

Birr Festival of Music

FRI 20 – SUN 22
AUGUST 2021

Incorporating

The
Trench
Award



LIVE – ON STAGE – OUTDOORS – ONLINE

Birr, Co. Offaly

057 9122911 www.birrfestivalofmusic.com



FRIDAY 20 AUG

Bruno Caproni & Julian Evans

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre - 8.00pm €20/18

Internationally acclaimed baritone **Bruno Caproni**

& pianist **Julian Evans** perform
opera arias, musical classics
and great piano solos in
a wonderful opening
Festival Concert.

Having appeared in
the world's leading
opera houses and
concert venues,
Bruno & Julian
return to Birr with a
programme to include
the music of Verdi,
Schubert, Chopin,
Corngold, Rodgers &
Hammerstein and more.



Vox Amicum Brass

Vox Amicum Brass is a brass
quintet, formed in 2019, by a
group of emerging Irish student
musicians. This dynamic ensemble
bring the festival to life with
jazz and classical sounds in the
squares, streets and parks of Birr
throughout the afternoon.



Audrey Chisholm Masterclasses

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre - 3.00pm FREE

As part of the Audrey Chisholm Award, students of piano
and voice in the midlands are offered masterclasses
with **Dearbhla Collins**. One of Ireland's most successful
pianists, Dearbhla is vocal coach at the RIAM,
assistant head of music at London's National Opera
Studio, and an artistic administrator of the Veronica
Dunne International Singing Competition. *Register
birrfestivalofmusic@gmail.com by Aug 6 to participate.*

SATURDAY 21 AUG

Trench Award 2021 Gala Concert

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre - 7.30pm €16/14

The six selected singers/musicians, all pursuing careers in the classical field, perform a 15 minute programme of their choice. The recipients of the Trench Award, the Birr Lions Club Bursary, the Canto Al Serchio Prize (for voice) and the Audrey Chisholm Award (for instrument) will be selected by an international panel. An Audience Choice and Musical Futures bursary are also presented. Total value of bursaries €8,000.

Accompanist - Dearbhla Collins



Ben Gannon, Oboe
Trench Award 2020
Winner



The Meadow Project

Birr Workhouse Burial Ground (Scurragh gate entrance only)
- 2.00/4.00/6.00/7.30pm (40 mins duration) €12/€10

This is a site-specific sound installation created as an Offaly Drama Project for the former Birr Workhouse. Through a musical setting of historical information and records The Meadow seeks to give voice to the thousands of lives lost in the workhouse during the Great Famine of 1845-1852. Conceived by Fiona Breen in collaboration with composer Tom Lane and historian Margaret Hogan. *The Meadow is an open-air event so please dress for weather conditions! If you have any mobility issues, please let us know at time of booking.*

SATURDAY 21 AUG

Percussion Workshop with Alex Petcu

*Festival Geodome 11.00am – 12noon €10
(includes afternoon concert ticket).*

Workshops for ages 10 to 20 with the mesmerising marimba and percussion player **Alex Petcu** and friends.
Places limited – book early.

Alex Petcu Performs

Festival Geodome 3.00pm – 4.00pm €10/€6

An Irish musician of Romanian origin Alex Petcu is an international percussionist of the highest calibre. A soloist, ensemble and orchestral player, he collaborates with many composers, and is one of the most sought after players on the international scene. A unique opportunity to experience his musical magic in Birr.



Dame Nellie Melba Remembered

Pop-Up Performance

Emmet Square – 1.00pm

The legendary Australian soprano sang from an upstairs window in Dooly's Hotel when she visited Birr with her husband, Charles Armstrong of Gallen Priory, Co.Offaly in 1886/87.

Performing in the great opera houses of the world, she was the most famous singer of her time. 'Peach Melba', and 'Melba Toast' were created for her!



Priority booking for patrons & sponsors up to Friday 30 July.
Contact Box Office 057 9122911 to become a patron /
sponsor and book your tickets. www.birrfestivalofmusic.com

SUNDAY 22 AUG

Garden Coffee Concert

The Chestnut Garden - 3.00pm €8

Trench Award Winner 2018 **Philip Keegan** tenor, and guests, perform music and song for your pleasure.



Music at Birr Castle

The Far Flung Trio

Geodome at Birr Castle - 5.00pm

For Festival Patrons & Sponsors

The Far Flung Trio are **Katherine Hunka** (violin), **Dermot Dunne** (accordion) and **Malachy Robinson** (double-bass). The name reflects their sense of fun and the eclecticism in their programming and performances. They are all leading Irish players and are drawn to this Trio by the sheer joy generated by playing together. This evident rapport is one of the elements that particularly delights audiences.



**DURING BIRR VINTAGE WEEK
& ARTS FESTIVAL @ FESTIVAL GEODOME**

SINGING IN THE AIR!

Tues 17 - Thurs 19 August 11.30-12.45 FREE

Registration required in advance.

Lively music project for children aged 8-12 years who love to sing. Discover the fun of making great sounds together, leading to Sounds in the Air concert at 3pm on Thursday. Director Ann Hogan.

SOUNDS IN THE AIR!

Thurs 19 August 3.00-3.45 FREE

The children are joined by soloists for an entertaining informal concert.



COMMUNITY SING NIGHT

Wed 18 August 7.30-8.30 FREE

Everyone can sing! Welcoming all ages who like to sing and make harmony. Facilitated by Ann Hogan & team.



Birr Festival of Music

Incorporating **The Trench Award**, the aims of Birr Festival of Music are to expand the profile and enjoyment of classical music for all; to support emerging professional musicians in their training and development; to support children's choral singing through the Birr Young Voices project and to work to establish a Community Festival Choir.

Julia and Patrick Trench had an abiding love of music.

Both sang, played piano, organ, flute and harp and were noted for their musical evenings at their home at Sopwell Hall, North Tipperary. Julia was one of the many generous benefactors of the establishment of Birr Theatre & Arts Centre. Birr Festival of Music is immensely grateful to The Trench Trust for its continued and generous support.

Book Now: 057 9122911
www.birrfestivalofmusic.com



COVID-19: Places limited – booking essential for ALL events.

All events will take place in line with current government guidelines.

See our website for further details.

Festival Team: Maureen de Forge, Tommy Lyndon,
Emma Nee Haslam, Enda O'Connor, Michelle de Forge,
Pascal Kennedy, Anne O'Callaghan Rowan, Rachael Corboy,
Anne Coughlan, Ciara Kelly, Rebecca Kelly.

