Donnell, Tom Walsh, Seamus Begley, Joe McKenna, Paul Kelly, Eleanor Shanley, Brendan Hayes, Colin Farrell and Frankie Lane and Michael McGoldrick to name but a few, and has shared the stage with the likes of Donal Lunny, Karen Tweed, Cormac Breathnach, Gerry O'Connor, The Chieftans, Antonio Beresky and Paul Brady.*

*With such a gathering of experience throughout his musical career Robbie set up The Bodhran Buzz to further extend the knowledge of the bodhrán throughout the world via workshops, private teaching and regular classes and even went as far as a conducting a Guinness world record attempt for the largest bodhrán ensemble of 1052 bódhran players.*



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## DERMOT SHEEDY



*'....the kind of percussionist that will create the future groove of Irish Traditional Music.'* Mel Mercier (Lorg Lunny, 2010)

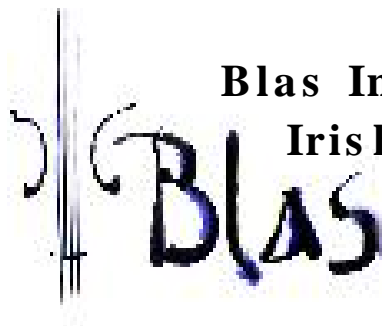
*Dermot is a percussionist from County Clare specialising in the bodhran and drums. He is self taught, and has won an impressive total of seven All-Ireland titles.*

*Currently he tours with his band Hermitage Green where to date they have released two top 5 albums 'Save Your Soul' & 'Live at Whelans' and continue to tour around the world winning over legions of fans and selling out shows across Ireland, the UK, the US, Australia, Canada, the Middle East & South Africa,*

*Prior to his work with Hermitage Green he built a reputation as a popular session musician performing nationally*

*and worldwide with various groups such as Éalú, The Raparees, Beoga, Ciorras, The Kilfenora Ceili Band, The Irish Harp Orchestra and Celtic Legends.*

*In 2010 Dermot was handpicked by Dónal Lunny, to be a member of trad band Ciorras. The selection process and the formation of the new group was filmed as an 8 Part series called 'Lorg Lunny', broadcasted on TG4.\**



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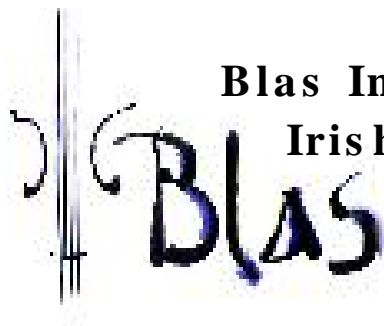
## HARMONIC ACCOMPANIMENT TUTORS

### DONAL LUNNY



*Donal Lunny was an Artist-in-Residence at the Irish World Academy, University of Limerick. He is the first traditional music-linked member of the Irish Arts Council-sponsored Aosdána and has been a central thread in the tapestry of Irish traditional music in its most creative interactive modes over a generation. He was born in Tullamore Co Offaly before moving to Newbridge, County Kildare. In 1971, he was one of the founding members of Planxty, for whom he wrote the countermelodies and arranged harmonic structures and chord*

*patterns for guitar and harmonium. He also played bouzouki, guitar, keyboards and bodhráns on all Planxty's recordings. 'Planxty' recorded three albums in the period 1971-1973 and redefined traditional Irish music. Their albums included 'Cold Blow and the Rainy Night' and 'The Well below the Valley'. In 1975, he joined the Bothy Band, producing four albums in four years including 'Out of the Wind and in to the Sun' and 'After Hours'. In 1980, Planxty reformed and Donal produced the three resulting albums before finally forming Moving Hearts with some of his former Planxty band-mates. Moving Hearts, who were responsible for such albums as 'Dark End of the Street' and 'The Storm,' were a hybrid, incorporating contemporary folk music, jazz and other influences with elements of rock. Donal has also composed for stage and television including the soundtrack for 'Eat the Peach' (1985) and 'This is my Father' (1997) and the opening title music for the series 'Bringing it all Back Home' (1991) and 'River of Sound' (1997). In 1996 he won the IRMA Producer of the Year award and in 1998, the National Entertainment Award.*



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## RYAN MOLLOY

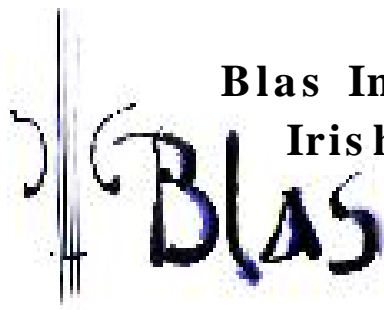


*As a composer and performer, Ryan's work has been performed to international audiences on four continents for over ten years, including major concert venues such as Tanglewood (U.S.A.), Lucerne Hall, KKL (Switzerland), Kölner Philharmonie (Germany), Holywell Music Room (England) and Waterfront Hall (N. Ireland). From Pomeroy in Co. Tyrone, Ryan began his musical life on the fiddle, taught by Bríd Harper. The piano soon followed in his teenage years and it is in vampology that Ryan now specialises. Described by the Irish Times as "...the funkiest piano this side of Dr John" and a "...secret weapon on rhythm" by the Irish Echo, Ryan has recorded on many critically acclaimed albums, amongst them Humdinger, with noted musicians Paul Brock and Enda Scahill, Tight Squeeze as a member of the Dave Munnely Band, and The Dusty Bridge and Wayfaring with Fergal Scahill. In great demand as an accompanist, Ryan's repertoire spans numerous genres from traditional Irish music to contemporary classical music. The confluence of these two genres*

*formed the basis of his recently completed a PhD in composition at Queen's University, Belfast, studying under Simon Mawhinney and Piers Hellawell.*

*Ryan is currently supported by a BBC Performing Arts Fund Fellowship in association with Moving on Music. His recent compositions including Gortnagarn, Séamsur II and Third Epistle to Timothy, have been performed by EXAUDI Vocal Ensemble, Konvergence Ensemble and the Ulster Orchestra, amongst others. Ryan's work has been broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and Radio Ulster, RTÉ Lyric FM, Radio 1 and Ráidió na Gaeltachta as well as on BBC 2, UTV and BBC World.*





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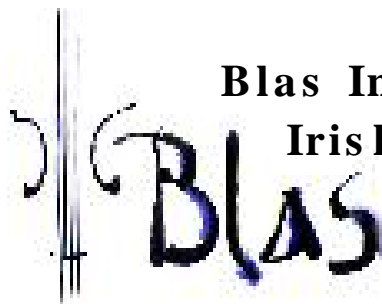
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## CONAL O'KANE



*Conal O'Kane grew up in South Philadelphia, where he was an active member of the Irish music community. When he was on a trip to his father's hometown of Buncrana, Co. Donegal, he was taught his first tune on fiddle by the legendary teacher Dinny McLaughlin, Whelan's jig. He was told that he should go home and practice, and if he hadn't learned the tune properly by the next time he was in Buncrana, Dinny would strangle him! He has been practicing ever since.*

*When he was 17, he learned guitar from local musician John Brennan, in the unusual tuning DADAE, before later switching to Drop D. His interest in guitar grew, and after completing high school, he enrolled in the BA in Irish Music and Dance at the University of Limerick. Now a graduate, he plays with the band Goitse, and teaches guitar privately and through the university.*



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## TADHG Ó MEACHAIR



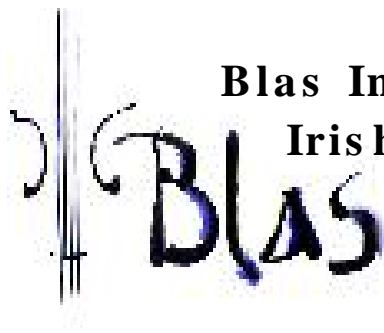
*A graduate of the BA in Irish Music and Dance at the Academy, Tadhg has established himself as a force in the world of traditional Irish music. A recent All-Ireland piano title win is among the various awards for piano, piano accordion and accompaniment that have cemented this fact across the traditional music community. As well as extensive tours of the US and Europe with Goitse, he has performed on a variety of stages around the world to huge crowds and esteemed audiences; from Ireland's National Concert Hall to Music Crossroads in Zambia and from the infamous Festival Interceltique de Lorient to a garden party hosted by Uachtarán an hÉireann, the President of Ireland.*

*Tadhg has not only made a name for himself in terms of his performing career. In recent years, he has recorded on many albums and worked with singers and musicians alike, including collaborations with legendary singers Aoife Clancy and Seán Ó Sé. He was also chosen by none other than Dónal Lunny to be*

*the pianist in his 'Lorg Lunny' project which was recorded for an eight-episode TV series and culminated in the formation of the band Ciorras.*

*Tadhg has also taught extensively at festivals across Europe and teaches a variety of classes from piano and piano accordion, to accompaniment classes for a range of accompaniment instruments. Having grown up in an Irish-speaking home, and having studied the Irish language to University level, he has even been known to teach a few Irish or 'Gaelic' classes.*

*Young composers in Irish traditional music are the topic of Tadhg's current research. His study will examine the phenomenon of the young composer; exploring what motivates them to compose, how they go about composing, and how their work is responded to within the tradition. The changing role of the composer figure in the context of Irish traditional music will be explored as will the structure and makeup of the music being composed.*



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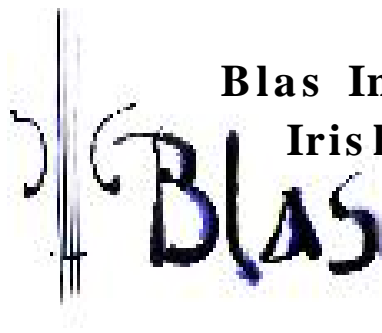


Irish World Academy of Music and Dance  
University of Limerick

## ALAN COLFER



*Originally from Waterford City, Alan Colfer is a graduate of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at the University of Limerick, where he now works as principal guitar tutor. He has played extensively throughout Ireland and Europe, and his repertoire draws influence from music the world over.*



# Blas International Summer School of Irish Traditional Music and Dance



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## ACCORDION TUTORS

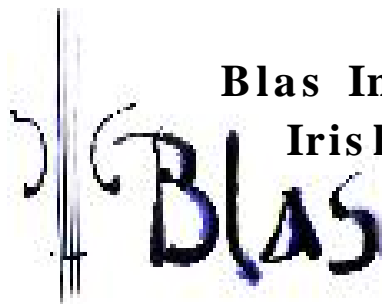
### DEREK HICKEY



*Derek Hickey hails from Adare, Co. Limerick. He started playing accordion at a young age. By the age of 18 he joined the band Arcady and then at 21 was invited by Frankie Gavin to join De Dannan. He recorded two albums with the band during the time he spent with them. Derek Hickey is a regular tutor at The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University Limerick. In his rich and varied performing experiences, he*

*has shared the stage with some of worlds greatest talents including Stephan Grappelli and The Rolling Stones.*





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## TADHG Ó MEACHAIR



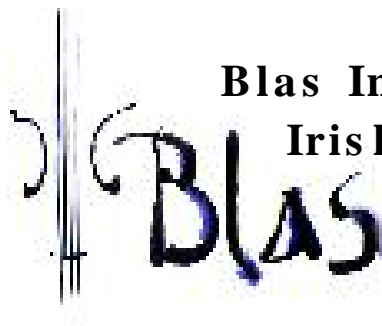
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*the pianist in his 'Lorg Lunny' project which was recorded for an eight-episode TV series and culminated in the formation of the band Ciorras.*

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## HARP TUTORS

### MICHELLE MULCAHY



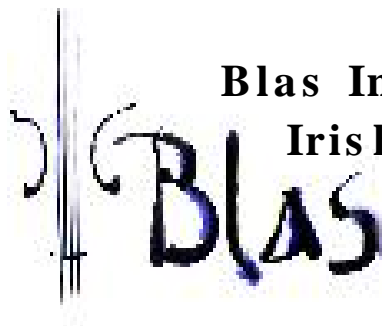
*Michelle Mulcahy is one of Ireland's most talented and gifted multi-instrumentalists in Irish traditional music today. She is considered to be one of Ireland's most adroit and creative harpers. "Her revolutionary style on the harp is scintillating-played with power and panache, no concession to the complexity of the instrument, confirming her as one of the most significant musicians redefining harp at present"- The Living Tradition. She is a regular performer and tutor worldwide and has toured extensively in Europe, United States, Canada, China, Australia and Vietnam. Michelle has three highly acclaimed*

*albums recorded by American record label Shanachie and Irish record label Chlo- lar Chonnachta. She was awarded the prestigious TG4 Young Musician of the Year in 2006 and was also awarded Female Musician of the Year in 2005 at the Live-Ireland awards in the United States and also in 2013 for her solo album Suaimhneas. She has also recorded with Bill Whelan and the Irish Chamber Orchestra on his highly acclaimed Connemara suite album on which she was a lead soloist. Michelle's solo harp debut album "Suaimhneas" was released under the Clo lar Chonnacht label in 2012 and has been receiving worldwide acclaim as one of the top harp albums in Irish Traditional Music.*

*Michelle completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Music in UCC. She progressed on to postgraduate study at the University of Limerick where she graduated with a first class Master's degree in Ethnomusicology and in the following year in Music Education. She has just recently completed her PhD dissertation titled 'Aistear: Performing Cultural Encounter: An Arts Practice Investigation of Karen, Burmese and Irish Harping Traditions' at the University of Limerick this year.*

*"superior solo Irish harp music played with superb clarity, beautifully melodic expression and innate musicality"- Rob Adams*

*"seed, breed and generation are writ large across every tune and set of this finely calibrated album. As its name suggests (it means "serenity"), this thoughtful collection reflects the subtlety of much of our traditional music. It's a welcome antidote to the high-octane approach favoured by many bands. Stitched into its core is Mulcahy's forensic knowledge of, and feel for the music she's heard and played for decades"- Síobhán Long, Irish Times \*\**



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## SONG TUTORS

### KARAN CASEY



*Karan Casey has long been one of the most innovative, provocative and imitated voices in Irish traditional and folk music. Her career has spanned twenty five years from the early days as a jazz performer in George's Bistro in Dublin to her heady days in New York with the band Solas to her now established solo career and she has sold over half a million albums.*

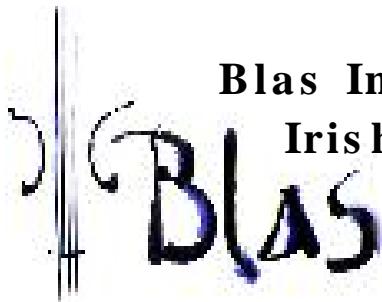
*Karan released her first album with the group Solas, which quickly became the most celebrated Irish*

*band in the U.S., and her four years with the group were pivotal. Since embarking on her solo career Karan has released 6 solo albums, a duo album (with John Doyle), an album for children and numerous contributions to other artists' projects – appearing on more than 50 albums in total. She has toured constantly throughout North America, Europe and Japan, performing solo, with her own band and with many other diverse artists. Recent years have seen Karan appearing with Folk legends James Taylor, Liam Clancy, Peggy Seeger, Mick Moloney and The Dubliners and Imelda May as well as performances with Solas, Lunasa, Tim O'Brien and Capercaillie's Karen Matheson and collaborations with pianist/composer Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin and with Breton guitarist Gilles le Bigot's "Voix de la Terre".*

*Other ventures have included The Vallyely Brothers Big Band and Niall Vallyely's "Turas na dTaoiseach/Flight of the Earls" event, which was premiered in Belfast's Grand Opera House and later performed in Louvain, Belgium. She was also involved in Tommy Hayes's "Apples in Winter" multimedia project. She presented a program on Irish National Television exploring the songs associated with the Irish Labour Movement.*

*Karan has won awards for "**Best Folk Album**" and "**Best Folk Female**" from Irish Music Magazine and been nominated for the BBC Folk Awards and the Danish Grammys and was a key member of **Paul Winter's Grammy-award winning "Celtic Solstice"**. She has appeared at festivals in Europe and the US such as WOMAD USA, the Cambridge Folk Festival, Celtic Connections, the Philadelphia Folk Festival, Festival Cornouaille, Festival Interceltique Lorient, Milwaukee Irishfest and Merlefest as well as appearing at many prestigious venues including the Kennedy Centre (Washington DC), New York's Symphony Space, Nashville's Grand Ole Opry, the Hollywood Bowl, Dublin's National Concert Hall, the Cathedral of St John the Divine, the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall and many others. She has made many TV and radio appearances on both sides of the Atlantic and has been a frequent guest on nationally syndicated radio and TV shows such as **Garrison Keillor's 'A Prairie Home Companion'** and "**Mountain Stage**".*

*In 2009 Karan released her fifth solo album entitled "**Ships in the Forest**" on the Crow Valley*



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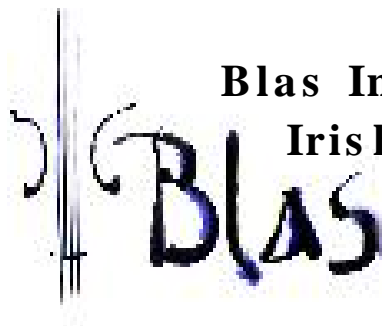
*Music label. Produced once again by Donald Shaw, this album focuses largely on the traditional repertoire.*

*"Exiles Return" a duet album with former Solas band-mate **John Doyle** was released to widespread critical acclaim in early 2010 and was named in the Top 5 albums of the year by The Irish Echo newspaper. Karan continues to tour with her own band and as a duo with John Doyle. Over the past 2 two years Karan has: performed with Béla Fleck & the Flecktones at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall; appeared on television with Imelda May and legends The Dubliners; toured in Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden with the Celtic Super Night featuring Lunasa, Martin Hayes and Máirtín O'Connor; guested with Spanish band Tejedor at the Festival Interceltique Lorient in France; toured Ireland and the US with Buille and toured in the US with John Doyle.*

***Two More Hours** is Karan's sixth solo album and her first entirely self-penned album. Contemporary in tone it takes a much more personal approach to her writing and singing. It features a duet with Irish chart-topper **Mick Flannery** as well as contributions from **Abigail Washburn** and **Aoife O'Donovan** and was produced by **Niall Vallely**. A departure from the traditional music she has focused on for many years **Two More Hours** draws on Karan's life-long love of R&B, Jazz and Blues in creating a vibrant new mix of sounds. Vallely's string arrangements help meld together a stellar cast of Ireland's finest musicians from the worlds of Classical, Folk and Rock music including **Ken Rice, Kate Ellis, Sean Og Graham, Trevor Hutchinson, Eoghan Regan, Danny Byrt** and **Caoimhín Vallely**.*

*Karan recently completed a sold-out Music Network tour of Ireland with **Maura O'Connell** and a tour of the US with **Lúnasa** as well as performances with **A Stór Mo Chroí** (featuring John Spillane, Lumiere and Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh). Upcoming performances include concerts in the US with her own band and with Solas as well as two appearances at Boston's Symphony Hall with the **Boston Pops Orchestra**.*





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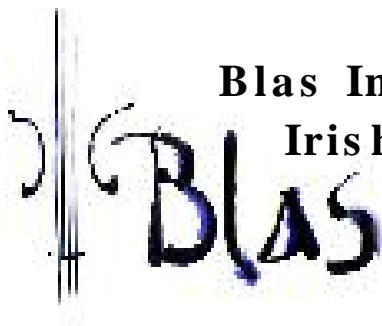
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University of Limerick

**Dr. SANDRA JOYCE**



*Dr. Sandra Joyce is Director of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at the University of Limerick, which has 16 programmes of study from BA to PhD level. Together with Niall Keegan and Mícheál O Súilleabháin, she founded the BA Irish Music and Dance and MA Irish Traditional Music Performance at the University, and has been Course Director of both these programmes. She is a traditional singer and bodhran player who has recently performed at the Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow and Farmleigh House, Dublin. She is Artistic Director of the a capella female vocal ensemble, Hazelwell, which explores repertoire from the Irish and related traditions. Her research interests include the Irish song tradition, the Irish harp tradition and*

*historical sources of Irish traditional music.*



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## RÓISÍN NÍ GALLÓGLAIGH

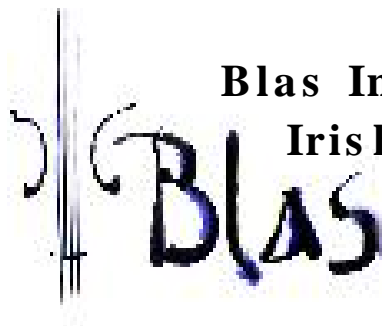


*A native of Co. Meath, Róisín Ní Gallóglaigh has spent most of her life between the west of Ireland and Spain. She has been the lead singer with many bands including Pervish (not a misprint!), La Banda Del Pezgato and Albaiswing. At present Roisin sings with UL vocal ensemble Hazelwell and Irish music ensemble Coisire. She has performed in the past with artists such as Bobby Mc Ferrin and The Chieftains.*

*In 2011 she was awarded her degree in Irish Music and Dance from the University of Limerick where she specialised in Traditional*

*Irish song under the tutelage of Eilís Ní Shúilleabháin and Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh. As a solo artist Roisin performs songs from the Irish, English and Scots tradition alongside her own compositions. She has been a traditional song tutor at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance and for Chaladh an Treoigh Comhaltas since October 2011.*

*Roisin has been researching in the area of traditional song since completion of her degree. As a result of this research she has presented two papers at the University of Limerick Song Seminar Series 2011/12 and at the North Atlantic Fiddle Conference in Derry (Nafco) 2012.*



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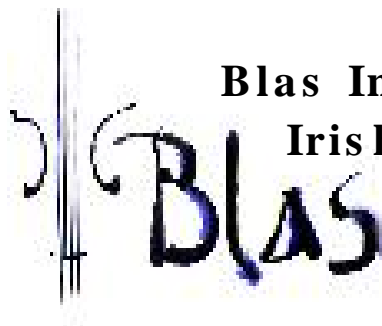
## GEAROIDÍN BREATHNACH



*Gearoidín Breathnach is a traditional storyteller or Seanchaí and a Sean-Nós singer from the Gaeltacht area of North-West Donegal. Gearoidín is two time winner of the prestigious sean-nós singing competition Corn Uí Riada and two time winner of Corn Neddíe Fraic Mac Grianna in storytelling. Gearoidín has been a part of numerous worldwide productions within the arts. She has published a wealth of literature aimed at the younger generation to entice and inspire the next generation to learn the story telling and singing traditions of old. She has produced a number of highly successful CD's of local traditional songs that are listened to worldwide. Gearoidín has also received special accolades for her services within the arts such as Gradam Speisialta Fleadh Ceoil na hÉireann in 2005 awarded by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and the world renowned international culture award La Traglia in 2011. Past winners of this accolade include the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso and Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee daughter of the famous Mahatma Gandhi. Gearoidín also*

*works with groups from young children to adults and with people from all around the world who want to experience a taste of Irish stories, songs and culture.*

*Seanchaí agus ceoltóir tradisiúnta sean-nós atá in Gearoidín Breathnach agus tá sí ina cónaí i iarthuaisceart Thír Chonaill. Is buaiteoir Corn Uí Riada príomhchomórtas amhránaíochta ar an Séan-Nós faoi dhó í agus buaiteoir Corn Neddíe Fraic Mhic Grianna príomhchomórtas scéalaíochta ag an Oireachtas. Glacann Gearoidín páirt í gcuid mhór imeachtaí sa tír seo agus thar lear. Tá cuid mhór cumtha agus scríobhtá aici dírithe ar an aos óg lé iad a gríosú, spreagadh agus a mhealladh lé suim a chuir ins na tradisiún éagsúla mar an scéalaíocht, ceol agus ar gcultúr. Tá dhá dhlúthdhiosca foilsithe aici a bhfuil toir mór orthu ar fud an domhain mhór. Tá go leor duaiseanna agus gradam buaite aici. Sa bhliain 2005 bhronn Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Gradam Speisialta Fleadh Ceoil na hÉireann uirthi agus sa bhliain 2011 bronnadh an gradam idirnáisúnta La Traglia uirthi san Iodáil. Bronadh an Gradam seo sna blianta chuaigh thart mar shampla ar an 14ú Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso agus ar Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee iníon do Mahatma Ghandi. Oibríonn Gearoidín lé grúpaí éagsúla dhaoine óga agus daoine fásta bhfuil súim acu blás de chultúr na hÉireann a bhlású.*



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## CONCERTINA TUTORS

### TOMMY FITZHARRIS



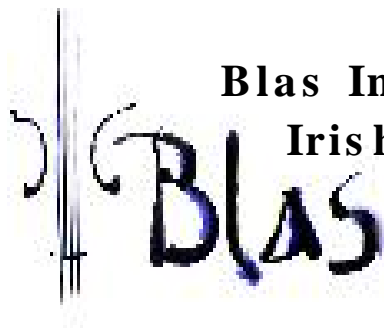
*Multi-instrumentalist Tommy Fitzharris, hails from Stradbally, Co Laois, and has been playing traditional Irish Music since the age of seven. He comes from a musical family and is self-taught on the flute, concertina and whistle.*

*Tommy made a first ever for his county in 2009 when he won the Senior Concertina Title in the All-Ireland Fleadh. In 2012, he then triumphed in the All Ireland Senior Flute Competition winning it also at Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann in Cavan.*

*Tommy has been a tutor on the BA in Irish Music and Dance and on the MA in Traditional Irish Music Performance in the University of Limerick from 2009 to present. In addition, he is in constant demand as a tutor and performer on the traditional Irish*

*music festival scene and continues to give workshops and concerts at various traditional music festivals nationally and internationally. Tommy has toured Europe, the United States and Asia extensively with the band Ciorras who were formed as part of the Lorg Lunny programme on TG4. He has featured on the Fleadh programmes, BBC Alba and its annual coverage of the famous Celtic Connections festival in Glasgow, Beijing TV, Geantraí, Ceilí House and The Tubridy Show. He has performed in some the worlds most prestigious music venues including The Forbidden City Concert Hall Beijing, The National Concert Hall in Dublin and the Munich Philharmonic Concert Hall to name but a few. Tommy holds an MA in Irish Traditional Music Performance and a Grad Dip in Music Education, attained from The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at the University of Limerick.*





# Blas International Summer School of Irish Traditional Music and Dance



Irish World Academy of Music and Dance  
University of Limerick

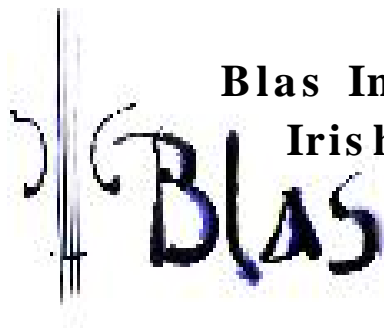
## BANJO TUTORS

### JOHN CARTY



*John Carty is one of Ireland's finest traditional musicians having been awarded the Irish Television station, TG4's Traditional Musician of the Year in 2003. He joins previous acclaimed winners Matt Molloy (Chieftains flautist), Tommy Peoples (Master Fiddler), Mary Bergin (whistle player, Dordan), Máire Ní Chathasaigh (Harpist) and Paddy Keenan (Uilleann Piper), all of whom are considered to be the leading exponents of their instruments within the Irish tradition.*

*Carty already has three solo fiddle albums, two banjo albums, two group albums and a sprinkling of recorded tenor guitar and flute music recordings under his belt so it's little wonder he should have joined such elusive ranks. John is a tutor at the Irish World Academy. [www.johncartymusic.com](http://www.johncartymusic.com)*



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## ALAN REID



*Alan Reid hails from Killargue, county Leitrim. He has developed a name for himself as a banjoist with a distinctive style and as a highly adept multi-instrumentalist. Alan's playing has had him working in both performance and studio settings as well as a movie appearance. He featured on the compilation CD "Leitrim Equation 3" recording duets with Donal Lunny and John Carty. In a more musically progressive setting he can be heard drawing from his varied musical influences with the band Arum whose debut was released in March 2016. 2017 brought him into established trad band Goitse's lineup which will see him embark on tours of the US and Europe. He was resident in Limerick for many years and a graduate of the UL Irish World Academy BA and MA traditional music programs there. He is now settled in the Burren in county Clare having just released an album of obscure traditional tunes with Rachel Conlan entitled "A Quare Yield".*