

Press Release
12 October 2020

Drawing from the Well

The Irish Traditional Music Archive (ITMA) announce details of a new monthly series that connects artists with archival material to inspire new art. **Drawing from the Well** commissions leading artists to connect with ITMA's deep "Well" to inspire new works of art.

Louise Mulcahy, Martin Hayes, Edwina Guckian, Mary Bergin, Tony Linnane and Brían Mac Gloinn are just some of the leading instrumentalists, singers and dancers who have been commissioned to spend time engaging with collections of their choice in ITMA and to then produce something new that can be shared with the public.

Catherine Martin TD, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media stated that "The Irish Traditional Music Archive plays a pre-eminent and leading role in championing the value and relevance of Irish traditional music. ITMA's *Drawing from the Well* series is an example of innovative thinking in a time of crisis."

Maureen Kennelly, Director, The Arts Council stated that the **Drawing from the Well** series is "making really valuable opportunities available for contemporary musicians and that's very much dear to the heart of all at the Arts Council."

Liam O'Connor, ITMA Director stated: "Over the last 33 years, ITMA has created the most comprehensive collection of Irish traditional music, song and dance to be found anywhere in the world. Connecting artists with archival material to inspire new art is at the core of ITMA's role serving the living tradition. Artists can access our collections remotely, find inspiration to create new art and share with the public."

Drawing from the Well will be launched virtually by Catherine Martin TD, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media on **Wednesday 14 October 2020 at 7.30 am**. The launch will also include contributions from Arts Council Director, Maureen Kennelly, ITMA Director, Liam O'Connor and a performance by uilleann piper, Louise Mulcahy. Available to view on: ITMA website / ITMA Facebook page / ITMA YouTube Channel / ITMA Instagram TV.

Drawing from the Well will go live at 8.00 pm Wednesday 14 October 2020 on: ITMA website / ITMA Facebook page / ITMA YouTube Channel / ITMA Instagram TV.

Requests for information relating to the **Drawing from the Well** should be directed to Maeve Gebruers, ITMA maeve.gebruers@itma.ie 00 353 (1) 6619699

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Notes to editors:

Louise Mulcahy is an internationally renowned uilleann piper, flute and whistle player. Described by Matt Molloy as “one of the finest musicians of her generation”, she has recorded three albums with her father, Mick, & sister Michelle, and a highly acclaimed solo album *Tuning the Road*. As well as teaching, lecturing, presenting and performing on both television and radio, Louise is a respected researcher, with her work on women and uilleann piping due for release in a new TG4 series *Mná na Píobairí* in 2021. Her numerous awards include Female Musician of the Year and Tradconnect Album of the Year.

Martin Hayes is regarded as one of the most significant talents to emerge in the world of Irish traditional music. Martin has been recognized as TG4 Gradam Ceoil Musician of the Year, Person of the Year by the American Irish Historical Society in New York City and is recipient of the annual Spirit of Ireland award from the Irish Arts Center NY. He was the first musician to win The BBC Instrumentalist of the year and most recently the first to win the RTE folk instrumentalist of the year. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Music from the National University of Ireland Galway in 2019.

Edwina Guckian is a dancer who hails from outside the village of Drumsna in Co. Leitrim. She learned her dancing from her mother and the local dancers of Leitrim and Roscommon. In 2004 Edwina established her dance club Áirc Damhsa which now has over 400 members, 11 teachers and is based in 9 counties. In 2015 she left her full-time primary school teaching career to focus on her personal development in dance. She has received many awards for her work in the performance and development of Irish dance.

Mary Bergin is an acclaimed whistle player originally from Dublin but has lived most of her life in An Spidéal, Co. Galway. Described by the *Irish Times* as “just about the best tin whistle player this century” she received the prestigious TG4 Gradam Ceoil Musician of the Year Award in 2000. Her seminal solo albums *Feadóga Stáin* (1979) and *Feadóga Stáin 2* (1993) are modern classics. Bergin is also a founding member of the group Dordán.

Tony Linnane's 1979 album with Noel Hill, *Noel Hill and Tony Linnane*, is a classic recording in Irish music and helped launch the career of this legendary Clare musician. His understated, tasteful and subtle fiddle playing makes Tony a favourite among traditional musicians and this is a rare opportunity to hear him play. Linnane and Noel Hill recorded and toured with Liam O'Flynn and Planxty on the 1980 album *The Woman I Loved so Well*.

Brían Mac Gloinn is a singer, songwriter and musician best known for his collaboration with his brother Diarmuid in their band Ye Vagabonds. Although born and raised in Co. Carlow, Brían is hugely interested in the Ulster singing tradition especially that of his mother's native Arranmore Island in Co. Donegal. Brían also works as a record producer and recording engineer. In 2020 he produced his first radio documentary *The Ballad of the Stolwijk Rescue*, a 'radio ballad' for RTÉ Lyric FM.

Irish Traditional Music Archive (ITMA) is the national public archive and resource centre for Irish traditional music, song and dance, and the globally-recognised specialist advisory agency to advance appreciation, knowledge, and the practice of Irish traditional music.

Established in 1987 and funded by the **Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon**, and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, **the role of ITMA is to:** collect and preserve the historical and contemporary materials of Irish traditional music, particularly those that are at risk; organise and describe these materials according to international standards of archival and library practice to create collections that are discoverable by all; present and publish content from our collections in ways that enhance the living tradition; contribute to the knowledge base of traditional music, and engage with our diverse audiences worldwide.

Further details at: www.itma.ie

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Media Assets

Drawing from the Well Promo: – [click here](#)

Drawing from the Well Image: – [click here](#)

More details and quotes from the artists involved: [click here](#)

Drawing from the Well Schedule 2020

14 October	Louise Mulcahy
21 October	Martin Hayes
18 November	Edwina Guckian
2 December	Mary Bergin and Tony Linnane
23 December	Brían Mac Gloinn