



National Tours

2014



Dirk Powell, Michael McGoldrick, Brendan Gleeson and Francis Gaffney

Our spring 2014 season gets off to a flying start as multi-instrumentalist Dirk Powell, piper Michael McGoldrick and guitarist Francis Gaffney are joined by actor Brendan Gleeson on fiddle in a musical road trip from Kentucky to Ireland via the Louisiana bayous from 7 - 17 January 2014

TOUR DATES


7 Jan	The Sugar Club	12 Jan	Pavilion Theatre
8 Jan	Mermaid Arts Centre	14 Jan	Station House Theatre
9 Jan	Glór	15 Jan	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
10 Jan	Hawk's Well Theatre	16 Jan	Triskel Christchurch
11 Jan	The Dock, St. George's Terrace	17 Jan	Riverbank Arts Centre

Every once in a while providence throws us into the path of someone who has a gift to bestow. The serendipitous meeting of Dirk Powell and Brendan Gleeson on the set of the Oscar-winning movie *Cold Mountain* was one of these occasions, and what began as a shared experience of having music passed down from their grandfathers has grown into an exploration of American Old Time, Cajun and Irish traditional music.

While Dirk Powell's playing is deeply rooted in his Appalachian heritage, he's played alongside artists as diverse as Emmylou Harris, Jack White, Joan Baez and Steve Earle in addition to working on soundtracks with many of today's greatest film directors. Brendan Gleeson needs no introduction to Irish audiences, although it's less well known that he's a highly-accomplished fiddle player.

Powell's genius for blending old and new is well matched by the innovative flautist and piper Mike McGoldrick, co-founder of Lúnasa and Flook, who has performed with everyone from Sharon Shannon and the Afro-Celt Sound System to Youssou N'Dour and Mark Knopfler. Neither are strangers to cross cultural collaborations, having regularly participated in the legendary BBC Transatlantic Sessions. Completing the quartet is Francis Gaffney, a renowned guitarist from Boyle, Co. Roscommon, who has regularly toured and recorded with artists such as John Carty, Alec Finn, Joe Kennedy and Arty McGlynn.

Dirk Powell (5-string banjo, fiddle, accordion, voice), Michael McGoldrick (uilleann pipes, flute, whistles), Brendan Gleeson (fiddle), Francis Gaffney (guitar)



The Little Radio - Iain Ballamy, Stian Carstensen

Join the two-man charm offensive that is The Little Radio, an inspired pairing of Stian Carstensen's bustling button accordion and Iain Ballamy's effortlessly lyrical tenor saxophone, on tour from 1 – 7 February. Be warned: many before you have succumbed to their warmth, inventiveness and sheer sense of fun.

TOUR DATES	
1 Feb	Garner Lane Arts Centre
2 Feb	The Sugar Club
4 Feb	Triskel Christchurch
5 Feb	Linenhall Arts Centre
6 Feb	Mermaid Arts Centre
7 Feb	Station House Theatre

Meet the Odd Couple: Iain Ballamy's big-hearted Ben Webster-ish tenor saxophone, and the restless yet lush accordion playing of Stian Carstensen. It's an unlikely pairing yes, but critics and audiences alike have been utterly seduced by the wonderful interplay between the two instruments and the jaw-dropping virtuosity of two players at the top of their game.

Engagingly humorous, their playful choice of melodies and the charm of their arrangements have proved irresistible to listeners. Join in the fun: in previous tours, the duo have taken special requests via social media in the run up to concerts. A former member of the pioneering British big band Loose Tubes, Ballamy has worked with many of the leading musicians on the European jazz scene as well as composing film works for Arve Henriksen, the London Sinfonietta and the Henri Oguike Dance Company.

Best known for his work with the band Farmer's Market, Stian Carstensen also plays bagpipes, guitar, mandolin, banjo, and a traditional Bulgarian flute called the Kaval. He recently became the first person in Norway to be prosecuted for playing the violin whilst driving..

Iain Ballamy, saxophones

Stian Carstensen, button accordion



We Banjo 3

Award-winning quartet We Banjo 3 combine Irish Music with Old-Time American and Bluegrass influences to reveal the banjo's rich legacy and roots. Catch them in Limerick on 21 February and Wexford on 28 March.

TOUR DATES

21 Feb	Friars' Gate Theatre and Arts Centre	23 Apr	Garter Lane Arts Centre
28 Mar	Jerome Hynes Theatre, Wexford Opera House		

Enda & Fergal Scahill and Martin & David Howley are among the most celebrated and distinguished young musicians in Ireland today. Featuring banjo, fiddle, mandolin, guitar, vocals and percussion We Banjo 3 make a bold and extraordinary musical statement. Creativity, sensitivity and passion are present in full measure and Irish music is at the heart of what they play.

Collectively, WeBanjo3 have been at the forefront of Irish banjo and fiddle for 2 decades. Their competitive success is unrivalled, Martin holding 7 All Ireland titles, Enda with 4, while Fergal and David hold All Ireland titles on Banjo, Fiddle, Bodhran and Guitar. Enda has recorded and toured with the best of the best including The Chieftains, Frankie Gavin, Stockton's Wing, Grammy-winner Ricky Skaggs and "Instrumental Band of the Decade" The Brock McGuire Band. Fergal has performed with David Munnely, Martin O'Connor and Kevin Crawford and has toured the world with Ragus and Celtic Legends.

Martin was the very first Irish banjo player to perform at the Grand Ol' Opry in Nashville and David is fast building a reputation for his deep, muscular singing. We Banjo 3 play with swing and soul, effortlessly combining the best of Irish and Bluegrass banjo music and song, mining the rich vein of the American Old Time tradition and thoroughly reinventing the banjo band sound.

Modern rhythms, traditional melodies, virtuosic technique and innovative arrangements of music and song add up to an incredible feast of banjo and mandolin music – guaranteed to put a smile on your face and get your feet tapping.



The Attacca Quartet

Be swept away by rising chamber music stars the Attacca Quartet, described by the New York Times as “sensational”, and tipped as worthy successors to the ground-breaking Kronos Quartet. Performing an exquisite programme inspired by words, framing works by John Adams, Beethoven and Janáček with readings by poets, playwrights and composers to illuminate the narrative behind the music.

TOUR DATES

27 Feb	St Finian's Lutheran Church	2 Mar	St. Iberius Church
28 Feb	Christ Church Cathedral	4 Mar	Pavilion Theatre
1 Mar	Triskel Christchurch	5 Mar	Station House Theatre

Described by one critic as “hungry, bold and biting”, in recent years the Attacca Quartet has scooped up awards with reckless abandon. It’s hard not to be drawn in by the infectious energy of these four young New Yorkers, whether getting funky with the kooky Minimalism of John Adams, singing in Cambodian and Sanskrit, or teasing out the humour and passion in the oft-neglected string quartets of Franz Joseph Haydn. Effortlessly stylish, formidably precise – but always deeply moving.

Formed in 2003, they are worthy successors to the ground-breaking Kronos Quartet; in their own words, they are “hungry for new repertoire”, and their performances demonstrate just how versatile a modern string quartet can be. For their Irish debut with Music Network, the ensemble has crafted an exquisite programme inspired by words, framing each musical work with readings by poets, playwrights and composers to illuminate the narrative behind the music.

From Beethoven’s setting of the tomb scene of Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet” to John Adams’ own quirky musings on his own work to Janáček’s beautifully tragic letters to the inspiration of his final work, words and music weave together in this program to tell profound stories to the listener.

Programme: Poetic License: The Music of Adams, Beethoven and Janáček Adams: John's Book of Alleged Dances - Toot Nipple, Stubble Crotchet, Pavane and Alligator Escalator Beethoven: String Quartet in F major, Op. 18 No. 1 Janáček: String Quartet No. 2, 'Intimate Letters'

Amy Schroeder, violin | Keiko Tokunaga, violin | Luke Fleming, viola | Andrew Yee, cello



Carducci Quartet with guest cellist Gemma Rosefield

Music Network is delighted to present a series of concerts by the exceptionally talented Carducci Quartet in Mullingar, Wexford, Kilkenny and Dundrum. They are joined by cellist, Gemma Rosefield, described by The Strad as 'a mesmerising musical treasure'.

TOUR DATES

27 Mar	Mullingar Arts Centre	29 Mar	Chapter House of St. Mary's Cathedral
28 Mar	St. Mary's Church	30 Mar	Mill Theatre

Based in the UK, the Carducci Quartet is recognised as one of today's most successful string quartets, performing over 90 concerts worldwide each year whilst running their own annual festival in Highnam, Glos and recording label Carducci Classics, as well as holding residencies at Trinity Laban, Cardiff University and Dean Close School, Cheltenham.

Highly celebrated for their interpretations of contemporary repertoire, the Carducci Quartet is regularly invited to premiere new works and recent highlights include a new String Quartet by John McCabe and Oboe Quintets by Michael Berkeley and Sven-Ingo Koch with Nicholas Daniel. The quartet has received wide critical acclaim for recordings on their own record label 'Carducci Classics'.

Matthew Denton - violin | Michelle Fleming - violin | Eoin Schmidt-Martin - viola | Emma Denton - cello | Gemma Rosefield - cello

PROGRAMME:

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) Suite for Solo Cello No. 1 in G major, BWV 1007

Donnacha Dennehy (b.1970) Pushpulling (2007)

Joaquín Turina (1882-1949) La Oración del Torero (Toreador's Prayer), Op. 34

Franz Schubert (1797-1828) String Quintet in C major, D. 956



Rachel Kolly d'Alba & Christian Chamorel

Brace yourself for the passion and fire of Rachel Kolly d'Alba, touted as one of the best violinists of her generation, in a display of sizzling virtuosity, honeyed vibrato and impeccable taste. On tour with the award-winning Swiss pianist, Christian Chamorel from 8 - 15 April. Performing works by Fauré, Chausson, Franck, Ravel and Raymond Deane.

TOUR DATES

8 Apr	The Pepper Canister Church (St Stephen's)	12 Apr	Regional Cultural Centre
9 Apr	Christ Church Cathedral	14 Apr	Linenhall Arts Centre,
10 Apr	Curtis Auditorium, CIT, Cork School of Music	15 Apr	Pavilion Theatre
11 Apr	St. Iberius Church		

Violinist Rachel Kolly d'Alba is one of those very rare players whose ability to connect with audiences is such that it's easy to overlook her sizzling virtuosity, honeyed vibrato and impeccable taste. A child prodigy who made her debut as a concerto soloist at the age of 12, she has been lauded both for her electrifying intensity on stage and her beautifully nuanced recordings of works by composers such as Saint-Saëns, Chausson, Gershwin, Ravel and Ysaÿe. Violinist Rachel Kolly d'Alba is one of those very rare players whose ability to connect with audiences is such that it's easy to overlook her sizzling virtuosity, honeyed vibrato and impeccable taste.

Rachel Kolly d'Alba's impassioned playing has led to solo performances with many of Europe's finest orchestras, including the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre de l'Opéra de Paris, WDR Cologne, Real Orquesta Sinfónica de Sevilla and the Rotterdam Philharmonic. For this tour she will be joined by the award-winning Swiss pianist Christian Chamorel, a much sought-after chamber musician and soloist who has performed at such venues as the Konzerthaus Berlin, the Palau de la Musica in Valencia and London's Wigmore Hall.

Rachel Kolly d'Alba, violin

Christian Chamorel, piano

Supported by the Embassy of Switzerland in Ireland



We Banjo 3

Up to now, the banjo has been to some extent an unsung instrument, but when the remarkable We Banjo 3 hits the vellum and virtuosity takes flight, any doubts about this fascinating instrument are swept aside in a wave of verve and sheer joie-de-vivre.

TOUR DATES

24 Apr	St John's Theatre and Arts Centre
25 Apr	Birr Theatre and Arts Centre
30 Apr	Ionad Cultúrtha

1 May	Riverbank Arts Centre
2 May	Roscommon Arts Centre
3 May	Mullingar Arts Centre

Sit back and watch the sparks fly as We Banjo 3 – virtuosos Enda and Fergal Scahill with Martin and David Howley - take you on a rollercoaster ride through banjo history from ragtime to reels. Featuring banjos, fiddle, mandolins, guitars, banjolin and David's vocals 'with soul beyond his years', We Banjo 3 combine Irish music with Old-Time American, Ragtime and Bluegrass influences, revealing the banjo's rich legacy from its roots in African and minstrel music through to the Irish traditional sound pioneered by Barney McKenna.

Winners of the Music Network Young Musicwise Award, the group from Galway - brothers Enda and Fergal Scahill, and Martin and David Howley - play with swing and soul, effortlessly combining the best of Irish and Bluegrass banjo music, mining the rich vein of the American Old-Time tradition and thoroughly reinventing the banjo band sound.

Their début album, *Roots of the Banjo Tree*, was voted best trad album in *The Irish Times* in December 2012. The album is a fascinating musical journey through the intertwined traditions of Irish, Old-Time and Bluegrass banjo music and song highlighting their virtuosic technique and interweaving harmonies and soulful song. Available at www.webanjo3.com.



Alasdair Fraser, Natalie Haas and Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh

Music Network presents Scotland's Alasdair Fraser on fiddle, Californian cellist Natalie Haas and Donegal singer and fiddler Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh in an exploration of connections between traditional Scots, Irish and American Old Time music. Join them as they follow in the musical footsteps of tunes that have emigrated and found their way home once more.

TOUR DATES

7 May	Whelan's, Dublin	14 May	Linenhall Arts Centre, Castlebar
8 May	St. John's Theatre & Arts Centre, Listowel	15 May	The Dock, Carrick-On-Shannon
9 May	Garner Lane Arts Centre, Waterford	16 May	Hawk's Well Theatre, Sligo
10 May	Ionad Cultúrtha, Baile Mhúirne	17 May	Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny
11 May	Baltimore Fiddle Fair	18 May	Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge
13 May	Station House Theatre, Clifden		

The remote Hebridean isle of Iona is a unique place, sitting at the crossroads of Irish and Scottish culture and at the same time a sending place for monks and travellers sailing west to the New World. It's the inspiration for Scots fiddler Alasdair Fraser, Californian cellist Natalie Haas and Donegal native Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh as they explore the connections between traditional Irish, Scottish and Old Time American music, following in the musical footsteps of tunes that have emigrated and found their way home once more.

The result: all the raw beauty and energy you'd expect from a community on the edge of the known world, as Haas returns the cello to its historical role at the rhythmic heart of Scottish dance music. It's a dream collaboration for Fraser, long regarded as one of Scotland's premier fiddlers and a proud ambassador for Gaelic culture and traditions. He and Haas have been creating a buzz at festivals and concert halls across Europe and America, and for this tour they are performing for the first time with the inestimable Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh. One of the foremost singers in the Irish language and co-founder of trad legends Altan, Mairéad will revisit the themes of 'Edge' and 'Threshold' explored on her first solo album 'Imeach', together with Haas and Fraser.

Alasdair Fraser (fiddle)

Natalie Haas (cello)

Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh (fiddle, voice)



Séamus Begley (accordion, voice), Chris Stout (fiddle) and Catriona McKay (Scottish harp)

Irish squeeze box maestro and raconteur Séamus Begley joins Scottish duo Catriona McKay and Chris Stout in a celebration of traditional Irish and Scots music. All three are blessed with the gift of spontaneity, so who knows what will happen!

TOUR DATES

16 Sep, 8pm, €12 / €10	Methodist Church, Portlaoise	21 Sep, 3:00pm, €16 / €13.50	Garner Lane Arts Centre, Waterford
17 Sep, 8pm, €12 / €10	Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny	23 Sep, 8pm, €18 / €13	Sugar Club, Dublin
18 Sep, 8pm, €15 / €12	Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge	24 Sep, 8pm, €15 / €12	St. John's Theatre & Arts Centre, Listowel
19 Sep, 8:30pm, €15 / €12	Droichead Arts Centre, Drogheda	25 Sep, 8pm, €18 / €16	Triskel Christchurch, Cork
20 Sep, 8:30pm, €15 / €10 / €5	Ionad Cultúrtha, Baile Mhuirne		

For the past 20 years, Catriona McKay and Chris Stout have captivated audiences with their exhilarating and virtuosic live performances: the cascading rhythms of McKay's harp dovetailing perfectly with Stout's swooping, soulful violin. Their unique sound, a celebration of music from the Northern Isles, imbues everything from Shetland reels to Swedish waltzes with a wonderfully atmospheric, almost cinematic quality.

Regular visitors to Dingle over the years, the pair are long-standing admirers of Kerry legend Séamus Begley, who joins them for this tour. Winner of the TG4 Singer of the Year Award in 2013 – and a fine storyteller to boot – Begley is also renowned for his distinctive playing style, which remains firmly rooted in tradition while sharing the Scottish duo's sense of adventure and spontaneity. Here are three mercurial musicians at the top of their game. Expect sparks to fly one minute, and to have your heartstrings tugged the next!



Chatham Saxophone Quartet

Brace yourself for the incomparable Chatham Saxophone Quartet in three concerts this Autumn. With an eclectic repertoire spanning contemporary, classical and jazz genres, this adventurous ensemble pushes the boundaries of what we know the saxophone quartet to be.

TOUR DATES

23 Sept, 8:15pm, €17.50

St Multose Church, Church Street,
Kinsale, Co. Cork

25 Sept, 8:00 PM, €18 / €15

Mill Theatre Dundrum, Dundrum Town
Centre, Dundrum, Dublin 16

30 Sept, 8:00pm, €15 / €10

All Saints' Church, Castleconnell, Co.
Limerick

Performing an eclectic repertoire spanning contemporary, classical and jazz genres, the unique Chatham Saxophone Quartet pushes the boundaries of what we know the saxophone quartet to be.

Runaway winners of Music Network's Young Musicwide Award in 2012, the superlative Chatham Saxophone Quartet has repeatedly won plaudits for its bravura performances and versatility. Since its foundation in 2008, the Chatham Saxophone Quartet has appeared at Boyle Arts Festival, Ten Days in Dublin festival, Galway Music Residency, the National Concert Hall, and the Twisted Pepper, and has recently performed to packed out houses at Dingle's Féile na Bealtaine, Iniscealtra Festival of Arts, Dublin's Kaleidoscope Night at the Odessa Club and Music Network's Culture Night concert at Dublin Castle.

The quartet's members - Daniel Dunne (soprano saxophone), Darren Hatch (alto saxophone), Ciaran Sutton (tenor saxophone) and Ian Finlay (baritone saxophone) - all actively compose and arrange new works for the group. They have worked closely with the RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet and ConTempo String Quartet in transcribing the string quartet repertoire for wind instruments. This unusual collaboration with professional string quartets has provided invaluable insight and inspiration to embrace a wide spectrum of music. Along with pursuing their interest in string quartet repertoire, the quartet is committed to commissioning and performing works by Irish composers and in bringing contemporary classical music to a wider audience.

Chatham Saxophone Quartet is currently working on its debut album, to be released in Spring 2015, which will focus on new music by contemporary Irish composers.



Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh's In My Mind - a solo fiddle and film show

Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh sets off on a unique journey to the heart of Irish music. His mission: to boldly explore the beauty and humour of traditional music, aided and abetted by his 10-string fiddle, a film projector, and a host of "virtual" guests.

TOUR DATES

11 Oct, 8pm, €12 / €10	Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny	16 Oct, 8pm, €15 / €12	Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge
12 Oct, 6pm, €12 / €10	The Model, Sligo	17 Oct, 8pm, €16 / €14	Pavilion Theatre, Dun Laoghaire
13 Oct, 8pm, €16 / €14	Linenhall Arts Centre, Castlebar	18 Oct, 8pm, €15 / €12	Triskel Christchurch, Cork
14 Oct, 8pm, €18 / €13	Sugar Club, Dublin	19 Oct, 8pm, €15 / €12	Tipperary Excel Centre, Tipperary
15 Oct, 8pm, €16 / €14	Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray		

Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh - hardanger d'amore, film projector, loops

Just how would you set about showing the beauty, depth and humour of traditional Irish music to someone who had never heard it? Armed with his trusty 10-string "Hardanger d'Amore" fiddle and a film projector, Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh sets out to do exactly that in his unique and wonderful take on what makes Irish traditional music beautiful.

Inside the projector are "virtual guests", friends whom he has filmed: musician, dancer, singer, poet and landscape, each of whom make the other half of a duet with a live Caoimhín. A better look at what goes on inside a musician's head could not be had, not if you cut it in half and hinged it open.

In My Mind is a window into the world of music-making, from a musician equally at home playing traditional Irish slides and polkas as exploring contemporary musical landscapes.

One of the most acclaimed (and prolific) traditional musicians of his generation, Ó Raghallaigh has performed in such venues as the Lincoln Centre in NYC, the Barbican in London, and the National Concert Hall in Dublin. In addition to being an established solo artist, he performs duos with accordion player Brendan Begley and Dublin uilleann piper Mick O'Brien, plays in a trio with Martin Hayes and Peadar Ó Riada, and is a member of two groups: The Gloaming and This Is How We Fly.



Furnace Mountain (USA)

Straight from the Appalachian mountains, Virginian act Furnace Mountain unleash their own distinctive take on rootsy Americana, breathing new life into old-time, bluegrass and folk tunes.

TOUR DATES

28 Oct, 8pm, €18 / €13	Sugar Club, Dublin	2 Nov, 8pm, €12 / €10	Station House Theatre, Clifden
30 Oct, 8pm, €16 / €14	Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray	3 Nov, 8pm, €16 / €14	Linenhall Arts Centre, Castlebar
31 Oct, 8:30pm, €16 / €14	Droichead Arts Centre, Drogheda	4 Nov, 8pm, €16 / €14	Pavilion Theatre, Dun Laoghaire
1 Nov, 8pm, €12 / €10	Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny		

One of the fast-rising stars of the American roots scene, Furnace Mountain have true Appalachian soil caked onto their boots. With a repertoire largely drawn from the old-time, bluegrass and folk ballad tradition, the quartet's members all grew up on or near the mountain in Virginia bearing the same name as the group.

At times lively and raucous, at times poignant and poetic, Furnace Mountain have won critical acclaim for their fresh, authentic sound, which combines the heart-worn and effortlessly sweet vocal harmonies of Aimee Curl and Morgan Morrison with fiddle playing that evokes everything from keening bagpipes to lonesome train whistles – with some dazzling mandolin chops thrown in for good measure. The band have performed at folk and bluegrass festivals across the globe, gracing stages from the Yangtze River in China to the banks of the Shenandoah River, where they are the host band of the world famous Watermelon Park Festival each year.

Aimee Curl (bass, vocals)

Danny Knicely (mandolin, vocals, fiddle)

Dave Van Deventer (fiddle, vocals)

Morgan Morrison (bouzouki, vocals)

Furnace Mountain will continue their journey around Ireland with Moving On Music, touring to Belfast, Ballymoney, Bangor, Downpatrick and Armagh from 5th November 2014.



Leonard Elschenbroich, solo cello (Germany)

Join award-winning cellist Leonard Elschenbroich, one of the most charismatic musicians of his generation, in an evening of masterpieces for solo cello by Bach, Hindemith, Tavener, Piatti, Lombardi and Kevin Volans.

TOUR DATES

19 Nov, 8pm, €18 / €13	Freemasons' Hall, Dublin	25 Nov, 8pm, €12 / €10	Station House Theatre, Clifden
20 Nov, 8pm, €15 / €10	All Saints' Church, Castleconnell, Limerick	26 Nov, 8pm, €18 / €14 / €6 (Students)	Aula Maxima, NUI Galway
21 Nov, 8pm, €20 / €10	The Model, Sligo	27 Nov, 8pm, €16 / €14	Linenhall Arts Centre, Castlebar
22 Nov, 8pm, €15 / €10	Castalia Hall, Ballytobin, Callan, Co. Kilkenny	28 Nov, 8pm, €12 / €10	Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny
23 Nov, 8pm, €16 / €14	Birr Theatre, Birr	29 Nov, 8pm, €18 / €16	Pavilion Theatre, Dun Laoghaire

Performing an intriguing programme of music with which he has a deep affinity, Leonard Elschenbroich will interweave his playing with anecdotes and stories of personal connections to the pieces. The young German cellist – lauded for his gorgeous, singing tone and wonderfully expressive playing – will offer insights into music and the life of a musician, while serving up some of the most exquisite solo cello playing you'll hear this year.

Chosen as a BBC New Generation Artist in 2012, Elschenbroich has won a slew of awards and performed at many of the world's most prestigious venues, including the Albert Hall, the Auditorium du Louvre and the Concertgebouw. Much in demand as a chamber musician, he has also appeared at festivals throughout the world with artists such as Gidon Kremer, the Sitkovetsky Trio and the Piano Trio he formed with Alexei Grynyuk and Nicola Benedetti.

Programme:

J.S. Bach: Suite No. 1 in G major, BWV 1007

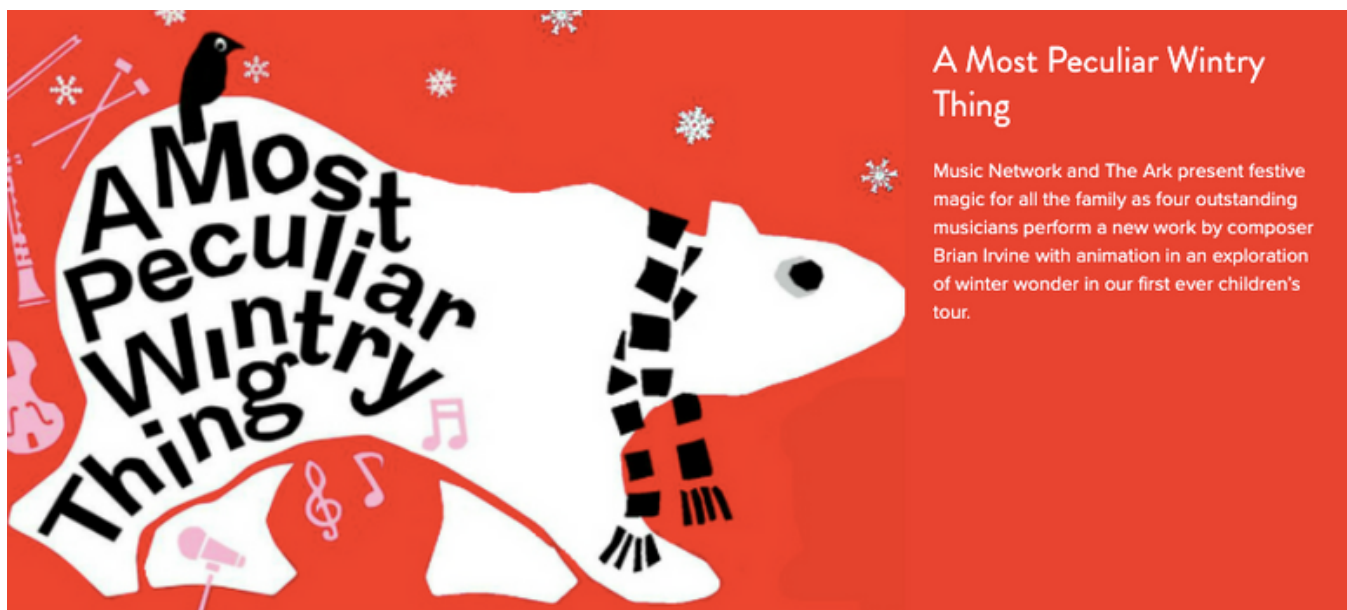
Paul Hindemith: Solo Sonata, Op. 25, No. 3

John Tavener: Threnos

Kevin Volans: A Short Walk in the Gardens of Solitude

Carlo Alfredo Piatti: 12 Caprices, Op. 25 (No. 7 Maestoso / No.11 Adagio - Allegro)

Lucca Lombardi: Essay 3 (Steiner)



TOUR DATES 1 - 21 DEC 2014

Castlebar, Sligo, Bray, Virginia, Letterkenny, Portlaoise, Tralee, Newbridge, Drogheda

Winter: the most enchanting of seasons...

As the nights draw in and the days get colder, a rolling snowball of four wondrous musicians and some light fingered animation will explore the magic and mystery of all things snowy with favourite memories of winter and some new ones too.

With a dynamic blend of original music, improvisation and audience interaction, this brand new festive music show by composer Brian Irvine has been commissioned and specially created for children, their schools and families.

Featuring: Matthew Bourne (piano), Matthew Sharp (voice & cello), Alex Petcu (percussion), Paul Roe (clarinet), Emma Fisher (visuals). Music by Brian Irvine, lyrics by John McIllduff and animations by Matthew Robins.

The national tour of A Most Peculiar Wintry Thing is funded by an Arts Council Touring Award and is the first production from a new strategic partnership between Music Network and The Ark.

<https://youtu.be/wDNct4trKY0>