



National Tours

2020



Anxo Lorenzo, Jim Murray, Dónal O'Connor & Jack Talty

A quartet of Galician and Irish artists who have made a massive contribution to music, in both local and international arenas.

TOUR DATES

Tues 14 Jan, 8:00 pm (doors 7:30 pm)	The Sugar Club, Dublin 2	Tues 21 Jan, 8:00 pm	glór, Ennis
Wed 15 Jan, 8:00 pm	Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge	Wed 22 Jan, 8:00 pm	Triskel Arts Centre, Cork
Thurs 16 Jan, 8:00 pm	Linenhall Arts Centre, Castlebar	Thurs 23 Jan, 8:00 pm	Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray
Fri 17 Jan, 8:00 pm	Station House Theatre, Clifden	Fri 24 Jan, 8:00 pm	National Opera House, Wexford
Sat 18 Jan, 8:00 pm	Droichead Arts Centre, Drogheda	Sat 25 Jan, 8:00 pm	Ionad Cultúrtha, Baile Mhúirne
Sun 19 Jan, 8:00 pm	Pavilion Theatre, Dún Laoghaire	Sun 26 Jan, 8:00 pm	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
Mon 20 Jan, 8:00 pm	Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny	Thurs 30 Jan, 8:00 pm	Kings Place, London

Over the past ten years Anxo Lorenzo, Jim Murray, Dónal O'Connor and Jack Talty have been at the forefront of highly creative Galician and Irish music-making – as players, composers, arrangers, accompanists, producers and record label owners. Their individual talents as working musicians have seen them initiate hundreds of thoughtful and innovative projects, and the set list on this tour will include a Music Network commission from all four performers, their virtuosity and profound understanding of the music underpinning any daring off-piste exploration they might undertake.

Add to that a sharp intelligence and gentle curiosity about where this music sits in the world, how it relates to the world outside and you have a quartet of artists who have made a massive contribution to music in both local and international arenas. Thrilling, soulful, sincere and highly communicative, theirs is a music of people and place, of stillness, of confluence and of us.

Anxo Lorenzo, gaita/whistles

Jim Murray, guitar

Dónal O'Connor, fiddle



Alina Bzhezhinska Quartet featuring Tony Kofi, Larry Bartley & Joel Prime

A pioneering jazz harpist who brings a new perspective to this supposedly dainty instrument.

TOUR DATES

Wed 5 Feb, 8:00 pm	The Sugar Club, Dublin 2	Mon 10 Feb, 8:00pm	Station House Theatre, Clifden
Thurs 6 Feb, 8:00 pm	Triskel Arts Centre, Cork	Wed 12 Feb, 8:00 pm	National Opera House, Wexford
Fri 7 Feb, 8:00 pm	Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray	Thurs 13 Feb, 8:00 pm	The Dock, Carrick-On-Shannon
Sat 8 Feb, 8:30 pm	The Courthouse Arts Centre, Tinahely	Fri 14 Feb, 8:00 pm	glór, Ennis
Sun 9 Feb, 6.00 pm	St. Peter's Church of Ireland, Portlaoise	Sat 15 Feb, 8:00 pm	Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny

If you think the harp is for angels then Alina Bzhezhinska and her quartet will set you right. She brings a new perspective to this supposedly dainty instrument, taking the ground-breaking work of Alice Coltrane in the 1960s as a stepping-off point for her own flighty improvisations and sonic adventures.

Capable of high-octane lapel-grabbing statements, she can also create extraordinary lyricism and soul within her own compositions and this versatility and curiosity has marked her out as a pioneer in the field of Jazz Harp. Now there's two words you don't often hear in the same sentence, but let's get used to them because this musician is here to stay, constantly challenging the notion of boundaries in music, roughing up the harp with tones and textures that would ruffle many an angel wing.

Alina Bzhezhinska, harp

Tony Kofi, saxophones

Larry Bartley, double bass

Joel Prime, drums | percussion



Saltarello Trio

Condensing a thousand years of music into just two hours might be a bit of a challenge, but Saltarello Trio are here to step up to the plate!

TOUR DATES

Tues 25 Feb, 7.30pm	Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris	Tues 3 Mar, 8:00 pm	National Opera House, Wexford
Thurs 27 Feb, 7:00pm	First Presbyterian Church, Belfast	Wed 4 Mar, 7:00 pm	Lutherhaus, 24 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2
Fri 28 Feb, 1pm	Great Hall, Ulster University Magee, Derry	Thurs 5 Mar, 7:30 pm	CIT Cork School of Music
Sat 29 Feb, 8pm	Flowerfield Arts Centre, Portstewart	Fri 6 Mar, 7:30 pm	The Large Room, City Hall, Waterford
Sun 1 Mar, 8:00 pm	Station House Theatre, Clifden	Sat 7 Mar, 8:00 pm	Tullynally Castle, Castlepollard
Mon 2 Mar, 8:00 pm	Linenhall Arts Centre, Castlebar		

A lot can happen in a thousand years. Condensing it into just two hours might be a bit of a challenge, but Saltarello Trio step up to the plate, tracing a clear musical line from Hildegard Von Bingen to David Fennessy, taking in multiple stops along the way to admire the work of Dowland, Vivaldi and Purcell.

The trio are all very familiar to Irish audiences, their collective and vast experience in the fields of classical and contemporary music have brought us many fine and memorable occasions, but for this outing they seek out the colours and textures of folk music to inform their witty arrangements. In this, they highlight the connections and similarities that exist between soundworlds of today and of hundreds of years ago, and Garth Knox's new composition, specially commissioned for this tour by Music Network, will sit across the centuries, mediating a conversation between past and present.

The trio's gorgeous swirling string lines and tasty percussion open a new window on old music, proving that a good tune can speak easily to all of us, no matter what the language, no matter when the time.

Garth Knox, medieval fiddle | viola d'amore | viola

Sylvain Lemêtre, percussion

Agnès Vesterman, cello

Hildegard von Bingen Ave Generosa | Guillaume de Machault Tels rit au matin | Medieval Dances arr. Saltarello | Henry Purcell Music for a while | John Dowland Flow my tears | Antonio Vivaldi Largo and Presto from Concerto for viola d'amore in D minor, RDV 393 | Marin Marais Folies D'Espagne for viola d'amore and cello | David Fennessy Three movements from 5 Hofer Photographs for solo cello | Gérard Pesson Tafelmusik for solo percussion | Garth Knox Cloak (Music Network Commission) | Garth Knox Song from the sea | Black Brittany (traditional tunes) arr. Saltarello

Music Network: Live and Local with Christine Tobin & Phil Robson

Friday 14 August, 8pm
€5 / €10 / €15
Ionad Cultúrtha, Baile Mhúirne



Sublime jazz duo Christine Tobin and Phil Robson present a night of live music as part of Music Network: Live and Local.

Dates & Venues

Friday 14 Aug - 8pm
Ionad Cultúrtha

[BOOK NOW](#)

Christine Tobin Voice Phil Robson Guitar Currently based between the countryside of Northwest Roscommon and New York City, Christine Tobin is an Irish born vocalist and composer. Her authentic sound was described by The Guardian as “Tobin’s 24 carat voice” while praising her both for the poetry of her compositions and the warmth of her voice. Her style, although rooted in jazz, is eclectic and draws on a broad range of influences. Christine has led various award-winning projects including her presentation of WB Yeats’ poetry *Sailing to Byzantium* which won a British Composer Award, and her imaginative versions of Leonard Cohen classics *A Thousand Kisses Deep* which took the Herald Angel Award at the Edinburgh Festival. In 2014 she won Jazz Vocalist of the Year at the Parliamentary Jazz Awards. She appears in the most important venues in NYC such as Birdland, The Jazz Standard, Mezzrow and National Sawdust, as well as in concert halls, clubs and international festivals around the world. Christine & Phil also curate the popular jazz & mixed media series *Tobin’s Run on 51* at the Irish Arts Center, NYC.

Phil Robson is internationally regarded as a highly versatile and creative player who appears in all kinds of diverse settings, as well as being a renowned bandleader & composer. He has played with a broad cross section of artists such as Barbra Streisand, Django Bates, Kenny Wheeler, Bob Brookmeyer, Adam Nussbaum and Donny McCaslin among others. As a leader, Phil has fronted many innovative projects including The Phil Robson Quartet featuring Jed Levy, with Peter Slavov and Clarence Penn, The Immeasurable Code Quintet with Mark Turner, Julian Arguelles Gareth Lockrane, Michael Janisch and Ernesto Simpson, Six Strings & The Beat with Peter Herbert, Gene Calderazzo, Mandy Drummond, Jennymay Logan, Naomi Fairhurst, Kate Shortt and more.

Long term band members and collaborators, Christine and Phil bring their highly acclaimed approach to jazz to the stage offering audiences a night of soulful poetry and alluring guitar. Their programme will include originals, new arrangements of Leonard Cohen, settings of poems by WB Yeats and Paul Muldoon alongside compelling versions of jazz classics and contemporary songs.

Music Network: Live and Local with Dermot Byrne & Steve Cooney

Friday 14 August, 7pm
€10 (early bird) / €12
The Dock Summer Sessions at The
Market Yard, Carrick-On-Shannon



Two of Ireland's most lauded traditional musicians perform together for Music Network: Live and Local.

Dermot Byrne Accordion
Steve Cooney Guitar

Dates & Venues

Friday 14 Aug - 7pm
The Dock Summer Sessions at The
Market Yard

[BOOK NOW](#)

Dermot Byrne's seemingly effortless playing, combined with great subtlety and a faultless ear, makes him one of the finest accordion players of his generation. As well as his mastery of the Donegal style and repertoire, Dermot can turn with ease to other styles and traditions such as French musette or South American choro music. A member of the renowned Irish traditional music band Altan from 1994 to 2013, Dermot has also collaborated with many great musicians including Seamus and Manus McGuire, Sharon Shannon, Frankie Gavin, Pierre Schryer, Tim O'Brien, The Stunning, Salsa Celtica and the late jazz violinist Stephane Grappelli. Dermot's self-titled solo recording has received great critical acclaim.

Steve Cooney was born in Melbourne, Australia and came to Ireland in 1980. He is best known for his development of an influential style of guitar accompaniment to traditional Irish dance music in West Kerry. Maintaining his connections with the Aboriginal culture, into which he was initiated, Steve has ancestral links with Tipperary, Cavan and Galway. Having participated in the making of more than 250 CDs either as a guitar or bass player, or as producer and engineer, Steve is also a poet and songwriter. He has worked with many iconic international artists in rock and country music but his primary focus is Irish traditional music and fusions of that genre. He recently released a CD of solo guitar interpretations of ancient harp tunes, *Ceol Ársa Cláirsí: Tunes of the Irish Harpers for Solo Guitar*, which received outstanding reviews.

No strangers to performing together on stage and long-awaited since the beginning of lockdown, Dermot and Steve will take live traditional music to new heights. The concert's programme promises to be full of lift and drive, combining stunning technique with rich, raw, inherent talent.

Music Network: Live and Local with Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh & Gerry O'Beirne



Friday 14 August, 7.30pm
€12 / €15
National Opera House, Wexford



Two of Ireland's most sublime musical voices perform together as part of Music Network: Live and Local.

Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh Voice & Flute
Gerry O'Beirne Voice & Guitars

Dates & Venues

Friday 14 Aug - 7.30pm
National Opera House

[BOOK NOW](#)

Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh is an award-winning traditional singer and musician from Corca Dhuibhne, Co. Kerry. A leading exponent of the sean nós style, her repertoire also includes songs from a wide variety of folk and contemporary sources. Her childhood in West Kerry saw her immersed in a rich cultural environment and vital living tradition, which was to be hugely influential on the foundation of her distinctive vocal and instrumental sound. She has enjoyed a successful career as a touring artist, as lead singer and flute player with the Irish traditional supergroup Danú as well as a solo artist.

Renowned song-writer, singer and virtuoso of the 6 and 12 string guitars, Gerry O'Beirne has toured the world as a solo artist while also performing with many well-known musicians and groups including Andy Irvine, Kevin Burke, The Sharon Shannon Band and The Waterboys to name just a few. Gerry has also performed at the White House, opened for the Grateful Dead and has played electric guitar with Marianne Faithfull.

Gerry's own compositions blend the passion found in traditional music with the freshness of contemporary song. Shadows Falling, a new song composed especially for Music Network's Butterfly Sessions, is an exquisite example of this master craftsman at work. Many of his songs have been recorded by well-known artists on the Irish music scene including Mary Black, Maura O'Connell and of course, Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh.

Muireann and Gerry have been playing together for over 20 years both on stages around the world and in their hometown of Dingle, Co. Kerry. During the course of that time they have formed a special bond that gives them a keen understanding of each other's music. Their programme will consist of traditional tunes and songs from Muireann with Gerry's unique accompaniment, as well as Gerry's own compositions performed by both artists. It promises to be an intimate night of friendship, music and song.

Music Network: Live and Local with Ioana Petcu-Colan & Alex Petcu



Friday 14 August, 1pm
€12 / €15
Triskel Arts Centre, Cork city



Virtuosic sibling duo Ioana Petcu-Colan and Alex Petcu present a lunchtime programme of bold and beautiful violin and percussion music as part of Music Network: Live and Local.

Ioana Petcu-Colan Violin

Alex Petcu Marimba/Percussion

Dates & Venues

Friday 14 Aug - 1pm
Triskel Arts Centre

[BOOK NOW](#)

When it comes to musical talent, it's fair to say that the old adage of the apple not falling far from the tree rings especially true. Sister and brother duo Ioana and Alex grew up in Cork with well-known Romanian musician parents, Adrian Petcu and Ruxandra Petcu-Colan. Even without lockdowns, music would have undoubtedly been a daily part of their learn-from-home agenda from their very earliest years.

Having clocked up an impressive solo performing career to date, Ioana lives in Bangor and is Associate Leader of the Ulster Orchestra. As a soloist, Ioana has performed many of the great concertos from Beethoven to Shostakovich, as well as more contemporary offerings from Philip Glass, John Tavener and Arvo Pärt. Her highly acclaimed recording of the Bruch Concerto with RTÉ Concert Orchestra is frequently aired on RTÉ Lyric fm.

Alex has stayed a bit closer to home in Cork, but has established himself both nationally and internationally as a percussionist of the finest calibre. While performing in a wide variety of settings with a multitude of orchestras, ensembles and groups, Alex's main specialty lies in solo and chamber music. Recent soloist appearances include performances at the West Cork Chamber Music Festival and National Concert Hall as well as with both RTÉ orchestras and the Irish Chamber Orchestra.

Alex's debut album, Alex Petcu: In Time, released on the RTÉ lyric fm label showcases both seminal works and new contributions to the percussion repertoire. A gifted composer, Alex was commissioned by Music Network to write a new piece Cross | Paths for the Bangers and Crash Percussion Ensemble tour last year.

At this lunchtime concert, expect impressive arrangements of works by composers including Telemann and Debussy alongside Piazzolla's high-spirited Histoire du Tango. Like so many families around the country, the Petcus will have had to make do with being together-apart for many of the last few months. This concert promises to be a joyful reunion for performers and audience alike.

Music Network: Live and Local with Albiez Trio



Friday 14 August, 8pm
€12 / €15
glór, Ennis



Albiez Trio brings their unique, globally enriched style of Irish traditional music to glór for Music Network: Live and Local.

Tóla Custy Fiddle

Laoise Kelly Harp

Cormac Breatnach Whistles

Dates & Venues

Friday 14 Aug - 8pm
glór

[BOOK NOW](#)

Fiddler Tóla Custy, harper Laoise Kelly and whistle player Cormac Breatnach formed the Albiez Trio in the idyllic surrounds of the French Alps at the CeltiCimes music festival back in 2014. As a group with varied backgrounds, their music has many influences from across many regions.

Cormac grew up in an Irish/Spanish speaking family and was immersed in the Irish music tradition from early childhood. Throughout his long career he has played with artists as diverse as Elvis Costello, Vanessa Williams, Donal Lunny, Bernard Purdie and Susan McKeown and has recorded many albums to date. Highly influenced by jazz and blues, he has recently acknowledged and embraced his Spanish/Basque roots bringing this inspiration into his musical work.

Laoise Kelly, TG4 Gradam Ceoil Musician of the Year 2020, is regarded as one of the most significant harpers of her generation. She is known for her use of a new style of harp playing, which combines the techniques of fingerpads in the bass and fingernails in the melody on a thirty-four gut strung Paddy Cafferky harp. Director of Achill International Harp Festival, Laoise has performed and recorded with an eclectic range of artists from The Chieftains to Kate Bush and has released 3 critically acclaimed solo albums.

Tóla Custy is a fiddle player and composer from County Clare. Extensive touring around the world has exposed his ear to many musical experiences, such as Breton, Bulgarian, American and Māori music. With these influences, Tóla has sought to create a sound of his own whilst remaining sympathetic to the subtle nuances in Irish traditional music. He has performed many a sell-out concert in Ireland and the USA and is the founding member of worldwide touring ensembles such as Calico, Guidewires, The Bowhouse Quintet, Dán, Albiez Trio and Tradivarious.

2020 may be the summer of the staycation, but there'll be plenty of opportunities for vicarious musical travel as this remarkable trio take to the stage.

Ye Vagabonds & Cormac Begley

17 September 2020 — 20 January 2021

€5-€20

Dún Laoghaire, Sligo, Cork, Baile Mhúirne, Dublin (cancelled), Ennis, Stradbally, Clifden, Letterkenny



Music Network presents triple RTÉ Radio 1 Folk Awards winners Ye Vagabonds on tour in a new collaboration with renowned concertina player Cormac Begley.

Ye Vagabonds brothers – Brían and Diarmuid Mac Gloinn – are fast earning a ticket on the legend bus. With trademark close harmony singing, lean and tasty accompaniment and the rare ability to tell a good story in song, it's little surprise that they became triple RTÉ Radio 1 Folk awardees last year. In September they take to the road in a new Music Network collaboration with the superb West-Kerry concertina player Cormac Begley. No stranger to musical acclaim himself, Cormac's spectacular debut solo album received nine 5-star reviews and was shortlisted for the Irish Times Album of the Year 2018. Weaving seamlessly between traditional and contemporary songs and tunes, this spellbinding trio will remind us just how precious live music is.

Dates & Venues

Thursday 17 Sep - 8pm

Pavilion Theatre, Dún Laoghaire

[BOOK NOW](#)

Friday 18 Sep - 8pm

Hawk's Well Theatre, Sligo

[BOOK NOW](#)

Saturday 19 Sep - 7.45pm & 9.30pm

Triskel Arts Centre, Cork

[BOOK NOW](#)

Sunday 20 Sep - 8pm

Ionad Cultúrtha, Baile Mhúirne

[BOOK NOW](#)

Tuesday 22 Sep - 7.30pm

CANCELLED - St. Ann's, Dawson Street, Dublin 2

Wednesday 23 Sep - 8pm

glór, Ennis

[BOOK NOW](#)

Thursday 24 Sep - 7pm

The Malt House, Stradbally

[BOOK NOW](#)

Friday 25 Sep - 8pm

Station House Theatre, Clifden

[BOOK NOW](#)

Saturday 26 Sep - 8pm

An Grianán Theatre, Letterkenny

[BOOK NOW](#)