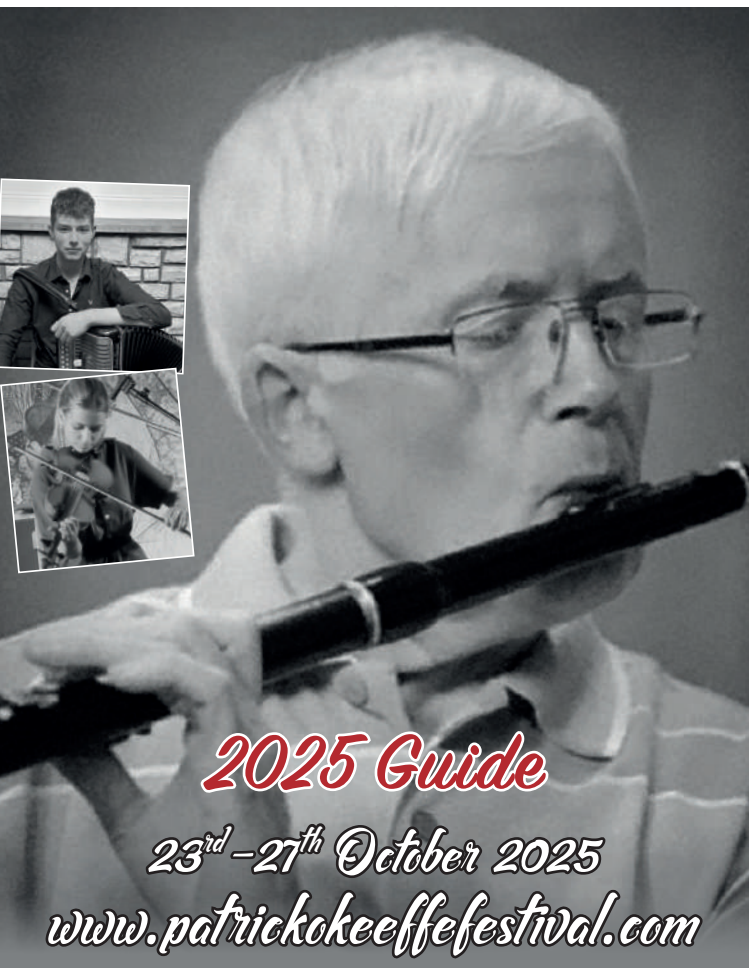


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33RD

CASTLEISLAND, CO. KERRY



2025 Guide

23rd - 27th October 2025

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Fáilte ~ A Warm Welcome

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that we extend a warm welcome to all of you as we gather in Castleisland for the 33rd annual Patrick O'Keeffe Traditional Music Festival. It's remarkable to reflect on the festival's journey since its inception in 1993.



Paudie O'Connor and Conor O'Mahony

A Five-Day Celebration

Maintaining its five-day format introduced in 2022, this year's festival thrives on the unwavering support of our community, which has consistently been its lifeblood over the years.

We are immensely grateful to our local sponsors for their timely support. A special acknowledgement goes to Divanes VW Garage Castleisland, Right Group, Castleisland and to Madden's Bar in Belfast. Our heartfelt thanks also extend to the Castleisland Chamber Alliance and all the local businesses that have supported the festival this year.

This year we break new ground by holding a concert on the Thursday night of the festival. Piaras Ó Lorcáin in concert sold out within days of going on sale. That performance is one of five concerts being held in our Gala Hall this year, reflecting the festival's growing scale and continued appeal. We offer a traditional Céad Míle Fáilte to both local and visiting musicians, whose talents will undoubtedly illuminate our celebrations throughout the weekend.

Your Efforts Matter

To the music-loving audiences from near and far, thank you for joining us for this momentous occasion. It never ceases to amaze us that, each October, people from around the globe make their way to Castleisland to partake in the unique musical experience we strive to create. We have curated a line-up of music, song, and dance that promises to enhance your stay.

Education and Outreach

Education remains a cornerstone of the festival, with a particular focus on the local musical style of Sliabh Luachra. This year, we were proud to host a series of *monthly online Sliabh Luachra fiddle workshops*, offered free of charge, which saw tremendous uptake from musicians near and far. Our sincere thanks go to Emma O'Leary, Matt Cranitch, Caoimhe Flannery, Aidan Connolly, and Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh, each of whom delivered fantastic and inspiring classes.

In addition, a new *Sliabh Luachra Outreach Schools Programme* was established, headed up by Niamh Dalton. Through this initiative, many primary schools in the region were visited, giving children a first-hand introduction to the unique sounds, tunes, and stories of Sliabh Luachra music.

Gratitude for Support

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to our supporters, including the Arts Council of Ireland, Kate Kennelly and her team at the Kerry County Council Arts Office, the Kerry Community Support Fund, the Community Enhancement Scheme, and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, and Sport. We also extend our gratitude to Fáilte Ireland's Festival and Participative Events Grant and the Castleisland Chamber Alliance, alongside the invaluable backing from our local businesses. A special thank you to Walsh Colour Print and graphic designer Ashling Hartnett for their contributions to this brochure..

Celebrating Volunteerism

We are fortunate to have a dedicated team of volunteers who lend their time and energy each year. They assist in the running of our workshops, support concerts, and collect vital subscriptions from local businesses. This year's response has been heartwarming, with many expressing appreciation for the festival's economic impact at this critical time of year.

We are particularly grateful to the many residents of Castleisland and the surrounding areas who again answered the call to accommodate the huge influx of visitors during the festival.

Honoring Dedication

This year we are delighted to announce that the 2025 Patrick O'Keeffe Traditional Music Festival Award will be presented to Billy Clifford for his outstanding contribution to the music of Sliabh Luachra and his long association with the festival. Son of Julia and John Clifford, Billy has been a central figure in traditional music locally and nationally for decades, and his performances remain a highlight for many festival-goers each year.

We also extend our heartfelt congratulations to our Young Musicians of the Year, Eoin Foley from Kilcummin, Kerry, and Emma Kelly from Newmarket, Cork. We wish them every success in their future musical endeavours.

Conor O'Mahony – Chairman

Paudie O'Connor – Festival Director

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/>





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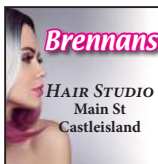


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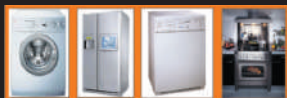
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Pub Trail - Opening Night Thursday 23rd October

Piarsas Ó Lorcáin in Concert. 8pm The River Island Hotel. **SOLD OUT**



Festival starts on Thursday 23rd October with Ireland's largest traditional music session trail. This runs all weekend, starting daily at noon and runs until Monday the 27th of October.

Hartnett's Bar	9.00pm	Michael Healy, Kirill Healy Brian Scannell, Pádraig Buckley
The Crown	8.30pm	Orlaith McAuliffe, Stephen McKee, Mike Kelliher
Brownes Front Bar	9:30pm	Tom O'Connell, Mike Brosnan, Cathal Flood
Brownes Back Bar	10.00pm	Open Session
Shoemaker Front Bar	9.30pm	Con Moynihan, Denis O'Connor, Aidan Connolly
Tom McCarthy's Front Bar	8.30pm	Eilis Murphy, Jonathan Roche and friends
Kearney's Bar	9.00pm	Sean Butler, Donal Cullinane and friends
River Island Con's Bar (Downstairs)	10.00pm	Paudie O'Connor, Joe O'Sullivan, Aoife Ní Chaoimh



Orlaith McAuliffe, Stephen McKee & Eoin McKee

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Friday 24th October



Teenage Trad Session: 12 schools from around Kerry come together to play the music of Sliabh Luachra in a session environment.

Time: 10:30am

Venue: St John's Hall, Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland

Album Launch Event 1 - Bryan O'Leary & Aidan Connolly

- The Groves of Gneeveguilla Andrea Palandri - An Veidhlín Muimhneach ('The Munster Fiddle')

Time: 6pm

Venue: Gala Hall, River Island Hotel

FREE ENTRY

Four Men and a Dog in concert with support from...

Peter Street, Niamh Farrell

Time: 8pm

Venue: Gala Hall, River Island Hotel

Admission €25

Hartnett's Bar	7.00pm	Aaron Glancy, Conor Daly, Maura O'Connor
	10.00pm	John McCann, Molly Walls, Seán Kelliher, Rebecca McCarthy Kent
The Crown	9.30pm	Bryan O'Leary, Aidan Connolly, Michael O'Connor, Connie O'Connell
Crown Back Bar	9.30pm	Andrea Palandri, Padraic Keane, Ruairi McGorman, Gerry Harrington
Castleisland Museum (Adjacent to Tom McCarthy's Bar)	9.00pm	Derek Hickey, Liam Flanagan, Caoimhin Ó Fearghaill, Paddy Tutty
Browne's Bar Front	9.00pm	Damien Mullane, Seán O'Meara and freinds
Brownes Back Bar	9.30pm	Gearoid Curtin, Jessie Healy, Darragh Horan, Kealan O'Connor
Shoemakers Back Bar	9.30pm	Méabh Mulligan, Andrew Hendy, Siún Ní Ghlacáin, Padraic Óg MacAodhagáin
Shoemakers Front Bar	9.00pm	Keelan McGrath, Brid Harper, Tom Morrow, Peter Browne
The Kingdom Bar	9.30pm	Ryan Sheridan, Andrew Caden, Conor McDonagh, Roisin O'Connor

The Kingdom Bar Pool Room	7.00pm	Open Session
Tom McCarthy's Front	9.00pm	Mary Bergin, Libby McCrohan, Paudie O Connor, Aoife Ni Chaoimh, George McAdam
Tom McCarthy's Kitchen	9.30pm	Carthach Ó Faoláin, Maitiu Ó Casaide, Rob Fell, Frankie Mac Aoidh
Kearney's Bar	4.00pm	Orlaith McAuliffe, Stephen McKee, Ruairi Cunnane, Nathan Gourley
	9.00pm	Madden's Belfast On Tour , Oisin Murphy, Erin Rose Ni Mhaoláin, Piaras Mac Maoláin, Liam Lynch, Mickey Fearon
River Island Con's Bar Downstairs	6.00pm	Mick Culloty, Seán Abeyta, PJ Teehan, Rhona O'Driscoll
	10.00pm	Eamonn Meachair, Caoilte Morrission, Amhlaobh Ó Siocháin, Paul De Grae
O'Riada's Bar	9.00pm	Jackie Daly, Eileen O'Brien, Mary Conroy, John Brosnan

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Saturday classes & Workshops

Classes in all traditional instruments - including Sliabh Luachra specific classes at 11 am at Gaelscoil Aogáin and St Patrick's Secondary School.

Time: 11am

Venue: Gaelscoil and St Pats Secondary School.

4 Sliabh Luachra specific classes

Paudie O Connor (*all instruments*)

Bryan O Leary (*online*)

Matt Cranitch

Emma O'Leary

Instrument specific classes

Fiddle - Brid Harper

Accordion - Dermot Byrne

Accordion - Keelan McGrath

Concertina - Liam O'Brien

Concertina - Greta Curtin

Flute - Orlaith McAuliffe

Flute - Eamonn O'Riordan

Uilleann Pipes - Colm Broderick

Banjo - George McAdam

Tin Whistle - Mary Bergin

Guitar - Seán O'Meara

Sliabh Luachra

Fiddle Recital -

MC Aidan Connolly

Venue: The Ivy Leaf Arts Centre

Time: 2pm

Admission €10



Pop up Gaeltacht - Hosted by Éamonn Ó'Braoin

Time 2pm

Venue: Con's Bar, The River Island Hotel

Singing Concert - MC Aileen Roantree

Venue: Hartnett's Bar

Time: 3.30pm

Elanor Shanley, Niamh Farrell, Tim Dennehy and Piaras Ó Lorcáin

Admission €10

Sliabh Luachra Concert - in association with Divanes Kerry

Venue: Gala Hall, The River Island Hotel

Time: 8pm

Jackie Daly, Matt Cranitch

& Paul de Grae | Paudie

O'Connor & Aoife Ní Chaoimh,

Connie O'Connell, Eibhlin de

Paor, Maura O'Keeffe | Conor

Moriarty & Deirdre Ní Mheachair | Eilis Murphy, Jonathan Roche,

Mike Rice & Seán Leahy | Niamh Dalton & Colm Broderick |

Nickie & Anne McAuliffe, Emma O'Leary | Bryan O'Leary & Aidan

Connolly | Mikie O'Gorman, Joe O'Sullivan & Michael O'Connor



Dedication to the Music of Sliabh Luachra Award

to Billy Clifford (joined by Gerry Harrington)

Patrick O'Keeffe Young Musician Award

presented to Eoin Foley and Emma Kelly

Saturday 25th October

Hartnett's Bar	12.00pm	John Paul Reynolds, Aaron Glancy, Simon Crehan, Fionn O'Hanlon
	3.30pm	Singing Concert Niamh Farrell, Elanor Shanley, Tim Dennehy, Piaras Ó Lorcáin. (Admission €10)
The Crown	2.00pm	George McAdam, Dan Gurney, Nathan Gourley, Alan Murray
	4.00pm	Dermot Byrne, Libby McCrohan, Bríd Harper, Mary Bergin
The Crown Back Bar	5.00pm	UCC Tradfest Battle of Band Winners Edel Conway, Oisín Durcan, SORCHA Hennessy, Darragh Egan
Castleisland Museum (Adjacent to Tom McCarthy's Bar)	1.00pm	Michael Healy, Brian Scannell, Eilis Murphy, Mike Rice
	4.00pm	Seán Garvey, Pádraig Óg MacAodhagáin, Caoilte Morrisson
Browne's Bar Front	12.00pm	Andrew Caden, Conor McDonagh, Ryan Sheridan
	3.00pm	Breandán Ó Beaglaoich, Clíodhna Ní Bheaglaoich Padraic Keane, Ruairi McGorman
Browne's Bar Back Bar	2.00pm	Derek Hickey, Liam Flanagan, Steve Larkin, Caoimhin ÓFearghaill
	6.30pm	Padraic Keane, Ruairi McGorman, Clíodhna Ní Bheaglaoich
Shoemakers Back Bar	1.00pm	John McCann, Molly Walls, Conor Crimmins, Jillan O'Malley
	4.00pm	Madden's Belfast on Tour , Oisín Murphy, Erin Rose Ní Mhaoláin, Piaras Mac Maoláin, Mickey Fearon, Liam Lynch
Shoemakers Front Bar	1:00pm	Conor Moriarty, Deirdre Meachair, Orlaith McAuliffe, Seán Kelliher
	4.00pm	Damien Mullane, Jeremy Spencer, Seán O'Meara
The Kingdom Bar	1:30pm	Seamus Noonan, Nia Byrne, Lily O'Connor, Joe DeGeorgeo
	4.00pm	John Brosnan, Mary Conroy and friends
Tom McCarthy's Front Bar	3.00pm	Carthach Ó Faolain, Niamh Dalton, Rob Fell, Colm Broderick
Tom McCarthy's Kitchen	6.00pm	Conor Connolly, Pádraig Ó Dubhghaill, Eamonn O'Riordan, Diarmuid O'Brien, Donal O'Sullivan
Kearney's Bar	12:00pm	Gary Curley, Stephen McKee, Mickey Fearon
	3.30pm	Keelan McGrath, Paddy Tutty, Caoilte Morrisson, Tom Morrow
River Island Con's Bar Downstairs	3:00pm	Bryan O'Leary, Michael O'Connor, Billy Clifford, Marie O'Gorman, Kate O'Gorman
	6.00pm	Greta Curtin, Stephen Kennedy, Stevie Dunne, Jessie Healy, Deirdre Millane

Saturday Night Pub Trails

Hartnett's Bar	7.00pm	Keelan O'Connor, Gearoid Curtin, Darragh Horan, Rachel Masterson
	10.00pm	Orlaith McAuliffe, Stephen McKee, Gary Curley, Mickey Fearon
The Crown	7.00pm	Eamonn Ó Meachair, Seamus Noonan, Lily O'Connor, Ryan Sheridan
	10.00pm	Keelan McGrath, Simon Crehan, John Paul Reynolds, Fionn O'Hanlon
The Crown Back Bar	1.00pm	Tom O'Connell, Mike Brosnan, Donal Cullinane
Castleisland Museum <i>(Adjacent to Tom McCarthy's Bar)</i>	7.00pm	Liam Lonnergan, Aoife Nic Dhomhnaill, Caoimhe Mulligan
Browne's Bar Front	6.00pm	Liam O'Brien, Frankie Mac Aoidh, Amhlaoibh Ó Siocháin, Maitiú Ó Casaide
	10.00pm	Greta Curtin, Jessie Healy, Stevie Dunne, Darragh Horan, Kealan O'Connor
Browne's Bar Back Bar	9.30pm	Maura O'Connor, Micheál Broderick, Ian Sheehy, Thomas Barrett, James O'Connor
Shoemakers Back Bar	9.30pm	James Lambert, Fionn Connolly, Sean Kelliher, Rebecca McCarthy Kent
Shoemakers Front Bar	10:00pm	Conor Connolly, Padraic Keane, Ruairi McGorman, Tom Morrow
The Kingdom Bar	7.00pm	Seán Butler, Donal Cullinane, Maeve McSweeney
	10.00pm	Jonathan Roche, Eilis Murphy, Mike Rice
Tom McCarthy's Front Bar	10.00pm	Damien Mullane, Jeremy Spencer, Seán O'Meara
Tom McCarthy's Kitchen	10.00pm	Andrew Hendy, Méabh Mulligan, Ruth McCrohan, Siún Ní Ghlacáin
Kearney's Bar	7.00pm	John McEvoy, Jacinta McEvoy, John Wynne, Tom Morrow
	10.00pm	Joe Mannion, Conor McDonagh, Eamonn Ó Meachair, Ruairi Cunnane
River Island Con's Bar Downstairs	10:00pm	Méabh Smyth, Nia Byrne, Lily O'Connor
O'Riada's Bar	9.00pm	Donie Nolan, Gearoid Keating and friends

Sunday 27th October

Graveside remembrance for former chairman Mike Kenny, after mass.

Time: 12.30am

Venue: St Johns Graveyard

Ciarán Mac Mathúna's collection of music from Sliabh Luachra - by Peter Browne

Time: 1pm

Venue: Castleisland Museum (next door to Tom McCarthy's)

Kids Trad Session - Hosted by Emma O'Leary and Maura O'Connor

Time: 2.30pm

Venue: The Ivy Leaf Arts Centre

Céilí Mór– Donie Nolan Céilí Band

Time: 3pm

Venue: An Ríocht Pavillion

Open Singing Session - hosted by Joe Walsh

Time: 4pm

Venue: Con's Bar, The River Island Hotel

Tunebook Launch & Album Launch Event 2

Tunebook Launch by: Gerald Culhane

Album Launches featuring:

Andrew Caden, Conor McDonagh & Ryan Sheridan

Aoife Nic Dhomhnaill & Liam Lonnergan

John McEvoy & Catherine McEvoy

Mary Donnegan – Notes from Beara

Pádraig Mac Cárthaigh Irish Songs c. 1650 – 1850 from Carbery, Muskerry and across South Munster

Time: 5pm

Venue: The Castleisland Museum (next door to Tom McCarthy's)

Trad All Starts Concert (Earlier time of 7pm)

Venue: Gala Hall, The River Island Hotel

Time: 7pm

Breannán Ó Beaglaoich & Clíodhna Ní Bheaglaoich

Dermot Byrne & Bríd Harper

Mary Bergin & Libby McCrohan

Liam O'Brien, Conor Connolly & Pádraig Ó Dúbhghaill

Tony Linnane & Eamonn O'Riordan

Festival Club - Pólca 4

Time: 11pm

Venue: Nightowls Nightclub,

The River Island Hotel

Keelan McGrath, Rebecca

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Kelliher

Trad Disco with DJ Conor

Crimmins



Sunday 27th October

Hartnett's Bar	1.00pm	Keelan McGrath, John Paul Reynolds, Simon Crehan, Fionn O'Hanlon
	4.00pm	Conor Connolly, Paddy Tutty, Peter Browne
The Crown	12.00pm	Derek Hickey, Jacqui Martin, Liam Flanagan, Caoimhín Ó Fearghaill
	3.00pm	Bryan O'Leary, Mikie O'Gorman, Michael O'Connor, Billy O'Gorman
The Crown Back Bar	4.00pm	Mary Crowley, Johnny Connolly, Anne McAulliffe, Nicky McAulliffe
Castleisland Museum <i>(Adjacent to Tom McCarthy's Bar)</i>	1.00pm	Ciarán Mac Mathúna in Sliabh Luachra
	5.00pm	Album Launches 2 Tunebook Launch by: Gerald Culhane, Andrew Caden, Conor McDonagh & Ryan Sheridan, Aoife Nic Dhomhnaill & Liam Lonnergan, John McEvoy & Catherine McEvoy, Mary Donnegan, Pádraig Mac Cárthaigh Irish Songs c. 1650 – 1850
Browne's Bar Front	1.00pm	Meabh Mulligan, Andrew Hendy, Ruth McCrohan, Siún Ní Ghlacáin
	4.00pm	Jackie Daly, Matt Cranitch, Paul De Grae, Eileen O'Brien
Browne's Bar Back Bar	2.00pm	Liam O'Brien, Deirdre Hurley, Andrew Caden, Deirdre O'Brien
	6.00pm	Joe Mannion, Eamonn Ó Meachair, Nia Byrne, Méabh Smyth
Shoemakers Back Bar	1.00pm	Mary Bergin, Tony Linnane, Eamonn Riordan, Nathan Gourley
	4.00pm	Donal Murphy, Tom Morrow, Alan Murray, Greta Curtin
Shoemakers Front Bar	12:30pm	Dermot Byrne, Brid Harper, Peter Browne, Steve Larkin
	3.30pm	Caoilte Morrisson, Joe DeGeorgeo, Eamonn Ó Meachair
The Kingdom Bar	2.00pm	Eileen de Paor, Connie O'Connell, Gerry Harrington, Ciaran Kelly, Peter Browne (pipes)
Tom McCarthy's Front Bar	1.00pm	Breandán Ó Beaglaoidh, Clíodhna Ní Bheaglaoidh, Paudie O'Connor, Aoife Ní Chaoimh, Pádraig O'Dubhgaill
Tom McCarthy's Kitchen	4.30pm	Michael Healy, Brian Scannell, Roisín O'Connor, Kirill Healy
Kearney's Bar	12:00pm	Damien Mullane, Jeremy Spencer, Seán O'Meara
	3.00pm	Gary Curley, Gearoid Curtin, Rachel Masterson, Conor Crimmins, Jillian O'Malley
River Island Con's Bar Downstairs	1:00pm	Frankie Mac Aoidh, Maitiú Ó Casaide, Liam Lonnergan, Aoife Nic Dhomhnaill
	4.00pm	Open Singing Session All Singers Welcome. Hosted By Joe Walsh

Sunday Night Pub Trails

Hartnett's Bar	7.00pm	Molly Walls, Stevie Dunne, Stephen Kennedy, Maura O'Connor
	10.00pm	Damien Mullane, Jeremy Spencer, Seán O'Meara
The Crown	6.00pm	Carthach Ó Faoláin, Niamh Dalton, Rob Fell, Colm Broderick
	10.00pm	Siún Ní Ghlacáin, Pádraig Óg MacAogháin, Ruth McCrohan, Liam Lonnergan
The Crown Back Bar	7.30pm	Conor Daly, Marie O'Gorman, Kate O'Gorman
Castleisland Museum <i>(Adjacent to Tom McCarthy's Bar)</i>	7.30pm	Open Session
Browne's Bar Front	9.30pm	Mikie O'Gorman, Bryan O'Leary, Michael O'Connor, Connie O'Connell
Browne's Bar Back Bar	9.30pm	Aaron Glancy, Simon Crehan, Maura O'Connor, Micheál Broderick, Ian Sheehy
Shoemakers Back Bar	10.00pm	UCC Tradfest Battle of Band Winners Edel Conway, Oisín Durcan, SORCHA HENNESSY, DARRAGH EGAN
Shoemakers Front Bar	10:00pm	Derek Hickey, Liam Flanigan, Jaqui Martin, Pádraig O Dubhghaill
The Kingdom Bar	6:30pm	John Carroll, Emma O'Leary, Cathal Flood
	9.30pm	James Lambert, Fionn Connolly, Caoilte Morrisson
Tom McCarthy's Front Bar	10.00pm	John McEvoy, Jacinta McEvoy, John Wynne, Tom Morrow
Kearney's Bar	7.00pm	Gerald Culhane, Con Moynihan, Denis O'Connor, Brian Mooney
	10.00pm	Amhlaobh Ó Siocháin, John Paul Reynolds, Fionn O'Hanlon, Maeve McSweeney
River Island Con's Bar Downstairs	7:00pm	George McAdam, Liam O'Brien, Maitiu Ó Casaide
O'Riada's Bar	9.00pm	Peter Browne (pipes), Jonathan Roche, Paul De Grae, Eilis Murphy, Niamh Dalton

*Best of Luck
from*

NOLAN STEEL

Monday 27th October

Session Trail resumes and runs until late

Hartnett's Bar	2.00pm 7.30pm	Eilis Murphy, Jonathan Roche, Cathal Flood Greta Curtin, Jessie Healy, Seán Leahy
The Crown	3.00pm	Gearoid Keating, Connie O'Connell, Eibhlin de Paor, Donie Nolan
Browne's Bar Front	3.00pm 9.00pm	John Brosnan, Mary Conroy, Tim Kerins Michael Healy, Kirill Healy, Sean Butler, Donal Cullinane
Shoemakers Back Bar	3.00pm	Greta Curtin, Gearoid Curtin, Jessie Healy, Jeremy Spencer
The Kingdom Bar	4.30pm	Anne McAuliffe, Nicky McAuliffe, Emma O Leary, John Carroll
Tom McCarthy's Front Bar	4.30pm 9.00pm	Mick Culloty, PJ Teehan, Seán Abeyta, Rhona O'Driscoll Paudie O'Connor, Aoife Ni Chaoimh, Eileen de Paor, Paul De Grae
Kearney's Bar	1:00pm	Con Moynihan, Denis O'Connor, Joe O'Sullivan
River Island Con's Bar Downstairs	1:00pm	Open Session
O'Riada's Bar	3.00pm	Michael Healy, Kirill Healy, Roisin O'Connor, Paudie O Connor, Aoife Ni Chaoimh



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Patrick O'Keeffe Festival

Young Musician Winners

The Patrick O'Keeffe Traditional Music Festival proudly announces the winners of the 2025 Young Musician Award. This year, the prize recognizes two outstanding young performers: **Eoin Foley** (button accordion) from Kilcummin, Co. Kerry, and **Emma Kelly** (fiddle and flute) from Newmarket, Co. Cork. Both musicians will perform at the highly anticipated Sliabh Luachra Concert on Saturday, October 25th as part of the festival.

The Young Musician Award, introduced in 2021, supports emerging musicians to immerse themselves in the rich musical traditions of Sliabh Luachra, preserving and promoting the region's unique style.

Eoin Foley – Button Accordion

Eoin Foley, Kilcummin, is the current All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil 12–15 Button Accordion Champion, claiming the title for the second time. He reached the final of the prestigious Siansa Gael Linn competition in Dublin with the group "Teoireann." Eoin began playing at age 7 and has learned with tutors including Bryan O'Leary, Conor Moriarty, and Mike Brosnan.

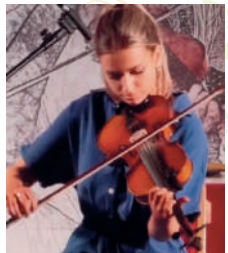


His musical style is shaped by local Sliabh Luachra legends like Bryan O'Leary, John Brosnan, and the late Jimmy Doyle. Eoin had the honor of playing alongside the late Seamus Begley in Nelligans Bar, Dingle, and is a regular performer at Handed Down in Scartaglen and Brownes Bar in Castleisland.

For his festival performance, Eoin has chosen *Paudie O'Connor* as his tutor.

Emma Kelly – Fiddle and Flute

Emma Kelly is a 19-year-old fiddle and flute player from Newmarket, Co. Cork, currently studying Science Education at UCC. She started fiddle at age 6 and flute at 11, taking inspiration from teachers such as Alan Finn, John McNulty, Noreen O'Connor, Damhnait Sweeney, Aileen Quinlan, and Emma Moynihan. Growing up in a family that cherished Sliabh Luachra music, Emma's musical development was constantly encouraged.



Emma has a string of competition successes, including county and Munster Fleadh medals, the Cork ETB School of Music Senior Student of the Year (2022), Larry Reynolds u18 All Ireland Fiddle (2022), Maurice O'Keeffe Overall Musician (2023), finalist in the Fiddler of London (2024), and a member of the All-Ireland winning u18 Crossfields Ceili Band (2024). She currently teaches music for Freemount Comhaltas and enjoys playing with her sisters Sarah and Rachel, notably in 'Dan Shine and friends' sessions.

Emma has chosen *Emma O'Leary* as her tutor for the Sliabh Luachra Concert.

Both Eoin and Emma are shining examples of the next generation of Sliabh Luachra musicians, dedicated to tradition, excellence, and community spirit. Their performances will be central highlights of this year's festival.

Dedication to the Music of Sliabh Luachra Award

Billy Clifford is a renowned Sliabh Luachra flute player, born in London in 1943 to the celebrated musicians John and Julia Clifford. Deeply influenced by the musical traditions of his ancestral home in Lisheen, County Kerry, Billy learned his first tunes from family and local masters such as Art O'Keeffe and his uncle Denis Murphy. His early career saw him play alongside his parents in the Star of Munster Ceili Band, with their music gaining recognition across Ireland and London.



Billy further developed his style in London, absorbing influences from exceptional musicians like Johnny Gorman, Bobby Casey, Kevin Burke, and Roger Sherlock. Returning to Ireland, Billy settled in Tipperary, dedicating decades to performing, recording, and teaching the intricate Sliabh Luachra style—particularly rich in polkas and slides, a rarity for flute players. His album "Echoes of Sliabh Luachra" is widely regarded as a masterful representation of the region's music.

Billy has a very strong and enduring connection with the Patrick O'Keeffe Traditional Music Festival, where he has regularly performed in concert and taught workshops, inspiring countless young musicians. His dedication and influence were recently acknowledged with the "Dedication to the Music of Sliabh Luachra Award". Among his many students, Simon Crehan won the inaugural Patrick O'Keeffe Festival Young Musician Award, highlighting Billy's significant legacy as both a performer and mentor. His contributions continue to link generations and sustain the living tradition of Sliabh Luachra music within the vibrant festival and beyond.

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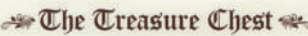
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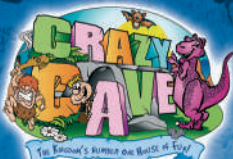
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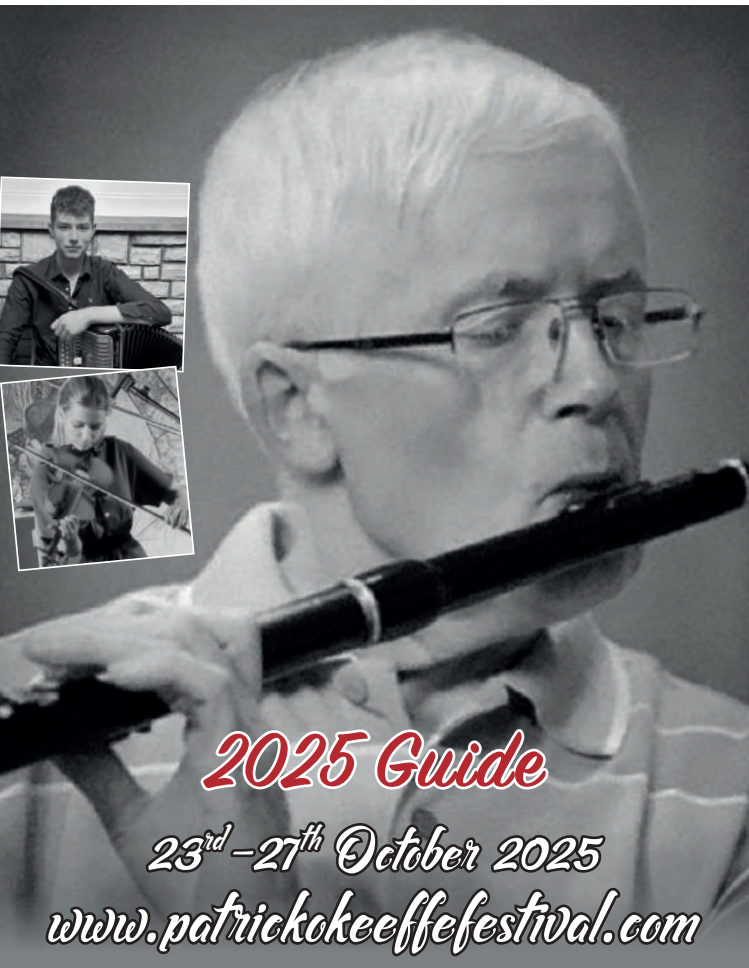
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