



Armagh Pipers Club

NEWSLETTER 2 November 2020

NATIONAL HARP DAY

National Harp Day/Lá na Cruite has been growing in stature over the past couple of years. This year all the performances were online and APC's two harp teachers, Eilís Lavelle and Emer Mallon, organised some great music with their pupils on the day's chosen theme, the music of O'Carolan. We also enjoyed the online performances of Eilís and Niall Hanna at the Achill Harp Festival.

INTERNATIONAL UILLEANN PIPING DAY 7 November

Next Saturday, Na Píobairí Uilleann co-ordinates International Uilleann Piping Day. Our piping teachers have invited our current and former piping students to record some pieces, and we have contributions from places as far apart as Cork, New York, California, and Glasgow as well as closer to home. Watch online at our home page, armaghpipers.com, from 3pm.



FONN FRIDAY 13 November

Following on our first virtual Fonn Friday with Diane Ní Chanainn and Eilís Lavelle, we are delighted to welcome two musicians from Armagh whose musical careers began in the Pipers Club for our November concert, showing at armaghpipers.com from 8pm on the 13th.

Brian Finnegan has been playing whistle and flute from an early age and is recognised world-wide as an amazing and innovative exponent of both instruments. He started his first band Upstairs in a Tent in his teens and released his first solo CD, *When the Party's Over*, in 1993. A few years later he founded the supergroup Flook and has toured with them ever since. The band were awarded best band in the BBC2 Folk Awards in 2006. Much of Brian's current touring is in Asia with the acclaimed Russian rock group Aquarium. Brian is also recognised as a composer of complex and challenging tunes and is looked up to by all APCs young whistle and flute players.





Jarlath Henderson, like Brian, was a talented and enthusiastic pupil who started to learn his music on tin whistle, soon moving on to pipes. He received a lot of inspiration from the pipers who came to Armagh for the William Kennedy Piping Festival each year. Jarlath became the youngest and first Irish winner of BBC Young Folk Musician in 2003 and with the award came many opportunities to tour abroad. However, he opted to study medicine in Scotland, and now combines his career in music with that of a doctor in Glasgow. His first piping CD was

recorded with Ross Ainslie whom he met at WKPF and it was released in 2008. More recently he has been developing his singing talents and his song CD, *Hearts Broken, Heads Turned* is a wonderful re-interpretation of Ulster's Traditional song repertoire.

Make sure to tune in.

DICK MACRAE AWARD

There are only a few days left to send us an account of your musical activities during lockdown. Individual pupils or families in the Club are eligible for the award which will be announced on Saturday. Let us know how you progressed at your music, tunes/songs you learned, music you composed, maybe a new instrument you took up, musicians you researched on YouTube or CDs etc.

CAROLS NIGHT 18 December

Like the rest of our activities this term, our Carols Night will also go online. We welcome videos of songs/carols/poems from individual singers/musicians, or family performances. If you would like to contribute a poem or story relating to Christmas, we need these as well and can email you poems in English or Irish. In order to avoid duplication, let Pearse or Eithne know as soon as possible what piece you have chosen (or reply on Singers WhatsApp). Pearse recorded some lovely carols for last year's concert which you can listen to. We have one recording already in – the *Breton Christmas Carol* from Lúnasa's *Cas / Christmas Polka/Christmas Eve Reel*, so don't include these. Record your video in landscape format and introduce your song/tune (i.e. its name, where you learned it, anything you know about it). Wear your Christmas jumper or hat. We need all your videos in by 11 December. Upload here: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/QOuZsSE7dQdUA0PPvOZw>