PATRICK O'KEEFFE 34th

TRADITIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

CASTLEISLAND, CO. KERRY



2026 Guide

22nd – 26th October 2026

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Welcome to the 34th Patrick O'Keeffe Traditional Music Festival



Paudie O'Connor and Conor O'Mahony

Dear Friends,

It gives us great pleasure to welcome you to Castleisland for the 34th Patrick O'Keeffe Traditional Music Festival, taking place from October 22nd to 26th, 2026.

Since its beginnings in 1993, the festival has grown into one of Ireland's largest celebrations of traditional music. Much has changed over those 34 years, but what makes the festival special has remained the same: the music of Sliabh Luachra, the friendships formed through it and the wonderful atmosphere that takes over Castleisland each October.

Five Days of Music, Song and Dance

This year's programme is our most ambitious to date, bringing over 200 professional musicians to Castleisland for five days of concerts, workshops, singing, dancing and more than 130 organised sessions.

We are delighted to have assembled such an outstanding line-up. Our opening concert with Piaras Ó Lorcáin sold out well in advance, while Friday night sees the welcome return of Dervish, alongside Damien Mullane and Seán O'Meara. Saturday's Sliabh Luachra Concert and Sunday's Trad All Stars Concert will feature some of the most respected names in Irish traditional music, including Jackie Daly, Matt Cranitch, Noel Hill and Pauline Scanlon.

Our Festival Clubs on Saturday and Sunday nights, organised in association with Samhain Chiarraí, will once again combine live traditional music with the hugely popular Trad Disco, bringing another dimension to the festival weekend.

Of course, the Session Trail remains at the heart of it all. There are few things quite like walking through Castleisland on an October evening, with music spilling out from the pubs and musicians gathering from every corner of Ireland and further afield. It is this atmosphere, as much as any concert or event, that makes the festival what it is.

Keeping the Sliabh Luachra Tradition Alive

As the festival continues to grow, our commitment to promoting and preserving the music of Sliabh Luachra remains as strong as ever.

Our workshops, Sliabh Luachra Fiddle Recital and annual Sliabh Luachra Concert provide opportunities for musicians of all ages to learn from and play alongside some of the finest exponents of this wonderful musical tradition. Passing on the music to future generations is central to everything we do.

This year we are particularly pleased to collaborate with RTÉ as part of its centenary celebrations, with a special exhibition exploring Sliabh Luachra in the RTÉ archives. We also look forward to welcoming Raidió na Gaeltachta back to Castleisland for a live broadcast from the festival.

We are also delighted to welcome TG4 to Castleisland this year. Their cameras will be capturing the music, people and atmosphere of the festival for a television programme to be broadcast later in the year.

Another significant development has been *Luach*, a new stage production celebrating the music and culture of Sliabh Luachra. Supported by the Arts Council and developed in association with Céim Arts, this production has provided an exciting opportunity to explore new ways of presenting our musical heritage to audiences.

Recognising Outstanding Contributions

One of the great pleasures of the festival each year is the opportunity to recognise those who have made lasting contributions to our music and to the festival itself.

This year, we are delighted to present Gerry Harrington with the Dedication to the Music of Sliabh Luachra Award. Gerry's association with the festival goes right back to its earliest days, and his contribution to the music of the region is widely recognised. We look forward to honouring him at Saturday night's Sliabh Luachra Concert.

We also pay a special tribute to our Festival President, Pats Broderick, one of the people who helped get the festival off the ground in 1993. Pats has given an extraordinary amount of his time and energy to the festival over the years and remains as involved as ever. We owe him an enormous debt of gratitude.

Our congratulations also go to our 2026 Young Musicians of the Year, Eoin O'Driscoll from Newmarket and Mikaela Ní Mhurchú from Turner's Cross, Cork. Both are exceptionally talented young musicians, and we look forward to hearing them perform alongside their chosen tutors, Bryan O'Leary and Matt Cranitch, at Saturday's concert. The future of our music is in good hands.

A Word of Thanks

A festival of this size depends on the generosity and goodwill of a great many people.

We are deeply grateful to our two major sponsors, **Divanes Kerry** and **Right Group**, for their tremendous support. We also extend our sincere thanks to the Arts Council of Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, Kerry County Council Arts Office, Samhain Chiarraí, Kerry Community Support Fund and Local Enhacement Fund, Castleisland Chamber Alliance and our many other funding partners and supporters.

To the businesses of Castleisland and the surrounding areas who support us through sponsorship and advertising, thank you. Your generosity is essential to the festival's continued success. We are very conscious of the support we receive locally and of the importance of ensuring that the festival continues to bring visitors, business and life into the town at this time of year.

Our thanks also go to the publicans and venue owners who make the Session Trail possible, and to the local families and accommodation providers who welcome visiting musicians and festival-goers into their homes each October.

A particular word of appreciation must go to our volunteers. From collecting sponsorship and arranging accommodation to organising concerts, workshops and sessions, an enormous amount of work goes on behind the scenes throughout the year. Much of it is unseen, but none of it goes unnoticed. We are fortunate to have people who give so generously of their time to keep the festival going.

Finally, to the musicians and audiences who return to Castleisland year after year, and to those joining us for the first time, a very warm welcome. It is wonderful to see old friendships renewed each October and new ones formed around the music.

We hope you enjoy everything this year's festival has to offer, whether it's a concert in the River Island Hotel, a workshop, a singing session or an unexpected few tunes in a corner of a pub.

Thank you for being part of the Patrick O'Keeffe Festival. We hope you have a memorable few days in Castleisland.

Bainigí taitneamh as an bhféile!

Conor O'Mahony – Festival Chairman

Paudie O'Connor – Festival Director



We were delighted to have received this photo, date and location unknown. Front left to right Denis (Weaver) Murphy, Partick O' Keeffe, Willy Clancy & Sonny McSweeny.

The Patrick O'Keeffe Traditional Music Festival proudly presents a range of free events throughout the year. These include the largest session trail of its kind, where some of the finest exponents of the tradition perform in a warm, relaxed setting. We also host online Sliabh Luachra Workshops, welcoming participants from around the world, and deliver informative lectures on Sliabh Luachra music every year, free of charge. In the lead-up to the festival, we visit schools across Kerry, bringing this rich tradition directly to young audiences. If you would like to support these initiatives, please scan the QR code. https://patrickokeeffefestival.com/donate/

TICKETS & BOOKING INFORMATION

Tickets for concerts, Festival Club nights and workshops are available online at:

www.patrickokeeffefestival.com

Online booking fees apply.
Some events are free but require advance booking.

Patrick O'Keeffe Traditional Music Festival
22–26 October 2026
Castleisland, Co. Kerry

34 Years Celebrating the Music and Traditions of Sliabh Luachra

Pub Trail - Opening Night
Thursday 22nd October



Piaras Ó Lorcáin in Concert
Time: 8pm ***Admission:*** €25
Venue: Gala Hall, River Island Hotel

SOLD OUT

Festival Session Trail Begins
Time: 9pm ***Admission:*** Free
Venue: Various pubs and venues throughout Castleisland
The festival's renowned Session Trail gets underway, bringing traditional music to venues across the town.



Hartnett's Bar	**10.00pm**	Paudie O'Connor, Joe O'Sullivan, Aoife Ní Chaoimh
Brownes Front Bar	**9:30pm**	Tom O'Connell, Mike Brosnan, Cathal Flood
Brownes Back Bar	**10.00pm**	**Open Session**
Shoemaker Back Bar	**8.30pm**	Con Moynihan, Denis O'Connor, Bryan O'Leary
The Kingdom Bar	**8.30pm**	Michael Healy, Kirill Healy, Brian Scannell
Tom McCarthy's Front	**8.30pm**	Eilis Murphy, Jonathan Roche and friends
Kearney's Bar	**9.00pm**	Sean Butler, Donal Cullinane and friends

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PATRICK O'KEEFFE 33RD

Traditional Music Festival Castleisland, Co. Kerry







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Friday Night 23rd October

Sliabh Luachra Teenage Trad Session
A special traditional music session for teenage musicians.
Time: 10:00am-12.00pm
Venue: St John's Hall, Castleisland

Raidió na Gaeltachta Live from the Festival
Raidió na Gaeltachta broadcasts live from the festival, featuring music, interviews and special guests.
Time: 12pm
Venue: Main Street, Castleisland

Festival Session Trail
Live traditional music throughout the afternoon, evening and night.
Time: 3pm onwards
Venue: Various pubs and venues throughout Castleisland

Dervish in Concert with **Damien Mullane & Seán O'Meara** and **Flat to the Matt.**
Time: 8pm onwards ***Admission:*** €30
Venue: Gala Hall, River Island Hotel



Hartnett's Bar	**6.30pm** **10.00pm**	Amhlaoibh Ó Siocháin, Conor Daly, Tom Ahern and friends Keelan McGrath, John Paul Reynolds, Fionn O'Hanlon, Nathan Gourley
Éabha Jones	**6.30pm**	Nicky McAuliffe, Anne McAuliffe, Eibhlín de Paor, Mike Kelliher
Castleisland Rugby Club	**9.00pm**	UCC Battle of Bands Winners Cathal Slattery, Tadhg Dalton, Cian Fitzgerald, Louis Murphy
Brownes Front Bar	**5.00pm** **9.00pm**	Oran Kelly, Oisin Duffy, Nathan Gourley, Aiden Quigney Daithí Gormley, Liz Kane, Yvonne Kane, Michael O'Connor
Brownes Back Bar	**9.30pm**	Greta Curtin, Jessie Healy, Kealan O'Connor, Laura Jo Callaghan, Haley Holly
Shoemakers Back Bar	**9.30pm**	Aaron Glancy, Seán Kelliher, Rebecca McCarthy Kent, Leonard Barry
Shoemakers Front Bar	**9.00pm**	Liam O'Brien, Deirdre Hurley, Padraic Mac Donnacha, Graham Guerin
The Kingdom Bar	**9.30pm**	Paudie O'Connor, Conal Ó Grada, Aoife Ní Chaoimh, Peter Browne, Joe Thoma

Tom McCarthy's Front	**9.00pm**	Derek Hickey, Liam Flanagan, Caoimhin Ó Fearghaill, Paddy Tutty
Tom McCarthy's Kitchen	**9.30pm**	Jackie Daly, Matt Cranitch, Paul de Grae
Kearney's Bar	**4.00pm**	Caoilte Morrisson, Ryan Sheridan, Andrew Caden, Conor McDonagh, Paudie O Connor
	9.30pm	**Madden's Belfast On Tour**, Oisin Murphy, Erin Rose Ní Mhaoláin, Piaras Mac Maoláin, Peter McKenna, Kiernan Lynch
River Island Con's Bar (Downstairs)	**6.00pm**	Mick Culloty, Seán Abeyta, PJ Teehan, Rhona O'Driscoll, Gerry Harrington
	10.00pm	Danny Collins, Claire Fennell, Conor Arkins, Aoife Granville, Deirdre Granville
River Island La Bodega	**9.00pm**	Megan McGinley, Nia Byrne, Turlough Malone, Lily O'Connor, Liam Winnett

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Saturday Classes & Workshops

TRADITIONAL MUSIC CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

A comprehensive programme of traditional music workshops, featuring specialist Sliabh Luachra classes alongside instrument-specific tuition from some of Ireland's finest musicians.
Time: 11am ***Admission:*** €20 per workshop. Advance booking essential.
Venue: Gaelscoil Aogáin and St Patrick's Secondary School, Castleisland

SLIABH LUACHRA SPECIALIST WORKSHOPS

Paudie O'Connor - Sliabh Luachra Workshop (Online - All Instruments)
Bryan O'Leary - Sliabh Luachra Repertoire (All Instruments)
Matt Cranitch - Sliabh Luachra Fiddle (Online and In Person)
Aoife Ní Chaoimh - Sliabh Luachra Fiddle (Intermediate)

INSTRUMENT-SPECIFIC WORKSHOPS

Fiddle – Liz Kane
SOLD OUT ***Accordion*** – Danny O'Mahony
Accordion – Keelan McGrath
SOLD OUT ***Concertina*** – Noel Hill
Concertina – Greta Curtin
Flute – Conal Ó Gráda
Uilleann Pipes – Colm Broderick
Banjo – Tom Ahern
Tin Whistle – Éimhear Flannery
Guitar – Seán O'Meara

FESTIVAL SESSION TRAIL

Live traditional music throughout the day and late into the night.
Time: 11.30am onwards ***Admission:*** Free.
Venue: Various pubs and venues throughout Castleisland

SLIABH LUACHRA FIDDLE RECITAL

MC: Matt Cranitch
A celebration of the distinctive Sliabh Luachra fiddle tradition, featuring some of the finest exponents of the music. Featuring: Emma O'Leary, Anne & Nicky McAuliffe, Con Moynihan, Diarmuid O'Brien, Róisín O'Connor, Aoife Ní Chaoimh, Gerry Harrington, Aidan Connolly, Seán Fleming, Máiréad Clancy, Olivia Tarrant, Clara O'Brien, Liam O'Connor, Matt Cranitch and Caoimhe Flannery.



Time: 2pm
Venue: Ivy Leaf Arts Centre
Admission: €10. FREE admission for Saturday workshop participants.

POP-UP GAELTACHT

Hosted by Éamonn Ó Braonáin. An informal gathering celebrating the Irish language, conversation and culture.
Time: 2pm ***Admission:*** Free
Venue: Castleisland Museum

TRADITIONAL SINGING CONCERT

MC: Aileen Roantree. Featuring: Pauline Scanlon, Trevor Sexton, Tim Dennehy, Piaras Ó Lorcáin, Seamie O'Dowd
Time: 3pm ***Admission:*** €10
Venue: Hartnett's Bar

THE SLIABH LUACHRA CONCERT



In association with Divanes Kerry
Featuring: Jackie Daly, Matt Cranitch & Paul de Grae, Leonard Barry, Caoimhe & Éimhear Flannery, Gearóid Keating & Máiréad Corridan, Andrea Palandri, Mike Kelliher & Dónal Cullinane, Paudie O'Connor, Joe O'Sullivan, Aoife Ní Chaoimh & Eiblín de Paor
Time: 7pm ***Admission:*** €25
Venue: Gala Hall, River Island Hotel
Special Award Presentations
Dedication to the Music of Sliabh Luachra Award
Presented to Gerry Harrington in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the musical traditions of Sliabh Luachra.
Patrick O'Keeffe Young Musician of the Year Awards 2026
Presented to: Mikaela Ní Mhurchú, Eoin O'Driscoll

FESTIVAL CLUB: NIGHT 1 – SAMHAIN CHIARRAÍ



Featuring Greta Curtin, Rebecca McCarthy Kent, Kealan O'Connor & Seán Kelliher. Followed by the Trad Disco with DJ Conor Crimmins. A high-energy night of traditional music as part of the Samhain Chiarraí Halloween celebrations. Fancy dress encouraged!
Time: 10.30pm ***Admission:*** €20
Venue: NightOwls Nightclub, River Island Hotel
Strictly Over 18s.
NO TICKETS ON DOOR. ONLINE ONLY.

Saturday 24th October

Hartnett's Bar	**12.00pm**	Damien Mullane, Jeremy Spencer, Seán O'Meara, Conor Broderick
	3.30pm	**Singing Concert** Pauline Scanlon, Trevor Sexton, Tim Dennehy, Piaras Ó Lorcáin. *(Admission €10)*
Éabha Jones	**6.00pm**	Derek Hickey, Liam Flanagan, Caoimhín Ó Fearghaill
Castleisland Rugby Club	**2.00pm**	Keelan McGrath, John Paul Reynolds, Fionn O'Hanlon, Tom Ahern
	6.00pm	Eamonn Ó Meachair, Conor McDonagh, Andrew Caden, Ryan Sheridan
Castleisland Museum *(Adjacent to Tom McCarthy's Bar)*	**2.00pm**	Pop up Gaeltacht
	4.00pm	Michael Healy, Kirill Healy, Eilis Murphy, Mike Rice
Browne's Front Bar	**12.00pm**	Andrew Caden, Conor McDonagh, Ryan Sheridan, Caoilte Morrisson, Ryan Sheridan, Naoise O'Connor, Andrea Palandri
	3.00pm	Danny O'Mahony, Liz Kane, Yvonne Kane, Nathan Gourley

Saturday 24th October

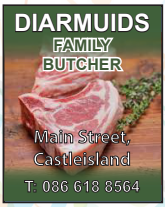
Browne's Bar Back Bar	**1.00pm**	Derek Hickey, Liam Flanagan, Steve Larkin, Caoimhin Ó Fearghaill
	5.00pm	**Sliabh Luachra Meets Europe** Andrea Palandri, Paudie O'Connor, Michele Bellarosa, Aoife Ni Chaoimh
Shoemakers Back Bar	**1.00pm**	John Carroll, Gearoid Keating, Deirdre Granville, Aoife Granville, Patsy Broderick
	4.00pm	Bryan O Leary, Colm Guilfoyle, Billy O'Gorman, Mikie O'Gorman
Shoemakers Front Bar	**12:30pm**	Conor Moriarty, Deirdre Meachair, Leonard Barry
	3.30pm	Tom Morrow, Daithí Gormley, Paddy Tutty, Conal Ó Gráda
The Kingdom Bar	**1:00pm**	Megan McGinley, Nia Byrne, Lily O'Connor, Jane Walls
	4.00pm	Oran Kelly, Oisin Duffy, Aidan Quigney, Laura Jo Callaghan
Tom McCarthy's Front Bar	**12:00pm**	Paraic Mac Donnacha, Oran Kelly, Oisin Duffy, Aidan Quigney
	3.00pm	Carthach Ó Faolain, Niamh Dalton, Colm Broderick
Tom McCarthy's Kitchen	**6.30pm**	**Open Session**
Kearney's Bar	**12:00pm**	Danny Collin, Claire Fennell, Conor Arkins, Michael O'Connor
	4.00pm	Johnny Óg Connolly, Clíodhna Costello, Pádraig Ó Dubhghail
River Island Con's Bar Downstairs	**2:00pm**	Aaron Glancy, Liam Winnett, Conor Daly, Micheál Broderick
	4.30pm	Tom O'Connell, Mike Kelliher, Cathal Flood











Saturday Night Pub Trails

Hartnett's Bar	**7.00pm**	Emma O'Leary, Aidan Connolly, Carthach Ó Faolain
	10.00pm	**Madden's Belfast on Tour** Oisin Murphy, Erin Rose Ní Mhaoláin, Piaras Mac Maoláin, Peter McKenna, Kiernan Lynch
Castleisland Rugby Club	**9.30pm**	Keelan McGrath, John Paul Reynolds, Fionn O'Hanlon, Liam Winnett
Browne's Bar Front	**6.00pm**	Liam O'Brien, Deirdre Hurley, Paddy Tutty, Jillian O'Malley
	9.30pm	Damien Mullane, Jeremy Spencer, Seán O'Meara, Conor Broderick
Browne's Bar Back Bar	**10.00pm**	Leonard Barry, Liam Kelly, Megan McGinley, Seamie O'Dowd, Nia Byrne
Shoemakers Back Bar	**7.00pm**	Danny Collins, Claire Fennell, Lily O'Connor, Conor Arkins
	10.00pm	**UCC Battle of Bands Winners**, Cathal Slattery, Tadhg Dalton, Cian Fitzgerald, Louis Murphy
Shoemakers Front Bar	**7.00pm**	Liz Kane, Yvone Kane, Danny O'Mahony
	10.00pm	Johnny Óg Connolly, Cliodhna Costello, Pádraig Ó Dubhghail, Eamonn O'Riordan
The Kingdom Bar	**7.00pm**	Seán Butler, Eoin Foley, Cieran Murphy, Timmy Keane, Roisin O Connor
	10.00pm	Aoife Granville, Deirdre Granville, Marie O'Gorman, Kate O'Gorman
Tom McCarthy's Front Bar	**6.30pm**	Joe Mannion, Padraig Ó Dubhghaill, Diarmuid O Brien, Donal O Sullivan
	10.00pm	Tom Morrow, Daithí Gormley, Paddy Tutty, Conal Ó Gráda
Tom McCarthy's Kitchen	**9.00pm**	Gearoid Keating, John Canny, Diarmuid O'Brien, Mairead Corridan
Kearney's Bar	**7.00pm**	Padraic Mac Donnacha, Liam Kelly, Tom Morrow, Graham Guerin
	10.00pm	Joe Mannion, Caoilte Morrisson, Eamonn Ó Meachair
River Island Con's Bar Downstairs	**10:00pm**	Oran Kelly, Oisin Duffy Aidan Quigney, Laura Jo Callaghan
O'Riada's Bar	**9.00pm**	Jonathan Roche, Eilis Murphy, Mike Rice and friends

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Sunday 25th October

SLIABH LUACHRA WORKSHOP WITH AIDAN CONNOLLY
An exploration of the rich repertoire and distinctive musical style of Sliabh Luachra, led by acclaimed fiddle player Aidan Connolly. Suitable for intermediate to advanced musicians.
Time: 11am ***Admission:*** Free. Advance booking essential.
Venue: Ivy Leaf Arts Centre

RTÉ 100: SLIABH LUACHRA IN THE ARCHIVES
A special exhibition celebrating the musical heritage of Sliabh Luachra through RTÉ's archives, featuring historic recordings, archival material and live music.
Time: 11am - 5pm
Venue: Castleisland Museum

CÉILÍ MÓR
With the Donie Nolan Céilí Band. An afternoon of traditional Irish dancing with the renowned Donie Nolan Céilí Band.
Time: 2pm
Venue: An Ríocht Pavilion, Castleisland

CHILDREN'S TRADITIONAL MUSIC SESSION
Led by Emma O'Leary & Niamh Dalton. A welcoming session for young musicians of all ages and abilities.
Time: 3pm ***Admission:*** Free.
Venue: Ivy Leaf Arts Centre

OPEN SINGING SESSION
Hosted by Joe Walsh. An afternoon of traditional songs and storytelling. All singers and listeners welcome.
Time: 4pm ***Admission:*** Free.
Venue: Con's Bar (Downstairs), River Island Hotel

TRAD ALL-STARS CONCERT
in Association with Right Group.
An outstanding line-up of some of Ireland's most celebrated traditional musicians and singers.
Featuring: Pauline Scanlon, Noel Hill & Liam O'Connorm, Liz Kane & Danny O'Mahony, Aidan Connolly & Bryan O'Leary
Time: 7pm ***Admission:*** €30.
Venue: Gala Hall, River Island Hotel



FESTIVAL CLUB: NIGHT 2
Featuring Pólca 4. Followed by the Trad Disco with DJ Conor Crimmins. A night of high-energy traditional music, bringing the festival weekend to an unforgettable close.
Time: 10.30pm ***Admission:*** €20.
Venue: NightOwls Nightclub, River Island Hotel
Strictly Over 18s.



THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND NIGHT – FESTIVAL SESSION TRAIL
Featuring Pólca 4
Traditional music sessions continue throughout the town.
Time: 10.30pm ***Admission:*** Free.
Venue: Various pubs and venues throughout Castleisland

Sunday 25th October

Hartnett's Bar	**12.30pm**	Keelan McGrath, John Paul Reynolds, Fionn O'Hanlon
	3.30pm	Liam Winnett, Megan McGinley, Caoilte Morrisson, Turlough Malone
Éabha Jones	**6.00pm**	Páraic Mac Donnchadha, Eámonn O'Riordan, Graham Guerin
Castleisland Rugby Club	**3.00pm**	Johnny Óg Connelly, Cliodhna Costello, Paudie O'Connor, Aoife Ni Chaoimh, Padraig O Dubhghaill
Castleisland Museum *(Adjacent to Tom McCarthy's Bar)*	**11.00am to 5.00pm**	RTE 100: Rolling Wave Photo Exhibition
Browne's Bar Front	**12.30pm**	Noel Hill, Andrew Caden, Conor McDonagh, Ryan Sheridan
	4.00pm	Jackie Daly, Matt Cranitch, Paul De Grae
Browne's Bar Back Bar	**2.00pm**	Annalise Whyte, Mikaela Ní Mhurchú, Roisín, O'Connor, Tom Ahern
	6.00pm	Joe Mannion, Eamonn Ó Meachair, Nia Byrne, Naoise O'Connor
Shoemakers Back Bar	**1.00pm**	Greta Curtin, Jessie Healy, Kealan O'Connor, Darragh Horan
	4.00pm	Danny Collins, Conor Arkins, Claire Fennell, Jillian O'Malley
Shoemakers Front Bar	**12.00pm**	Liam O'Brien, Deirdre Hurley, Naoise O'Connor, Steve Larkin
	3.00pm	Aidan Connolly, Eamonn O'Riordan Conor Daly, Nathan Gourley
The Kingdom Bar	**12.30pm**	Joe Mannion, Conor Arkins, Megan McGinley, Turlough Malone
	3.30pm	Damien Mullane, Jeremy Spencer Seán O'Meara, Conor Broderick
Tom McCarthy's Front Bar	**1.30pm**	Bryan O'Leary, Mikie O'Gorman Michael O'Connor, Billy O'Gorman
	6.00pm	**UCC Tradfest Battle of Band Winners**, Cathal Slattery, Tadhg Dalton, Cian Fitzgerald, Louis Murphy
Tom McCarthy's Kitchen	**12.00pm**	Colm Broderick, Niamh Dalton, Colm Guilfoyle, Carthach Ó Faoláin
	4.30pm	Michael Healy, Brian Scannell, Roisín O'Connor, Kirill Healy
Kearney's Bar	**12:00pm**	Danny O'Mahony, Liz Kane, Yvonne Kane
	3.00pm	Eileen de Paor, Ciaran Kelly, Gerry Harrington, Peter Browne (pipes), Billy Clifford
River Island Con's Bar Downstairs		**Open Singing Session** All Singers Welcome Hosted By Joe Walsh

Sunday Night Pub Trails

Hartnett's Bar	**6.30pm**	Rebecca McCarthy Keny, Seán Kelliher Aaron Glancy Conor Daly
	9.30pm	Greta Curtin, Jessie Healy, Kealan O'Connor, Darragh Horan
Castleisland Rugby Club	**6.00pm**	Annalise Whyte, Caoilte Morrisson Jane Walls, Eoin Murphy, Emma Kelly
	9.30pm	**UCC Tradfest Battle of Band Winners** Cathal Slattery, Tadhg Dalton, Cian Fitzgerald, Louis Murphy
Browne's Bar Front	**9.30pm**	Mikie O'Gorman, Eoin O Driscoll Michael O'Connor, Billy O'Gorman, Colm Guilfoyle
Browne's Bar Back Bar	**9.30pm**	Eilis Murphy, Jonathan Roche, Donal Cullinane, Cathal Flood
Shoemakers Back Bar	**7.00pm**	Amhlaoibh Ó Siochain, Cian O'Grady, Laura Jo O'Callaghan
	10.00pm	Aaron Glancy, Rebecca McCarthy Kent, Seán Kelliher, Conor Daly
Shoemakers Front Bar	**10:00pm**	Derek Hickey, Liam Flanagan, Caoimhín Ó Fearghaill
The Kingdom Bar	**6:30pm**	John Carroll, Emma O'Leary, Cathal Flood
	10.00pm	Damien Mullane, Seán O'Meara, Conor Broderick
Tom McCarthy's Front Bar	**9.00pm**	Tom Morrow, Paddy Tutty, Conal Ó Gráda, Keelan McGrath
Kearney's Bar	**7.00pm**	**Madden's Belfast On Tour** Oisin Murphy, Erin Rose Ní Mhaoláin, Piaras Mac Maoláin, Peter McKenna,
	10.00pm	Amhlaobh Ó Siocháin, John Paul Reynolds, Fionn O'Hanlon
River Island Con's Bar Downstairs	**7:00pm**	Liam Kelly, Liam O'Brien, Deirdre Hurley
O'Riada's Bar	**9.00pm**	Jackie Daly, Matt Cranitch, Paul De Grae, Peter Browne (pipes)

Best of Luck from

NOLAN STEEL

Monday 26th October

CLOSING DAY – FESTIVAL SESSION TRAIL
The festival concludes with another day of traditional music, with sessions continuing throughout the afternoon and evening.
Venues: Various pubs and venues throughout Castleisland
Admission: FREE

Hartnett's Bar	**2.00pm**	Eilis Murphy, Jonathan Roche, Cathal Flood, Eddie Hennesy
	7.30pm	Greta Curtin, Jessie Healy, Eoin Murphy
Browne's Bar Front	**3.00pm**	John Brosnan, Tim Kerins and friends
	9.00pm	Sean Butler, Eoin Foley, Cieran Murphy, Timmy Keane
Shoemakers Back Bar	**3.00pm**	Greta Curtin, Kevin Murphy, Jessie Healy, Kealan O'Connor, Eoin Murphy
The Kingdom Bar	**4.00pm**	Gearoid Keating, Eibhlin de Paor, Donie Nolan
Tom McCarthy's Front Bar	**4.30pm**	Mick Culloty, PJ Teehan, Seán Abeyta, Rhona O'Driscoll
Kearney's Bar	**1:00pm**	Con Moynihan, Denis O'Connor, Joe O'Sullivan, Gerald Culhane
River Island Con's Bar Downstairs	**1:00pm**	**Open Session**
O'Riada's Bar	**2.00pm**	Michael Healy, Kirill Healy, Roisin O'Connor, Paudie O Connor, Aoife Ni Chaoimh

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Patrick O'Keeffe Young Musicians of the Year 2026

The Patrick O'Keeffe Traditional Music Festival is delighted to honour Mikaela Ní Mhurchú and Eoin O'Driscoll as our 2026 Young Musicians of the Year. Both are exceptionally talented musicians with a deep appreciation for the rich musical heritage of Sliabh Luachra.

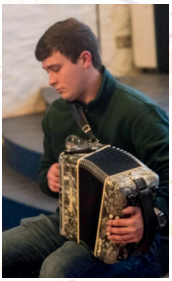
Mikaela Ní Mhurchú – Female Young Musician of the Year



Mikaela Ní Mhurchú is a fiddle player from Turner's Cross, Cork, and a final-year Occupational Therapy student at University College Cork. Having begun playing the fiddle at the age of seven, she has performed extensively throughout Ireland and internationally.

Mikaela has a particular passion for the Irish language and the Sliabh Luachra musical tradition, having studied under renowned fiddle player Matt Cranitch, with whom she will perform at this year's festival.

Eoin O'Driscoll – Male Young Musician of the Year



Eoin O'Driscoll is a button accordion player from Newmarket, Co. Cork, whose love of traditional music began at an early age, inspired by recordings of Sliabh Luachra musicians played in his grandfather's home.

Having initially learned from Deirdre Drew, Eoin went on to study under acclaimed accordion player Bryan O'Leary, grandson of the legendary Johnny O'Leary.

A member of the All-Ireland winning U18 Crossfields Céilí Band in 2024, Eoin regularly performs at sessions and festivals, teaches accordion with Kiskeam Comhaltas and hosts a monthly session in Newmarket. He will perform alongside his former teacher Bryan O'Leary during this year's festival.

Previous Young Musician Award Winners

First introduced in 2021, the award aims to encourage and nurture the next generation of traditional musicians, with a particular emphasis on preserving the distinctive musical heritage of Sliabh Luachra.

2021: Simon Crehan

2022: Megan McGinley and Seán Butler

2023: Róisín O'Connor and Éamonn Ó Meachair

2024: Áine Teape and Michael Healy

2025: Emma Kelly and Eoin Foley

2026: Mikaela Ní Mhurchú and Eoin O'Driscoll

The festival committee warmly congratulates Mikaela and Eoin and is proud to continue supporting the talented young musicians who will carry the Sliabh Luachra tradition into the future.

Gerry Harrington ~ A Lifetime Dedicated to Sliabh Luachra Music

The Patrick O'Keeffe Traditional Music Festival is delighted to honour renowned fiddle player Gerry Harrington with its 2026 Dedication to the Music of Sliabh Luachra Award, recognising his outstanding contribution to the musical traditions of the region and his long-standing association with the festival.

Gerry's connection with the festival stretches right back to its beginnings in 1993. He was among the musicians who helped establish the atmosphere and spirit that have become synonymous with the October weekend in Castleisland. Over the past 34 years, Gerry has remained a familiar and much-loved presence at the festival, sharing his music and his deep appreciation for the Sliabh Luachra tradition.

A hugely respected figure in Irish traditional music, Gerry is particularly well known for his recordings and performances with Eoghan O'Sullivan, including their work as Scéal Eile and alongside guitarist Paul de Grae as The Smokey Chimney. His distinctive fiddle playing and dedication to the music have earned him enormous respect among fellow musicians and traditional music enthusiasts.

One particularly memorable festival moment came during a Sunday afternoon session in Brennan's Bar, when Gerry brought the house down with his rendition of The Old Man Rocking the Cradle, performed in the unmistakable style of Patrick O'Keeffe, complete with the original key to Glountane National School, where Patrick was headmaster for a period of time! Gerry delighted audiences once again with the same party piece at the Sliabh Luachra Fiddle Recital in 2023, a wonderful reminder of his connection to Patrick O'Keeffe and the rich musical heritage of Sliabh Luachra.

In a particularly special moment, Gerry will reunite with Eoghan O'Sullivan and Paul de Grae for a performance at this year's Sliabh Luachra Concert on Saturday, October 24th, where he will also be presented with his award.

The festival is especially proud to recognise a musician who has been part of its story since the very beginning. Gerry Harrington's contribution to Sliabh Luachra music, and to the Patrick O'Keeffe Festival itself, makes him a truly deserving recipient of this year's honour.

Dedication to the Music of Sliabh Luachra Award Roll of Honour

2026 – **Gerry Harrington**
2025 – Billy Clifford
2024 – John Walsh
2023 – P.J. Teahan
2022 – Maura O'Keeffe
2021 – Connie O'Connell
2020 – No Award (COVID-19)
2019 – Jackie Daly
2018 – Timmy O'Connor
2017 – Matt Cranitch

2016 – Paddy Jones
2015 – Dónal O'Connor
2014 – Jimmy O'Brien
2013 – Dan Murphy
2012 – Dan Herlihy
2011 – Nicky and Anne McAuliffe
2010 – Denis McMahon
2009 – Jimmy Doyle
2008 – Willie O'Connell
2007 – Maurice O'Keeffe
2006 – Mikey Duggan
2005 – Dan O'Connell
2004 – Paddy Cronin
2003 – No Award
2002 – Peter Browne
2001 – No Award
2000 – Dr. Ciarán MacMathúna

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Pats Broderick ~ Honouring a Founding Figure of the Patrick O'Keeffe Festival

Few people have contributed more to the Patrick O'Keeffe Traditional Music Festival than Pats Broderick, known to everyone as Pats Broder. A central figure since the festival's beginnings in 1993, Pats is now its President, but his contribution goes far beyond any title.

Alongside his wife Linda, Pats took over The Shoemaker's Bar in Castleisland in 1983, having previously hosted traditional music sessions in The Poor House Bar. At a time when traditional music was neither particularly popular nor profitable in the town, Pats kept the flag flying. The Shoemaker's became a home for the music and a gathering place for some of the finest musicians from Kerry and beyond. Pats and Linda always made sure there was a welcome for them.

When the Patrick O'Keeffe Festival was first taking shape, Pats was one of those who helped get it off the ground. He was a great source of encouragement to the late Mike Kenny, who had his art studio in an upstairs storage room at the rear of The Shoemaker's. The two men shared a great enthusiasm for the music, and the pub became a natural meeting place for those involved in organising the fledgling festival.

In those early years, The Shoemaker's was effectively festival headquarters. Mike, who served as Festival Chairman, made great use of the pub's telephone to organise musicians and sessions. As the evening wore on and ideas for the Session Trail gathered momentum, Mike could often be found feeding coins into the phone, making calls to musicians the length and breadth of Ireland. Not every arrangement made late into the night was remembered the following morning, and in those early years you could never be entirely sure who might turn up for the festival. That unpredictability was part of its magic.

Another story from the very first festival in 1993 sums Pats up nicely. During a Saturday afternoon session in The Shoemaker's, he appeared through the back door carrying a large tray of food from The American Style across the lane. He placed it on the table for the musicians and carried on about his business. It was typical of Pats. The musicians were there to play, and he would make sure they were looked after.

Anyone who knows Pats will tell you that he is one of the kindest men you could meet, generous to a fault and always willing to help.

A lovely example of this came during the 2023 festival. Following a concert in the River Island Hotel, we received an email from a father who had attended with his 13-year-old son, a wheelchair user with additional medical needs.

He wrote:

"I would like to acknowledge the help and support of the people on the ground last night that went out of their way to make sure we had a comfortable and relaxing night."

"I can only offer praise for the people I met last night from the door to inside the venue and if you could pass my gratitude, I would appreciate it."

The person who had gone out of his way to look after the family was Pats. It was a wonderful email to receive, although it came as no surprise to anyone who knows him. That's just Pats.

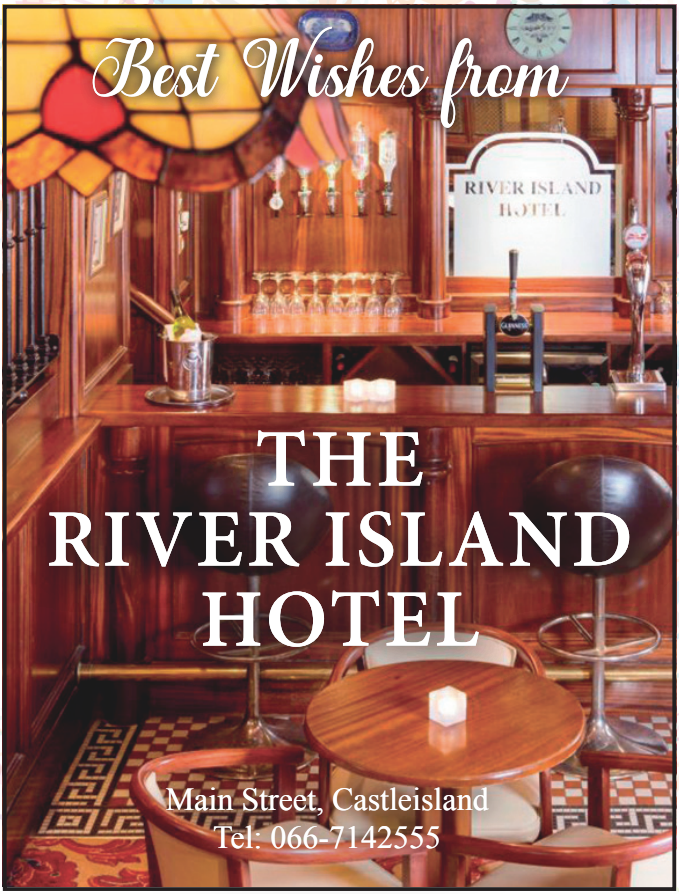
Nor has he shown any signs of slowing down. To this day, Pats remains one of the festival's most dedicated fundraisers, calling door to door to businesses throughout Castleisland collecting sponsorship. He is still a familiar face on the door at festival concerts, helping out wherever he is needed. More than three decades on, he continues to put in the same work that helped get the festival off the ground in the first place.

The festival has changed enormously since those early days in The Shoemaker's, but much of what makes it special can be traced back to people like Pats, who gave their time, opened their doors to musicians and kept the music alive when there was little financial reward in doing so.

As we celebrate our 34th festival, it is fitting that we honour Pats Broderick. The festival owes him an enormous debt of gratitude, not just for the part he played in its foundation, but for everything he continues to do and, above all, for the kindness and generosity he has shown to so many people over the years.



Pats Broderick pictured in 2021 enjoying a session at his former bar, The Shoemaker's, alongside his friend and long-time festival supporter John Looney of Miltown Malbay. John, who was a much-loved fixture of the festival for many years, sadly passed away on the eve of the festival in 2022 and is dearly missed.



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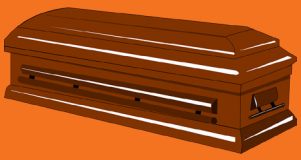
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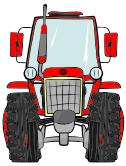
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