

Exploring the Musical Traditions of County Leitrim & County Fermanagh

In May 2020 **Irish Arts Foundation** launched a pioneering research programme.

It centred on specific regional playing styles and influences within Irish traditional music originating from rural communities around the border counties of:

Leitrim in the Republic of Ireland

and **Fermanagh** in Northern Ireland.



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



LOTTERY FUNDED



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



IrishArts
Foundation

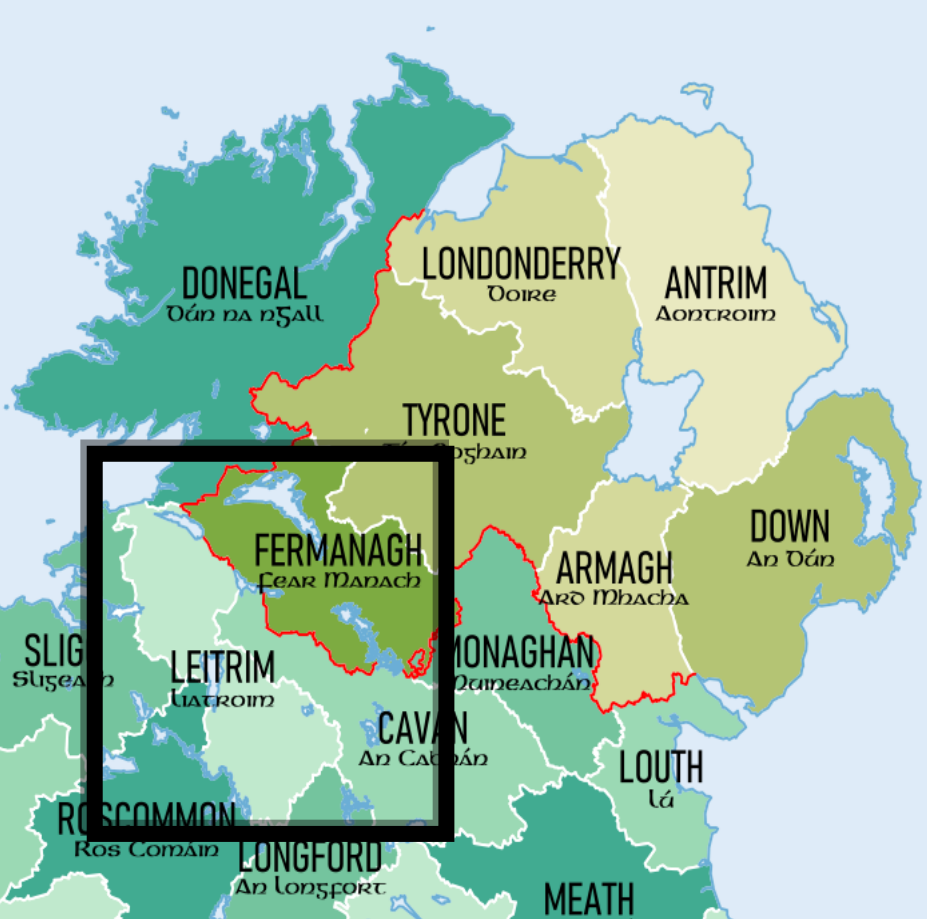
Themes

- ▶ 1. Regional identity.
- ▶ 2. Local musical traditions in Co. Leitrim and Fermanagh.
- ▶ 3. The families and individuals who kept the music alive, and their legacy today.

Regional Identity

In the time of the horse and cart - the 'candle to bed' age - each village, town and county had its own tunes and dances; **a musical accent and dialect.**

This was due to relative **rural isolation**. So despite the close proximity of Co. Leitrim and Fermanagh, **distinct regional identities** - musical, religious and political – formed.



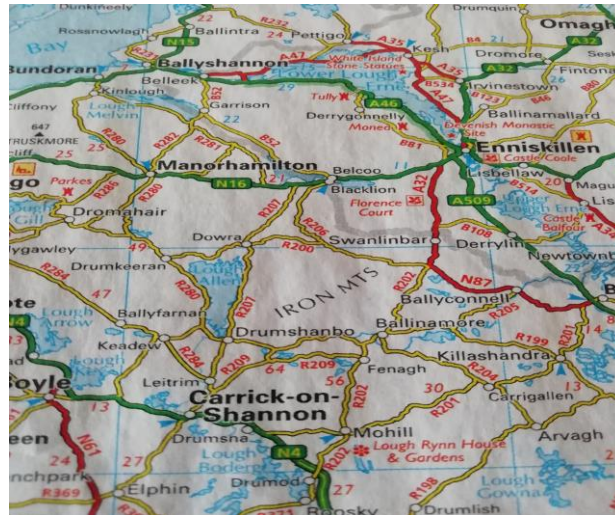
When talking about **regional identity** and **style** there will always be generalisations; tunes do not carry passports and **music has never been constrained by borders**. Despite this, we will look at what can be widely termed, a **Leitrim** and a **Fermanagh musical tradition**.

County Leitrim

- ▶ Leitrim is in the province of Connacht and part of the Border Region.
- ▶ Its largest town is Carrick-on-Shannon with a population of 3,134.

Although one of Ireland's smallest counties, Leitrim has a distinct musical tradition of flute and fiddle music.

We will look at some of the individuals and groups who have shaped the Leitrim style of traditional music.



Leitrim Flute Music

- ▶ “Co. Leitrim has preserved a distinct musical identity and tradition based largely on the flute. The Leitrim style is highly rhythmic, less ornamented, and with much use of glottal stops and even tonguing, as in the music of *John McKenna*.”
 - *David Cooper*, *The Musical Traditions of Northern Ireland and its Diaspora*

John McKenna (1880-1947)

- ▶ *John McKenna* was born in Tarmon, near Drumkeeran in Co. Leitrim.
- ▶ John married Mary Keaveney in 1909 a month before they emigrated to New York.
- ▶ While working as a firefighter in NYC, John recorded some of the most influential Irish flute music of the 20th century.
- ▶ *The John McKenna Festival* takes place every year in Drumkeeran.



The McNamara Family

- ▶ **Michael McNamara**, a key contributor to the Leitrim flute style, was born into a musical family in Carricavoher, Leitrim. Michael and his late wife Mary raised five children, Brian, Ray, Ciaran, Enda and Deirdre, all of whom are musicians.
- ▶ In 1998 the **McNamara family** launched their CD **Leitrim's Hidden Treasures**. The album is comprised of material Michael learnt growing up in South Leitrim, as well as tunes from local manuscript collections such as the **Stephen Grier Collection**.



Furls of Music - The McNamara Collection

- ▶ The *McNamara Sound Collection* was launched in 2019 under the name *Furls of Music*.
- ▶ The archive comprises a unique archive of recordings made by *Michael McNamara* between 1959 and the mid-1990s.
- ▶ Fiddler and composer, *Owen Spafford*, was commissioned by *Irish Arts Foundation* to compose a piece of music, using sounds from the McNamara Collection.



The resulting track, *Josephine* uses recordings of *Josephine McNamara*, with music performed by *Owen Spafford*, *Louis Campbell* and *Richard Ormrod*.

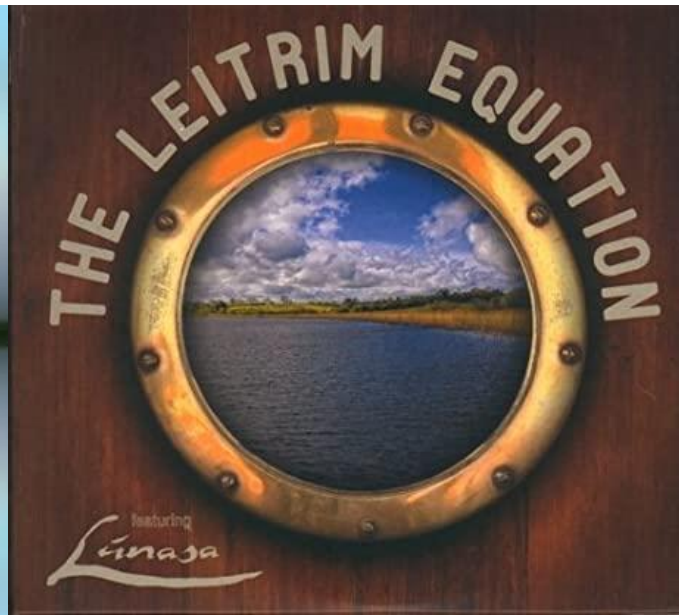
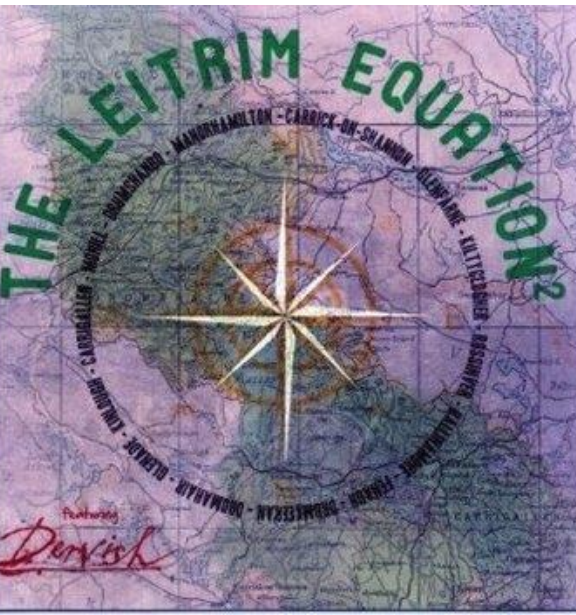
Owen learnt the final tune from the *Stephen Grier Collection*
- See Manuscripts slide 40

This is a snippet of *Josephine*, you can hear more here:
www.something.irisharts.com



The Leitrim Equation

- ▶ *The Leitrim Equation* is a flagship research and development programme funded by *Leitrim County Council Arts Office*.
- ▶ Over a period of 9 years, 4 groups of musicians were commissioned to research and arrange the great wealth of previously unexplored Leitrim songs and tunes.
- ▶ Musicians involved include *Lunasa*, *Dervish*, *John Carty*, *Donal Lunny*, *Seamus Begley* and *Garadice*.
- ▶ More information can be found here: <https://www.leitrimequation.ie/>



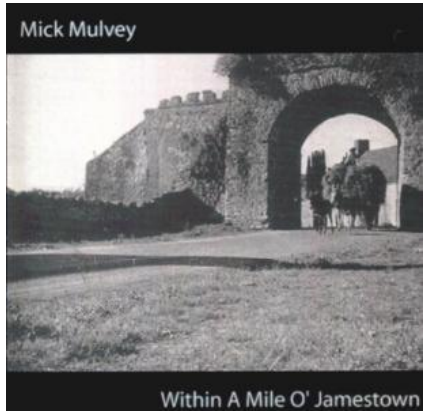
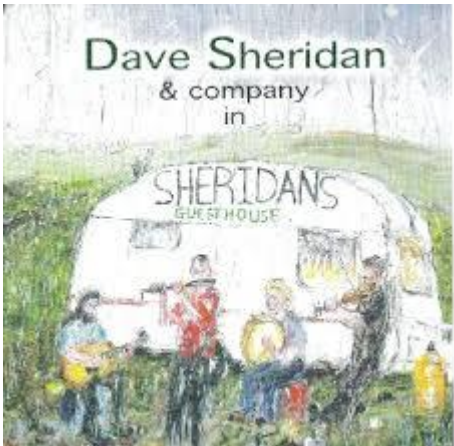
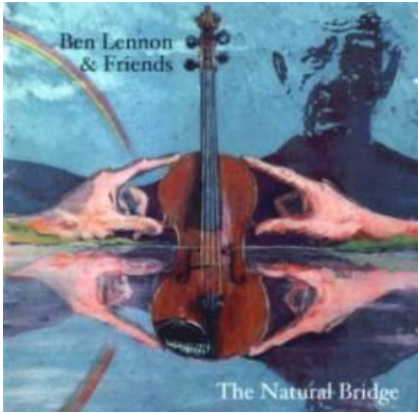
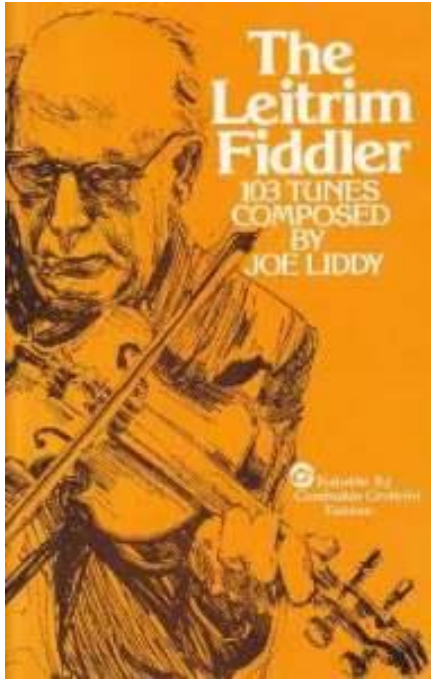
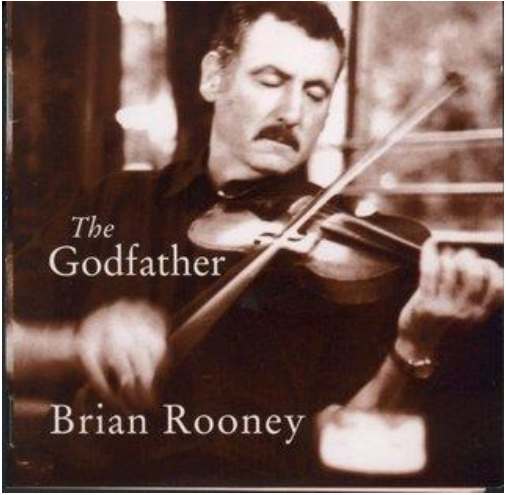
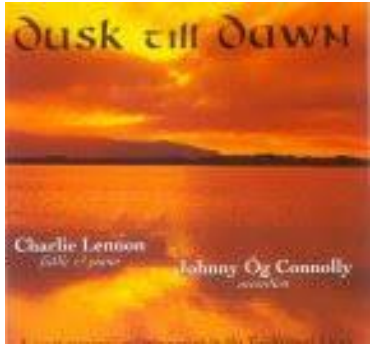
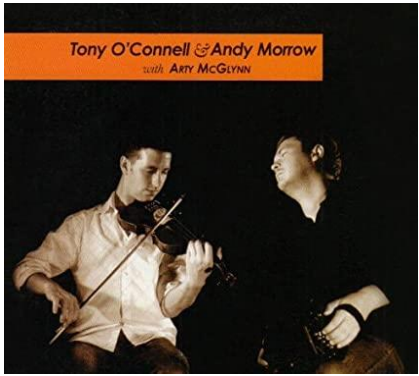
The Leitrim Ceili Band

- ▶ *The Leitrim Ceili Band* was formed in 1962. Some of the members were involved in other groups prior to the formation of the band.
- ▶ They played in ceilis across Co. Leitrim to packed dance halls in Tubbercurry, Drumshanbo, Arigna, Drumkeeran and further afield.
- ▶ The band were influential in keeping the Leitrim music tradition alive.
- ▶ You can find more about the individuals who supported this legendary band here: http://homepage.eircom.net/~fredfinn/festival05_post.htm#Carroll%20family



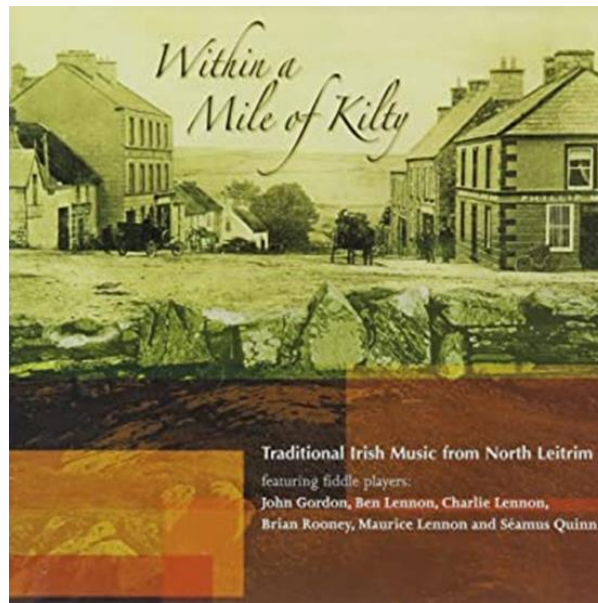
Leitrim Fiddle Music

- ▶ The Leitrim fiddle style carries a jaunty rhythm, free flowing phrases and a raw energy.
- ▶ Leitrim's fiddle music bears the imprint of its close proximity to the strong fiddle traditions of both South Sligo and Co. Donegal.
- ▶ Through this blend of intricate Sligo bowing and the driving rhythms of Donegal, Leitrim fiddle players have created a style of their own.



The Lennon Family

- ▶ *The Lennon family* are world renowned for their lively fiddle music.
- ▶ From playing locally in Kiltyclogher, North Leitrim, they have gone on to influence musicians worldwide.
- ▶ *Ben* and *Charlie Lennon* characterise the flowing bowing style typical of Leitrim fiddle music. Ben, in particular, was very influenced by the playing of Sligo fiddlers, *Michael Coleman* and *Paddy Killoran*, but also would have heard Donegal music from the likes of *John* and *Mickey Doherty*.



Brian Rooney

- ▶ **Brian Rooney** was born in Derragoon, near Kiltyclogher into a musical family of 14 children.
- ▶ Like so many of his generation, and generations before him; Brian Rooney emigrated to England aged 18. Many left to join up with family or friends, for employment or seeking adventure.
- ▶ From the late 1960s Brian played frequently in Irish venues across Kilburn and Camden Town, before becoming 'famous at fifty' with the release of his album 'The Godfather'.
- ▶ Brian was awarded the **TG4 Gradam Ceoil Award** in 2012.
- ▶ Brian is acknowledged as a notable influence on many fiddlers such as **Frankie Gavin, John Carty** and **Des Hurley**
- ▶ <https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/music/irish-lives-bryan-rooney-master-fiddler-and-godfather-of-traditional-music-1.2044546>



The Leeds-Leitrim Community

- ▶ *Felix Gallagher* (1919-2012) was a native of Drumkeeran, who later emigrated to Leeds.
- ▶ Felix learnt his music from local flautists in South Leitrim and from 78rpms of *John McKenna*.
- ▶ Felix can be heard playing with *Des Hurley, Patrick* and *Paul Ruane* on a field recording only recently uncovered. This is the first time a recording of Felix Gallagher has been made public.



MikArtistik

- Growing up in The Leeds-Leitrim Community

- ▶ *Michael Gallagher*, aka *MikArtistik*, is a Leeds-based artist, musician and comedian, and the son of Leitrim flautist, *Felix Gallagher*.
- ▶ *Growing up in the Leeds-Leitrim Community* is a recording that explores the emigrant experience typical of many Irish diasporas across the world.
- ▶ MikArtistik features in this recording talking about what it meant to be “an Irish lad growing up in Leeds in the 1970s” and reminiscing about, “sitting under the kitchen table hearing Felix playing flute and box”.

▶ You can listen to the full interview here:
https://www.irisharts.org.uk/project_collaborative.html



The Leeds-Irish Music Programme

- ▶ *The Leeds-Irish Music Programme* is an *Irish Arts Foundation* radio show broadcast on *East Leeds FM*.
- ▶ It showcases the rich history of Irish music in Leeds and the wider world, featuring oral history interviews and exclusive music performances.
- ▶ On the 30th of June 2020, *East Leeds FM* premiered a one-off episode, *Exploring The Musical Traditions of Co. Leitrim and Fermanagh*.
- ▶ This show features music and interviews with a member of the Leeds-Leitrim community, *Michael Gallagher*, Leitrim-Manchester based banjoist, *Maeve McGovern* and *Dave Sheridan*, flautist with *Garadice*.

▶ You can hear the full show here:

<https://www.chapelfm.co.uk/elfm-player/shows/list/leeds-irish-music-programme/>



Garadice in Leeds

- ▶ In November 2019, **Garadice**, renowned Leitrim band, performed in Leeds to a sell out crowd.
- ▶ This concert was organised by **Irish Arts Foundation**, as part of the **Leeds Gathering**.
- ▶ Garadice are named after Garadice Lough in South Leitrim. They were brought together through the ground-breaking research project, **The Leitrim Equation**.

Garadice

✓ Free Event
✓ Wheelchair access

🕒 Gig
🎵 Music

📍 Irish Arts Foundation
🌐 Website
🐦 Twitter
📺 Youtube



23 Nov 2019 7:45pm

Dates and times

Show Map

Inkwell

31 Potternewton Lane, Leeds, LS7 3LW

Eleanor Shanley, Padraig McGovern, Dave Sheridan and John McCartin

Born out of The Leitrim Equation project, some of the cream of Irish music talent have come together:

This is an extract from **The Leeds Irish Music Programme: Exploring Musical Traditions of Co. Leitrim and Fermanagh**.

Des Hurley, Irish Arts Foundation Chief Executive, in conversation with **Dave Sheridan** from Garadice.



Traditional Music in Co. Leitrim Today

- ▶ Through the work of many great teachers, players and composers, the music of Co. Leitrim is safe in the hands of the current and next generation.
- ▶ Every year festivals such as *The Joe Mooney Festival*, *The John McKenna Weekend* and *Sessions on the Shannon* attract visitors from worldwide.

John McKenna Traditional Festival - Drumkeeran



**John McKenna
Traditional Festival**

7-10 JUNE 2018
Drumkeeran, Co. Leitrim

Thursday 7 June

A social evening of music and song featuring young and old.

ARAS BRÍDE, DRUMKEERAN • 6PM

The 'Balaclavas' Session

The 'Balaclavas' adult session/classes has been going strong all year under the guidance of Lorriane Sweeney and hosted by Davitt's Pub. This special festival session will be led by:

Brian Mostyn & Friends
All welcome!

DAVITTS'S • 8PM

Friday 8 June

'GARADICE'

Eleanor Shanley, Dave Sheridan, Pádraig McGovern and John McCartin

COMMUNITY CENTRE • 9PM • €12

Saturday 9 June

'Leitrim Day' Workshop

Develop skills in arranging and recording music in groups under the guidance of

David Sheridan, Pádraig McGovern & Catherine McEvoy

Suitable for school age musicians (8-18) (intermediate = Jigs +). Students will receive a CD of their recordings at the Youth Session in Forde's Inn at 3pm

COMMUNITY CENTRE - 9.30AM - 1PM - €10
Bookings: 087 258 1529 or info@johnmckenna.ie

**COMPETITIONS: Flute: U12, U14, U18.
Tin Whistle: U10, U12, U14, U18.**

Prizes €50/€30 /€20 for U18 Flute winners

COMMUNITY CENTRE • 2PM

'Leitrim Day' Youth Session

Performance & presentation of CD Recordings followed by the youth session led by the Kellehers & friends. all welcome

FORDE'S • 3PM

Singing Session

with Jackie Boyce, Jim Bainbridge & Fiona and Jim Byrne - All welcome

DAVITTS'S • 5PM

Saturday 9 June

Session in Cottage
with Michael O'Brien & friends

COTTAGE AT COMMUNITY CENTRE • 5PM

**McEvoy/McGorman
Family Gathering & CD Launch**

A real pleasure to host a Catherine McEvoy and Tom McGorman family celebration which will also feature the launch of Fergus McGorman's superb CD 'Sweeping the Cobwebs Out of the Sky'

Catherine, Tom, Jane, Fergus, Ruairi, Jenny, joined by Jack Talty & many more
A NIGHT NOT TO BE MISSED!

COMMUNITY CENTRE • 8PM • FREE

Musical Pub Trail Sessions

Thursday 7 th June	Saturday 9 th June	Sunday 10 th June
THE 'BALACLAVAS' SESSION for adult improvers led by Brian Moyston	'LEITRIM DAY' YOUTH SESSION led by the Kelleher Family	John Hamilton (Fiddle) Seán Farrell (Accordion) Paddy Gilroy (Fiddle)
DAVITT'S • 8PM	FORDES • 3PM	FORDE'S • 4PM
Friday 8th June	SINGING SESSION Jim Bainbridge & Jackie Boyce with Fiona & Jim Byrne	Thomas McPartlan (Accordion) Caroline Fallon (Flute) Aoife Fallon (Fiddle) Seán Rynn (Guitar)
Michael O'Brien (Accordion) Harry McGowan (Flute) Pat Sweeney (Fiddle/Banjo)	DAVITT'S • 5PM	COSY CORNER • 6PM
COSY CORNER • 9PM	THE 'COBBLESTONE' SESSION Mulligan Family & friends	Brian Mostyn (Accordion) Paucic Bannon (Flute)
Daithi Gormley (Accordion) Gerry Harrington (Fiddle)	COSY CORNER • 7PM	WYNNE'S • 6PM
WYNNE'S • 9PM	Breda Shannon (Concertina) Damien O'Brien (Fiddle) Oliver Loughlin (Accordion) Aisling Costello (Fiddle)	THE FINAL BLAST! Tommy Guilhan, Seán Gilrane Mick Mulvey, Liam Kelly
John McLoughlin (Fiddle) Michelle Mulvihill (Accordion)	Wynne's • 9pm	DAVITT'S • 7PM
DAVITT'S • 9PM	Paddy Joe Tighe & Friends	
	FORDE'S • 9PM	

Sunday 10 June

Aifreann na Féile
Followed by music at the
John McKenna Monument

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, TARMON • 12.30 PM

The 'Mining' Session

A very popular festival gathering in an intimate venue, Songs, Tunes, poetry - discussing the music, stories and songs associated with the mining industries, in the company of Jim Bainbridge and friends.

ARIGNA VISITOR CENTRE • 3PM

Full details on festival brochure www.johnmckenna.ie or 086 856 9900



Joe Mooney Summer School - Drumshanbo

SET DANCING

Pat Murphy, Catherine Curran.

SEAN NÓS DANCING

Patrick Devane, Lillie Crossley

BUTTON ACCORDION

Chris Maguire, Nuala Hehir, Daithí Gormley, Brian Mostyn, Damien Mc Guinness

CONCERTINA

Seamus o Mongáin, Caitlin Nic Gabhainn, Gearóid Ó Catháin, Tim Doyle, Breda Shannon, Jacinta Ni Chongaile, Celine Shannon

FIDDLE

John Daly, Fiona Doherty, Gerry Harrington, Manus McGuire, Jacqui Martin, Lisa Ward, Mossie Martin, Shane Meehan, Ronan Regan, Irene Guckian, Clare Bohan, Brid O Keeffe, Devon Mc Gillavray, Grace Doolan, Oisín Morgan

HARP

Aoife Ni Argáin, Eadaoin Ni Mhaicín, Fiachra Guihen

UILEANN PIPES

Neilidh Mulligan, Padraig mc Govern, Brian Hughes

FLUTE

John Wynne, Dave Sheridan, Michael Hurley, Bernie Flaherty, Aidan Shannon

WHISTLE

Tommy Fitzharris, Sarah Jane Woods, Cein Sweeney, Ferdia O Mongáin, Lorraine Sweeney, Padraig Sweeney, Orla Ward, Niamh Ward, Sarah Ward

BANJO

Sean Mc Cague, Keenan Donohoe, Kerry Herrity

MANDOLIN

Joanne O Connor

BOUZOKI

Sven Paetz

ACCOMPANIMENT

John Mc Cartin (Guitar), Michael Dietz (Guitar) , Mick Blake (Piano)

BODHRÁN

Davóg Frayne, Siobhan Ó Donnell, Conal Mc Cormack

SEAN NÓS SINGING

Saileog Ni Cheannabháin

TRADITIONAL SINGING

Fionnuala Maxwell, Tom Gavin, Deirdre Scanlon

PRIMARY TEACHER COURSE

Máirin O Keeffe

Dept of Education approval for Primary School Teachers:

Set dancing

(Pat Murphy, Catherine Curran).

Tin Whistle / Singing

(Mairin O Keeffe).

Registration Form available on website. Pre registration for Primary Teachers by 6th July, numbers limited.

REGISTRATION - MORNING CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Sunday - 21st July: Community Centre Time: 4 - 6pm
Monday - 22nd July: Community Centre Time: 8.30 - 9.15am
Set Dancing & Primary Teachers - Main Entrance
All other classes - Entrance To Right Of Main Entrance

SUMMER SCHOOL COMMITTEE 2019

Hon. Sec: Clare Mc Cabe • mcloughlinclare83@yahoo.ie
Hon. Treas: Josephine Rogers
Chairperson: Dessy Doyle
 Edel Scollan, Padraig Sweeney, Joanne Logan, Andrea Mc Manus, Sheila Flynn

FEES

Adults: €100 • **Children U - 16:** €80

This fee includes morning classes & talks only •
Minimum Registration - 3 Consecutive days • Daily registration for set dancing only

- RECITALS, CONCERT AND CÉILITHE NOT INCLUDED -

Opening Concert: €15

Recitals €6, €4 summer school students

Singers Evening €8 / €5 for adults / children

Grand Traditional Concert €10 / €5 for adults / children

Céilí Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: €8

Friday and Saturday: €10

Afternoon dancing: Monday - Thursday €8, Friday €10

CONTACT

Accommodation: Participants arrange their own accommodation.
List of accommodation available on website.

Web: www.joemooneysummerschool.com

Clare: (087) 133 1241, Edel: (087) 465 5399

General Enquiries Tel: Josephine: 071 964 1120 Dessy: 071 964 1426
 Padraig Sweeney: 086 811 2871

email: accommodation@joemooneysummerschool.com

"Junior Sean Nós" - This course is only for children aged 7 to 12 and it is necessary to sign up for the whole week.

"Fiddlesticks" - An opportunity to try out fiddle for children and adults with tutor Devon Mc Gillavray. Children must be aged 7 or over and never have attended this class previously. It is necessary to sign up for the whole week. Numbers are limited in this class.

We will also offer an **Advanced Fiddlestick** class for those who have completed a previous class or have a basic knowledge of the fiddle.

Sessions at The Shannon - Carrick-on-Shannon

SESSIONS at the shannon 2019
 TRADITIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL
 OCTOBER BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND
SATURDAY 26TH & SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2019
 CARRICK-ON-SHANNON, CO. LEITRIM
 MAIN SPONSOR: **SMITHWICKS IRISH ALE**
 Sponsors: Leitrim County Council, BWG FOOD SERVICE, DRINO, MCM, GUINNESS, Heineken

WORKSHOPS @ THE DOCK
SUNDAY 27th (Adm. €7 / Families €15)

1pm-2.30pm:
 FIDDLE WORKSHOP with Clare Bohan
 ACCORDION WORKSHOP with Brian Mostyn
 FLUTE WORKSHOP with Pdraig Sweeney

1pm-3pm: SINGING SESSION with Fionnuala Maxwell

*"And bliss would well my soul illumine
 In Carrick where the Shannon flows"*

All singers, storytellers and listeners welcome to join a singers circle hosted by Fionnuala Maxwell where she will share some local songs and others can share songs and stories of their choosing.

3pm-4pm: GROUP SESSION. All welcome.

Photo by Gerry Faughnan

sessions at the shannon 2019				
VENUE	SATURDAY 26 TH OCTOBER		SUNDAY 27 TH OCTOBER	
THE LANDMARK HOTEL	Clare Bohan (Fiddle), Brian Carolan (Banjo), Noel Sweeney (Flute)	4.30 - 7pm	Damien O'Brien (Fiddle), Dave Sheridan (Flute), Dairi Gormley (Accordian)	4.30 - 7pm
CRYAN'S HOTEL	Sean Ward (Fiddle), Sean Gibbaine (Flute), Rachel McGovern (Accordian)	9pm	Brian Mostyn (Accordian), Patsy McNamara (Flute), Andy McGovern (Banjo)	9pm
THE BUSH HOTEL	Aidan Shannon (Flute), John Costello (Guitar), Michael O'Brien (Accordian)	4pm	Rachel McGovern (Fiddle), John Tuohy (Pipes), John Carlos (Banjo)	4pm
THE TIPSY TAILOR	Tommy Guilhen (Flute), Jackie Martin (Fiddle), Larry Egan (Accordian)	5 - 7pm	Siobhán Peoples (Fiddle), Brian Carolan (Banjo), Tommy Guilhen (Flute)	9pm
GLANCY'S WATERFRONT BAR	Dairi Gormley (Accordian), Nuala Donlon (Fiddle), Seamus O'Donnell (Flute)	9pm	Jackie Martin (Fiddle), Murry Ryan (Accordian), Noel Sweeney (Flute)	9pm
THE ANCHORAGE	John Carlos (Flute & Banjo), Declan Payne (Accordian), Damien O'Brien (Fiddle)	6pm	Nuala Donlon (Fiddle), Aidan Shannon (Flute), Theresa O'Grady (Banjo)	6pm
McHUGH'S	James McGovern (Flute), Aisling Costello (Fiddle), Theresa O'Grady (Banjo)	6 - 9pm	Oliver Loughlin (Accordian), Pdraig McGovern (Pipes), John Kelly (Flute)	5 - 8pm
AN POITIN STILL	Breda Shannon (Concertina), Dave Sheridan (Flute), Erida McCreary (Fiddle)	8pm	Sean Ward (Fiddle), Seamus O'Donnell (Flute), Michael O'Brien (Accordian)	8pm
FLYNN'S BAR	James Wickham (Accordian), Jim Butler (Flute), Tom Gleeson (Mandola)	7 - 9pm	Clare Bohan (Fiddle), Declan Payne (Accordian), James McGovern (Flute)	7 - 9pm
CRYAN'S TEACH CEOL	Siobhán Peoples (Fiddle), John Kelly (Flute), Murry Ryan (Accordian)	9pm	John McSherry (Pipes), James Murphy (Pipes), Tyler Duncan (Pipes)	9pm
THE SWAN	Brian Mostyn (Accordian), Gerry McMahon (Guitar), Stephen McKee (Banjo)	6pm	Shane Meahan (Fiddle), Gary Curley (Accordian), Aisling Costello (Fiddle)	8pm
THE OARSMAN	John McSherry (Pipes), James Murphy (Pipes), Tyler Duncan (Flute)	9.30pm	John Costello (Guitar), Stephen McKee (Banjo), Fiachra Guilhen (Flute & Harp)	4pm
BUFFALO BOY	Gary Curley (Accordian), John Tuohy (Pipes), Andy McGovern (Banjo)	8pm		
PERCY WHELAN'S			Gerry McMahon (Guitar), Lorraine Sweeney (Flute), Larry Egan (Accordian)	6pm
coffee shop sessions				
with Emily Keane (Flute/Whistle), Emma Benson (Concertina/Harp) & Ryan Sheridan (Button Accordian)				
SATURDAY 26 TH OCTOBER		SUNDAY 27 TH OCTOBER		
LENA'S TEA ROOM 11am - 12.30pm		COFFEE'S 12 - 1.30pm		
CAFE LOUNGE 2 - 3.30pm		THE OLIVE TREE 2.30 - 4pm		

County Fermanagh

- Fermanagh, known as the ‘Lakeland County’ is in the province of Ulster and part of Northern Ireland.

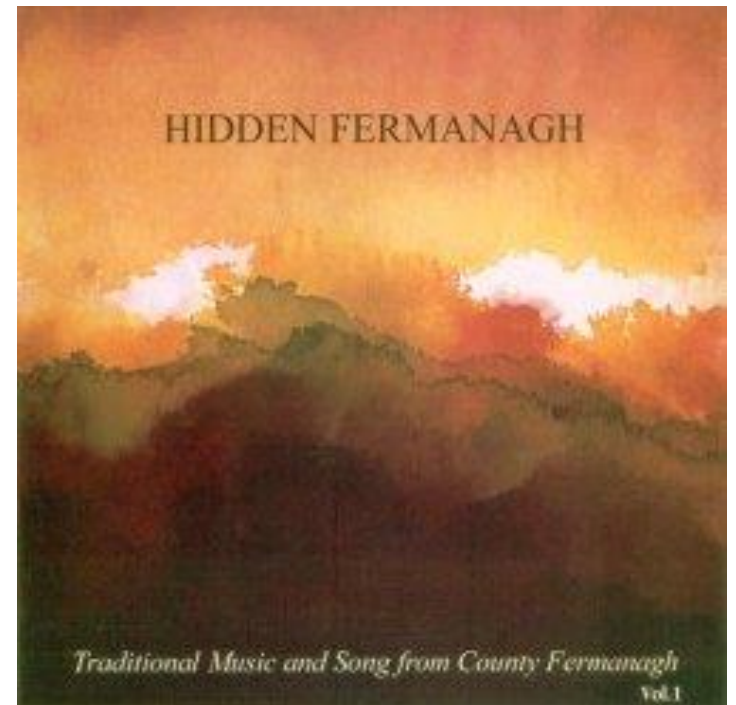
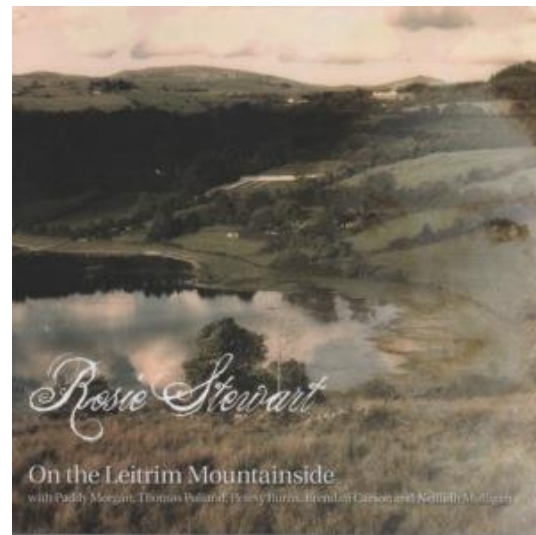
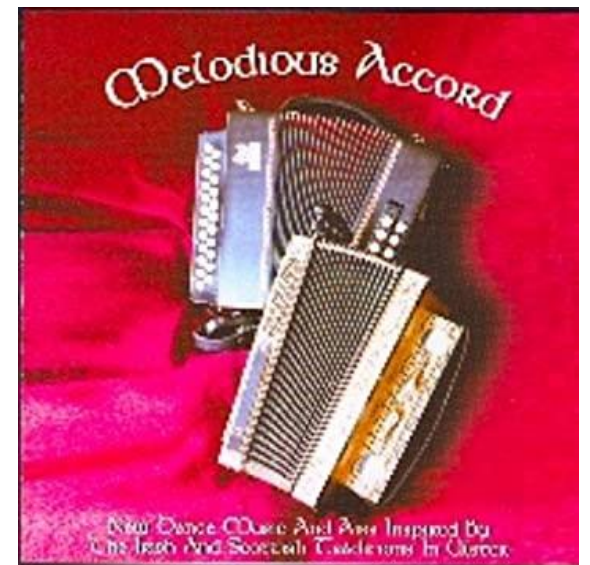
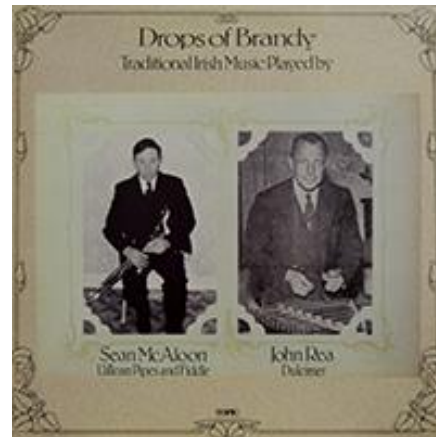
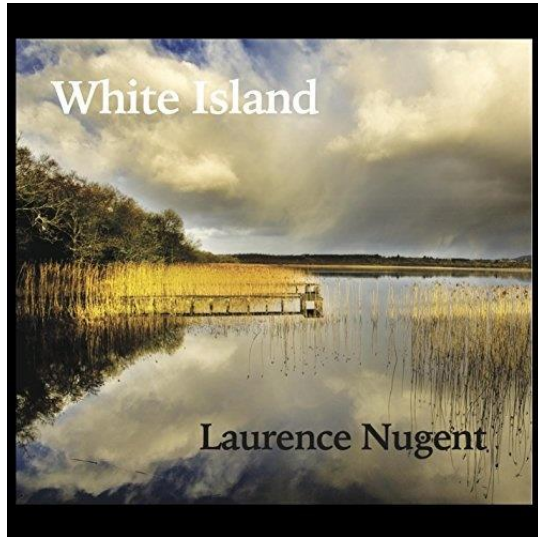
Fermanagh is home to a variety of musical traditions, from traditional Ulster singing to fife and drum bands and Ulster country dance music.

We will look at some of the individuals and groups who have shaped the diverse range of Fermanagh musical traditions.



Traditional Music in Northern Ireland

- ▶ “Northern Ireland remains a divided community in which traditional culture, in all its manifestations, is widely understood as a marker of religious affiliation and ethnic identity. Since the outbreak of the most recent 'troubles' around 1968, the borders between the communities have often been marked by music.” - **David Cooper**
- ▶ Since the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 these boundaries have started to break down and traditional Irish music in all its various forms has enjoyed a revival.
- ▶ Despite clear cut, cultural, county and national borders there is no denying the interconnected, patchwork nature of traditional Irish music across the whole of the island of Ireland.
- ▶ “There is a wealth of tunes abound in our culture with blends of inspiration from all over Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Canada and from the Ulster Scots traditions” - Belfast Presbyterian Rector and flautist **Rev. Gary Hastings**.



Fife and Drum Bands

- ▶ The Fife and Drum marching band tradition was, and continues to be, a strong musical force in Co. Fermanagh.
- ▶ The drum (traditionally called a Lambeg) is made from a massive oak-shelled, rope tensioned, goat-skinned, double sided drum that weighs approximately 40 pounds and is about 37 inches in diameter.
- ▶ The high pitched fife was the only instrument capable of competing with such a beast of a drum.
- ▶ Marching was just as much about volume and spectacle as it was about stamina; to march with such an unwieldy instrument as the Lambeg was a feat in itself.

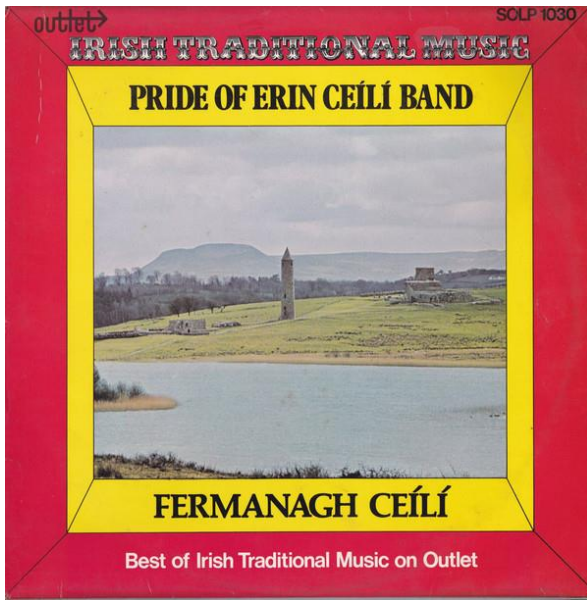


Fermanagh Country Dance Music

- ▶ The most common form of dance in Co. Fermanagh was Ulster Country Dancing, otherwise known as Old Time Square Dancing.
- ▶ This is distinct from Irish performance dances (Sean Níos) and set dancing found in the South of Ireland.
- ▶ While Sean Níos (old style) dancing and set dancing have enjoyed a revival in recent years, partly due to the global success of Riverdance, Ulster Country Dancing has all but died out.
- ▶ Despite this, Ulster Country Dances are still held across Co. Fermanagh and in Greyabbey, Co. Down.

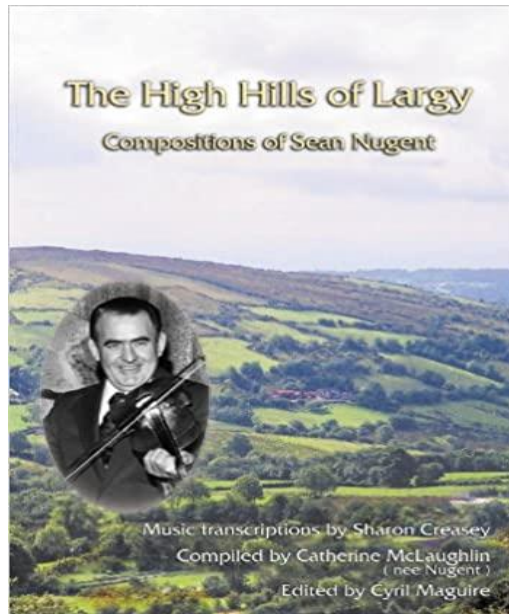
Fermanagh Ceili Bands

- ▶ Co. Fermanagh is famous for its numerous award-winning ceili bands including:
- ▶ ***The Pride of Erin Ceili Band*** - All-Ireland Champions in 1983 and 1985.
- ▶ ***Sean Nugent Ceili Band*** - All-Ireland U18 champions 1989.
- ▶ And more recently the ***Knockmore Ceili Band*** - All-Ireland champions in 2014.



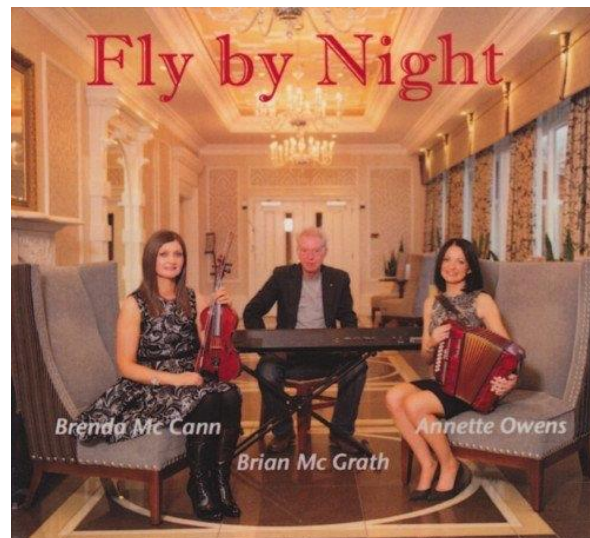
Sean Nugent

- ▶ **Sean Nugent** was born in Co. Tyrone but lived most of his life in the village of Leck, Co. Fermanagh.
- ▶ Sean was playing at a time when traditional Irish music in Fermanagh was scarcely found. He was instrumental in keeping the Fermanagh tradition alive and passing it onto the next generation - namely his son, **Larry Nugent**.
- ▶ Sean won the All-Ireland Fiddle title in Listowel, 1978 and went on to found the All-Ireland winning **Pride of Erin Ceili Band**.



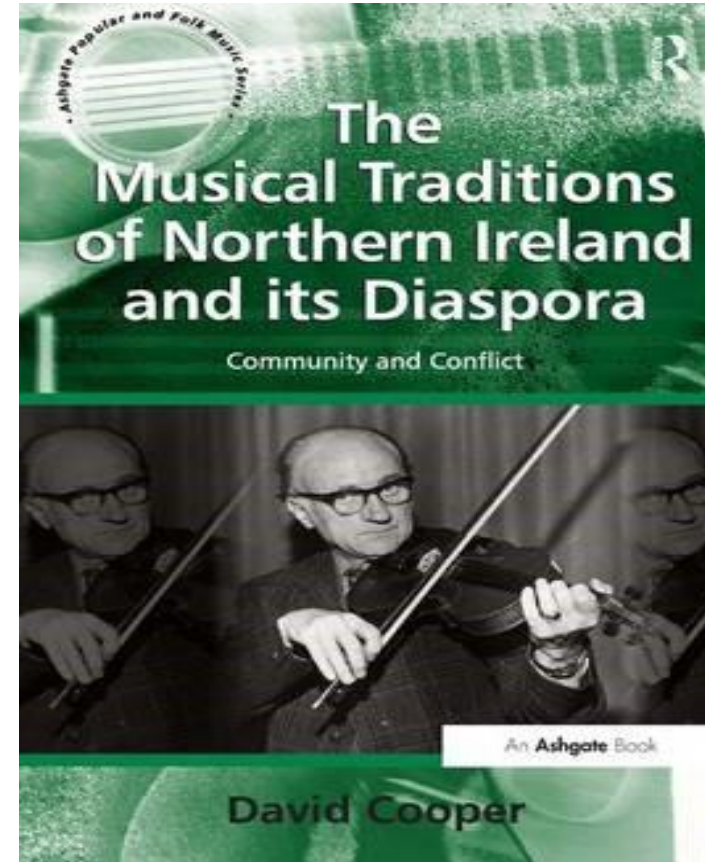
Annette Owens and Brenda McCann

- ▶ *Annette Owens*, button accordion, and *Brenda McCann*, fiddle, have been playing together many years.
- ▶ They competed in duet competitions from a young age and played together in the *Sean Nugent Ceili Band* winning an All Ireland title in the U18 Ceili Band competition.
- ▶ They also feature on *Hidden Fermanagh*, a CD of Fermanagh music from the historic *Gunn manuscript*.



Fermanagh Flute Music

- ▶ The most common traditional instrument in Fermanagh is the wooden flute.
- ▶ “The Fermanagh flute style seems to perch geographically and musically between the plainer and more uniform approach of North-East Ulster and the more florid ornamentation characteristic of counties Sligo and Leitrim.”
 - *Professor David Cooper, The Musical Traditions of Northern Ireland and its Diaspora*



Desi Wilkinson

- ▶ While some flute-players graduated from fife and drum bands, Belfast-born *Desi Wilkinson*, sought out older players from County Fermanagh, from where it was but a short hop across the border to the centre of traditional flute-playing in County Leitrim.
- ▶ As well as traditional Irish music Desi plays Turkish and Breton folk music.



Desi Wilkinson, 2001. Photo © Tony Kearns.

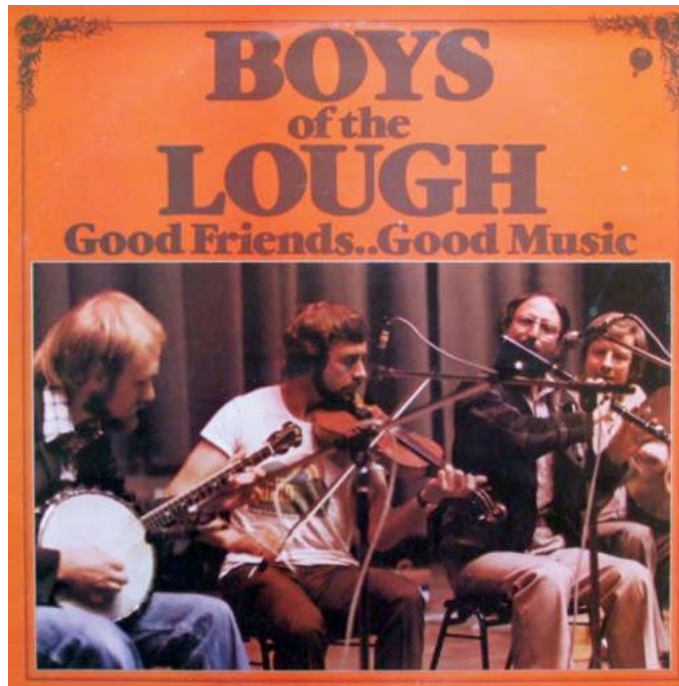
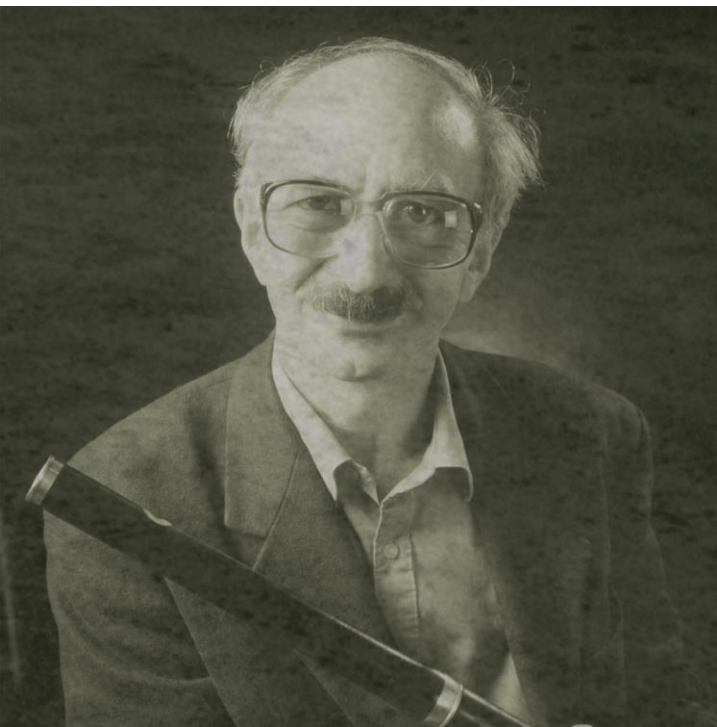
Eddie Duffy and Mick Hoy

- ▶ **Eddie Duffy** (1894-1986) was a mainstay of the Fermanagh flute tradition and heavily influenced the likes of **Cathal McConnell** and **Larry Nugent**. He played and preserved many local tunes, most of which he learnt from his parents.
- ▶ **Mick Hoy** (1913-2000) was a fiddler and exponent of the Ulster traditional singing tradition, a style characterised by extended variations in phrasing and frequent use of glottal stops.
- ▶ Eddie and Mick played together for many years as a successful duet.
- ▶ In memory of Mick Hoy and Eddie Duffy, the **Eddie Duffy and Mick Hoy Memorial Traditional Music Festival** takes place every year on the second weekend in October in Derrygonnelly.



Cathal McConnell

- ▶ *Cathal McConnell* was born in 1944 in the village of Bellanaleck, Co. Fermanagh.
- ▶ He is best known as a flautist and singer with well-known band *The Boys of the Lough*.
- ▶ Cathal learnt his traditional Fermanagh flute style from his family, all of whom were singers and flautists. Cathal's father *Sandy McConnell* was an influential musician who recorded for the BBC in the 1950s.
- ▶ McConnell is an All-Ireland Champion in both flute and whistle categories.



Laurence Nugent

- ▶ *Laurence (Larry) Nugent* is from the village of Leck, Co. Fermanagh - an area renowned for its flute music. He now lives in Chicago.
- ▶ Larry learnt much of his music from his father, the late *Sean Nugent*, who was a prominent musician in Co. Fermanagh.
- ▶ Larry, like *Cathal McConnell*, is an All Ireland Flute Champion and continues to tour across the world, bringing Fermanagh flute music to a global audience.



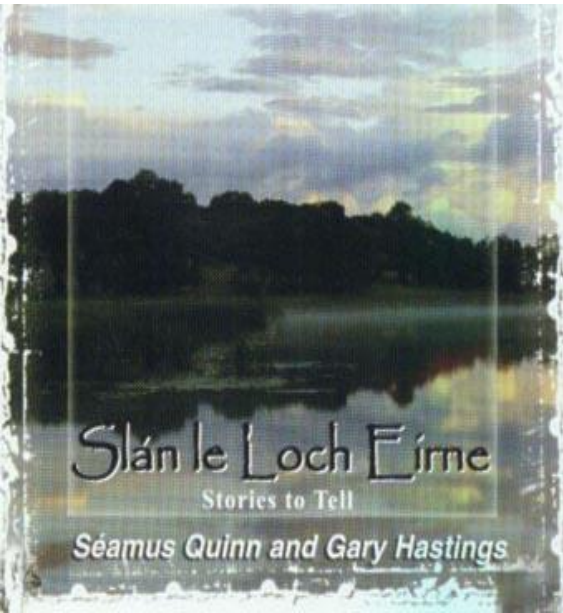
Rev. Gary Hastings and Father Seamus Quinn

- ▶ Gary and Seamus met at Coleraine university in the 1980s and were united by their love of traditional music.
- ▶ **Gary Hastings**, originally from Belfast, is a Church of Ireland rector who learnt his music from Fermanagh greats such as **Eddie Duffy** and the **McConnell family**.
- ▶ **Father Seamus Quinn** is a fiddle player from the South Fermanagh/North Leitrim region. He learnt his Leitrim style from the legendary **Lennon family**.
- ▶ In 2002 they released their debut album *Slán le Loch Eirne* on Copperplate Records.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/the-red-mist-of-music-1.205398>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p00bkr33>



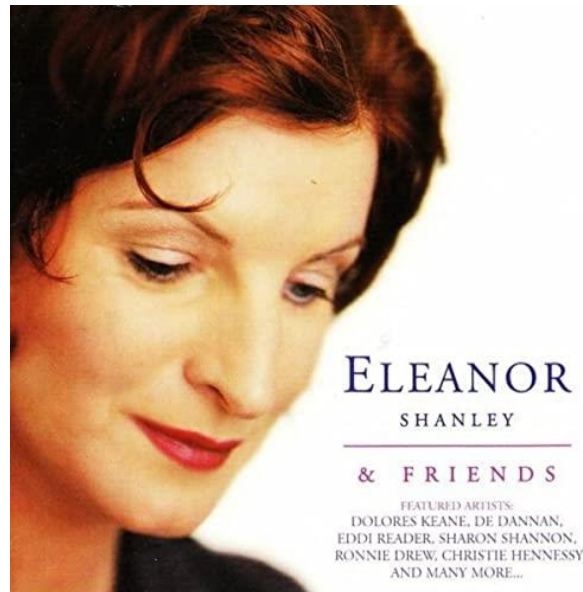
Traditional Singing across Co. Leitrim and Fermanagh

- ▶ Song has always been an integral part of any musical tradition.
- ▶ Songs were passed down through the generations as a form of oral history, documenting events or stories.
- ▶ Co. Leitrim and Fermanagh has been home to many great singers such as ***Mary McPartlan, Mick Hoy, Eleanor Shanley, Rosie Stewart, Cathal McConnell*** and many more.



Eleanor Shanley

- ▶ Eleanor is from Keshcarrigan, Co. Leitrim and is a renowned singer across Ireland and abroad.
- ▶ Eleanor sings many local Leitrim songs, such as ***Lovely Leitrim*** and ***Shores of Lough Bran***.
- ▶ Among a wide discography, Shanley sang on the landmark Leitrim album, ***The Leitrim Equation*** and with the influential ***De Danann***.



Rosie Stewart

- ▶ Rosie Stewart was born in the townland of Cashel, Co. Fermanagh and is a great ambassador for traditional Ulster singing.
- ▶ Rosie comes from a long line of singers who have passed down family and local songs through the generations.
- ▶ In 2004 Rosie was awarded the TG4 award for ***Best Traditional Singer***.

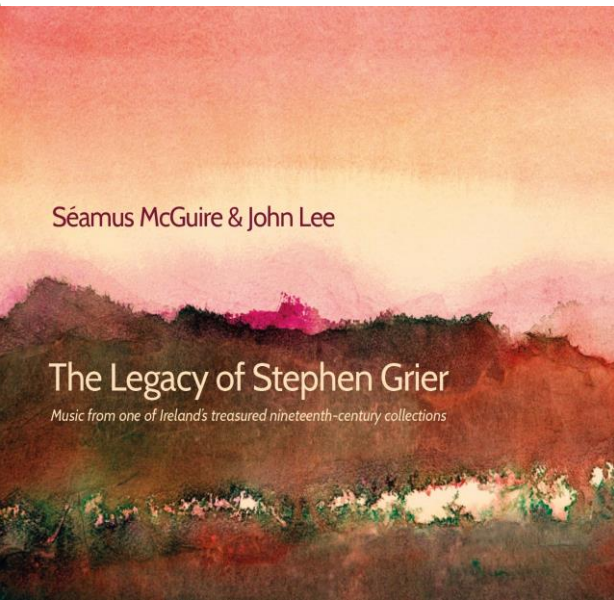


Manuscript Collections

- ▶ Many local musicians across Ireland kept tune notebooks whether for personal use or as ethnographic and commercial collections. Famous collections include the *Bunting Collection*, the *Petrie Collection* and *O'Neill's Music of Ireland*..
- ▶ Co. Leitrim was home to piper and collector *Stephen Grier* (1824-1894). Fortunately Grier's manuscript survived and is now one of the most important collections of Irish music from the 19th Cent.

Stephen Grier transcribed over 1,000 tunes, many of which are local to South Leitrim. An album of Grier's tunes were recorded by *Seamus Maguire* and *John Lee*.

- ▶ *The Gunn Book* from Co. Fermanagh is a tunebook manuscript transcribed by John Gunn in the mid 19th cent. It contains over 150 tunes.
- ▶ These books provide key insights into the musical traditions of pre 20th century Co. Fermanagh and Leitrim.



Traditional Music in Co. Fermanagh Today

- ▶ Traditional music weekends and festivals are a key point in the music calendar. Here, masters of the tradition pass down local musical traditions to the next generation.
- ▶ Classes are taught by ear and people of all ages and nationalities are welcome.
- ▶ Fermanagh is home to many music festivals, notably the *Eddie Duffy and Mick Hoy Festival*, *The Sean McAloon Festival* and *the John Joe Maguire Traditional Music Weekend*.

- 34th anniversary -
the eddie duffy and mick hoy
TRADITIONAL
music festival

programme of events

friday 11th october 2019

OPENING CONCERT – DERRYGONNELLY COMMUNITY CENTRE @ 8PM

In Memory of the late Charlie Woods

Featuring: Jim McGrath, Gaby McArdle, Claire McGrath, Cathal Brough, Connor Woods, John Woods, Jack McLoughlin, The Maguire Family, John Duffy and family, The McKeaney Sisters, Julie-Anne McCaffrey, Fr Seamus Quinn, Sean Higgins, Francis Rasdale, Gary Curley, Stephen McKee, The Harbinson brothers, The Elliott family, Eoin Magee & Kealan McShea, Cuthbert Arutura, Colm Higgins and MNCB Dancers, MC – PJ McDonald

Special Guests Carlos, Sweeney, McCartin who will be launching their CD

Refreshments served after concert and raffle during interval.

Admission: £10 per Adult, Under 18s £5 and under 10 free of charge

Session Trail from 9pm in Doogies Bar, The Cosy Bar & Old Pals Bar

saturday 12th october 2019

12-2pm Busking Competition on the Main Street - Open to age 16 and under - free of charge

12-2pm Cuthbert Arutura - Sean No's Workshop in Old Pals Bar Admission £5 - All ages and abilities.

Gig Rig on the Main Street 2-5pm • Unveiling of the maid of Carrick and her handmaidens

Moybrone pipe band and Scottish dancers • Botha Music Group

Dancing exhibitions from MNCB and Dominican Academy • The Slieve Gallion Ceili Band

The Maguire Family • Cuthbert Arutura • Tradacad

Session trail from 5pm featuring our local talented artists in addition to the following visiting artists: Niall & Ciaran Hanna, Tadgh Mulligan, Stephen & Eoin McKee, Ruari Howell, John McCartin, Cein Sweeney, Dylan Carlos McKenna Family, Shane McAleer, Andrew Jackson, Stephen Hayden, Maria & Máiréad Mitchell, Seamus Tierney and Ciaran Kelly.

7-9pm Singing Session facilitated by the McKeaney Sisters in The Cosy Bar

sunday 13th october 2019

Sunday Lunch available in Tir Navar

2-5pm Junior Music Session in Doogies Bar - All Welcome

4-7pm Sets Ceili facilitated by Brenda Murphy with music by The Copperplate Ceili Band

Admission £10 - refreshments served - raffle

sincere thanks to our fermanagh and omagh district council and
to our local sponsors for your continued support of the event and
to our wonderful committee of volunteers for all your hard work!

The Eddie Duffy and Mick Hoy Traditional Music Festival

- Derrygonnelly

John Joe Maguire Weekend of Traditional Music, Song and Dance

- Swanlinbar

 **SWANLINBAR CCE** 
PRESENTS THE 7th

John Joe Maguire Traditional

WEEKEND OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC, SONG & DANCE

IN SWANLINBAR 23rd -25th February 2018

Friday 23rd February: Branch Concert in Trivia House to celebrate the 7th year of John Joe Maguire Traditional Weekend with invited guests. Starts @ 8pm.

Saturday 24th February: Sets Céilí with Breege Flynn in St Mary's Hall with the Swallow Tail Céilí band. All sets céilí from 9pm to 12pm. Promised to be a fantastic night of dancing. Refreshments served.

Beginners Session at 7 pm in Trivia House
Advanced Youth Session from 10 pm in The Stables Bar

Sunday 25th February: Singing Seisiún @ 5pm in The Stables Bar. Featuring Local Singers, all welcome to join.

Advanced Youth Session with Cavan Man Martin Donohoe in The Swan Bar @ 2:30pm

Sessions in the pubs throughout the weekend.

 An Roinn
Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
Department of
Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

 COMHALTAS



Easter Sunday | 8.00pm | Roslea Community Centre

Sean McAloon Concert

**Gala Concert Featuring a host of
Top Class Artists including:**

Darren Breslin | George McAdam | Gary Curley & McKee Bros
| Fergus Bogue & Family | Barry McLaughlin & Róna McLaughlin
| Fran McMahon & Family | Kathleen McMahon & Family |
Flanagan / McMahon Dancers | Tommy McDermott | Mary Elliott
| John Traynor | Roslea Music Class | Rossa and Tara Gilsonan
| and Many More...!

Tuesday 3rd April | 7.30pm | Roslea Community Centre

Session With Martin Donohoe & Friends

Friday 6th April | 9.30pm | Roslea Community Centre

Fior Céilí - Cera Moyle Céilí Band

The Sean McAloon Festival is run by the Roslea branch of
Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

Sean McAloon Festival

- Roslea

Traditional Irish Music in the 21st Cent.

- ▶ Traditional Irish music is, now more than ever, a global success. Jigs and reels can be heard across the world from Tokyo to Chicago and Paris.
- ▶ The passion and dedication of musicians across the ages has ensured that regional music styles, such as that of Co. Leitrim and Fermanagh, have survived and continue to flourish into the next generation.
- ▶ As *Rev. Gary Hastings* said, “traditional music isn’t about music at all, it’s about people”.

Co. Leitrim further reading

- ▶ **The Leitrim Ceili Band-** http://homepage.eircom.net/~fredfinn/festival05_post.htm#Carroll%20family
- ▶ **The Leitrim Equation-** <https://www.leitrimequation.ie/>
- ▶ **Furls of Music - The McNamara Collection ITMA-** <https://www.itma.ie/michaelmcnamara/explore>
- ▶ **Charlie Lennon, Fiddler on the Hoof -** <https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/fiddler-on-the-hoof-1.1258307>
- ▶ **John Vincent Harrison -** https://www.mustrad.org.uk/obits/v_harris.htm
- ▶ **John McKenna Traditional Music Society-** <https://www.johnmckenna.ie/>
- ▶ **O'Carolan and Leitrim Landscapes-** <https://www.hiddeneurope.co.uk/leitrim-landscapes>
- ▶ **Des Hurley and Friends -** <https://www.facebook.com/irishartsfoundation/videos/420494498944647>

Co. Fermanagh further reading

- ▶ **‘Hidden Fermanagh’ Traditional Music and Song from County Fermanagh** - <http://www.irishmusicreview.com/hiddenfermanagh2.htm>
- ▶ **Tributes to trad music’s gentle giant, John McManus** - <https://fermanaghherald.com/2013/05/tributes-to-trad-musics-gentle-giant-john-mcmanus/>
- ▶ **John Joe Maguire. ‘Traditional flute player who mastered the reel and shunned the spotlight’** - <https://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/people/traditional-flute-player-who-mastered-the-reel-and-shunned-the-spotlight-1.653730>
- ▶ **‘Dog Big and Dog Little’** - recognised as the definitive recording of the Fermanagh/Leitrim style of traditional music’ - https://www.mustrad.org.uk/reviews/dog_big.htm
- ▶ **‘Altan’- The Fermanagh connection** - <https://altan.ie/ciaran-curran/>
- ▶ **Fermanagh musician joins forces with legendary De Dannan** - https://www.impartialreporter.com/leisure/staying_in/13870681.fermanagh-musician-joins-forces-with-legendary-de-dannan/
- ▶ **Musical Families in Fermanagh: The McGraths** - <https://www.culturenorthernireland.org/features/music/musical-families-fermanagh-mcgraths>
- ▶ **All-Ireland success for Fermanagh Ceili Band** - <https://fermanaghherald.com/2014/08/all-ireland-success-for-fermanagh-ceili-band/>

Further reading

- ▶ Towards a Regional Understanding of Irish Traditional Music - [Towards_a_Regional_Understanding_of_ITM_MR.pdf](#)
- ▶ Research Scoping Study: Ulster-Scots Music Traditions - [DCAL Ulster-Scots Music Traditions \(ed.ac.uk\)](#)
- ▶ ‘Traditional Irish music here tonight’: Exploring the session space - [Traditional Irish music here tonight.pdf](#)

Exploring the Musical Traditions of County Leitrim & County Fermanagh

More information can be found here....

Listen to the Irish Arts Foundation: Exploring the Musical Traditions of
Co. Leitrim & Co. Fermanagh Spotify playlist here:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/51OuePATgyZgSVP7g1dzUL>



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Emigrant Support Programme



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



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