



**KILKENNY
ARTS
FESTIVAL**



**06–16 August 2026
kilkennyarts.ie**

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from 20 July on +353 56 775 2175

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from 20 July at the Festival box office
76 John Street, R95 V992

Weekdays: 10am - 5pm

During the Festival: daily 10am - 7pm

ACCESS

We provide access details about venues and specific shows on the website. For more information please see www.kilkennyarts.ie/festival/accessibility or scan the QR code.

If you have questions or additional access requirements, please contact the box office.

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Introduction

Welcome to Kilkenny Arts Festival!

We're delighted to invite you to join us in the Marble City this summer as, for the 53rd time, Kilkenny is taken over by creators, performers and participants who thrill, excite and provoke.

This year we present major new projects, including the world premiere of *The Curing Line* and a new operatic interpretation of Beckett in *The Last Tape*. In music we celebrate everything from new work to Renaissance masters, resident artists Kate Ellis and Francesco Turrisi return with some very special guests, while Crash Ensemble, Chamber Choir Ireland and the Irish Chamber Orchestra offer a mix of firm favourites and groundbreaking new works. Cate Le Bon rocks St Canice's and the Set pulses to Korean techno from 64ksana, while Martin Hayes' Marble City Sessions embraces intimate gigs, barnstorming concerts and everything in between!

We're honoured to welcome former President of Ireland Mary Robinson to deliver the Hubert Butler Lecture and there's a tantalising programme of writers and thinkers including poet in residence Annemarie Ní Churreáin. Light and darkness run throughout the Festival, embracing late-night fun in *Light Up the Castle: Rift*, the premiere of Elaine McCague's spooky *Anchorpoint* and, oh yes, a witch burning with Asylum Productions. The Butler Gallery explores the lives of Jane and Tony O'Malley; there are films, talks and pop-up concerts all over the city, and a gorgeous suite of children's plays from Barnstorm Theatre as well as much, much more!

The Festival programme is made possible by our core funders, The Arts Council and Kilkenny County Council, without whom it couldn't take place. We're also grateful to Fáilte Ireland and send a massive 'Thank You' to all our incredible Sponsors, Event Partners and Festival Friends. Of course, our biggest thanks goes to the heroes of the Festival – our amazing volunteers!

Festivals are about leaping into the unknown as much as basking in familiar pleasures – in all cases it's about the coming together of artists and audiences. Dive into the programme and this jewel of a city. We'll see you in August!

Olga Barry and the Festival Team

♥ DONATE

Every donation supports the work of the Festival in making Kilkenny the 'stage' for the extraordinary - for Kilkenny audiences and the many visitors to our city and county. Every August your support is reflected in the bustling streets and thriving restaurants, hotels, markets and retail businesses of Kilkenny. Whether big or small, every donation not only supports the Festival, it has a positive social and economic impact on Kilkenny.

You can give online at kilkennyarts.ie or by donating with any ticket purchase. THANK YOU for your support!



For 53 years our funders and partners have played an invaluable role in helping Kilkenny Arts Festival to flourish. We greatly appreciate their continuing support!

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For more information you can call the Festival Office on 056 776 3663, email friends@kilkennyarts.ie or sign up at kilkennyarts.ie/support

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WORLD PREMIERE

STRAYMAKER IN ASSOCIATION WITH KILKENNY ARTS FESTIVAL,
MIROIRS ÉTENDUS, SHAWN FITZGERALD AHERN & ONCE OFF PRODUCTIONS

The Curing Line

Michael Gallen

Michael Gallen's new opera *The Curing Line* has been one of the most eagerly anticipated shows in this year's Festival, winning the FEDORA International Opera Prize (the world's largest award for new opera) last year.

Set in a border town in the 1990s, *The Curing Line* tells the story of Cora, a young woman who inherits a life-saving ancestral healing power but loses her ability to use it, with devastating consequences.

The Curing Line expands the boundaries of opera, creating a sound that embraces everything from sean nós to the raucous energy of techno. Exploring Ireland's tradition of 'making cures', it takes audiences on a journey through the thin veil between sickness and health, asking: do we still have the power to heal?

Commissioned by the Centre Culturel Irlandais Paris, *The Curing Line* was the winner of the FEDORA Opera Prize 2025 with the support of The Silver Company.

Artists

Composer
Michael Gallen

Librettists
Michael Gallen & Annemarie Ní Churreáin

Directors
Shawn Fitzgerald Ahern & Michael Gallen

Musical Director
Clara Baget

Set/Costume Designer
Pai Rathava

Video Designer
Shawn Fitzgerald Ahern

Sound Designer
Simon Cullen

Lighting Designer
Yukiko Yoshimoto

Ensemble

Cora Amy Ní Fhearraigh soprano
Eileen Sarah Shine soprano
Romain Bly, Joséphine Besancon, Caimin Gilmore, Maria Ryan, Oisín Walsh-Peelo

Performers on film

Colm Breathnach, Ruth McGill, Aaron O'Hare

WED	THU	SAT	SUN	
5	6	8	9	Watergate Theatre
7.30PM	7.30PM	7.30PM	2PM	Admission €35/€32
PREVIEW				Preview €25
				Duration 1 hr 30 mins approx. (no interval)



ASYLUM PRODUCTIONS & KILKENNY ARTS FESTIVAL IN ASSOCIATION WITH ONCE OFF PRODUCTIONS, BARNSTORM THEATRE COMPANY & THE WATERGATE THEATRE PRESENT A KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC ART COMMISSION AS PART OF THEIR 2024-2026 PROGRAMME

The Alice Project

Created by Medb Lambert, Dónal Gallagher, Clare Monnelly, Janice de Bróithe, Fern Kealy, Sarah Joan Kelly. Choreography by Cindy Cummings. Music by Dave Holland.

702 years ago, Dame Alice Kyteler became the first woman in Ireland to be tried for heresy. She fled Kilkenny and her servant Petronella was tortured, tried and convicted in her stead, then publicly burned alive on the main street of Kilkenny. Publicly. Burned. Alive.

Following last year's sneak preview, acclaimed theatre company Asylum Productions (*The Big Chapel X*, *The Local*) returns to the Festival for this epic reimagining of the Kilkenny Witch Trials.

The story unfolds over five episodes, taking place across the city throughout the Festival. They can be experienced in any order, and if you miss an episode you can catch up via the newspaper *The Daily Words* (available at the box office or at thealiceclub.com).

Whatever you do, don't miss Episode 5: *The Burning*, a spectacular finale celebrating the life, and commemorating the unjust death, of Petronella de Meath, complete with courtroom drama, a community choir and real flames.

This is a once-in-700-year chance to experience Alice as you've never seen her before.

SPECIAL DEALS FOR THIS EVENT
See kilkennyarts.ie

EPISODE 1:

The Demon Dance

by Clare Monnelly
directed by Janice de Bróithe & Dónal Gallagher

Get ready to move! Dame Alice is throwing a Lughnasa pagan party for the people of Kilkenny. Inspired by one of the historic charges brought against Alice – summoning demons at the crossroads – this is an open-air dance experience like no other.

Outdoor standing event

The Parade

Dates Fri 7 August

Show time 10.15pm

Admission Free

Duration 30 mins approx.

EPISODE 2:

The Words of Dred

by Clare Monnelly
directed by Dónal Gallagher & Sarah Joan Kelly

Alice's tormentor-in-chief, Bishop Richard de Ledrede, is facing a setback. Alice has friends in high places and Dickie has suffered the indignity of imprisonment. But he won't take it lying down. He's throwing a press conference, a tantrum and some weighty accusations of witchcraft.

Parade Tower, Medieval Room

Dates Sat 8 - Sun 9 August & Tue 11 - Sat 15 August

Show times 5.30pm & 6.30pm

Admission €15/€10

Duration 25 mins approx.

EPISODE 3:

The Words of Alice

by Medb Lambert
directed by Dónal Gallagher

Bishop Dickie has been spreading lies about Alice, and she's gone into hiding. Come meet the Dark Dame herself and hear her side of the story, if you dare, in this clandestine one-to-one encounter in a graveyard.

Outdoor standing event

Medieval Mile Museum

Dates Sat 8 - Sun 9 August & Tue 11 - Sat 15 August

Show times Every 10 minutes, 1pm - 3.40pm

Admission €10/€5

Duration 10 mins approx.

EPISODE 4:

The Words of The Accused

by Fern Kealy
directed by Janice de Bróithe

Ten allies of Dame Alice were also accused of heresy. There is no record of what happened to them after they were tortured and forced to confess, but this episode, produced in collaboration with Barnstorm's brilliant youth theatre, explores the forgotten stories of Alice's co-accused.

Home Rule Club

Dates Sat 8, Sun 9, Fri 14 & Sat 15 August at 12pm & 2pm, Tue 11, Wed 12 & Thu 13 August at 12pm

Admission €15/€10

Duration 30 mins approx.

EPISODE 5:

The Burning (The Words of Petronella)

by Clare Monnelly
directed by Dónal Gallagher & Janice de Bróithe

Alice may have escaped, but someone must pay for her sins, and her servant Petronella de Meath will be duly executed (after a fair trial, of course). Featuring the cast from all the other episodes, a community choir and plenty of pyrotechnics, *The Burning* brings *The Alice Project* to a powerful and spectacular close. Don't miss the trial of the (14th) century!

Outdoor standing event with limited seating available

St Kieran's College

Dates Sat 15 August

Show times 10pm

Admission €15/€10

Duration 30 mins approx.

THE LAST TAPE

GARE ST LAZARE IRELAND

BECKETT/MIHALOVICI/SYNNOTT

KILKENNY ARTS FESTIVAL 2026

PREMIERE

GARE ST LAZARE IRELAND

MARCEL MIHALOVICI

The Last Tape

Rearranged by **Andrew Synnott**

Text/libretto by **Samuel Beckett**

The Last Tape is Marcel Mihalovici's operatic collaboration with Samuel Beckett. Internationally acclaimed Irish theatre company Gare St Lazare Ireland continues its ongoing interdisciplinary exploration of the great Irish writer's work, combining music, theatre and the visual arts. This production offers a rare opportunity to encounter one of Beckett's few opera collaborations for its Irish premiere.

On every birthday Krapp makes a tape recording of his thoughts. Now approaching the end of his sixty-ninth year, he listens back to a recording made half a lifetime earlier and is confronted with the choices that led him to privilege some parts of his life over others. In this final tape, he weighs the cost of those decisions.

This production marks the twenty-sixth Beckett production directed by Judy Hegarty Lovett. In this third collaboration with internationally acclaimed singer Mark Padmore – singing the role of Krapp alongside actor Conor Lovett speaking it – they are joined by pianists Ellen Jansson and Izumi Kimura, percussionists Alex Petcu and Glen Lyons, under Grammy-nominated Elaine Kelly conducting Andrew Synnott's new arrangement of Mihalovici's original score.

With permissions from the Beckett and Mihalovici estates.

Judy Hegarty Lovett director
Mark Padmore singer
Conor Lovett actor
Elaine Kelly conductor
Izumi Kimura pianist
Ellen Jansson pianist
Alex Petcu percussion
Glen Lyons percussion
Paddy Nolan percussion substitute
Mel Mercier sound designer
Simon Bennison lighting designer
Jesse Presley Jones set designer
Valentina Gambardella costume designer

unparalleled Beckett champions

The New York Times

on Gare St Lazare Ireland

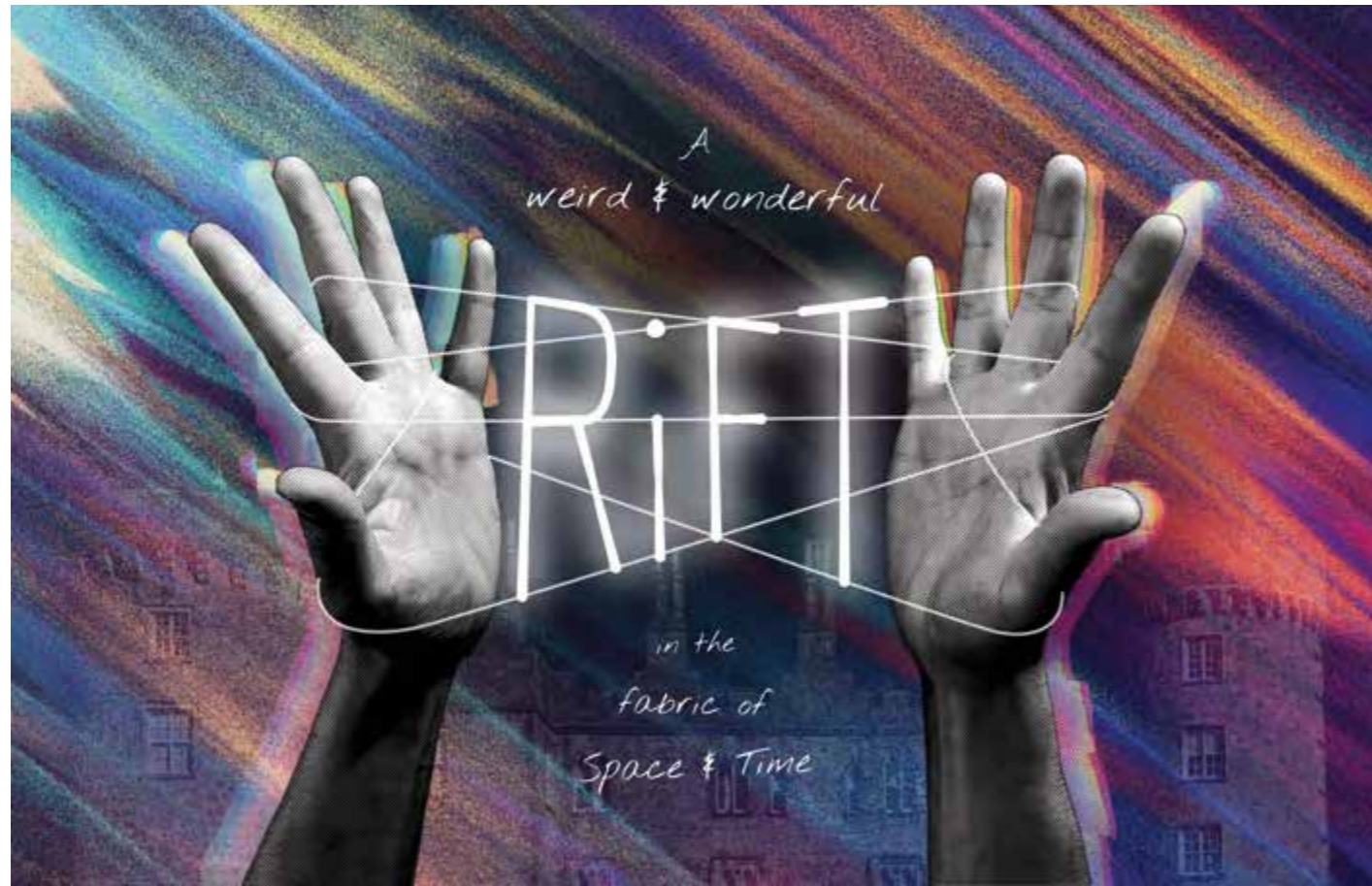
FRI
14
2PM
8PM

SAT
15
2PM
8PM

Watergate Theatre
Admission €30/€28
Duration 75 mins approx. (no interval)



SPECIAL
DEALS
FOR THIS
EVENT
See kilkennyarts.ie



KILKENNY ARTS FESTIVAL
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE OPW

Light Up the Castle: Rift

Fictions Picture Company
Directed by Jack Phelan

Light Up the Castle, the spectacular audio-visual show projected onto the walls of Kilkenny Castle, has become one of the most eagerly anticipated events in the Festival calendar.

The world is in a weird place right now (and not in a good way), so let's pit good-weird against bad. This year's show, *Rift*, is a stunning new projection that seeks out the warmth, the fun and the good-weird that's always there, hiding in the dark.

Created by multidisciplinary artist Jack Phelan (who made the castle disappear in his unforgettable 2024 show, *Six Sides Sawn*), *Rift* is another playful and endlessly inventive spectacle tearing a weird and wonderful *Rift* in the fabric of space and time.

Please note: The installation features strobe lighting. Latecomers will not be admitted. Gates open at 10.15pm at the Parade entrance. Wheelchair users are advised to contact the Festival box office before the show. See the website for more access details.

WED 12 10.40PM	THU 13 10.40PM	FRI 14 10.40PM	SAT 15 10.40PM
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Kilkenny Castle
Admission Free and unticketed
Duration 20 mins approx.



Writer/performer
Brendan Mac Evilly

Director & media designer
David McGovern

Music & sound designer
Kevin Cleary

Recorded readings
Aisling Flynn



PHOTO EMILIDA JEFREMOVA

BRENDAN MAC EVILLY *A Personal History of Pyromania*

In this intimate, darkly comic essay-performance, writer Brendan Mac Evilly reflects on the meanings and functions of fire in life and art. Moving between childhood experiments with homemade fireworks, family and national history and his novel *Deep Burn*, Mac Evilly traces his lifelong fascination with flame, asking why we're drawn to fire and what it can transform. Combining live reading, ceramics, projected media and sound, *A Personal History of Pyromania* considers fire as a force of attraction, creation, remembrance and release.

SUN 9 4PM 7PM	MON 10 4PM 7PM
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Cleere's Theatre
Admission €20
Duration 50 mins approx.

A LUKE CASSERLY, ABBEY THEATRE
& SOLAS NUA PRODUCTION

THEATRE/PERFORMANCE

Distillation Created and performed by Luke Casserly

Multidisciplinary performance maker Luke Casserly grew up beside a bog in Co. Longford and that formative experience – together with the end of the peat harvesting industry in Ireland – inspired this highly original performance that takes audiences on a journey into the Irish bog landscape.

Seated around a table filled with peat, twigs and moss, audiences explore the feel and smell of a Midlands bog from multiple perspectives. Casserly collaborated with perfume maker Joan Woods to create a unique distillation of the bog as the starting point for an encounter which looks at our relationship to place. Both intimate and expansive, *Distillation* is an intense multi-sensory experience that delves deep into the tensions between environmental recovery and economic decline.



MON 10 11AM 2PM 5PM	TUE 11 11AM 2PM 5PM
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Rothe House
Admission €20
Duration 50 mins approx.



This ode to our landscape will give you a new perspective on Ireland's bogs. All of the senses are engaged
The Irish Times

PREMIERE
 ELAINE McCAGUE
 IN ASSOCIATION WITH
 KILKENNY ARTS FESTIVAL

Anchorpoint

Produced by **detached.collab**

Created by Elaine McCague, co-Creative Director of Loosysmokes (whose shows have thrilled Festival audiences in recent years), *Anchorpoint* is an ambitious, genre-defying performance that takes the language of the circus into poetic new terrain.

Score
Oli Ryan
 Design consultant
Hazel Mc Cague

Using high-skilled aerial rope work and the Knothead technique, which uses the strength of the performer's hair to bear weight, a group of performers explore a world of unstable rigging systems, suspended sculptural elements and shifting counterweights. Their hair becomes both tether and lifeline, allowing the body to suspend itself in unfamiliar positions.

In a world increasingly disconnected from the body, *Anchorpoint* challenges expectations of physical strength, femininity and control, imagining a new kind of co-existence, complex and interconnected.

SPECIAL DEALS FOR THIS EVENT
 See kilkennyarts.ie

WED	THU	SAT	SUN	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
5	6	8	9	11	12	13	14	15
9.30PM	9.30PM	9.30PM	9.30PM	9.30PM	9.30PM	9.30PM	9.30PM	8PM
PREVIEW								

Secret Location (see kilkennyarts.ie for details)
 Admission €20
 Duration 50 mins approx.



PHOTO JASON LEE



PHOTO PAUL MARC MITCHELL

IRISH PREMIERE

Death of Gesualdo

Created and Directed by
Bill Barclay
 Performed by
The Gesualdo Six and six actors
 Choreography by
Will Tuckett
 Costumes by
Arthur Oliver
 Puppet by
Janni Younge

The team behind *Secret Byrd* – the immersive concert that astonished audiences at KAF25 – returns to the Festival this year with *Death of Gesualdo*, another blend of music and theatre that tells a very different tale.

Italian nobleman Carlo Gesualdo is revered among Renaissance composers for his groundbreaking 'madrigals': unaccompanied, secular songs for multiple voices. But he is probably most famous for murdering his wife and her lover in bed.

Directed by Bill Barclay, *Death of Gesualdo* tells the story of the composer's dramatic life. Performed by celebrated vocal group The Gesualdo Six, with a team of six silent actors playing everyone from a jester to a sinister cardinal, *Death of Gesualdo* is a sensory feast: dark, macabre and utterly spellbinding.

The subject matter may be gruesome but the staging, singing and acting are sublime
The Times (UK)

St Canice's Cathedral
THU 13 9PM
Admission
 Zone A €42
 Unreserved €37
 Zone B €35
Duration 75 mins approx. (no interval)





Conductor
Ryan McAdams

Larissa O'Grady violin
Maria Ryan violin
Lisa Dowdall viola
Kate Ellis cello
Caimin Gilmore double bass
Alex Petcu percussion
Caitriona Frost percussion
Susan Doyle flute/piccolo
Rebecca Halliday oboe/English horn
Leonie Bluett clarinet/bass clarinet
Macdara Ó Seireadáin clarinet
Cliona Warren bassoon/contrabassoon
Andrew Zolinsky piano/celeste
Erick Castillo Mora trumpet/piccolo trumpet
Dewi Jones horn
Roddy O'Keefe trombone

The Romans called Ireland *Hibernia*, the 'land of winter', and the unique qualities of Irish light inspired this major new work from Donnacha Dennehy, composer and founder of Crash Ensemble.

Rich with overlapping sounds, colours and rhythms, *Land of Winter* unfolds across 12 movements or 'months', exploring the interplay between light and time from the short days of winter, with their grey skies and glancing sunlight, to the summer months when brightness lingers almost till midnight.

Conceived on a trip to Iceland, Dennehy's Grammy-winning tone poem to his homeland is both 'a celebration of recurring time and also something written in fear of linear time with its progress towards death'. A haunting phrase from Samuel Beckett remains an inspiration to Dennehy: 'Thirty thousand nights. Hard to believe so few.'

Land of Winter reveals Dennehy as a master of his craft
The Journal of Music in Ireland

FRI
7
9PM St Canice's Cathedral
Admission €30/€25
Duration 60 mins approx.



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Timo Andres & David Kaplan

Since meeting at Yale, Timo Andres and David Kaplan have built stellar careers as pianists – and, in Andres' case, as a composer – both celebrated for their interpretations of contemporary classical works. For KAF26 they join forces to present a pair of exciting lunchtime concerts exploring pieces by celebrated composers like John Adams, Steve Reich and Meredith Monk alongside a new generation including Gabriella Smith and Andres himself.

At the heart of both concerts is *Equal*, a new work from Donnacha Dennehy for two pianos, commissioned to mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Dennehy has settled in the US and the piano duo is the perfect vehicle for exploring the complex emotional space for immigrants everywhere, caught between the new world and home.

Programme I
Friday 7 August

Meredith Monk *Ellis Island* for two pianos
John Adams *Hallelujah Junction*
Timo Andres *How Can I Live in Your World of Ideas?*
Donnacha Dennehy *Equal* (World Premiere)

Programme II
Saturday 8 August

Steve Reich *Piano Phase*
Christopher Cerrone *Passagework*
Gabriella Smith *Imaginary Pancake*
Donnacha Dennehy *Equal*

FRI **SAT** St John's Priory
7 **8** **Admission** €23 for each concert
1PM **1PM** **Duration** 65 mins (programme I),
75 mins (programme II)



PHOTO PETE WOODHEAD

James McVinnie

Bach: Organ and Piano

Programme (*denotes organ piece)

Johann Sebastian Bach

French Suite No. 4 in E flat BWV 815

Sonata No. 4 in E minor BWV 528*

Concerto in the Italian Style BWV 971

Interval

Chorale-prelude, *Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr* BWV 662*

Trio, *Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr* BWV 664*

Prelude and Fugue in B flat BWV 890

Prelude and Fugue in B flat minor BWV 867

Prelude and Fugue in E flat BWV 552*

In the faster movements perfect mastery of the notes is matched by a real sense of joy ... an illuminating and compelling release

Gramophone on James McVinnie's album

Bach: Clavier-Übung III

Over the last decade James McVinnie has carved out a stellar career as an organist and keyboard player, championing both classical composers and contemporary artists like Gabriella Smith (whose work features in Timo Andres and David Kaplan's concert – see page 15), and performing all over the world. 11 years on from his sold-out organ concert *The Art of Fugue* at KAF15, McVinnie returns to St Canice's with a new programme of works for both piano and organ by JS Bach, whose *Clavier-Übung III* he recently recorded to great acclaim.

The programme features a wide range of pieces from Bach's astonishing body of work, including the Italian Concerto, which McVinnie describes as a 'riot for the fingers', pieces from *The Well-Tempered Clavier*, one of the great monuments of Western culture, and the Prelude and Fugue in E flat, which contains some of Bach's most glorious writing.

SAT 8 7PM St Canice's Cathedral
Admission €25/€22
Duration 1 hr 50 mins approx. (including interval)



Chamber Choir Ireland

Forgotten Peoples

Conductor **Gabriel Crouch**

Programme

Veljo Tormis Selections from *Forgotten Peoples*

Michael Gordon Selections from *Anonymous Man*

Emma O'Halloran *gone*

Francisco del Pino *Index*

MON 10 6.30PM St Canice's Cathedral
Admission €30/€25
Duration 70 mins approx. (no interval)



a sheerly beautiful
 immersion in choral sonority
The Irish Times



Irish Chamber Orchestra

The Devil, the Witch and the Warlock

Directed by **Henning Kraggerud**

Journey through the supernatural imagination of Europe: saints and sorcerers, devils and dancing witches, storms, ghosts and the twilight of the Norse gods. In this vividly theatrical programme directed by Henning Kraggerud, the Irish Chamber Orchestra weaves together music by Vivaldi, Mozart, Schubert, Mussorgsky and others into a world of elemental drama and haunting beauty. From the icy fury of *The Four Seasons* and the demonic brilliance of Tartini's *Devil's Trill* to Mussorgsky's 'Baba Yaga' and Kraggerud's own apocalyptic *Ragnarok*, this is a concert where myth, folklore and virtuosity collide.

Programme

Hildegard von Bingen *De Innocentibus - Rex Noster*

Margit Hjukse (arr. Kraggerud) Medieval Norwegian Ballade

Antonio Vivaldi 'Summer', mov. III from *The Four Seasons*

Antonio Vivaldi 'Winter', mov. I from *The Four Seasons*

Giuseppe Tartini *The Devil's Trill Sonata*, mov. IV

Franz Joseph Haydn 'Il terremoto' from

The Seven Last Words of Christ

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (cadenza Kraggerud)

Violin Concerto No. 3, mov. II

Franz Schubert 'Erlkönig'

Felix Mendelssohn String Octet op. 20, mov. III

Modest Mussorgsky 'Baba Yaga', from

Pictures at an Exhibition, arr. for strings

Henning Kraggerud *Ragnarok* (the Norse Armageddon)

Henning Kraggerud 'Postludes' from *Equinox*

Peter Warlock *Capriol Suite*

Director/Violin
Henning Kraggerud

Leader
Carla De Kleuver-Leurs

O'NEILLFOLEY
 CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

FRI 14 7.30PM St Canice's Cathedral
Admission
 Zone A €38/€36
 Zone B €33/€31
Duration 80 mins approx. (no interval)



Chamber Choir Ireland return this year with a deeply moving programme that explores identity, belonging and the lives of the marginal and dispossessed.

The heart of the programme is from *Forgotten Peoples*, a cycle of choral works by the great Estonian composer Veljo Tormis, celebrating (and dedicated to preserving) the musical heritage of six minority groups in the Baltic region. Featuring ancient songs dealing with everything from daily life to history, it's a poignant tribute to tribes facing extinction.

The programme also features sections from American composer Michael Gordon's *Anonymous Man*, inspired by the homeless people he encountered on the streets of Tribeca, a formerly industrial district in New York.

These major works are paired with two recent pieces commissioned by the choir: Emma O'Halloran's *gone* draws on the words of people who have experienced homelessness in Ireland over the past decade, while Francisco del Pino's *Index* explores the Irish diaspora, paying tribute to the many thousands of emigrants who arrived in Argentina in the nineteenth century.

Dowland 400

Curated by Mark Chambers

To mark the 400th anniversary of John Dowland's death in 1626, this four-part concert series – curated by countertenor Mark Chambers – charts the extraordinary life of Europe's first musical superstar.

Long before the concept of a pan-European artist existed, Dowland crossed political, religious and geographic borders, carrying his lute and his notebook from the courtly chambers of London and Dublin to the glittering hubs of Paris, Kassel, Venice, Florence and the Danish royal courts.

This series traces that restless itinerary, beginning with *Mr Dowland's Midday*, where lutenist Eamon Sweeney, viola da gamba player Norah O'Leary and countertenor Mark Chambers explore the peak of Dowland's popularity through the intimate domestic lute books of Great Britain and Ireland, which feature masterworks including 'Flow My Tears' and 'Fortune My Foe'.

The second concert explores Dowland's spiritual side through his late, experimental sacred anthems, while in the third and fourth concerts The Earls of Ormond and guests join Dowland on the road from France to Denmark, mixing iconic tunes such as 'Can she excuse my wrongs' and 'If my complaints' with works by his European contemporaries including Pierre Guédron and Adriano Banchieri, as well as that of elite Irish harpers like Charles O'Reilly. Together these four programmes celebrate the legacy of the composer who harmonised a continent.



Concert I: Mr Dowland's Midday

Eamon Sweeney lute
Norah O'Leary viola da gamba
Mark Chambers countertenor

MON 10 1PM St John's Priory
Admission €23
Duration 70 mins approx. (no interval)

Concert II: Mr Dowland's Prayer Booke

Áine Smith (soprano), Mark Chambers (countertenor), Max O'Neill (tenor) & Robert Davies (bass)

TUE 11 1PM St John's Priory
Admission €23
Duration 70 mins approx. (no interval)



Concert III: Mr Dowland's Muscicall Notebooke, Vol. I

The Earls of Ormond: Caoimhe de Paor (recorder), Norah O'Leary & Sarah Groser (viols), Malcolm Proud (chamber organ), Siobhán Armstrong (harp) & Mark Chambers (countertenor)

WED 12 3PM St John's Priory
Admission €23
Duration 70 mins approx. (no interval)

Concert IV: Mr Dowland's Muscicall Notebooke, Vol. II

The Earls of Ormond & guests

WED 12 6PM St John's Priory
Admission €23
Duration 70 mins approx. (no interval)

'All Softly Playing': The early music beloved of James Joyce

SAT 15 3PM St John's Priory
Admission €23
Duration 70 mins approx. (no interval)

Stuart Kinsella tenor
Malcolm Proud harpsichord
Susan Proud narrator



Music of all kinds was of great importance to James Joyce, but he was passionate about early music and once planned to tour the south of England with a lute. He also wove Renaissance music into the 'Eumaeus' episode of *Ulysses*, where Stephen Dedalus enthuses to Leopold Bloom about Shakespeare's songs, Elizabethan composers, and their continental contemporaries.

Inspired by the episode, harpsichordist (and Festival stalwart) Malcolm Proud joins tenor Stuart Kinsella for this special concert celebrating the music of Joyce's most beloved 16th-and-17th-century composers, including William Byrd, Claudio Monteverdi and John Dowland. To complement the music, Susan Proud reads excerpts from *Ulysses*, together with a poem from Joyce's first publication, *Chamber Music*. Join us for a captivating journey through the musical landscape that fuelled Joyce's imagination.



PHOTO MAURICE GUNNING

COLIN DUNNE, BECKY NÍ ÉALLAITHE & ULTAN O'BRIEN
For The Record

Credits
 Performers
Colin Dunne
Becky Ní Éallaithe
Ultan O'Brien
 Director
Kellie Hughes
 Sound Engineer
Hugh Clery Ward
 Lighting Designer
Eoin Winning

Renowned dancer Colin Dunne is joined by Becky Ní Éallaithe (concertina/vocals) and Ultan O'Brien (fiddle/viola) to present *For The Record*, a bold new live performance inviting audiences to watch music and listen to dance.

Directed by Kellie Hughes and blending music, voice, electronics, spoken word and movement, *For The Record* brings together three outstanding performers in a shape-shifting encounter where roles blur and no two nights unfold in exactly the same way.

With luscious sound worlds, apocalyptic footfalls and a set of unruly microphones, *For The Record* is a traditional music gig, but probably not as you know it.

Produced by Once Off Productions. Commissioned by Luail - Ireland's National Dance Company. Co-produced by Luail - Ireland's National Dance Company, glór and Dance Limerick. Funded by The Arts Council and Limerick Arts Office. Supported by The Irish World Academy, University of Limerick.

WED 12 9PM	THU 13 7.30PM	Set Theatre Admission €25/€18 Duration 60 mins approx.
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IDRÎSÎ ENSEMBLE,
 LAYALE CHAKER
 & FRANCESCO TURRISI

**Trobairitz
 Compass**

Idrisî Ensemble is transforming the scene with gripping, deeply researched performances - unlike anything else I've heard
 Jack Bazalgette, Through the Noise/Cheltenham Music Festival

SPECIAL DEALS FOR THIS EVENT
 See kilkennyarts.ie

FRI
7
 7PM The Black Abbey
Admission €30
Duration 60 mins approx.



PHOTO RELIE KOEPEKE PHOTOGRAPHY

Last year, Francesco Turrisi's first residency at the Festival featured a series of concerts exploring everything from chamber music to jazz. This year we're delighted to welcome him back as artist in residence, presiding over (and performing in) a fresh series of concerts in a breathtaking range of genres.

Named after al-Idrisi, a celebrated Muslim cartographer whose work transcended borders, the Idrisî Ensemble is dedicated to transforming the ways in which we hear the music of the medieval troubadours. In *Trobairitz Compass*, members of the ensemble join Turrisi and composer-violinist Layale Chaker for a new project that weaves together a host of Mediterranean influences. Inspired by al-Idrisi and by the *Trobairitz*, the women troubadours of medieval Occitania, *Trobairitz* imagines the Mediterranean not as a border, but as a place where languages, faiths and sounds converge to thrilling effect.

Please note: this is a standing show with limited seating available.



SPECIAL DEALS FOR THIS EVENT
 See kilkennyarts.ie

SAT
8
 5PM Cleere's Theatre
Admission €20
Duration 70 mins approx.

Niwel Tsumbu

Niwel Tsumbu is a Congolese-born guitarist whose style draws on an 'exquisite and almost seamless' fusion of jazz, classical, rock, folk and rumba (*All About Jazz*). He's performed with Buena Vista Social Club and Baaba Maal, and played on Rhiannon Giddens and Francesco Turrisi's Grammy Award-winning album *They're Calling Me Home*.

Ahead of his collaboration with Turrisi, Giddens and Éamonn Cagney (see page 26), Tsumbu performs an intimate solo gig in Cleere's, showcasing his virtuosic guitar playing and thrilling improvisations.

Please note: this is a standing show with limited seating available.

PREMIERE

Kate Ellis, Síle Denvir, Lucia McPartlin & Linda Buckley

Sean nós singer and harpist Síle Denvir, cellist Kate Ellis, fiddle player Lucia McPartlin and composer and electronic artist Linda Buckley come together to forge something thrillingly new in this concert exploring the meeting point between tradition and experimentation.

Artist in residence Kate Ellis needs no introduction, and her three collaborators are equally accomplished. Buckley has composed acclaimed film scores and collaborated with everyone from the National Symphony Orchestra to Brìghde Chaimbeul (whose KAF commission for Crash Ensemble premiered in 2022), Denvir enjoys a stellar solo career and has toured with The Chieftains and Martin Hayes' Common Ground Ensemble, while McPartlin is one half of violin duo Lucia and Maria, and a member of the Strung ensemble and THISISPOPBABY's hit show WAKE.

Featuring the premiere of new work by Donnacha Dennehy for cello and electronics, this concert offers an unmissable glimpse of the birth of a new collective.



SAT 8 9.30PM Set Theatre
Admission €25
Duration 70 mins approx.

PREMIERE
FRANCESCO TURRISI
Vuci
Voices from Sicily



In this profound multimedia show, specially devised for the Festival in collaboration with videographer Laura Sheeran, Grammy Award-winning musician Francesco Turrisi explores his Sicilian roots and reflects on the idea of migration through a series of original compositions for solo piano, often incorporating recordings of Sicilian people performing songs of everyday life in the 1940s and 1950s.

Featuring pre-recorded poetry (spoken in Sicilian by Ester Pantano and Nino Provenzano, and in English by actor John Turturro), archival photographs capturing local fishing traditions, and an original animation by Syrian-Armenian artist Kevork Mourad, addressing the tragedy of migrants who lose their lives at sea, *Vuci* is a moving exploration of identity, belonging and what Sicily means to those who leave, those who try to reach it and those who call it home.

TUE 11 6PM Watergate Theatre
Admission €20
Duration 70 mins approx.



The Breath

Stuart McCallum and Ríoghnach Connolly may come from very different musical backgrounds – McCallum is an acclaimed guitarist and ex-member of The Cinematic Orchestra, while Connolly is a multi-award-winning folk singer – but since joining forces as The Breath in 2016, they have crafted a uniquely harmonious sound, exploring the spaces between rock, ambient and traditional music.

Their honest, heartfelt songs are as likely to touch on childhood summers and first love as injustice and grief. But it's Ríoghnach's impassioned delivery and 'stunning, woozy' voice (*The Guardian*), coupled with Stuart's understated brilliance, that's earned them a devoted following and critical acclaim, including Folk Singer of the Year for Connolly at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards in 2019.

MON 10 8.30PM Set Theatre
Admission €25
Duration 75 mins approx.



McCallum provides the grandeur and artifice and Connolly the intimacy and purity
Uncut

Danny O'Mahony & Martin Hayes



Button accordionist Danny O'Mahony is renowned for his rich, emotive playing and deep appreciation for traditional music. A versatile artist committed to innovation, he recently collaborated with experimental theatre company Brokentaklers on their multimedia show *Bellow*, and performed with Crash Ensemble in *Custom of the Coast*, the opera by Kamala Sankaram and Paul Muldoon that premiered at KAF25. His live performances are celebrated for their passion and sincerity, and Cleere's is the perfect venue for this duo concert with Festival stalwart Martin Hayes.

Please note: this is a standing show with limited seating available.

THU 13 6PM Cleere's Theatre
Admission €25
Duration 70 mins approx.



Méav Ní Mhaolchatha

For three decades singer and composer Méav Ní Mhaolchatha has been at the forefront of Irish music, gracing stages and concert halls worldwide with her unique voice. A founder member of Celtic Woman, she has released a string of solo albums working with the likes of Craig Leon, producer of Blondie and The Ramones.

Ní Mhaolchatha's new album *Sweet Sorrow* is a deeply personal exploration of grief and consolation, written with award-winning Irish film composer Stephen Rennicks and produced by Thomas Bartlett aka Doveman (The Gloaming). For her highly anticipated Kilkenny debut Ní Mhaolchatha is joined by a stellar band including Vincent Lynch (keys), Deirdre Moynihan (fiddle) and Ailbhe McDonagh (cello).



TUE 11 9.30PM Set Theatre
Admission €25
Duration 75 mins approx.



Aoife Ní Bhriain Folk & Fantasies



Whether performing as a classical violinist or a fiddle player, the genre-hopping Aoife Ní Bhriain has appeared at the Festival many times in recent years, playing everything from Bach to Tommy Potts, and collaborating with like-minded artists including pianist Cormac McCarthy, harpist Catrin Finch and dancer Colin Dunne.

For this solo outing Ní Bhriain explores the fantasy and folk influences of some of the most prolific composers for solo violin. From the *Alia Fantasia* composed by Nicola Matteis in 1720 to the fjords of Bjarne Brustad's *Fairytale Suite*, as well as pieces by Eugène Ysaÿe, George Enescu and a jig (or gigue!) or two, Ní Bhriain showcases the role that folk music has played in these composers' best works.

THU 13 1PM St John's Priory
Admission €23
Duration 60 mins approx.



PREMIERE

Irish Chamber Orchestra Niall Vallely Concertina, Whistles Liz Knowles Fiddle, Viola d'Amore Niwel Tsumbu Guitar, Vocals *Sun Lines*

Kentucky fiddle virtuoso Liz Knowles, Congolese guitarist-vocalist Niwel Tsumbu and Irish concertina master Niall Vallely were all familiar to Festival audiences before they started playing together. They made their Marble City Sessions debut as a trio in 2024, wowing audiences with their adventurous spirit, and this year they return for this exciting collaboration with the Irish Chamber Orchestra, featuring arrangements specially made for ICO by the trio. From driving tunes to soulful African grooves with rich orchestra textures, *Sun Lines* explores a shared musical language that transcends borders, genres and traditions.



WED 12 7PM St Canice's Cathedral
Admission
 Zone A €30
 Zone B €28
Duration 70 mins approx.



Liz Knowles Repetition & Variation

Liz Knowles is no stranger to Festival audiences. Over the last decade the Kentucky fiddle star has performed many times, as a solo artist, with roots legend Ricky Skaggs, as a member of the Martin Hayes Quartet, and in countless Festival finales.

In the wake of her appearance with the ICO, Niall Vallely and Niwel Tsumbu (see above), Knowles comes to St John's for this solo lunchtime concert showcasing her inimitable take on traditional repertoire.

one of North America's finest
 exponents of Irish music
Living Tradition

FRI 14 1PM St John's Priory
Admission €23
Duration 60 mins approx.





Francesco Turrisi, Rhiannon Giddens, Niwel Tsumbu & Éamonn Cagney

Last year Grammy Award-winning polymath Francesco Turrisi's residency at the Festival featured a thrilling collaboration with Kate Ellis and Congolese guitar virtuoso Niwel Tsumbu. This year Turrisi and Tsumbu are joined by two very special musical collaborators.

A founding member of the landmark Black string band Carolina Chocolate Drops, and the all-female banjo supergroup Our Native Daughters, Rhiannon Giddens is a singer, multi-instrumentalist, composer and award-winner (including two Grammys and a Pulitzer Prize) with a passion for championing those whose contributions to American musical history have often gone overlooked.

Éamonn Cagney's hand-drumming talent has made him one of Ireland's most sought-after musicians. A regular collaborator with Niwel Tsumbu, he mixes technical virtuosity and soulfulness across a dazzling range of instruments and styles.

From Americana to flamenco via the Mediterranean and central Africa, this will be an unforgettable musical adventure performed by some of the finest musicians around.

FRI
14
9.30PM Set Theatre
Admission €30
Duration 75 mins approx.



FESTIVAL FINALE

Martin Hayes & Friends

Martin Hayes rounds off the Marble City Sessions in style with another eclectic gathering of leading Festival artists and musicians, including Kyle Sanna, Kate Ellis, Francesco Turrisi, Rhiannon Giddens, Danny O'Mahony, Síle Denvir and more, all celebrating 10 days of musical innovation, collaboration and connections.



SAT
15
7PM

St Canice's Cathedral
Admission
Zone A €40
Unreserved €37
Zone B €35
Duration 2 hrs approx.

KYLE SANNA,
FRANCESCO TURRISI
& KATE ELLIS

Everything Again Is New

This year's Festival is rich with musicians whose work crosses boundaries, but Kyle Sanna might be the most versatile of all. The Brooklyn-based composer's work embraces everything from contemporary composition to jazz and improvisation, Irish traditional music and technology.

a fascinating exploration
of electronic music and
classical traditions
*Electronica on
Everything Again Is New*

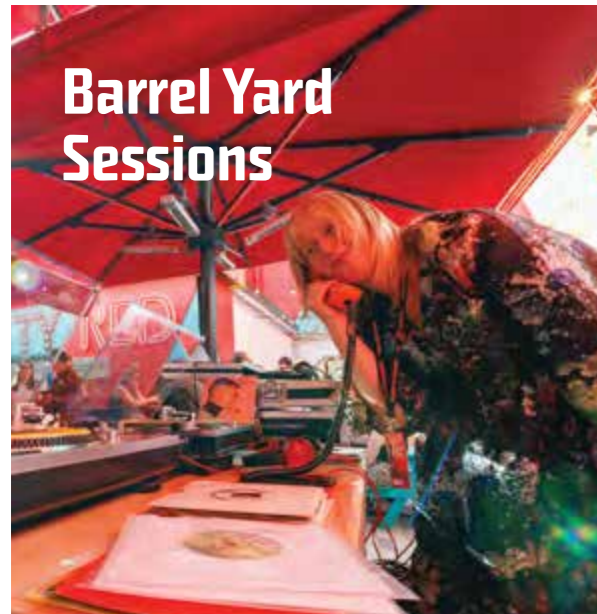
SUN
16
5PM Cleere's Theatre
Admission €20
Duration 70 mins approx.



In this exhilarating blend of live and recorded music, Sanna performs tracks from his album *Everything Again Is New*, using live coding to blur the line between composition and performance. He's joined by artists in residence Kate Ellis and Francesco Turrisi, who play parts both improvised and composed, while projections enable the audience to witness the creative process itself. Don't miss this cutting-edge blend of old and new, where contemporary music meets electronica, and coding meets the energy of jazz.

Please note: this is a standing show with limited seating available.






Barrel Yard Sessions

Whether you've a long day of Festival-going behind you or a big night ahead (or both!), drop by the Barrel Yard on both Saturday evenings of the Festival and unwind with a beer, a bite and some laidback summer grooves.

This event is for over 18s. Space is limited so arrive early.

Get the facts. Be **DRINKAWARE** 
Visit drinkaware.ie



SAT 8 5PM **SAT 15 5PM** Smithwick's Barrel Yard
Admission FREE
Duration 2 hrs approx.

Cate Le Bon

Over seven albums, including the Mercury Prize-nominated *Reward* and the critically acclaimed *Pompeii*, Cate Le Bon has honed a sound that defies categorisation: a blend of analogue warmth, filtered vocals and sculptural arrangements that embraces everything from folk to towering art pop inspired by David Bowie and John Cale.

among the most singular and instantly recognizable artists working today

Pitchfork

In her only Irish appearance this summer, Le Bon and her band come to St Canice's to showcase her songwriting mastery and keen ear for pop melody. This gig is a wonderful chance to experience a unique artist at the top of her game.



SPECIAL DEALS FOR THIS EVENT
See kilkennyarts.ie

TUE 11 8PM St Canice's Cathedral
Admission €35
Duration 70 mins approx.

Ukulele Death Squad

If Quentin Tarantino ever needs a ukulele band to play during a shoot-out in a Mexican cantina, Ukulele Death Squad should be his first port of call.

Since 2017, the self-styled world's 'most dangerous ukulele band' has brought a new sense of anarchy to an instrument once regarded as charmingly quaint, winning plaudits and awards for their exciting blend of jazz, R&B and folk.

Audiences all over the world have thrilled to their thumping rhythms, epic vocals and punk-rock attitude, and they're guaranteed to have you out of your seat and dancing the night away in Cleere's.

Please note: this is a standing show with limited seating available.



PHOTO ALICE BARKER

loud, raucous and infectiously fun
The Clothesline

FRI 14 11PM Cleere's Theatre
Admission €25



SPECIAL DEALS FOR THIS EVENT
See kilkennyarts.ie

64ksana

Korean music has exploded onto the international scene in recent years, but 64ksana is light years away from the slick dance routines of K-pop.

An alternative electronic band inspired by traditional shamanic music, 64ksana combines techno, percussion and vocals, creating a transcendent sonic space that invites the audience into a heightened experience of the present moment.

In 2024 their debut single garnered over 1 million views, and since then the trio has brought its unique sound to venues all over the world. With mesmerising vocals and pulsating rhythms, 64ksana redefines dance music as a space of collective ritual, sensorial immersion and emotional release. This will be a night to remember in the Set.

Please note: this is a standing show with limited seating available.



SAT 15 11PM Set Theatre
Admission €20

SPECIAL DEALS FOR THIS EVENT
See kilkennyarts.ie

THE HUBERT BUTLER ANNUAL LECTURE

Mary Robinson

'Where life is fully and consciously lived in our own neighbourhood': Meitheal, community and food sovereignty

Hosted by Olivia O'Leary

Former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson is a member of The Elders and a passionate advocate for gender equality, peace-building, human rights and climate justice, frequently challenging world leaders to take the action we urgently need.

In this year's Hubert Butler Lecture, Robinson joins Olivia O'Leary to explore food sovereignty – the idea that people should have control over their own food systems – asking how the ancient Irish concept of 'meitheal', in which neighbours come together to help one another, can offer a radical alternative at a time when global supply chains are vulnerable to climate change and war.



The Hubert Butler Annual Lecture was established in 2007 to honour the Kilkenny writer, historian and broadcaster whose remarkable consistency of vision and clarity of mind made him unique among essayists and whose work evinced an unsurpassed moral, political and literary integrity.

 An Chomhairle Oidhreacht
The Heritage Council

SUN
9
5PM St Canice's Cathedral
Admission €22
Duration 60 mins approx.

The Hubert Butler Essay Prize 2026

Organised by HEART London, the Hubert Butler Essay Prize encourages the art of essay-writing across Europe. Join us in the Parade Tower to discover the winner of this year's competition, who responded to the question: "Poetry makes nothing happen" (WH Auden). What impact can high culture make in the real world?'

MON
10
12PM Parade Tower
Admission FREE BUT TICKETED
Duration 50 mins approx.

Heritage Council Panel Discussion

The Heritage Council brings together a panel of guests to explore the issues raised by Mary Robinson in this year's Hubert Butler Lecture.

 National Heritage Week
A Heritage Council programme

MON
10
3PM Parade Tower
Admission FREE BUT TICKETED
Duration 60 mins approx.

Crossing the Lines: the Makers of *The Curing Line*

In conversation with Kate Ellis

Following the world premiere of their opera *The Curing Line* (see page 4) composer Michael Gallen, librettist Annemarie Ní Churreáin and director and video designer Shawn Fitzgerald Ahern reflect on the work's creative journey from concept to premiere in the company of Kate Ellis.



FRI
7
11AM Parade Tower
Admission FREE BUT TICKETED
Duration 50 mins approx.

Donnacha Dennehy & Kate Ellis

In conversation with Olga Barry



In this wide-ranging discussion, Crash Ensemble's Artistic Director, Kate Ellis, and co-founder, Donnacha Dennehy (whose *Land of Winter* is performed at this year's Festival – see page 14), survey the landscape of contemporary classical music in conversation with Olga Barry, considering everything from commissioning to performance.

SAT
8
11AM Parade Tower
Admission FREE BUT TICKETED
Duration 60 mins approx.

Acting Workshop with Lynne Parker

WED
12
11AM Mayfair Library
Admission FREE ON APPLICATION
Duration 2 hrs

Join award-winning theatre director Lynne Parker and actors Peter Hanly and Jennifer O'Dea for a special theatre workshop for early-career actors, exploring dialogue from Michael Frayn's *Benefactors* and William Congreve's *The Way of the World*.

In partnership with the Watergate Theatre Gateway Programme.



PHOTO DEREK SPEIRS

a beautiful and disturbing book on the reality of so many Travellers' lives

Anne Burke

Rosaleen McDonagh *Contentious Spaces*

In conversation with Maureen Kennelly

Writer, playwright, performer and Human Rights Commissioner Rosaleen McDonagh comes to the Festival to talk about her new novel, *Contentious Spaces*, in the company of Maureen Kennelly. The first work of fiction to explore the inner lives of characters from the Traveller community, the novel focuses on a Traveller family living under the threat of eviction by the local council. It's a haunting and unflinching story about identity and loyalty, shame and resilience, grief and love, and the defiant power of voices that refuse to be silenced.



FRI
7
5PM Parade Tower
Admission €18/€16
Duration 60 mins approx.

Sally Hayden

This is Also a Love Story

In conversation with Catriona Crowe

After her enthralling Hubert Butler Lecture at last year's Festival, we're delighted to welcome back Sally Hayden for another unmissable event, as she talks about her new book, *This is Also a Love Story*, in the company of Catriona Crowe.

An acclaimed international correspondent, Hayden has spent her career covering some of the darkest moments of our time, and yet even in the face of unimaginable adversity, she's witnessed acts of extraordinary compassion. In *This is Also a Love Story*, Hayden brings us stories of love and courage from across the globe. From a couple separated by the Russian invasion of Ukraine to a mother in northeast Nigeria who risks everything to save her daughter from forced marriage, Hayden looks behind the headlines, showing that love can flourish, even in the most difficult of times, and asking what it might take to build a better world.



PHOTO HANI ALAGBAR

Deeply moving and necessary
Anne Enright on *This is Also a Love Story*

SUN
9
2.30PM Parade Tower
Admission €18/€16
Duration 60 mins approx.



Gillian O'Brien *Death Becomes Us: Tradition, Ritual & the Comedy of Grief*

SPECIAL DEALS FOR THESE EVENTS
See kilkennyarts.ie

It's no secret that the Irish are obsessed with misery, suffering and death. Where else would a website that publishes death notices get five million hits per month, a marriage proposal begin with the words 'Do you want to be buried with my people?' or popular ballads extol the attractions of martyrdom?

In this fascinating talk, historian Gillian O'Brien explores our obsession with all things macabre. Why do the Irish, as Heinrich Böll once observed, love 'the poetry of unhappiness'? Why is the funeral scene such an iconic moment in *Derry Girls*? And what exactly was her grandmother doing when she laid herself out as a corpse?

Gillian O'Brien is Professor of Public History at Liverpool John Moores University. Her books include The Darkness Echoing: Exploring Ireland's Places of Famine, Death and Rebellion, Blood Runs Green: The Murder that Transfixed Gilded Age Chicago and the forthcoming The Shortest History of Dublin.

WED
12
1PM Parade Tower
Admission €15/€13
Duration 50 mins approx.

THU
13
5PM Parade Tower
Admission €15/€13
Duration 50 mins approx.

SPECIAL DEALS FOR THIS EVENT
See kilkennyarts.ie

Andrew Fitzsimons *Glory's Aftermath: Translating Bashō*

Matsuo Bashō (1644–1694) is Japan's greatest poet, a wandering Zen master whose haiku helped define the essence of Japanese sensibility. But the real Bashō was far more complex than his image suggests.

In this talk, poet, translator and academic Andrew Fitzsimons takes a closer look at Bashō, showing how his popular image as a poet of nature is complicated by the poems he actually wrote. Fitzsimons, whose award-winning translation of Bashō's complete works was published in 2022, reveals a multi-faceted character, a poet concerned not only with the natural world, but with the people of Edo-period Japan and with language itself.



SUN
9
12PM Parade Tower
Admission €15/€13
Duration 60 mins approx.



Selective Memories: Ireland, Migration & Belonging

Migration, both to and from Ireland, has been part of the Irish experience for centuries, but the stories we tell about migrant experiences are often partial and skewed. While successful emigrants (and their descendants) are celebrated and remembered, the countless thousands who struggled have been largely forgotten, and migrants arriving on these shores have not always found the warm welcome on which the nation prides itself.

Historian Gillian O'Brien explores the history of Irish migration – in both directions – asking what light it sheds on who we are and what we value, and what lessons it might have for a time of rising hostility to migrants at home and abroad.

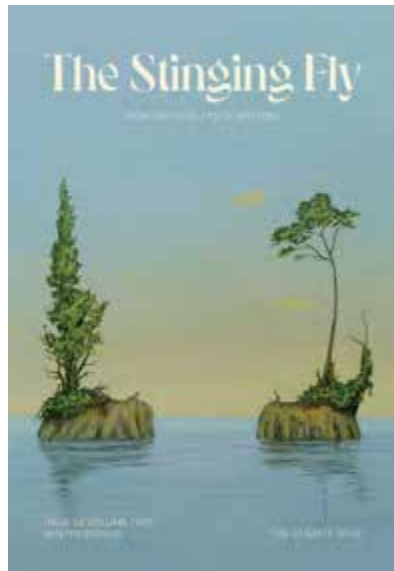
Kilkenny Poetry Broadsheet

Join us in the Parade Tower to celebrate the 26th edition of the *Kilkenny Poetry Broadsheet*, launched by Festival poet in residence Annemarie Ní Churreáin and this year's *Broadsheet* editor, poet Jane Robinson.

THU
13
2.30PM Parade Tower
Admission FREE BUT TICKETED
Duration 60 mins approx.



The Stinging Fly



For nearly 30 years *The Stinging Fly* has been a mainstay of the literary scene in Ireland, championing the best new Irish and international writing in its magazine (and, more recently, its books), and offering a platform for a new generation of poets, non-fiction and short story writers.

In this special event, a range of recent contributors showcase their work, hosted by *Stinging Fly* Publisher Declan Meade.

The Stinging Fly will also host a writing workshop, *Write So!*, on Saturday 15 August. See kilkennyarts.ie for details.



SAT
15
2.30PM Parade Tower
Admission €15
(includes a copy of *The Stinging Fly*)
Duration 70 mins approx.

I credit *The Stinging Fly* with the fact that I'm a writer today
Danielle McLaughlin

Annemarie Ní Churreáin

POET IN RESIDENCE

In conversation with Olivia O'Leary

Biddy Jenkinson once described a poet as 'a troublemaker by profession'. It's an observation that chimes deeply with Annemarie Ní Churreáin. Since *Bloodroot*, her first collection, Ní Churreáin has drawn inspiration from Irish women 'troublemakers', rebels and truth-tellers of all kinds, from folkloric figures like the banshee or the Cailleach, to Bridget Cleary, Sinéad O'Connor and Annie Murphy, as well as her own grandmother.

Whether giving voice to the dead of the Mother and Baby Homes, or exploring the hunger for mystery in the moving statues phenomenon, her latest collection, *Hymn to All the Restless Girls*, uses spells, folklore, incantations and the ancient art of *fiachaireacht*, or raven-watching, to resurrect the stories of women that Church and State have often sought to repress, in poems at once playful and fierce.

It's an approach that has not only garnered her numerous awards, including the Shine Strong Award for Best Debut Collection in the US, but made her an ideal librettist for *The Curing Line* (see page 4), and we're thrilled to welcome her to Kilkenny to explore her work in conversation with Olivia O'Leary.

POETRY WORKSHOP

Annemarie Ní Churreáin leads a poetry workshop on Saturday 15 August. Participation is by application and places are strictly limited. See kilkennyarts.ie for details.

SUN
16
2PM Parade Tower
Admission €18/€16
Duration 60 mins approx.

Ní Churreáin counters the prescriptions of the Constitution with her own dazzling prescriptions
Martina Evans



No 4 Porthemear Studios, St Ives, Cornwall, 1988.
Photo: Cornel Lucas

BUTLER GALLERY
IN ASSOCIATION WITH KILKENNY ARTS FESTIVAL

Tony & Jane O'Malley: *The Shared Studio*

Curated by Anna O'Sullivan, Butler Gallery Director

Butler Gallery, in association with Kilkenny Arts Festival, is delighted to present a building-wide exhibition honouring the work of the late Tony O'Malley (1913-2003) and Jane O'Malley (1944-2023). This expansive exhibition marks the receipt of the bequest of both artists' estates by Jane O'Malley to Butler Gallery where the artists had a long association.

The Shared Studio is an exhibition that provides an insight into the lives of Tony and Jane, and the studio life they shared in different locations for many decades: St Ives in Cornwall where they first met, to travels to the Bahamas and Lanzarote, and primarily their beloved home studio in County Kilkenny which functioned as a space of mutual encouragement, emotional support, and creative exchange.

The exhibition highlights work of different mediums and thematic approaches made over the decades. Studio ephemera will be reconstructed for display: worktables of both artists untouched since their deaths, a loom with a half-finished tapestry by Jane, and other items. An interactive virtual tour of their studio will be launched, showing all corners of the spaces where their mutual work was realised.

Tony O'Malley holds an important and distinguished position in the history of twentieth-century Irish art. A highly respected and beloved artist, his works are held in all major Irish museums and included in the most significant public and private collections of Irish art. Jane O'Malley showed widely in the UK and Ireland with many solo exhibitions at Taylor Galleries Dublin, the gallery that represented both artists during their lifetime. Her works are held in private collections in Ireland, America and Europe and feature in many public collections.

This exhibition traces Tony and Jane's journey across time and place and offers a rich overview of both their individual artistic practice and their creative partnership, revealing the profound influence their loving companionship had on their working lives together.

For auxiliary programme and further details, see www.butlergallery.ie

OPENING
SAT
8
3PM-5PM Butler Gallery, Evans' Home
Festival Opening Hours: Mon - Sat 10am-5pm
(Thu until 8pm), Sun 11am-5pm
until 26 October

Panel Discussion
A panel discussion on Tony & Jane O'Malley: *The Shared Studio* will be held in the Parade Tower of Kilkenny Castle on Tuesday August 11, 2026. See www.kilkennyarts.ie for booking.

DIANA CHAMBERS RETROSPECTIVE
Allday & Everything

Diana Chambers has been a practising artist at KCAT Arts Centre since its inception. She maintains a prolific practice, working with immediacy, rhythm and an intuitive engagement through the medium of paint.

Curated by Kate Strain, this exhibition brings together work that reflects Chambers' expansive approach to artistic production. An artist's book documenting Chambers' practice will be launched in conjunction with the opening, and painting demonstrations by Diana will take place during the exhibition; see kcat.ie for details.



Diana Chambers, *A Greek Party*, Acrylic on Board, 122 x 125 cm, 2016 (inspired by *The Intervention of the Sabine Women*, a 1799 painting by the French painter Jacques-Louis David)



OPENING 6-21 August
THU KCAT Arts Centre, Mill Lane, Callan, Co. Kilkenny, R95 XN35
6 Mon – Sat 10am – 4pm
3PM

DESIGN & CRAFTS COUNCIL IRELAND
Glass Society of Ireland: Of Sand and Ash



PHOTO SEAMUS FLANAGAN

Of Sand and Ash brings together members of the Glass Society of Ireland to showcase the breadth of contemporary Irish glass practice, celebrating a material shaped by fire, patience and extraordinary skill. From molten beginnings to finished form, glass carries a history as old as civilisation itself. *Of Sand and Ash* explores this enduring relationship between maker and material through works that bridge tradition and innovation, revealing how contemporary Irish artists continue to push the possibilities of glass today. A celebration of Irish talent, heritage and making, *Of Sand and Ash* illuminates the evolving story of glass in contemporary Ireland.

OPENING
THU National Design & Craft Gallery, Kilkenny
6 Tue – Sat 10am – 5.30pm
3PM-5PM



Kathryn Ashill
Burning Down the House, My House

Curated by Rachel Botha

Burning Down the House, My House is an exhibition that explores Welsh artist, performer and drag king Kathryn Ashill's recent experience of a serious house fire. Drawing on research into the history of fire in Kilkenny, Ashill looks at fire as a common experience, exploring our ability to respond to a crisis and using humour and playfulness as a way to navigate traumatic events.



The Tea Houses, Bateman Quay
7 August - 16 August, 11.30am-5.30pm daily during the Festival
20 – 29 August, Thu – Sat only, 11.30am – 5.30pm

The Journey of Weather-Exposed Bones (Nozarashi Kikō)
A film by Alan Gilsean
Written by Andrew Fitzsimons

The new film by acclaimed documentary filmmaker Alan Gilsean is a poetic essay on contemporary Japan. Inspired by the poetry of the famous haiku master Matsuo Bashō, Gilsean offers a kaleidoscopic portrait of the country, exploring everything from the impact of climate change to the meaning of home.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with Gilsean and screenwriter Andrew Fitzsimons, an award-winning academic and poet whose translation of Bashō's complete works (see page 33) provided inspiration for the film, and whose latest collection of poems, *My Father the Dog*, is published by Carcanet.

MON 10 5PM
Watergate Theatre
Admission €7
Duration 80 mins approx.

SPECIAL DEALS FOR THIS EVENT
See kilkennyarts.ie

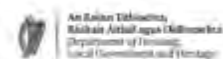
FEARGHUS Ó CONCHÚIR
All to Play For
Director Stevie Russell



All to Play For is a dance film that celebrates former hurling and camogie stars. Developed and shot on location in Kilkenny with All-Ireland medal winners Anne Dalton, Ann Downey, Liam Fennelly and Tommy Malone, the film uses dance to embody connection, community, drive and determination, showing that, even after the whistle blows, it's still all to play for.

Commissioned and funded by Kilkenny County Council's Public Art Programme 2024-2027, funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

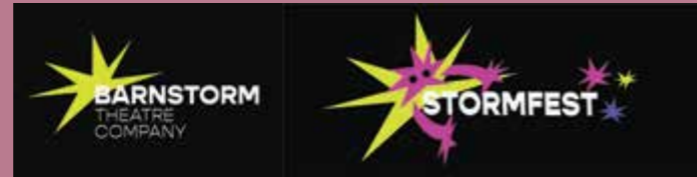
MON 10 12pm-2PM
Watergate Theatre
Admission FREE
Duration 7 mins (loop)



Barnstorm Theatre

StormFest

Barnstorm Theatre Company, supported by Kilkenny Arts Festival, presents a week of plays for children, their families and young adults at the Old Bank on The Parade. Admission €10 or 4 tickets for €36.



The Dig

All his life Mac has wanted to be an archaeologist, to be an expert at finding things and working out what they mean. If only he could stick to the facts and not get carried away with his highfalutin stories! *The Dig* spins a classic yarn into a brand-new tale to delight audiences young and old.

MON	TUE	WED	Suitable for ages 6+ Duration 40 mins Admission €10, family of four €36
10	11	12	
12.30 2PM	12.30 2PM	12.30 2PM	



The Fisher and His Wife

A long time ago there lived a fisherman and his wife in a small cottage made of dirty old metal. They were happy and content until one day a talking fish started granting wishes... This traditional story from the Brothers Grimm will keep both children and adults entertained.

FRI	SAT	SUN	Suitable for all ages Duration 20 mins Admission €10, family of four €36
14	15	16	
11AM 12.30PM	11AM 12.30PM	11AM 12.30PM	



Penny and the Far Thing

This tale set on a bicycle (a penny farthing to be exact) celebrates the cycle of the seasons. It's a charming slice of puppet theatre about growing up and finding your path, with beautiful music.

FRI	SAT	SUN	Suitable for all ages Duration 20 mins Admission €10, family of four €36
14	15	16	
2PM 3.30PM	2PM 3.30PM	2PM 3.30PM	

Secret Garden Music

The ever-popular Secret Garden Music Series returns for another year, bringing a stellar (but unannounced) line-up of musicians to perform a series of short pop-up concerts in some of the city's most iconic spaces. If you're out and about during the Festival, why not come along and enjoy free performances from leading Irish and international musicians?

Duration 15 mins approx.

Please note: performances are subject to weather conditions.



SAT	MON	TUE	FRI	SAT	Kilkenny Castle Rose Garden Admission free
8	10	11	14	15	
4PM	4PM	3PM	3PM	4PM	



MON	TUE	THU	FRI	SAT	Butler House Garden Admission free
10	11	13	14	15	
3PM	4PM	4PM	4PM	3PM	



WED	Heritage Council Garden Admission free
12	
3PM	



SAT	WED	THU	Rothe House Garden Admission free
8	12	13	
3PM	4PM	3PM	



SUN	Lyrath Hotel Admission free Special Extended Performance
16	
3PM	



SUN	Mount Juliet Admission free Special Extended Performance
9	
3PM	

Mornings,
only lighter.

Marty in the Morning
Weekdays, 7-10am

RTÉ lyric fm

National
Heritage Week
A Heritage Council programme
15-23 August

Find events on
heritageweek.ie

RTÉ
SUPPORTING THE
arts

Every year, RTÉ supports more than 160 arts events nationwide.

Apply Now: www.rte.ie/supportingthearts

GREAT PLACES TO EAT

Special Festival menus available at select restaurants

<p>1</p> <p>Aroi 056 770 3644</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Arán Artisan Bakery & Bistro 056 775 6297</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Billy Byrne's Gastro Pub 056 772 1783</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Butcher Steakhouse & Cocktail Venue 056 779 0655</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Butler House 056 776 5707</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Café la Coco 056 775 2726</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Caffé 500 056 771 2029</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Cakeface Patisserie 056 773 9971</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Campagne 056 777 2858</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Coffee Date Café R95 VX92</p>
<p>11</p> <p>The Hoban Hotel 056 778 3100</p>				



Fennelly's of Callan
086 069 1421



Ember at Kilkenny Hibernian Hotel
056 777 1888



La Rivista
056 777 1666



Langton's Restaurant
056 776 5133



Lenehan's Bar & Yard
056 772 1621



Newpark Hotel
056 776 0500



Pennyfeather Café
056 771 5298



Petronella Restaurant
056 776 1899



Paris Texas
056 776 1822



Ristorante Rinuccini
056 776 1575



Rive Gauche
056 777 5604



Zuni Restaurant
056 772 3999

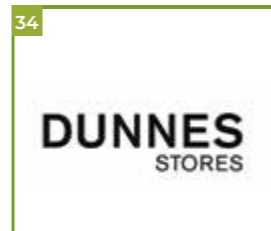
GREAT PLACES TO SHOP

Ceramica

Ceramica
Hebron Business Park
R95 XOYN



Allens of Kilkenny
95 High Street



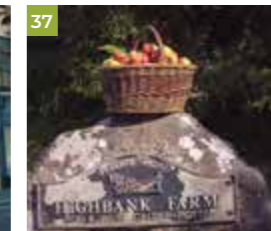
Dunnes Stores
Market Yard



Food For Life
St Kieran's Street,
Kilkenny & Callan



GOODS - 4 Floors of Fashion
88/90 High Street



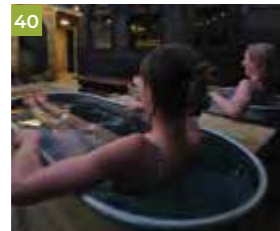
Highbank Orchard
Cuffesgrange
R95 W58P



Jerpoint Glass Studio
Stoneyford
R95 WN67



Kilkenny Food Tours
086 733 2885



Kilkenny Grand Sauna
R95 RX50



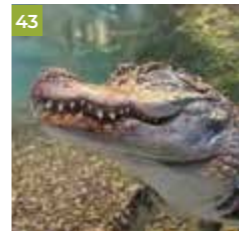
Lamber de Bie
lamberdebie.ie



My Skin Integrity
087 131 5947



Market Cross Shopping Centre
High Street



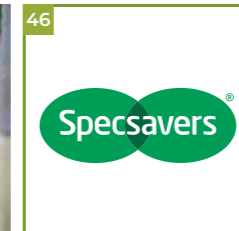
National Reptile Zoo
R95 KF6V



Pauls of Kilkenny
12/14 High Street



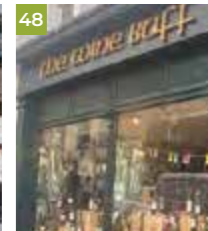
Smithwick's Experience
44 Parliament Street



Specsavers Kilkenny
Market Cross Shopping Centre



The Book Centre
10 High Street



The Wine Buff
Patrick Street



Marble City Bar
056 776 1143



Matt the Miller's Bar & Restaurant
056 776 1696



Louie's
056 775 0016



Victor's at The Club House
056 772 1994



Rafter's Gastro Pub
056 772 2970



Tower & Castle
056 771 5476



Statham's by Pembroke Kilkenny
056 778 3500



Wild Tails Co.
R95 T027

GREAT PLACES TO DRINK



Bridie's
056 776 5133



Cleere's Bar
056 776 2573



Kyteler's Inn
056 772 1064



Ó Riada's
R95 CH79



Paris Texas
056 776 1822



Syd Harkin's Pub
R95 VK02



Butler House
056 776 5707
butler.ie



Hotel Kilkenny
056 776 2000
hotelkilkenny.ie



The Club House
056 772 1994
clubhousehotel.com



Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel
056 775 0200
kilkennyormonde.com



Langton House Hotel
056 776 5133
langtons.ie



Lyrath Estate Hotel
056 776 0088
lyrath.com



Mount Juliet Estate
056 777 3000
mountjuliet.ie



Kilkenny Pembroke Hotel
056 778 3500
pembrokekilkenny.com



Butler Court
056 776 1178
butlercourt.com

Kilkenny is a treasure trove of wonderful local businesses, and we're proud to receive their support.
Whatever you're looking to do, check out these great places!

GREAT PLACES TO SLEEP



Kilkenny City

- Great Places to Sleep** (pink square)
 - Great Places to Drink** (orange square)
 - Great Places to Eat** (teal square)
 - Great Things to Do** (green square)
- See pages 43-46 for details

2cm = 100m approx.
1 inch = 400 feet approx.

Kilkenny Arts Festival 2026 Schedule

	Thursday 06	Friday 07	Saturday 08	Sunday 09	Monday 10	Tuesday 11	Wednesday 12	Thursday 13	Friday 14	Saturday 15	Sunday 16
St Canice's Cathedral		Crash Ensemble: <i>Land of Winter</i> , 9pm, p.14	James McVinnie <i>Bach: Organ and Piano</i> 7pm, p.16	The Hubert Butler Annual Lecture: <i>Mary Robinson</i> 5pm, p.30	Chamber Choir Ireland: <i>Forgotten Peoples</i> 6.30pm, p.16	<i>Cate Le Bon</i> , 8pm, p.28	Irish Chamber Orchestra, Niall Vallely, Liz Knowles, Niwel Tsumbu, 7pm, p.25	<i>Death of Gesualdo</i> , 9pm, p.13	Irish Chamber Orchestra: <i>The Devil, the Witch & the Warlock</i> , 7.30pm, p.17	Martin Hayes & Friends 7pm, p.27	
Castle Park							<i>Light Up the Castle: Rift</i> 10.40pm, p.10	<i>Light Up the Castle: Rift</i> 10.40pm, p.10	<i>Light Up the Castle: Rift</i> 10.40pm, p.10	<i>Light Up the Castle: Rift</i> 10.40pm, p.10	
St John's Priory		Timo Andres & David Kaplan, 1pm, p.15	Timo Andres & David Kaplan, 1pm, p.15		Dowland 400 Concert I, 1pm, p.18	Dowland 400 Concert II, 1pm, p.18	Dowland 400 Concert III, 3pm, p.19 Dowland 400 Concert IV, 6pm, p.19	Aoife Ní Bhriain, 1pm, p.24	Liz Knowles, 1pm, p.25	All Softly Playing: <i>The early music beloved of James Joyce</i> , 3pm, p.18	
Watergate Theatre	<i>The Curing Line</i> , 7.30pm Preview Wed, 7.30pm, p.4		<i>The Curing Line</i> , 7.30pm, p.4	<i>The Curing Line</i> , 2pm, p.4	All to Play For, 12pm-2pm, p.39 <i>The Journey of Weather-Exposed Bones</i> , 5pm, p.39	Francesco Turrisi: <i>Vuci</i> 6pm, p.22			<i>The Last Tape</i> , 2pm & 8pm p.8	<i>The Last Tape</i> , 2pm & 8pm p.8	
Set Theatre			Kate Ellis, Sile Denvir, Lucia McPartlin & Linda Buckley 9.30pm, p.22		The Breath, 8.30pm, p.23	Méav Ní Mhaolchatha 9.30pm, p.24	<i>For The Record</i> , 9pm, p.20	<i>For The Record</i> , 7.30pm, p.20	Francesco Turrisi, Rhiannon Giddens, Niwel Tsumbu & Éamonn Cagney, 9.30pm, p.26	64ksana, 11pm, p.29	
Cleere's Theatre			Niwel Tsumbu, 5pm, p.21	<i>A Personal History of Pyromania</i> , 4pm & 7pm, p.11	<i>A Personal History of Pyromania</i> , 4pm & 7pm, p.11			Danny O'Mahony & Martin Hayes, 6pm, p.23	Ukulele Death Squad 11pm, p.29		<i>Everything Again Is New</i> , 5pm, p.26
Parade Tower		<i>Crossing the Lines: the Makers of The Curing Line</i> 11am, p.31 <i>Rosaleen McDonagh</i> 5pm, p.32	Donnacha Dennehy & Kate Ellis, 11am, p.31	Andrew Fitzsimons 12pm, p.33 <i>Sally Hayden</i> , 2.30pm, p.32	The Hubert Butler Essay Prize 2026, 12pm, p.30 Heritage Council Panel Discussion, 3pm, p.30	Panel Discussion: Tony & Jane O'Malley: <i>The Shared Studio</i> , 11am, p.37	Gillian O'Brien: <i>Death Becomes Us</i> , 1pm, p.33	<i>Kilkenny Poetry Broadsheet</i> , 2.30pm, p.34 <i>Gillian O'Brien: Selective Memories</i> , 5pm, p.33		<i>The Stinging Fly</i> 2.30pm, p.34	Annemarie Ní Churreáin 2pm, p.35
The Parade		<i>The Demon Dance</i> , 10.15pm, p.6									
Parade Tower: Medieval Room			<i>The Words of Dred</i> , 5.30pm & 6.30pm, p.6	<i>The Words of Dred</i> , 5.30pm & 6.30pm, p.6		<i>The Words of Dred</i> , 5.30pm & 6.30pm, p.6	<i>The Words of Dred</i> , 5.30pm & 6.30pm, p.6	<i>The Words of Dred</i> , 5.30pm & 6.30pm, p.6	<i>The Words of Dred</i> , 5.30pm & 6.30pm, p.6	<i>The Words of Dred</i> , 5.30pm & 6.30pm, p.6	<i>The Words of Dred</i> , 5.30pm & 6.30pm, p.6
Medieval Mile Museum			<i>The Words of Alice</i> , Every 10 minutes, 1pm - 3.40pm, p.7	<i>The Words of Alice</i> , Every 10 minutes, 1pm - 3.40pm, p.7		<i>The Words of Alice</i> , Every 10 minutes, 1pm - 3.40pm, p.7	<i>The Words of Alice</i> , Every 10 minutes, 1pm - 3.40pm, p.7	<i>The Words of Alice</i> , Every 10 minutes, 1pm - 3.40pm, p.7	<i>The Words of Alice</i> , Every 10 minutes, 1pm - 3.40pm, p.7	<i>The Words of Alice</i> , Every 10 minutes, 1pm - 3.40pm, p.7	<i>The Words of Alice</i> , Every 10 minutes, 1pm - 3.40pm, p.7
Home Rule Club			<i>The Words of The Accused</i> 12pm & 2pm, p.7	<i>The Words of The Accused</i> 12pm & 2pm, p.7		<i>The Words of The Accused</i> 12pm, p.7	<i>The Words of The Accused</i> 12pm, p.7	<i>The Words of The Accused</i> 12pm, p.7	<i>The Words of The Accused</i> 12pm & 2pm, p.7	<i>The Words of The Accused</i> 12pm & 2pm, p.7	<i>The Words of The Accused</i> 12pm & 2pm, p.7
St Kieran's College										<i>The Burning</i> 10pm, p.7	
Secret Location!	<i>Anchorpoint</i> , 9.30pm Preview Wed, 9.30pm, p.12		<i>Anchorpoint</i> 9.30pm, p.12	<i>Anchorpoint</i> 9.30pm, p.12		<i>Anchorpoint</i> 9.30pm, p.12	<i>Anchorpoint</i> 9.30pm, p.12	<i>Anchorpoint</i> 9.30pm, p.12	<i>Anchorpoint</i> 9.30pm, p.12	<i>Anchorpoint</i> 8pm, p.12	
Butler Gallery & Digital Gallery Evans' Home			Tony & Jane O'Malley: <i>The Shared Studio</i> Opening 3pm-5pm, p.36	Tony & Jane O'Malley: <i>The Shared Studio</i> 11am-5pm, p.36	Tony & Jane O'Malley: <i>The Shared Studio</i> 10am-5pm, p.36	Tony & Jane O'Malley: <i>The Shared Studio</i> 10am-5pm, p.36	Tony & Jane O'Malley: <i>The Shared Studio</i> 10am-5pm, p.36	Tony & Jane O'Malley: <i>The Shared Studio</i> 10am-8pm, p.36	Tony & Jane O'Malley: <i>The Shared Studio</i> 10am-5pm, p.36	Tony & Jane O'Malley: <i>The Shared Studio</i> 10am-5pm, p.36	Tony & Jane O'Malley: <i>The Shared Studio</i> 11am-5pm, p.36
Old Bank on the Parade					StormFest: <i>The Dig</i> 12.30pm & 2pm, p.40	StormFest: <i>The Dig</i> 12.30pm & 2pm, p.40	StormFest: <i>The Dig</i> 12.30pm & 2pm, p.40		StormFest: <i>The Fisher & His Wife</i> 11am & 12.30pm, p.40 StormFest: <i>Penny & the Far Thing</i> 2pm & 3.30pm, p.40	StormFest: <i>The Fisher & His Wife</i> 11am & 12.30pm, p.40 StormFest: <i>Penny & the Far Thing</i> 2pm & 3.30pm, p.40	StormFest: <i>The Fisher & His Wife</i> 11am & 12.30pm, p.40 StormFest: <i>Penny & the Far Thing</i> 2pm & 3.30pm, p.40
Other Venues		Idrisi Ensemble, Layale Chaker & Francesco Turrisi <i>Trobairitz Compass</i> , The Black Abbey, 7pm, p.21	Barrel Yard Sessions Smithwick's Barrel Yard 5pm-7pm, p.28		<i>Distillation</i> , Rothe House 11am, 2pm & 5pm p.11	<i>Distillation</i> , Rothe House 11am, 2pm & 5pm p.11	Acting Workshop with Lynne Parker, Mayfair Library, 11am, p.31			Barrel Yard Sessions Smithwick's Barrel Yard 5pm-7pm, p.28	
Secret Garden Music			Rothe House 3pm, p.41 Castle Rose Garden 4pm, p.41	Mount Juliet (extended performance) 3pm, p.41	Butler House 3pm, p.41 Castle Rose Garden 4pm, p.41	Castle Rose Garden 3pm, p.41 Butler House 4pm, p.41	Heritage Council Garden 3pm, p.41 Rothe House 4pm, p.41	Rothe House 3pm, p.41 Butler House 4pm, p.41	Castle Rose Garden 3pm, p.41 Butler House 4pm, p.41	Butler House 3pm, p.41 Castle Rose Garden 4pm, p.41	Lyrath Estate (extended performance) 3pm, p.41



**KILKENNY
ARTS
FESTIVAL**

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THE IRISH TIMES

