



**IRISH HERITAGE**  
Supporting young Irish musicians and Irish composers

**itma**  
Irish Traditional  
Music Archive  
Taisce Cheol  
Dúchais Éireann

**MEDIA RELEASE | 15 August 2017**

## ***Tunes of the Munster Pipers***

**Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 7AY  
5 October 2017 at 7.30 pm**

Irish Heritage is pleased to announce ***Tunes of the Munster Pipers***, presented by the Irish Traditional Music Archive (ITMA) in association with the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS).

This momentous event will bring the audience on a journey to the musical landscape of 19th century southwest Ireland. Through live music and song, spoken word and curated imagery the magic of the **Canon James Goodman Music Collection** will be brought to life.

To guide the audience on their way, Grace Toland, Director of ITMA, will narrate the story against a visually stimulating backdrop by artist Michael Fortune. Through their musical finesse, Aoife Ní Bhriain, and Caoimhín Ó Fearghail will show how music constantly flows between the past and the present, highlighting the rich variety and authenticity of the collection.

The event will be live-streamed and will be filmed by ITMA for archival and promotional purposes.

Irish Heritage and ITMA would like to acknowledge the generous support of Trinity College Dublin, Culture Ireland and the Arts Council of Ireland and Northern Ireland and the Irish Government through its Emigrant Support Scheme.

**Tickets:** £20 (£10 for under 30s) including reception and programme  
Online at [www.irishheritage.co.uk](http://www.irishheritage.co.uk) click on DONATE: or  
from Kathy O'Regan, [contact@irishheritage.co.uk](mailto:contact@irishheritage.co.uk), tel. 020 7226 4578.



**AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA AGUS TRÁDÁLA NA hÉIREANN  
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF IRELAND**

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## Notes for Editors:

### About Irish Heritage

Irish Heritage is a voluntary arts organisation, established in London in 1974 to promote the appreciation and understanding of classical music (broadly defined) and music composed by Irish composers, performed by young Irish musicians in Britain to a wide audience. It is the only Irish arts organisation in Britain dedicated to helping young Irish musicians through their continuing education and the early part of their careers. This is where their need is greatest. The Irish Heritage Music Bursary is a major part of our programme. See details of the 2017 Bursary on the website <https://www.irishheritage.co.uk>

**Contact Irish Heritage:** Mary Connolly, Chairperson, 07852 202865 or Rita Burke, Communications Officer, 074 2814 9096. Email: [contact@irishheritage.co.uk](mailto:contact@irishheritage.co.uk)

### Irish Traditional Music Archive (ITMA)

ITMA is a national reference archive and resource centre for the traditional song, music and dance of Ireland. At its premises in Dublin and online it offers access, free of charge, to the largest multimedia collection in existence dedicated to contemporary and historical Irish traditional music. Visitors are welcome to listen, view and browse thousands of sound recordings, videos, books, images and manuscripts which have been collected and preserved by ITMA since 1987. It is funded primarily by the Arts Council of Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

**Contact ITMA:** Grace Toland, Director, [grace.toland@itma.ie](mailto:grace.toland@itma.ie) or Maeve Gebruers, PR Officer on [maeve.gebruers@itma.ie](mailto:maeve.gebruers@itma.ie) or [+353 1 6619699](tel:+35316619699)

**Website:** <https://www.itma.ie/>

### The James Goodman Collection

James Goodman (1828–1896), a native of Dingle, Co. Kerry, was a Canon of the Church of Ireland and Professor of Irish in Trinity College Dublin. However he is now chiefly known as the compiler of an outstanding manuscript collection of more than 2,300 tunes held in the Library of the College.

The tunes were partly ‘taken down by myself as I heard them played by Irish pipers &c.’ and partly drawn by him from manuscript and printed sources. Goodman grew up in an Irish-speaking environment, sang and danced, is said to have played the flute, and later became an accomplished player of the Irish, or uilleann, pipes. His music collection was completed in the 1860s when he was ministering in Ardgroon in West Cork. The material in this manuscript collection provides musicians and scholars, of the present day, with a unique body of Irish music from the south-west region, and gives unrivalled insights into the traditional music and song of Irish-speaking pre-Famine Ireland.

### The English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS)

EFDSS was established in 1932 by the merger of the Folk-Song Society, founded in 1898, and the English Folk Dance Society, founded by Cecil Sharp in 1911. As the national development agency for the folk arts, EFDSS aims to place the traditional arts of England at the heart of our cultural life - preserving, protecting, disseminating and promoting English traditional folk arts. A member based organisation, EFDSS delivers a dynamic education programme, providing a national and local education programme, enabling and increasing access to the folk arts, celebrating diversity and promoting equality - as well as supporting folk artists through a flourishing artists development programme. EFDSS’ library, the **Vaughan Williams Memorial Library** – the national folk music library and archive – which contains a vast collection of books, manuscripts, films and audio-visual materials, serving as a touchstone for anybody working in the folk arts. [www.efdss.org](http://www.efdss.org)

## The Performers

### Aoife Ní Bhriain – Fiddle



Aoife began studying the violin at an early age with teacher Maria Kelemen and played regularly as a member of Young European Strings. She has since studied with Maeve Broderick in Dublin and Constantin Serban in France where she was awarded the Prix D'Or for exceptional students.

She has performed as soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra, Musici

Ireland, Korean Chamber Orchestra, the HMT Leipzig Symphony Orchestra, the Esker Festival Orchestra, Leipzig MuKo Orchestra, the Orchestra "Respighi" Latina, Italy and l'Orchestre de Chambre d'Ariege. She is also the leader of the newly formed Clare Memory Orchestra and performs regularly with the contemporary group Crash Ensemble.

Aoife has won competitions for both classical and traditional Irish music including 7 All Ireland Titles at the Fleadh Cheoil, Bonn Oir Sheáin Uí Riada 2010, Fiddler of Dooney 2009, various prizes at the ESB Feis Ceoil, Camerata Ireland Young Musician of the Year Award 2011, the Campus Internazionale di Musica, Pontino Festival Young Musician Award and 2nd Prize at the Concours International de Violon Marie Cantagrill 2014, 3rd Prize at the Vasco Abadjiev International Violin Competition 2015 and a TG4 Gradam Ceoil 2014, the most prestigious honour for Irish musicians for her input on the CD *Tunes from the Goodman Manuscripts* that she recorded with her father Mick O'Brien and flautist Emer Mayock.

In recent years Aoife has worked with many new composers in Ireland and as a result has performed World Premieres in Ireland and abroad, including a recording with Grammy Award winning producer Judith Sherman. She has toured with the European Union Youth Orchestra and in 2013 performed and toured as a member of the Leipzig Mendelssohn Quartet with the renowned pianist Eliso Virsaladze. She has also performed alongside musicians such as Martin Hayes & Denis Cahill, Mariana Sirbu, Massimo Paris, Finghin Collins, Tatjana Masurenko and Frank Reinecke. Aoife completed her Bachelor Degree as a student of Prof. Mariana Sirbu and is now studying as a Masters student with Prof. Carolin Widmann in the Hochschule fur Musik und Theater Felix Mendelssohn in Leipzig, Germany.

## Caoimhín Ó Fearghail – Uilleann Pipes & Vocals



Caoimhín comes from An Rinn in the west Waterford Gaeltacht. He started to learn the tin-whistle at the age of eight, taking lessons from Bobby Gardiner. He quickly progressed to the uilleann pipes, under the tutelage of David Power mostly. His influences include Séamus Ennis, Willie Clancy, Tommy Reck and Patsy Touhey. He is also self-taught on flute and guitar, inspired by such diverse flute players as Matt Molloy, Mike Rafferty and Tom Doorley.

In 2006 as part of his school transition year project he released an album entitled *Giorraíonn Beirt Bóthar*, with a group of friends, local musicians and singers. It features guest appearances from well-known local artists including Liam Clancy, Áine Uí Cheallaigh, Donnchadh Gough and Ciarán Ó Gealbháin. Since then, he has featured playing guitar on a number of albums in the last few years including Caitlín Nic Gabhann's album, *Caitlín*, which was voted 2012 'Album of the Year' on Tradconnect, and Edel Fox and Neill Byrne's *The Sunny Banks* which was voted 'Album of the Year' for 2013 on Tradconnect. That same year he also recorded an album, *Lá ag Ól Uisce*, with his brother Seán and Tomás Ó Gealbháin.

More recently he is featured on flute on Caladh Nua's newest album *Honest to Goodness*. He has performed with the well-known group Danú on numerous occasions on various instruments. He's also featured regularly over the past six years in the Booley House show based in Ballyduff, Co. Waterford. He was the 2012 recipient of the TG4 Young Musician of the Year award (Gradam Ceoil TG4).

## Grace Toland – Narration



Grace Toland, Director of the Irish Traditional Music Archive, is a native of Inishowen, Co Donegal, a well-known recorded traditional singer in English and Irish, and a familiar and respected figure on the traditional music scene. She has played a prominent role in sustaining and reviving traditional song in Inishowen, as an event organiser and through the Inishowen Song Project online. Grace has performed at festivals in Ireland and abroad.

As Director of ITMA, she is passionate about bringing the riches of the ITMA collections to new national and international audiences. Events, collaborative projects, European research partnerships, as well as the launch of new branding & a Strategic Plan have kept her busy since her appointment in 2015.

## Michael Fortune – Artist



Michael Fortune grew up in a family immersed in story, superstition and folk belief in an area known as ‘The Macamores’, an old Gaelic stronghold stretching along the east coast of County Wexford. He completed his BA in Fine Art, specialising in video and performance at Limerick School of Art and Design and his MA in Film and Screenwriting at Dún Laoghaire School of Film.

Working predominantly in film and photography, much of his practice revolves around the collection of material - material

which he generates out of the relationships and experiences he develops with the people he encounters. The intimate nature of the relationships with the people and circumstances he encounters, and the subsequent reflective treatment of the material at hand, is a key feature of his work. Much of Fortune’s work borrows from the popular conventions of film, home video, snap photography and the printed media and his work can be seen as growing out of a tradition of social documentary and anthropological film. He combines the stand-alone idiosyncrasies of people and incidents in everyday life, with complex and visually careful and contemplative treatments that adeptly handle the aesthetics of repetition, humour, obscurity, strangeness and intimacy. He has been the recipient of numerous awards and bursaries for his work, which he presents extensively nationally and internationally in a variety of contexts, ranging from gallery exhibitions through to single screen presentations in film and video art festivals.

