



CULTURAL CROSSINGS

Ulster-Scots and Celtic Traditions Across the Continents

February – March 2012



Promoted by the Provost of the Coleraine campus, University of Ulster, in partnership with Causeway Coast Arts.

CULTURAL CROSSINGS

Cultural Crossings is the result of a partnership between the Provost of the Coleraine campus, University of Ulster and Causeway Coast Arts. They share a commitment to supporting the arts and engaging with local communities in the Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Moyle Council areas.

In pursuit of this common interest they are presenting a programme of arts and cultural events that reflects the musical and artistic influence of emigrants from Ireland. The Irish and Ulster-Scots traditions enriched the music, dance and art of their new homelands as emigrants brought with them their instruments and repertoire.

Their influence had a lasting impact on the music of the regions in which they settled. The fiddle, a distinctively Irish and Scottish instrument, plays a huge role in all kinds of music including bluegrass, folk and country. The accordion and flute have also made their way into music in many places throughout the world. This theme provides the scope for a programme which celebrates traditional Celtic music and its contemporary influences and reflects the historical links with Ireland and Scotland.

TICKETS & INFORMATION

For events in:

Telephone

Ballycastle Golf Club

(Arts Officer, Moyle District Council)

(028) 2076 2225

Ballymoney Town Hall

(028) 2766 0230

Flowerfield Arts Centre

(028) 7083 1400

Octagon, University of Ulster, Coleraine

(028) 7012 4683

Riverside Theatre

(028) 7012 3123

Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre

Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró

(028) 7776 0650

Bookings can be made in person or by phone. Payment accepted by cash, cheque or debit/credit card.

For general information about all *Cultural Crossings* events contact:

Development and Alumni Relations
University of Ulster, Coleraine campus
Tel: (028) 7012 4683

CULTURAL CROSSINGS EVENTS GUIDE



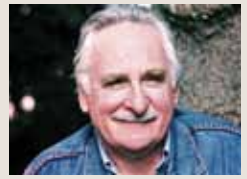
TUES 21 FEB | 8.00pm

Ballycastle Golf Club, Cushendall Rd, Ballycastle

DIMITRI BOEKHOORN HARP RECITAL

Dimitri Boekhoorn presents an evening of traditional Celtic and early music as well as his own compositions on a variety of early and modern harps. He has played and recorded with renowned Galician musician Carlos Nunez and performs internationally at festivals such as the International Breton Harp Festival. His performance in the *Cultural Crossings* programme takes place before his appearance in the Edinburgh International Harp Festival in April. Dimitri is based in Brittany where he also teaches Celtic Civilization and the Breton language. The McGowan Harp School will also perform.

ADMISSION: FREE



WED 22 FEB | 8.00pm

Ballymoney Town Hall

WHEN THE POTATOES FAILED BY ALEX BLAIR

The potato is still an enjoyable part of the diet of most Irish people. In the 19th century it was the staple, giving them the essentials for life. When the crop failed for a number of years in succession, in the 1840s, the result was hunger, starvation, disease and death. It was the great watershed in 19th century Irish history and its immediate and long-term consequences were immense. Ireland was never the same again and it affected the political, cultural, social and economic life of the country.

One of the most obvious effects was emigration. These migrants largely ended up in North America, with some in Canada, Australia and in Britain. For both the native Irish and those in the resulting diaspora, the famine entered folk memory.

Image: Abandoned famine field on the west coast of Ireland, still showing scars of potato ridges abandoned during the great famine of 1845-46.

ADMISSION: £2

THURS 23 FEB | 8.00pm

Ballymoney Town Hall

AN EVENING WITH LEN GRAHAM & JACK LYNCH

Len Graham, one of Ireland's best-known Irish singers, has gained an international reputation for both his inimitable singing style and the breadth of his knowledge of Irish folk music. His extensive repertoire of Irish songs ranges from early classic ballads through to music hall pieces and covers the whole gamut of themes and human experience. He has performed at numerous Irish and international folk, literary and storytelling festivals, as well as appearing on many radio and television programmes.

He is joined on stage by actor and storyteller Jack Lynch. A founder member of the Dublin Yarnspinners and Storytellers of Ireland, Jack has also appeared at numerous festivals both at home and abroad. A well-known actor, he has appeared on television in *Fair City*, *Glenroe* and *Ballykissangel* and his film credits include *Angela's Ashes*, *The Van* and *The Snapper*.

To hear such masters as Len Graham sing on just a couple of numbers is like being granted just a few crumbs from the table of a magnificent banquet.

Melody Maker, London.

Jack Lynchis one of the best storytellers and comic actors that we have...

Tom Matthews, In Dublin.

ADMISSION: £9, CONC. £7



TUES 28 FEB | 8.00pm

The Octagon, University of Ulster, Coleraine campus

CRAN MASTERS OF IRISH MUSIC & SONG

Cran is a unique group in the Irish folk-music world with a highly-individualistic approach and a vast repertoire featuring an array of styles and instruments.

The trio's performances are a dazzling display of technical virtuosity combined with humorous banter and stories. Their native Irish material includes bubbling dance music or haunting slow airs on flute and pipes, and vocals ranging from the unaccompanied songs of Connemara to the lilting mouth music of Donegal. Their Hiberno-English song repertoire covers the entire gamut from the old story-telling long ballads to lively comic songs of devilment and rascality. They also include material from the Scots-Gaelic and Breton traditions.

Each member of the trio has an international reputation in his own field. Desi Wilkinson is a major force in the field of Irish flute-playing. Sean Corcoran is known internationally as one of the leading singers in the Hiberno-English and Gaelic traditions. Ronan Browne is a leading light among the younger generation of uilleann pipers, straddling the divide between pure traditional music and the modern world. He was the original piper with both Riverdance and the Afro Celt Sound System and has written music for film and television.

**ADMISSION: £8, CONC. £6,
STUDENTS AND JOBSEEKERS £4**



FRI 2 MAR | 7.30pm

*Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre
Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró*

O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU? FILM SCREENING

The dominant bluegrass musical score is integral to the story in this superb Cohen Brothers' classic, almost rivalling the film's excellence. The soundtrack CD, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, became the surprise hit of 2001. Without any significant radio air time it became a best-seller and went on to win the Grammy Award for Album of the Year in 2001. Since then it has garnered numerous awards and sold over seven million copies.

The film features a stellar cast: George Clooney, John Turturro, John Goodman and Holly Hunter. Loosely based on Homer's *Odyssey* it portrays the adventures of three escaped convicts as they search for hidden treasure while a relentless lawman pursues them. On the run they are confronted by a series of strange characters and make a hit record as *The Soggy Bottom Boys*, which is one of the gems of the CD.

This film is a double delight. The bluegrass songs will have feet tapping while the hilarious and truly original film, which won six international film awards as well as two Academy Award nominations, will have sides splitting.

ADMISSION: £4 (CERT 12.)



TUES 6 MAR | 2.30pm

Flowerfield Arts Centre, Portstewart

INTO THE WEST THE ULSTER-SCOT'S DIASPORA IN ART BY DEBORAH LOGAN

Traditionally there have always been crossings between Scotland and Ireland, but when the great Ulster-Scots diaspora began in the 1600s this journey extended ever further westward from Scotland. In the wake of these travels, settlements were planted and flourished, establishing their identity with a rich heritage of folk art, finally maturing into a new fine art: a curious journey from Scotland via Ireland to the Americas and ultimately the world.

Art historian, Deborah Logan, will consider the styles and work of a variety of world renowned artists, ranging from John Watson to Jackson Pollock, in this exploration of Ireland's legacy to the world of international art.

*Image: Governor Lewis Morrisby by John Watson.
Brooklyn Museum.*

ADMISSION: £5



WED 7 MAR | 8.00pm

Flowerfield Arts Centre, Portstewart

ASHELIN LIVE IN CONCERT

Ashelin, a band of five sisters from Newfoundland, Canada, play a stunning variety of instruments and are known for their sparkling vocals and intricate harmonies. Their unique brand of folk, roots and pop shines through in their original songwriting and novel interpretations of traditional tunes. Since their first performance in 1997, they have entertained thousands at many high profile events, and received numerous standing ovations at folk festivals across the Maritimes.

The band was chosen to showcase Newfoundland culture through the eyes of an artist in a recent documentary film of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Their original song, *Song for Mariana*, was a winner from over 600 contenders for David Suzuki's *Playlist for the Planet*, a soon-to-be-released CD which brings them together with some of Canada's finest songwriters and performers.

Ashelin's 2010 release, *The Road Not Taken*, features performances by the elite of East Coast talent. These five fresh talents are establishing their place among the greatest talent Canada has produced.

Beautiful and harmonious.
BBC Radio Ulster.

For them not to be embraced by an audience outside of their native homeland would be a crime against the musical community.
Maverick Magazine, UK.

ADMISSION: £10



WED 14 MAR | 8.00pm

*Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre
Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró*

GRETCHEN PETERS

Grammy-nominated folk/country legend Gretchen Peters is a musical force to be reckoned with. After moving to Nashville in the late 1980s, she found work as a songwriter, composing hits for greats such as Etta James and Neil Diamond and co-writing songs with Bryan Adams. Her penned hit, *Independence Day*, recorded by Martina McBride in 1995, received a Grammy nomination for Best Country Song, and also won the Country Music Association Song of the Year title. In addition, Peters has released seven studio albums of her own. The title track of her 1996 debut album, *The Secret of Life*, was later recorded by Faith Hill in 1999, for whom it became a Top 5 country hit.

Some singers were born to perform and Gretchen Peters is definitely one of themher voice arrestingly beautiful, her delivery perfect and the songs divine.
HMV magazine, UK.

If Peters never delivers another tune as achingly beautiful as 'On a Bus to St. Cloud',... she has already earned herself a spot among country's upper echelon of contemporary composers.
People Magazine.

ADMISSION: £14, CONC. £12



SAT 17 MAR | 8.00pm

*Riverside Theatre, University of Ulster,
Coleraine campus*

THE BROKEN STRING BLUEGRASS BAND

The Broken String Bluegrass Band plays traditional, raw acoustic Appalachian mountain music at its foot-tapping best and is a firm favourite at bluegrass festivals throughout Northern Ireland and beyond.

This dynamic band features Geordie McAdam and Michael Ash, both former members of the Black Mountain String Band, who have been favourites with live music audiences for many years. They play old time music with real passion and enthusiasm. Adding the bluegrass sound and drive to the band are the Muirhead brothers, Ivan and Adrian, and bass player Big Walty

For this special show, the band will include some material from the Irish and Scots traditions, and offer some background on the journey that some of the tunes have taken, crossing the Atlantic and finding new settings in the United States.

The concert is organized by Coleraine Borough Council as part of the St. Patrick's Week Community Festival and is being presented in association with *Cultural Crossings*, which is promoted by the Provost of the Coleraine campus, University of Ulster, in partnership with Causeway Coast Arts.

ADMISSION: £12, CONC. £10