

# PATRICK 31<sup>st</sup> O'KEEFFE

TRADITIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL CASTLEISLAND, CO. KERRY



## 2023 Guide

Castleisland, Co. Kerry  
26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023

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# Fáilte - A Word of Welcome

A Cháirde,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to Castleisland for the 31st annual Patrick O'Keefe Traditional Music Festival.

It's amazing to see how it has developed and grown since it was first held back in 1993 – all of 31 years ago.

This year's festival will mark the 30th anniversary of the founding of the event and, earlier this year, on February 22nd 2023 we marked the 60th anniversary of the death of the man we honour with this festival.



## Five-Day Festival

The festival is maintaining its five-day format which we tried for the first time last year.

It has grown and survived on the back of sustained, cross community support which has been its life-blood time after time down through all these years.

There were times when things were tough, business wise, but that community support never wavered and for that we are sincerely impressed and genuinely grateful.

We extend our traditional and special Céad Mile Fáilte to visiting and local musicians who will be lighting up our lives with their talents by taking part in the many sessions here over the weekend.

## Your Efforts are Appreciated

To the throngs of music loving supporters from home and abroad and from all corners of the world we also say welcome and thank you for making the effort to be with us on this great occasion.

It is a constant source of amazement to us to find that, on each October, people from all corners of the world have actually made their way to Castleisland to enjoy the unique musical experience we strive to provide.

We have a line up of music, song and dance that we hope will make your stay here an enjoyable and pleasant one.

The educational aspect of the festival and the emphasis on the local style of the music of Sliabh Luachra will again be at the heart of the matter over the weekend.

The festival broke new ground in this regard in 2022 with classes being held in all of the traditional Sliabh Luachra associated instruments.

## Heartening to Watch

It has been heartening to watch this area of the festival going from strength to strength.

The classes will be conducted by some of our finest local and national musicians and they provide a great opportunity for beginners, intermediate and seasoned musicians to hone their skills in an encouraging and welcoming environment.



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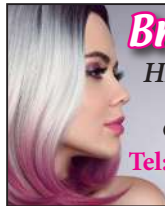


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We have been fortunate that several of the pupils of Patrick O'Keeffe and those influenced by his life and music have taken part in the festival over the years and thereby ensuring that his legacy and legend live on.

### **Valuable and Vital Support**

For their continuous support over the years I would especially like to thank the following: the Arts Council of Ireland; Kate Kennelly and all her team in the Arts Office at Kerry County Council; the Kerry Community Support Fund; the Community Enhancement Scheme and Creative Ireland; the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport; Fáilte Ireland's Festival and Participative Events Grant; Castleisland Chamber Alliance and the aforementioned valued support we get from the local business community.

We thank all at Walsh Colour Print and graphic designer Ashling Hartnett for her help and work on this brochure.

### **Volunteerism – An Admirable Trait**

We, in the committee of the Patrick O'Keeffe Traditional Music Festival, are very fortunate to have a team of volunteers who offer their assistance every year. They stand at class-room doors in local schools while music classes are in progress.

They take up positions at concerts and do whatever is needed and they, led by our tireless President Pats Broderick, collect the vital subscriptions from businesses around the town every year. This year's collection has been nothing short of heartwarming for the committee. Many people told our collectors that they can see what the festival means to the town in terms of a financial injection at a time of year when it's most needed.

This year we are particularly thankful to the many people in Castleisland and its environs who came up with over 250 extra beds in the area to accommodate the expected influx of visitors over the five days.

### **Award Recipient P.J. Teahan**

Finally, I'm delighted to welcome the committee decision that Handed Down / World Fiddle Day Scartaglen founder member and Sliabh Luachra Archive minder, P.J. Teahan was nominated to receive the 2023 Patrick O'Keeffe Traditional Music Festival Award for Dedication to the Music of Sliabh Luachra.

We warmly congratulate the festival's young musicians, Róisín O'Connor from Dublin and Éamonn Ó Meachair of Cúl Aodha and we wish them well in their future careers.

*- Cormac O'Mahony, festival chairman.*



# Pub Trail - Opening Night

## Thursday 26th October

4pm - Ireland's Biggest And Best Session Trail Begins

Venue: Multiple Locations Through Town

<b>Hartnett's Bar</b>	<b>8.30pm</b>	Colm Gannon, Sean Gavin, Paudie O'Connor, Aoife Ní Chaoimh
<b>The Crown</b>	<b>8.30pm</b>	Mike Kelliher, Sean Kelliher Rebecca McCarthy Kent
<b>Browne's Bar Front</b>	<b>8.15pm</b>	Eilis Murphy, Jonathan Roche, Sean Leahy
<b>Shoemakers Front Bar</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>	Timmy Flaherty, Maura O'Connor, John Paul Reynolds
<b>Tom McCarthy's Front Bar</b>	<b>8.30pm</b>	Nickie McAuliffe, Anne McAuliffe, Eileen de Paor, Con Moynihan, Denis O'Connor
<b>River Island Con's Bar (Downstairs)</b>	<b>9:00pm</b>	Donie Nolan, Gearoid Keating and friends
<b>River Island La Bodega</b>		OPEN SESSION

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# Friday 27th October

## 1pm - Sliabh Luachra Teenage Trad Session

Venue: St John's Hall, Castleisland

## 8.00pm - Opening Concert at Patrick O'Keeffe Festival 2023

Jesse Smith, Colm Gannon, Seán Gavin, Tara Breen, Órlaith McAuliffe, Catherine McHugh, Paddy Glackin, Gay McKeown, Mary Corcoran, Cathy Jordan, Killarney School Of Music, Eileen O'Brien & Jackie Daly, Jackie Daly & Kevin Burke, Frankie Gavin & Catherine McHugh

Doors: 7pm Begins: 8pm

Venue: River Island Hotel



<b>Hartnett's Bar</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	Connie O'Connell, Eibhlin de Paor, Aoife Ní Chaoimh, Gerry Harrington
<b>Kearney's Bar</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	Bryan O'Leary, Mikie O'Gorman, Colm Guilfoyle, Marie O'Gorman
<b>Browne's Bar Front</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	Timmy Flaherty, Maura O'Connor, John Paul Reynolds
<b>Shoemakers Back Bar</b>	<b>4.30pm</b>	Welcoming Session Timmy Connors, Raymond O'Sullivan, John Walsh and friends
<b>River Island Con's Bar Downstairs</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	Mick Culloty, P.J. Teahan, Seán Abeyta and friends
<b>River Island La Bodega</b>		OPEN SESSION

We would like to thank the following supporters:

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# Friday Night Pub Trails

<b>Hartnett's Bar</b>	<b>9.30pm</b>	Dylan Carlos, Cein Sweeney, John McCairtin, Tom Morrow, Peter McKenna
<b>The Crown</b>	<b>9.30pm</b>	Diarmuid O'Meachair, Eamon O'Riordan, Clíodhna Costello, Padraig O'Dubghaill
<b>The Crown Back Bar</b>	<b>10.00pm</b>	Josephine Marsh, Mick Kinsella, Declan Corey
<b>Kearney's Bar</b>	<b>10.00pm</b>	Eilis Murphy, Jonathan Roche, Cathal Flood, Mike Rice
<b>Browne's Bar Front</b>	<b>10.00pm</b>	Damien Mullane, Sean O'Meara, Greta Curtin, Jessie Healy
<b>Browne's Bar Back Bar</b>	<b>9.00pm</b>	Session in Memory of Paddy Jones, Con Moynihan, Nickie McAuliffe Anne McAuliffe, Donal Cullinane, Emma O'Leary
<b>Shoemakers Front Bar</b>	<b>9:00pm</b>	Brian O'Loughlin, Doireann Ní Ghlacáin, Siún Ní Ghlacáin, Ruth McCrohan, Liam Lonnergan
<b>Shoemakers Back Bar</b>	<b>9.30pm</b>	Keelan McGrath, Ademar O'Connor, Seán Kelliher, Rebecca McCarthy Kent
<b>The Kingdom Bar</b>	<b>9.30pm</b>	Sinead McKenna, Megan McGinley, Nia Byrne, Rachel Masterson, Mickey Fearon
<b>Tom McCarthy's Front Bar</b>	<b>9.00pm</b>	Lily O'Connor, Caoilte Morrisson, Joe Mannion, Sarah O'Gorman
<b>Tom McCarthy's Snug</b>	<b>10.00pm</b>	George McAdam, Dan Gurney, Colm McGonigle
<b>River Island Con's Bar Downstairs</b>	<b>10:00pm</b>	Aidan Connolly, Nathan Gourley, Laura Fedderson Iarlaith McGowan, Alan Murray
<b>River Island La Bodega</b>		OPEN SESSION
<b>Flemings Bar Scartaglen</b>	<b>9.30pm</b>	Donie Nolan, Gearoid Keating, Gearoid Dineen
<b>Lyons Bar</b>	<b>9.00pm</b>	Derek Hickey, Paddy Tutty, Paul De Grae

# Saturday 28th October

## 11am Classes & Workshops

**Registration from 10.30 am**

**Venue:** St Patrick's Secondary School, College Rd, Castleisland.

**Fiddle, Accordion, Concertina, Flute, Banjo, Uilean Pipes, Guitar & Mandolin**

**Pre booking essential. Text 0857869067 or email**

**patrickokeeffefestival@gmail.com** with your name, level of ability and instrument.

**2.00pm**

**Sliabh Luachra Fiddle Recital**

**Venue:** Ivy Leaf Arts Centre

**MC:** Aidan Connolly

Connie O'Connell, Andrea Palandri, Caoimhe Flannery, Máire O'Keefe, Aoife Ní Chaoimh, Emma O'Leary, Gerry Harrington, John Daly, Eamon Flynn, Mikie O'Gorman, Róisín O'Connor, Con Moynihan, Darragh Curtin And Nickie McAuliffe

**Special guest: KEVIN BURKE**

**2.00pm**

**Pop up Gaeltacht**

**Venue:** The River Island Hotel – Upstairs Dining Room

Hosted by Éamonn Ó'Braoin agus Tomás MacUileagóid

**3.30pm**

**Singing Concert**

**Venue:** Fagans Bar

Niall Hanna, Méabh Begley, Mickey MacConnell, Tim Dennehy, Cathy Jordan

**4.30pm**

**The Compositions of Éamon Flynn**

**Venue:** The Ivy Leaf Arts Centre. *Free Entry.*

The Compositions of Éamon Flynn, joined by Nickie McAuliffe, Conor Daly and Aidan Connolly for a chat about his musical life.

**8.00pm**

**Sliabh Luachra Concert.**

Aidan Connolly & Aoife Ní Chaoimh, Joe O'Sullivan, Con Moynihan & Denis O'Connor, Gearoid Dineen, Jackie Daly & Paul De Grae, Mick Culloty, Seán Abeyta & Rhona O'Driscoll, Bryan O'Leary Michael O'Connor, Patrick O'Keefe Festival Young Musicians Of The Year Róisín O'Connor & Éamonn O'Meachair

Dedication To The Music Of Sliabh Luachra Award Presented To P.J. Teahan. The Festival Will Honour The Memory Of Jimmy Doyle & Séamus Begley.

**Venue:** River Island Hotel

*Saturday 28th October*

# SLIABH LUACHRA CONCERT

CAOIMHE FLANNERY, EIMEAR FLANNERY & AOIFE GRANVILLE

MÉABH BEGLEY & IOIN BEGLEY

GEARÓID KEATING, MAIREAD CORRIGAN & BONNIE NOLAN

JACKIE DALY & PAUL DE GRAE

CONNIE O'CONNELL & EIBHLÍN DE PAOR

PAUDIE O'CONNOR & ANDREA PALANDRI

BRYAN O'LEARY, JOE O'SULLIVAN & CON

MÓYNIHAN

MORE NAMES TO BE ADDED



<b>Hartnett's Bar</b>	12.30pm	Damien Mullane, Jeremy Spencer, Seán O'Meara
	3.30pm	<b>SINGING CONCERT</b> Niall Hanna, Méabh Begley, Tim Dennehy, Mickey MacConnell, Cathy Jordan
	7.30pm	Mikie O'Gorman, Brian O'Loughlin, Rebecca McCarthy Kent, Danny Collins, Marie O'Gorman
<b>The Crown</b>	12.00pm	Derek Hickey, Liam Flanagan, Iarlaith McGowan, Brian Mooney
	3.00pm	Josephine Marsh, Mick Kinsella, Declan Corey
<b>The Crown Back Bar</b>	5.00pm	Timmy Flaherty, Aaron Glancy and friends
<b>Kearney's Bar</b>	1.00pm	John Wynne, Gay McKeown, Mary Corcoran, John McEvoy, Aoife Granville
	4.00pm	Conor Moriarty, Greta Curtin, Jessie Healy, Darragh Horan
	6.30pm	Josephine Marsh, Mick Kinsella, Declan Corey
<b>Browne's Bar Front</b>	1.30pm	Tara Breen, Orlaith McAuliffe, Danny O'Mahony, Tom Morrow
	4.30pm	Diarmuid O'Meachair, Doireann Ní Ghlacáin, Lily O'Connor, Ruth McCrohan, Siún Ní Ghlacáin
	7.30pm	Nathan Gourley, Laura Fedderson, Clíodhna Costello, Padraig O'Dubhghail
<b>Browne's Bar Back Bar</b>	5.00pm	Timmy Connors, Raymond O'Sullivan, John Walsh, Máire O'Keeffe, Pat Fleming
<b>Shoemakers Front Bar</b>	2:00pm	George McAdam, Dan Gurney, Colm McGonigle Paddy Tutty
	5.30pm	Nickie McAuliffe, Anne McAuliffe, Mary Crowle, Michelle O'Sullivan, Johnny Connolly



# Saturday 28th October

<b>Shoemakers Back Bar</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>	Lily O'Connor, Caoilte Morrisson, Joe Mannion, Sarah O'Gorman, Ademar O'Connor
	<b>4:00pm</b>	Conor Connolly, Eamon O'Riordan, Andrea Palandri Padraig O'Dubhghaill, Paudie O Connor
<b>The Kingdom Bar</b>	<b>2:30pm</b>	Tom O'Connell, Niall O'Connor, Donal Cullinane
	<b>5:30pm</b>	Keelan McGrath, Alan Finn, Seán Kelliher
<b>The Kingdom Bar Pool Room</b>		Open Session
<b>Tom McCarthy's Front Bar</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>	Bryan O'Leary, Michael O'Connor, Colm Guilfoyle
	<b>4:30pm</b>	Colm Gannon, Jessie Smith, Sean Gavin
<b>Tom McCarthy's Snug</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	Derek Hickey, Paddy Tutty, Liam Flanagan
<b>River Island Con's Bar Downstairs</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>	Greta Curtin, Gearoid Curtin, Rachel Masterson, Jessie Healy
	<b>4:00pm</b>	Open Session
<b>River Island La Bodega</b>		OPEN SESSION
<b>Nana Beas</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>	Michael Healy, Kirill Healy, Seán Butler

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# Saturday Night Pub Trails

<b>Hartnett's Bar</b>	<b>10.30pm</b>	Tara Breen, Greta Curtin, Jessie Healy, Conor Moriarty, Darragh Horan
<b>The Crown</b>	<b>9.30pm</b>	Joe Mannion, Ademar O'Connor, Lily O'Connor, Caoilte Morrison, Peter McKenna
<b>Kearney's Bar</b>	<b>9.30pm</b>	Eilis Murphy, Jonathan Roche, Donal Cullinane, Cathal Flood
<b>Browne's Bar Front</b>	<b>10.00pm</b>	Keelan McGrath, Alan Finn, Seán Kelliher
<b>Browne's Back Bar</b>	<b>10.00pm</b>	Fuinneamh
<b>The Kingdom</b>	<b>10.00pm</b>	Colm Gannon, Jesse Smith, Sean Gavin, Joe DeGeorgio
<b>Shoemakers Front Bar</b>	<b>10.00pm</b>	Danny O'Mahony, Orlaith McAuliffe, Nathan Gourley, Laura Fedderson, Alan Murray
<b>Shoemakers Back Bar</b>	<b>9.30pm</b>	Damien Mullane, Seán O'Meara, Jeremy Spencer
<b>River Island Con's Bar</b>	<b>10:00pm</b>	Dan Gurney, George McAdam, Colm McGonigle Niall Hanna, Eamon O'Riordan
<b>River Island La Bodega</b>		OPEN SESSION
<b>Tom McCarthy's Front Bar</b>	<b>9.30pm</b>	Timmy Flaherty, Aaron Glancy, John Paul Reynolds
<b>Tom McCarthy's Snug</b>	<b>10.30pm</b>	P.J. Teahan After Party, Mick Culloty, Rhona O'Driscoll, Seán Abeyta, Michelle Anne Houlihan, Mike Rice, Tomás Mac Uileagoid, Mary Lawless
<b>Flemings Bar Scartaglen</b>	<b>9.30pm</b>	Josephine Marsh, Mick Kinsella, Declan Corey
<b>Lyons Bar</b>	<b>10.00pm</b>	Donie Nolan, Gearoid Keating, Mairead Corridan Gearoid Dineen
<b>O'Riada's Bar</b>	<b>9.00pm</b>	Conor Connolly, Liam O'Brien, Eamonn O'Riordan, Gearoid Dineen

# Sunday 29th October

**3.00pm - Ceili with Donie Nolan & Taylors Cross**

**Venue:** An Ríocht AC pavilion

**3.00pm - Kids Trad Session**

**Venue:** The Ivy Leaf

**3.30pm - Open Singing Session**

Hosted by Mike 'Legend' O'Connor & Joe Walsh

**Venue:** River Island's Con Bar

**4.30pm - Album Launches:**

**Venue:** Brownes Back Bar *Free Entry.*

Greta Curtin & Jessie Healy – Debut Album

Diarmuid O'Meachair – Melodeon Melodies

Sinead McKenna – Solo Album

Brian Fitzgerald – Turning Hay with a Crowbar

**4.00pm**

**Sliabh Luachra Record Label Launch the Albums of Bryan O'Leary, Maura O'Connor & Emma O'Leary**

**Venue:** Ivy Leaf Arts Centre

**5.30pm - Handed Down With P.J. Teahan & Nicky McAuliffe**

**Venue:** The Ivy Leaf Arts Centre

Sliabh Luachra Archives Audio Launch



**8.00pm - Altan In Concert**

Also Featuring...

Megan McGinley, Nia Byrne & Cathal Ó'Curráin, The Mulcahy Family' – Louise, Michelle & Mick Mulachy

**Venue:** The River Island Hotel

**11.00pm til Late - Festival Club**

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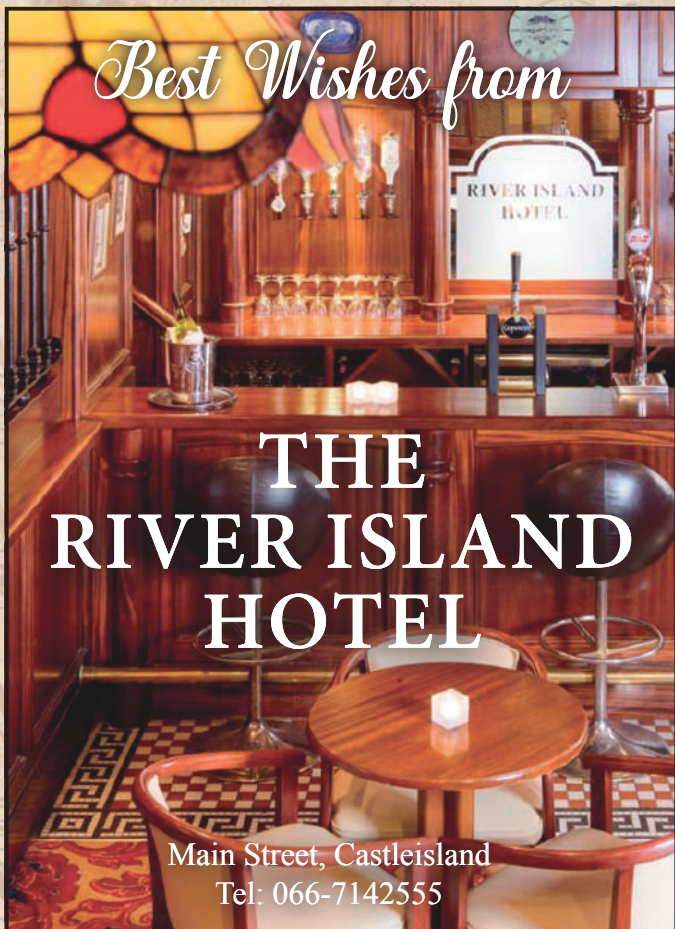


# Sunday 29th October

<b>Hartnett's Bar</b>	<b>1.00pm</b>	Liam O'Brien, Conor Connolly, Andrea Palandri, Padraig O'Dubghaill
	<b>4.00pm</b>	Paudie O'Connor, Aoife Ní Chaoimh, Meabh Begley, Niall Begley, Eoin Begley, Robbie Harris, Garry O'Brien
	<b>7.00pm</b>	Dylan Carlos, Céin Sweeney, John McCairtin, Tara Breen, Stephen McKee
<b>The Crown</b>	<b>12.30pm</b>	Connie O'Connell, Eibhlin de Paor, Mary Crowley, Michelle O'Sullivan, Aoife Granville
	<b>3.00pm</b>	Keelan McGrath, Megan McGinley, Nia Byrne, Niall Hanna
	<b>6.00pm</b>	Derek Hickey, Paddy Tutty, Liam Flanagan
<b>Kearney's Bar</b>	<b>12.30pm</b>	Méabh Begley, Eoin Begley, Niall Begley
	<b>3.30pm</b>	Alan Finn, Conor Daly, Danny Collins, Fionn O'Hanlon
	<b>7.00pm</b>	Con Moynihan, Denis O'Connor, Gearoid Dineen, Joe O'Sullivan
<b>Browne's Front Bar</b>	<b>12.00pm</b>	Jackie Daly, Eileen O'Brien, Paul de Grae
	<b>2.00pm</b>	Gerry Harrington, Máire O'Keeffe, Peter Browne, Ciaran Kelly
	<b>4.00pm</b>	Orlaith McAuliffe, Danny O'Mahony, Paddy Tutty, Stephen McKee, Gearoid Dineen
	<b>7.00pm</b>	Paudie O'Connor, Aoife Ní Chaoimh, Connie O'Connell, Eibhlin de Paor, Colm Gannon, Sean Gavin
<b>Browne's Back Bar</b>	<b>4.30pm</b>	<b>Album Launches</b> Diarmuid O'Meachair, Greta Curtin & Jessie Healy, Brian Fitzgerald, Sinead McKenna
<b>The Kingdom</b>	<b>2.00pm</b>	Timmy Connors, Raymond O'Sullivan, Eoin 'Stan' O'Sullivan, John Walsh
	<b>6.00pm</b>	Gerry Harrington, Peter Browne, Ciaran Kelly
<b>The Kingdom Pool Room</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Aidan Connolly, Jarlath McGowan, Liam Lonnergan, Ruth McCrohan, Siún Glackin
<b>Shoemakers Front Bar</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>	Céin Sweeney, Dylan Carlos, John McCairtin, Tom Morrow, Tara Breen
<b>Shoemakers Back</b>	<b>1.30pm</b>	Michael Healy, Colm Guilfoyle, Mikie O'Gorman Kirill Healy
	<b>4.00pm</b>	Aaron Glancy, Timmy Flaherty, Daire Smith
<b>Tom McCarthy's Front Bar</b>	<b>2.00pm</b>	Derek Hickey, John Wynne, John McEvoy
	<b>5.00pm</b>	Michael Healy, Colm Guilfoyle, Mikie O'Gorman Kirill Healy
<b>Tom McCarthy's Snug</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	Caoimhe Flannery, Éimear Flannery, Paul de Grae

# Sunday 29th October

<b>River Island Con's Bar</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>	Danny Collins, Sarah O'Gorman, Rebecca McCarthy Kent, Seán Kelliher
	<b>3.30pm</b>	Open Singing Session
	<b>6.00pm</b>	Liam O'Brien, Conor Connolly, Deirdre O'Brien, Alan Murray
<b>River Island La Bodega</b>		OPEN SESSION
<b>Hughes Bar Cordal</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	Nickie McAuliffe, Anne McAuliffe, Emma O'Leary
<b>Flemings Bar Scartaglen</b>	<b>3.30pm</b>	Jonathan Roche, Jeremy Spencer, Eilis Murphy, Seán Leahy
<b>O'Riadas</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	Jackie Daly, Eileen O'Brien, Mary Conroy



# Sunday Night Pub Trails

<b>Hartnett's Bar</b>	<b>9.30pm</b>	Keelan McGrath, Alan Finn, Seán Kelliher, Greta Curtin
<b>The Crown</b>	<b>10.00pm</b>	Danny O'Mahony, Órlaith McAuliffe, Paddy Tutty, Niall Hanna, Tom Morrow
<b>The Crown Back Bar</b>		Open Session
<b>Kearney's Bar</b>	<b>9.30pm</b>	Dylan Carlos , Céin Sweeney, John McCairtin, Tara Breen, Stephen McKee
<b>Browne's Front Bar</b>	<b>10.30pm</b>	Jonathan Roche, Eilis Murphy, Jeremy Spencer, Diarmuid O'Brien, Fionn O'Hanlon
<b>Browne's Back Bar</b>	<b>10.00pm</b>	Fuinneamh
<b>The Kingdom</b>	<b>10.00pm</b>	Sinead McKenna, Rachel Masterson, Mickey Fearon, Gearoid Curtin
<b>Shoemakers Front Bar</b>	<b>9.30pm</b>	Conor Connolly, Liam O'Brien, Andrea Palandri, Aidan Connolly
<b>Shoemakers Back</b>	<b>8.00pm</b>	Donie Nolan, Gearoid Keating, Donal O'Sullivan, Diarmuid O'Brien
<b>Tom McCarthy's Front Bar</b>	<b>10.00pm</b>	Brian Fitzgerald, Lorna Fitzgerald, John Wynne, John McEvoy, Niall Hanna
<b>River Island Con's Bar</b>	<b>8.30pm</b>	Caoimh Flannery, Éimear Flannery, Paul De Grae
<b>River Island La Bodega</b>		OPEN SESSION
<b>Flemings Bar Scartaglen</b>	<b>9.30pm</b>	Mike Brosnan, Kirill Healy, Michael Healy
<b>Lyons Bar</b>	<b>9.00pm</b>	Diarmuid O'Meachair, Eamonn O'Meachair, Eamon O'Riordan
<b>O'Riadas</b>	<b>10.00pm</b>	Meabh Begley, Eoin Begley, Niall Begley



# Patrick O’Keeffe Festival Young Musician Winners

## Róisín O Connor

Róisín O Connor is a fiddle player from Malahide, Co. Dublin. Her earliest musical influences were her parents, Sliabh Luachra musicians Paudie O Connor and Aoife Ni Chaoimh. She received fiddle tuition from Liam O Connor and John McEvoy. She has developed her interest and knowledge of Sliabh Luachra music from her involvement with the Handed Down and World Fiddle Day events in Sacartaglen. In 2022, along with her mother Aoife, she led the fiddle recital at World Fiddle day having chosen the tunes to be played from the Handed Down Sliabh Luachra archive. Through her research in the archive she has developed a particular love for the music of Julia Clifford and Paddy Cronin. Over the past number of years Róisín has done numerous recordings for both RTE and TG4.



## Éamonn Ó Meachair



Éamonn Ó Meachair, 19 years of age, is a piper from Doire’n Chuilinn, Cúil Aodha. He is the youngest in a family of five, all of whom are musicians. Music was always a huge part of the family home.

He began playing the Uilleann Pipes at age 7 through Na Píobairí Uilleann “Pipes on Loan” scheme. His first tutor was Rob Fell in the Killarney School of Music. At Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy he has had tutors

such as Seán Óg Potts, Seán Mckeon and Pádraic Keane.

His earliest influences are Patsy Touhey and Willie Clancy and most recently Joe Shannon. His other influences are Paddy Cronin, Caoimhín Ó Fearghail and Seán Keane among others.

He is currently studying Radiography in UCD where he was awarded an Entrance Scholarship from UCD and also a Scholarship from Teach na Gaeilge. He also teaches at Na Píobairí Uilleann Headquarters on Henrietta Street.

# Monday 30th October

1.00pm - Pub Trail resumes and runs all day until late

<b>Hartnett's Bar</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>	Paudie O'Connor, Aoife Ní Chaoimh, Gary O'Brien, Robbie Harris, Roisin O'Connor
<b>The Crown</b>	<b>2.00pm</b>	Donie Nolan, Gearoid Keating, Brian Mooney
<b>Kearney's Bar</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	Joe O'Sullivan, Con Moynihan, Mikie O'Gorman, Fionn O'Hanlon, Denis O'Connor
<b>Browne's Front Bar</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	John Brosnan, Tim Kerins, Mary Conroy
<b>Shoemakers Front Bar</b>	<b>1.30pm</b>	Sinead McKenna, Peter McKenna, Mickey Fearon, Rachel Masterson
<b>Shoemakers Back Bar</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	Donal Murphy, Greta Curtin, Jessie Healy and friends
<b>Kingdom Bar</b>	<b>4:30pm</b>	Nickie McAuliffe, Connie O'Connell, Eileen De Paor, Anne McAuliffe
<b>Tom McCarthy's Front Bar</b>	<b>4.30pm</b>	Mick Culloty, P.J. Teahan, Sean Abeyta, Mike Rice
<b>Flemings Bar Scartaglen</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	Niamh Dalton, Emma O'Leray, Donal Cullinane & Cathal Flood
<b>Lyons Bar</b>	<b>4.00pm</b>	Pat Fleming, Conor Daly, Marie Cotter and friend
<b>O'Riada's Bar</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	Nathan Gourley, Laura Feddersen, Michael Healy, Kirill Healy
<b>Hartnett's Bar</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	Jessie Healy, Greta Curtin, Darragh Horan, Gearoid Curtin
<b>Browne's Front Bar</b>	<b>9.00pm</b>	Paudie O'Connor, Aoife Ní Chaoimh, Eibhlin de Paor, Paul de Grae



# *The Loss of a Friend in John O'Looney, Quartermire, Mullagh, Co. Clare*



*Knocknagoshel native, Miltown Malbay resident, Joan O'Looney (RIP) pictured with her husband John (RIP) and son Aidan at the opening night of the 2009 Patrick O'Keeffe Traditional Music Festival. ©Photograph: John Reidy 23-10-2009*

**The sad news of John O'Looney's passing swept rapidly through traditional music circles early on the morning of October 26th 2002.**

The ink was literally drying on last year's festival brochures and they hadn't yet been distributed throughout the town when we got the news that one of our greatest supporters had gone to his eternal reward.

Only the previous night there was a festival committee check-list meeting and on that list was a matter of verification that there was a room held for John O'Looney at the River Island Hotel - and there was.

There was a strange sense of appropriateness about his going from his home in Quartermire then as he would be departing at that time of year anyway on his way to Castleisland for the Patrick O'Keeffe Traditional Music Festival - as he had done every year, bar one, since 1993 - and the one was that in the Covid lock-down era.

Over many of those years he would have been accompanied by his, Knocknagoshel native, late wife Joan who passed away in January 2010. Once you saw them and the late Susie Cox and their equals you knew the weekend had arrived.

We knew he hadn't been feeling well during the summer but then the news filtered around that the festival committee here had reserved a room in the River Island Hotel for him and his son Aidan for the weekend.

A solid judge of good music, John's first job on arriving in Castleisland would be to know where to go over the weekend and his well thumbed festival programme would earn its keep for the duration.

In all the years I knew him I never heard him say a bad word about anyone.

On one occasion he couldn't find Danny O'Mahony on the programme or in the pub, and I suggested an alternative. With raised eyebrows, he made a face at me, spread the fingers of a big hand and, with a downward motion, left me in no doubt that my suggestion didn't quite make the grade.





*The barrel and cushion seat in the corner of the snug in Friel's Bar in Miltown Malbay where the late John O'Looney liked to listen to the music of the sessions down through the years. ©Photograph: John Reidy 28-10-2022*

He was a great friend of the Kerry native and adopted Clare man the late Muiris Ó Rócháin – one of the founder members of the world renowned, Miltown Malbay based, Willie Clancy Summer School.

John O'Looney knew Willie Clancy and had seen all the greats of Irish music at close quarters down through the years.

John, who would have been 84 last January, was a well equipped and valued advisor to the late Mike Kenny in the early days of the Patrick O'Keefe Traditional Music Festival from 1993 on and great company always.

We celebrated with a proud John on a festival weekend after St. Joseph's GAA Club won the Clare senior football championship in 2015 for the first time in a quarter of a century.

And also on a Sunday afternoon in 2018 here in Castleisland after his grandsons, Cormac and Micheál Murray and Óisín O'Looney helped Miltown Malbay to win the championship title again.

For that game he and many others from Miltown Malbay left Castleisland in mid morning and were back here again before the peals of the Angelus bells that evening.

We miss his humorous honesty, his warmth and knowledge - all hallmarks that endeared us to his engaging company over all those years.

The numbers of Castleisland and Kerry people that crossed the Shannon for his funeral services in St. Mary's Church in Mullagh on the Friday evening and Saturday morning left no doubt about his status in the circles in which he moved so easily, so knowledgeably and so quietly.

There is an unmarked but fitting monument to John O'Looney in the corner of the snug in Friel's Bar in Miltown Malbay.

It's a barrel covered with a cushion in a strategic location. It's ideally placed for the keen follower of the tune and close enough to the corner of the bar from where the pint can be called for with a minimum of fuss or movement.

In the course of his time among us nobody else sat there. There may have been times when it would be kept warm for a while but, much like the late Garda John Moloney (another Clare man) in Brennan's Bar here in Castleisland, when they appeared the temporary occupants respectfully vacated.

John O'Looney's first anniversary Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary's Church, Mullagh on Friday, November 17th at 7:30pm.

May God be good to him. - John Reidy



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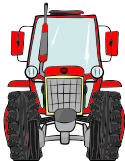
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# *The Late Jimmy Doyle ~ One of the Most Charismatic of Our Cherished Musicians*



*The masters at work: Bryan O'Leary and the late Jimmy Doyle playing on stage in Scartaglin on a Saturday night in 2017. ©Photograph: John Reidy 22-4-2017*

**News of the death of Jimmy Doyle, Maulykevane, Headford, Killarney on Sunday, January 8th, 2023 was greeted throughout the world of traditional Irish music with the kind of sadness you'd associate with the loss of a friend.**

Jimmy Doyle was one of the most charismatic of Kerry's cherished musicians of the Sliabh Luachra tradition. He was featured on many radio and television programmes in the course of his life.

He had a Céilí House special on RTÉ Radio One dedicated to him and his music broadcast in early August 2009.

The programme was recorded in Fagin's / Hartnett's Bar here in Castleisland on the previous April with a host of musicians and singers in attendance.

Jimmy was also the recipient of the Dedication to the Music of Sliabh Luachra Award at the 2009 Patrick O'Keeffe Traditional Music Festival.

In that he joined a list of the genre's finest exponents and promoters: like: Paddy Cronin, Mikey Duggan, Denis McMahan, Johnny O'Leary, Nicky and Anne McAuliffe, Paddy Jones and broadcasters, Peter Browne and Ciarán Mac Mathúna and many more.

The Scartaglin based Handed Down rolling programme of local music and culture also dedicated one of its Saturday night slots to Jimmy in April 2017.

This took the form of an interview conducted by one of his great admirers and an equally accomplished accordion player, Bryan O'Leary.

His loss, and that of the late Séamus Begley only a day apart in the darkness of January 2023 was widely mourned and will be sadly felt by the generations lucky enough to have seen and heard them entertaining and performing.

There will be those among generations to come who will praise and thank them for the considerable contributions they made to the health and well-being of the music they loved and played while they could. May God be good to them. - John Reidy



# *Séamus Begley Remembered by the Hillside Scribbler*

There are many entertainers in Ireland today,  
But there was one that stood out from far Dingle Bay.

He could sing and play music as sweet as a bird,  
He could also tell stories that were never heard.

This fine man Séamus Begley stood out on his own,  
He had a great presence in company or alone.

His soft singing voice with each note so sweet,  
His big smile and good humour a treasure to greet.

Reared into a family where culture was strong,  
Milked cows by hand as they all sang along.  
Kept tradition alive with their native tongue,  
Have handed it down to their many young.

Played music and sang in the family dance hall,  
Where locals with tourists were enjoying it all.  
Big crowds in Summertime packed wall to wall,  
Each cailín and buachaill were having a ball.

An Australian calle Steve Cooney arrived in the West,  
At playing a guitar he is surely the best.  
He joined up with Séamus Begley a musical treat,  
Meet them in a concert or a pub down the street.

They both have entertained us for many a year,  
We have listened, laughed and clapped, have shed joyful tears.  
They have lifted our spirits to relax, reminisce,  
A dear gift from heaven their musical bliss.

*Composed by The Hillside Scribbler, Jimmy Cullinane. 26/12/2022*



*Jimmy Cullinane from Cordal aka the Hillside Scribbler was inspired by the life and death of Séamus Ó Beaglaoich to compose the poem here in his honour and memory. ©Photograph: John Reidy 28-7-2013*



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# *The Late Séamus Ó Beaglaoich ~ A Universally Shared Sadness at his Passing*



*Members of the Begley clan and friends from An Ghaeltacht pictured during an unscheduled stop in Castleisland enroute to Dublin for an album launch. Included are: Niall Ó Beaglaoich, Diarmuid Ó Beaglaoich, Rita Ní Bheaglaoich, Floss Guadette, Máiréad Ní Fhlaithearta, Máirín Ní Churáin, Eoin Ó Beaglaoich, Laurence Courtney, Danny Scanlon, Breanndán Ó Beaglaoich, Dan Gaudette, Michean Leahy, Paul Begley, Pat O'Sullivan, John Leahy, Paddy Jones, Castleisland and Séamus Ó Beaglaoich. ©Photograph: John Reidy 5-7-2001*

**The shock news of the unexpected death on January 9th 2023 of Séamus Ó Beaglaoich caught the world of traditional Irish music in its sharp glare as the shock slowly gave way to a deep and almost worldwide sadness.**

Worldwide, because he was known the world over and loved for his sense of fun and mischievousness.

Further evidence of his widespread appeal came in the shape of the tributes that were paid to him after the news hit home and away.

There were obituaries and tributes in every possible publication here at home and in US based news-agencies with regional offices in places throughout the world.

Here in Ireland there wasn't a paper to be found that didn't carry the sad news or a tribute; count in The Farmers Journal which reflected an equally important part of his life.

One Sunday morning in March 2013 Miriam O'Callaghan interviewed the Baile na bPoc, Ballydavid musicians and brothers Breanndán and the late Séamus Begley.

In the course of the programme the talented duo recalled their childhood in West Kerry where they lived on the family farm and the household included their grandparents, parents and the nine children.

They told Miriam that it was a life of hard work. They recall the arrival of electricity, radio and the neighbour's first television set and they discussed how music was extremely important in the family and how their father ran the local dance hall.

This encouraged them to learn tunes on the accordion so that they might play there.

Séamus began playing the accordion there while a schoolboy and Brendán played the drums. Their mother was a great singer.

Séamus explained how he hated farming and when his musical career took off he said that farmers didn't consider him to be a proper farmer and musicians didn't consider him to be a proper musician.

As the wide world of traditional music mourned for the man so many of its inhabitants claim as a friend, the people of his area of West Kerry braced themselves for an influx of people wishing to express their condolences to his wife Máire and their family and extended family.

It came and they dealt with it through the power of the music he lived his life for.

He was here in Castleisland with us this time last year in roguish good form and he played a blinder with his daughter Méabh in a massive session at Fagin's / Hartnett's Bar on the Sunday afternoon of the festival.

May God be good to him. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam. - John Reidy

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# *Altan and Mairéad Looking Forward to Visiting and Playing at Castleisland Festival*



*Altan: heading to Castleisland for this weekend's Patrick O'Keefe Traditional Music Festival: Included are: Ciarán Curran, Mark Kelly, Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh, Martin Tourish and Claire Friel.*

A no holds barred estimate of the popularity of the band Altan on audiences throughout the world suggests that no Irish traditional music band has had a wider impact on music lovers from Donegal to Tokyo to Seattle.

Now the members of Altan are preparing for their first visit to Castleisland on October 29th to play in the 31st Patrick O'Keefe Traditional Music Festival.

The band members understand instinctively well what a musical legacy in an area like Castleisland means to those open to the calling.

They live their lives and play their music influenced, inspired and surrounded by the Doherty and McLaughlin legacies of their area of Donegal.

Just like our great musicians down here pay homage, praise them while they can, the richness of what Patrick O'Keefe and his equals handed down, gave and gifted to them to mind.

Altan will understand what drives the scene in Kerry and in Castleisland for those few mad musical days of togetherness and all the ordinary days that sacrifice themselves for those that really matter.

Kerry and Castleisland have not been anything like frequent hunting grounds for the Donegal based band over the years.

In the course of a telephone chat with Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh recently, I was taken aback and my innocence exposed by her response when I mentioned to her the infrequency of the band's appearances down here since it was formed back in the early 1980s.

After expressing her and the band's delight at the opportunity to play at the Castleisland festival she explained in rational if seldom heard terms why appearances in Ireland generally are such a rarity.

"We're delighted to be coming down to play in County Kerry and we can't wait to be honest with you. You mention that we're not down in Kerry too often, the thing about playing traditional music in Ireland is that it's very difficult to get gigs anywhere in the country for traditional musicians or a traditional band," said Mairéad.

"The irony of it all is that, unless we're playing at festivals around the country it's very hard for us to make a living here in Ireland and we have to leave to do that. And that's why we're looking forward to playing in Castleisland. It's so lovely when we do get the chance to play a gig here and there in Ireland when we can – because it's a rarity in fairness," she said.

"It's strange in a way because we have such a strong tradition of great music in Ireland and yet it's so hard to get an audience to come out to hear traditional music in Ireland – unless it's at a festival.

"Look at The Chieftains and many other bands like them – we all have to leave Ireland to make a living. That's the way it is here and it would be fabulous if we could stay at home and make a living here. But we're delighted to be coming down to Kerry and getting the chance to play there," she added.

"God bless festivals then ? I offered – and she wholeheartedly agreed.

Altan, the name of the band, was taken from a deep and mysterious lake behind Errigal Mountain up in Co. Donegal.

Down here in Co. Kerry this weekend, however, there's no mystery at all in getting to see this truly magnificent band in concert in Castleisland the River Island Hotel on Sunday, October 29th. from 8pm. - John Reidy

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# *A Goldmine of Sliabh Luachra Music from Castleisland in 1956 Recording*



*P.J. Teahan is this year's recipient of the Dedication to the Music of Sliabh Luachra Award at the Patrick O'Keeffe Traditional Music Festival and he will provide samples from the archive at the Ivy Leaf Arts Centre from 5:30pm on Sunday evening. ©Photograph: John Reidy*

**A veritable goldmine of old, traditional and very local music will be opened up to the public courtesy of the Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Archives at the Ivy Leaf Art Centre in Castleisland on Sunday, October 29th at 5:30pm.**

An offer from the Patrick O'Keeffe Traditional Music Festival committee in September to highlight the collection in the online Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Archive was 'gratefully accepted' by its founder P.J. Teahan.

PJ is also to receive the 2023 Dedication to the Music of Sliabh Luachra award in the course of the long weekend of this festival which runs over its recently adopted five-day duration from Thursday, October 26th to and including Monday 30th. 2023 and, as sure as you're there, a small sup of Tuesday.

PJ revealed that 2023 has been one of the best years for materials being donated to the archives and the opportunity to highlight these was too good an offer to turn down.

Early last spring saw the arrival of 20 cassette tapes from the USA from the family of Kathleen Fitzgerald R.I.P originally from Lisheen Cross and the famous Waiver Murphy family feature on these tapes," said PJ with more than a hint of what he's about to unveil.

"Fortunately for those of us who treasure such material, Kerry ETB in Tralee listened to our proposals and stepped forward with funding to save and preserve these tapes so that future generations of young traditional musicians could listed to and learn from them," said PJ.

"We're delighted to have the legendary Nickie McAuliffe launch this collection on Sunday, October 29th.

"As often happens when your luck is in, you get more good news. An email from Richie Piggott in Chicago brought tidings of great joy. He wished to donate 28 pieces of music and song to the archives that were recorded in 1956 by Terry 'Cuz' Teahan of Glountane. The recordings were made in the Tobermaing, Castleisland home of his brother Paddy Teahan," PJ added with delight and wonder at the discovery of the recordings made in his grand-father's house so long ago.

"It will be an exciting and historic occasion for devotees of the music and visitors to the Castleisland festival to hear the fiddle-master Patrick O'Keeffe playing solo and with his three former pupils: Cuz Teahan home from Chicago; Jerry McCarthy and Timmy Spillane from Gortgloss, Scartaglin.

They are joined on the recording by Castleisland singer and later band leader, Michael O'Callaghan in fine and impressive voice with Scartaglin saxophonist Ger O'Sullivan.

The launch will also hear music from a Céilí House recording at Brennan's Bar, in Castleisland from November 2002.

There's a radio special on Nickie and Anne McAuliffe and one with wise words from Paddy Jones R.I.P and a Kenmare recording from the 80s of Jackie Daly's brilliance on the box.

"It will be a great evening and a memorable occasion for Castleisland to hear the magic of Patrick O'Keeffe on fiddle during the festival which honours his memory and his music," said PJ.

It's all very much in keeping with the 'Mind your Music' advice given by the late Dr. Ciarán Mac Mathúna when he and his colleague Peter Browne launched the RTÉ Radio 1 CD of the music of the last of the great fiddle masters himself.

That was in the Crown Hotel on the Sunday evening of the first festival in 1993 all of 30 years ago to the day of PJ's launch this weekend. - John Reidy

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