

# Oriel Traditional Music Archive

## Bailiú | Caomhnú | Scaipeadh

*Our mission is to make a comprehensive collection of materials for the appreciation and study of Irish traditional music, story-telling, song and dance from the Oriel region.*

## Teagmháil | Contact



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www.otma.ie



Oriel Traditional Music Archive



OTMA\_ceol



OTMA Oriel Traditional Music Archive  
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Gaeláras  
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*I knew as I entered that i had come through fields that were part of*  
**no earthly estate**

*Patrick Kavanagh*



**NUALA KENNEDY**



**GERRY O'CONNOR**



**EILÍS LAVELLE**

A CONCERT OF MUSIC AND SONG FROM THE ORIEL TRADITIONAL MUSIC ARCHIVE

**SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2025 - 8PM - €20**

**PATRICK KAVANAGH CENTRE**

Inniskeen Co. Monaghan

<https://patrickkavanaghcentre.com/events/>

Detail from painting:  
'Treagh Trees' by Geraldine Martin

**OTMA**  
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## Meet the Artists

**Gerry O'Connor** (fiddle) is from Dundalk, County Louth, born into a family of musicians, dancers and singers. His mother Rose (née O'Brien) taught the fiddle to Gerry and his siblings at home and his father Peter was a singer whose seven uncles all played music. His music career spans five decades with groups Skylark, Lá Lugh, Oirialla and The Irish Rovers among others and as a solo artist. He has always tried to source material from his local area and holds a MA degree researching the Donnellan Collection – Dance Music of Oriel. He is internationally recognised as one of the leading fiddlers of his generation.

Dundalk native **Nuala Kennedy** (flute & songs) is a critically acclaimed and award-winning touring and recording artist. She is a musical adventurer who is recognized world-wide as a superlative performer of traditional music. She has recorded and toured with many artists including Solas, The Alt, Janis Ian, Tara Breen, Eamon O'Leary and with Gerry in the band Oirialla.

**Eilís Lavelle** (harp), from Castleshane, County Monaghan recently completed a PhD at Queen's University Belfast, focusing on scribal practices found in manuscripts collected by Edward Bunting. Eilís learned her music at the Armagh Pipers Club and is fortunate to have performed worldwide at various festivals, giving concerts, workshops and masterclasses. In recent years, she has gained extensive experience as a performer and teacher of the harp, having travelled throughout the USA, Canada and Europe.

## About the Concert

The Oriel Traditional Music Archive are pleased to present this showcase performance of local music from the Oriel region, a historically renowned centre of culture and arts. With funding from the Arts Council of Ireland, we have been able to source donations of local music and process them digitally for publication on the OTMA website. The performers have spent time researching music and song available within the archive and rehearsing their selections in order to present this programme of Oriel music and song. The concert will be recorded by OTMA and made available to an international audience via our website. It is our aspiration that this will add to the ongoing revival of Oriel music and provide accessible source material for future musicians and researchers worldwide.

# Concert Programme

## **1. Jackie Hearst Single Jigs: Jessie's, The Lass of Praties, The White Cockade**

The Jackie Hearst International Céilí Band was probably the best-known céilí band in Ireland and Britain during the late 1950s/early 1960s and this was one of their sets.

## **2. Single Jig & Reels: Huish the Cat, Curl Her Locks, New Line to Dublin**

From the Donnellan Collection published in the Louth Archaeological Journal in 1909.

## **3. Air & Jigs: The Nurse Putting the Child to Sleep, Lord Rossmore's Tally-Ho in the Morning, The Monaghan Scutcher**

Collected from Patrick Byrne, from Magheracloone, Co Monaghan, the harper for the Shirley Family in Carrickmacross. These tunes are from the Bunting Collection & the Bogue Collection.

## **4. Song: Ag Bruach Dhún Réimhe**

Collected by Lorcán Ó Muireadhaigh and written by Art Mac Cumhaigh (1738-1773). This is a lament for the loss of the old Gaelic order. He addresses it to a song thrush that landed near him while he sheltered from a storm in the ruins of Glasdrummond Castle, Co. Armagh, the former seat of the O'Neills.

## **5. Jigs: Wellington's Advance, Aunt Lizzie's New Lancer Quadrille**

Elizabeth O'Brien (1872-1950), a grand-aunt of Gerry, was a primary school teacher from Moynalty, north County Meath. She left a collection of 105 melodies in a music manuscript notebook. This tune is also played in Quebec, Canada, where it is known as "Le Garçon Volage" or The Fickle Lad.

## **6. Air & Single Reel: Carrickmacross Air, Never Too Young to Marry Yet**

The first air was collected by Edward Bunting from a woman in Dundalk in 1794 and the second is from the Patrick McGahon Collection 1817. Patrick McGahon lived in Dungooley in North Louth, close to Forkhill in South Armagh.

## **7. Song: Voice from the Sea**

Found in an old book 'Songs of Ulster' by Padraic Gregory (1912), the air to this evocative song was lost over time. Nuala breathed new life into the lyrics with a melody of her own.

## **8. Air & Single Jigs: The Rose in the Gap, Off She Goes, Daisy Bell**

The first melody comes from the Donnellan Collection and the single jigs were selected from the Lizzie O'Brien Collection.

## **9. Song & Quadrille: My Father's a Hedger and Ditcher, Quadrille**

These pieces are associated with Mary Ann Carolan (1902 -1985) who was the eldest daughter of Pat Usher, a singer and musician from Tinure, south County Louth. The Usher house was a ceili house where musicians, singers and dancers gathered in the 1930s.

## **10. Highland, Quadrille, Highland & Reel: Switch Her Through the Heather, Peter McArdle's, Down the Meadows / Cross the Downs, The Scutcher's Reels**

From the Donnellan Collection published in the Louth Archaeological Journal in 1909.