

ACHILL HEINRICH BÖLL ASSOCIATION

**SUMMER CONCERT**



Image John Michael Nickolai

## BÖLL SUMMER CONCERT

The Achill Heinrich Böll Association are pleased to host a Summer Concert featuring a crossover of classical and Irish music forms and traditions at St Thomas' Church Dugort Achill Island August 13<sup>th</sup> 20:00hrs. Admission is free but booking necessary at [www.heinrichboellcottage.com](http://www.heinrichboellcottage.com).

Alison Moncreif Kelly, organiser and performer writes;-

*“ The word ‘crossover’ is as overworked as it is inadequate: different areas of music cannot be conflated into one thing with a piece of verbal sticking plaster. The idea for this concert came about as a way of bringing together local Achill musicians with those who are lucky enough to call this wonderful place home; and it is an opportunity for those who play in the classical discipline to get close to Irish musical traditions and learn from them.*

*As one of the classical musicians performing, it has been a wonderful odyssey for me to learn more about Irish traditional music from the inside, to spend time listening to the vast canon of Irish music, and to learn something of the artists who play it.*

*I'm in awe of the skill of those who perform in the traditional style - the mastery of instrument and idiom is something all musicians strive for, whichever side of the musical spectrum we sit on*

*The enthusiastic response from everyone involved in this event has been astonishing, and as ever, it's the love of music that drives things forward. Many thanks to everyone for agreeing to play”.*

The performers include: Anne-Marie Twomey – Violin / Connor Wilcox – Piano / David Durham - / Baritone / Julie Langan - Trad fiddle / Kieran O'Malley - Pipes/whistle / Diarmuid Gielty - Trad fiddle / Alison Moncreif Kelly - Cello / Paul Mc Gratten – Flute / John Hoban - musician .

The programme includes; *Beethoven Irish Folksongs in the piano trio/baritone arrangement / The Dumky Trio by Dvorak / Songs by Renaldo Hahn / Elegy by Lessenko (Ukrainian composer) / New arrangement by Kieran O Malley and Alison Moncrief Kelly for all musicians.*

## **Participating Musicians;**

1. **Alison Moncrieff-Kelly** won a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music in 1979, where she studied cello with Florence Hooton and piano with her late father Alexander Kelly.

After graduating from the RAM, Alison won a Sir James Caird Travelling Scholarship, which enabled her to study with the great French cellist Pierre Fournier in Geneva.

Alison made her London début as a member of the Latache Clarinet Trio at the South Bank, and since then has focused on work as a chamber musician.

As a member of the Piano Trio Triangulus, Alison recorded the complete works of Hummel for piano trio, and also recorded the complete works of Stanford for cello and piano, as well as a series of solo cello recordings. She has appeared all over the world as a performer.

Alison has been coming to her family home on Achill for most of her life, and her ambition is to graduate from being a 'blow-in' to being a fully fledged citizen of the most beautiful place on earth.

2 **Connor Wilcox** is currently working at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, following a professional mentorship programme under the tutelage of Anthony Byrne. In 2021, Connor graduated from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (RBC) having studied with Katharine Lam, Victor Sangiorgio and Daniel Browell. During Connor's time at RBC, he was the recipient of the Piano Department Prize, the Donohoe Gold Medal, and the Delia Hall and Edward Brooks prizes for piano accompaniment, and appeared as concerto soloist with RBC's symphony orchestra playing Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto. Connor performs regularly in Birmingham and further afield, most recently in RBC's Beethoven Festival 2020, the Ulverston International Music Festival 2019, and the Birmingham International Chamber Music Festival 2018.

### 3 Anne-Marie Twomey



**Anne-Marie Twomey** was born in London to parents from Cork and Laois, and from the age of 8 attended the Purcell School of Music.

During her teenage years she received Chamber Music coaching from Joan Dickson, John Barstow, Diana Boyle, and also cellist Margaret Moncrieff, Alison Moncrieff-Kelly's mother.

She also participated in masterclasses with Igor Ozim, and chamber music masterclasses with William Pleeth.

In her final year at the Purcell School she led the school orchestra under conductors such as Simon Rattle and Sir Charles Groves, in concerts on London's South Bank.

At the age of 17 she was awarded a Foundation Scholarship to the Royal College of Music to study with Jaroslav Vaněček, and whilst there received bursaries from Unilever and the English Speaking Union.

Since moving home to Ireland she has worked as a member of the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, and, since 1998, has dedicated her time to Chamber Music.

**4 Kieran O'Malley.** Achill native, Kieran O'Malley started playing Highland Bagpipes at a very young age, following in his father's footsteps. On hearing Liam O'Flynn play Uilleann Pipes with the group Planxty in 1973, he became interested in the instrument, and eventually got a practice set in 1983. He moved to Dublin in 1984 and joined Na Píobairí Uilleann (The Uilleann Pipers Club) in Henrietta Street. He quickly became quite proficient and started teaching in the Club every Thursday night. Kieran also introduced the instrument to local young musicians in Scoil Acla in 1986, and ran the piping classes here up until the early 2000's. He has taught and performed as a soloist throughout Ireland, the U.K., Europe, the U.S. and Canada. Kieran also played with the Achill Pipe Band at the World Championships in Glasgow from 2012- 2018. The Uilleann Pipes he plays were made by renowned German pipe maker, Andreas Rogge.

**5 Paul McGrattan** – Biography. Paul McGrattan was born in Dublin in 1967. He began playing the flute at the age of 10 and received his first lessons from Paddy Treacy, a great flute player living in Dublin but originally from Kilconnell, Co. Galway. Paul's native parish of Navan Road was a hotbed of flute and whistle players and he was fortunate to receive lessons, guidance and friendship from players such as John Egan (Riverstown, Co Sligo), Paddy Bán Ó Broin (Dublin) and Chieftain's founder member Seán Potts. Paul spent many summers as a child in the village of Kilcar in Southwest Donegal and developed a love of the Donegal style of fiddle playing, in particular the music of the Doherty family. Paul's debut solo album 'The Frost is all Over' was released on the Claddagh label in 1992. He has featured on many other albums since then – Music from Matt Molloy's and Within a Mile of Dublin to name but two. He toured extensively as a member of the Band Beginish (Breannán Ó Beaglaoich, accordion, Gavin Ralston, guitar, Noel O Grady, bouzouki and Paul O Shaughnessy fiddle) and the band has released two albums – 'Beginish' and 'Stormy Weather'. Paul's second solo album 'Keelwest', recorded in his home in Achill Island was released in December 2002. Paul has taught at the Scoil Samhradh Willie Clancy and Scoil Acla (Achill Island) for many years, and has also taught workshops throughout Europe and the U.S. He is a teacher in Ballyfermot College Of Further Education in Dublin where he co-ordinates the college's Higher National Diploma in Traditional Music Performance and Instrument Making. Paul spends the summer months in Achill Island, fishing, playing music and talking football.

## **6 Diarmuid Gielty**

Diarmuid Gielty began playing fiddle as one of the first students of the Scoil Acla Summer School revival in 1985. He has been long term member of the Dooagh Pipe Band for and was the chairperson of Scoil Acla from 2006 until 2017. He was one of the driving forces in the re-establishment of the Dooagh Fie & Drum Band in 2018. He is currently a member of the Achill International Harp Festival committee.

During his time away from Achill Diarmuid played regularly with well known musicians such as Francie Mooney, Dermot Byrne, Maireád Ní Mhaonaigh, Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh and Emer Mayock. Diarmuid regularly plays music with harper Laoise Kelly, they have recorded several live tracks for the Sunday Miscellany Radio 1 programme live from Achill, as well as providing accompaniment for two of Paul Durcan's poetry readings. Diarmuid and Laoise along with piper John Butler provide the music at the annual Heinrich Boll weekend in Achill. Diarmuid has performed at the Achill International Harp Festival collaboration concerts in 2016, 2017 and 2018 playing alongside world class artists including Allan McDonald, Mary MacMaster and Donald Hay (Scotland), Jean-Michel Veillon and Erwan Menguy (Brittany), Anxo Lorenzo, Xabier Diaz (Gallica) and Steve Cooney, (Ireland). Over the years Diarmuid has made numerous appearances playing music and contributing regularly on TG4, RnaG and RTÉ radio and television.

## 7 Julie Langan



**Julie Langan** is a fiddler from Newport, County Mayo. She learned her music largely from relations and musicians in her local area. She has several recordings and numerous television and radio appearances to her credit, including an acclaimed duet album entitled *Fonnchaoi*, with accordion player Verena Commins. She has toured both nationally and internationally with various music groups and musicians. She is assuming a role about teaching music.

She has lately been involved with the Music of Mayo project which involved her recording some Mayo tunes for their archive, some of which were released on cd. She teaches and performs nationally.



John Hoban is a composer, singer, musician and author from Castlebar, County Mayo in the West of Ireland. John has played and taught music all his life in the Troubadour tradition. He chose to learn his music with care over many years from some of Ireland's most respected master musicians. John combines the best of the Irish tradition with an intimate, warm and raw sensibility that is his own. He is an accomplished player of fiddle, banjo, whistles, mandocello, and other instruments, in addition to being a singer and composer of songs and music. He is highly regarded nationally and internationally for the unique and deeply personal nature of his music. He has recorded solo song and instrumental CD's as well as performing on many collaborative recordings. John brings music to many diverse communities. He is re-known as a gifted teacher who has developed a unique approach to art and music teaching for all ages. He is also a collector of all types of music, stories and folklore. He is the author of the book "From the Plain of The Yew Tree: The Lifetime Journey of a County Mayo Musician." He is currently writing his second book and recording a new CD.

Trained at GSMD London as a Violinist and Violist.

In 2019, David sung the principal roles of Macbeth in Verdi's Macbeth; in Puccini's Tosca, Scarpia and King Felipe in Verdi's Don Carlos. In recent years he has also sung Sam in Trouble in Tahiti; Germont Pere, La Traviata; Silvio, Pagliacci; Mozart's Don Giovanni for English Chamber Opera; Scarpia, Tosca; Escamillo; Carmen; Prince Gremin, Eugene Onegin and Quequeg, Moby-Dick.

He made his Acting debut in Shakespeare's As You Like It at Nottingham Playhouse Numerous contemporary plays in London and around the UK. Leading roles in West End Musicals: Caiaphas, Jesus Christ Superstar, Mufasa, The Lion King; Ben Stone, Follies; Booker.T Washington, Ragtime; The Major, Flowers for Mrs. Harris and Judge Turpin, Sweeney Todd.

He's appeared as Baritone soloist at Royal Albert Hall and Theatre Royal, Drury Lane in major concerts.

Ever-passionate for chamber music; particularly English, French and German art-song repertoire, he frequently performs recitals in London, the U.K and Rep of Ireland.

Regular television appearances include leading roles in The Mariah Carey Biopic, Law and Order, Merlin, EastEnders, Casualty, Doctors and A Touch of Frost.

He is also an accomplished Classical Guitarist.



## Background Achill Heinrich Böll Association.

The Heinrich Böll Cottage in Dugort Achill has been in use as a residency for artists and writers since 1992. This has been organised by a local voluntary association, in conjunction with Mayo Co. Council, The Arts Council of Ireland, the local community, and the family of Heinrich Böll.

Photo; John Michael Nikolai

**Aims of Residency:** The Residency at the Böll Cottage is designed to achieve the following;

1. Provide a secluded, and private environment for writers and Artists to do their work. A space where artists can be away from their usual environment and routine, in a place conducive to their needs, and to producing high quality work.
2. To provide access for the resident island community to high quality, professional standard - cultural and artistic events. This is achieved through readings and exhibitions - visits to local schools etc, organised in a manner which does not distract the resident artist from their main creative work, while at the cottage.
3. To build on the existing tradition and reputation of Achill island as an area of interest to writers and artists. The residency attracts interest from professional artists from an international base - hence focusing on the island as an area of cultural and artistic interest.
4. To have an appropriate memorial to Heinrich Böll on Achill island. The residency, by providing support for artists, is a living, growing and creative way to celebrate the work and achievement of Nobel Prize winner Heinrich Böll. This project - in memory of Heinrich Böll - makes available a real tangible support structure for creative artists, and is therefore a most appropriate memorial to a writer such as Heinrich Böll.

The Achill Heinrich Böll Association is a not-for-profit company based in the community of Achill Island. They purchased the Achill Heinrich Böll cottage, in order to ensure it's continued use as a writers residency, and to guarantee the perpetual benefits to the Achill community, and to the country. This was achieved with funding from The Minister for Arts, Mayo Co Council, and through support from the local community. Renovations were carried out with funding from The Arts Council of Ireland and Mayo County Council. The annual residency programme is funded through revenue grants from Mayo Co Council and The Arts Council of Ireland, and through donations from the community.



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo  
Mayo County Council



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,  
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