

# TradFest Belgium

12-18 June 2017

Traditional  
Irish Music Festival  
Programme



# Message from H.E. Éamonn Mac Aodha, Ambassador of Ireland to the Kingdom of Belgium

Following two hugely successful TradFest festivals in 2015 and 2016 I am delighted to present the programme for TradFest 2017.

The Embassy of Ireland initiated this festival in 2015 to bring Irish music and culture to the large Irish community in Belgium and also to a Belgian and wider international audience.

Visitor numbers from Belgium to Ireland have risen significantly in recent years and we hope that TradFest 2017 will attract even more people to discover all that Ireland has to offer.

This year TradFest events will take part in Brussels, Kraainem, Liège and Loker.

Events will include an art exhibition, Irish music, dance and language classes and a series of lunchtime literary events.

The festival will also include a special focus on World War One and the Battle of Messines Ridge, the centenary of which will be commemorated on 7 June. Ronan McGreevy and Thomas Burke will deliver expert talks on the subject as part of this year's festival.

And of course, as before, music will be at the heart of the festival. Talented, well-known Irish musicians and singers will travel from Ireland for the festival including Mary Black, Máirtín O'Connor Trio, Maighread and Triona Ní Dhomhnaill, Liam Ó Maonlaí, Brú Ború, Na Fir Sneachta and many others, to join the large number of wonderful local and continental traditional musicians who are the inspiration for this festival.

We are particularly delighted that members of Na Píobairí Uilleann will join

us to give a master class introduction to the wonderful uilleann pipes.

The week-long programme could not have happened without the support of many volunteers and sponsors and I would like to thank BNP Paribas Fortis in particular for their generous support.

A special word of thanks to Tom and Doreen Bourke for their enthusiasm and energy in leading fundraising efforts once again this year. Thanks too to all the members of our TradFest Committee for their positive input and advice.

Above all I want to thank the artists and experts from Ireland, Belgium and elsewhere who have made this festival possible.

I also want to acknowledge with sincere thanks the generous support of the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive here in Brussels for agreeing to co-host a major event on 14 June.

I hope that you'll attend as many events as possible to make this year's festival the best yet!

Guím gach rath ar an bhféile - bainigi uilig sult as!



A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read 'Éamonn Mac Aodha'.

Éamonn Mac Aodha  
Ambassador of Ireland

# TradFest Belgium 12 > 18 June 2017

## Programme

### Monday 12 June

#### TRADFEST Belgium Official Opening Headline act - Mary Black concert

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**Time :** 20.00

**Venue :** Flagey

Place Sainte-Croix/Heilig-Kruisplein, 1050 Brussels

**Tickets :**

<http://flagey.be/en/program/21024/mary-black>

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, revered Irish singer Mary Black returns to Belgium for the first time in three years to headline the Tradfest 2017. "I'm really looking forward to playing the Tradfest at this beautiful venue" says Mary.



*"...a versatile vocalist who brings energizing qualities of pop and jazz to her foundation in traditional music."*—Los Angeles Times

*"...one of the best interpretative singers around."*—San Francisco Chronicle

*"...simply spellbinding."*—Boston Globe

#### Opening Session : Na Fir Sneachta

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**Time :** 21.30

**Venue :** Aloft Hotel Schuman

Place Jean Rey, 1040 Brussels



A multi-generational collective of family and friends drawn from the four provinces of Ireland, playing a diverse mix of traditional tunes and ballads, featuring accordion, fiddle, flute, tin whistle, banjo, mandolin, guitar, harmonica and bodhrán. The group consists of brothers Donogh and Eoin Lane, their cousin

Eileen and her husband Gerry Keady, Marty Lynch and his daughter Aine and cousin Maeve, with friends Patsy Fortune and Dave Lyons completing the line-up.

**Opening session, all welcome !**

# TradFest Belgium 12 > 18 June 2017

## Programme

### Tuesday 13 June

#### Book Launch

#### **Thomas Burke : *Messines to Carrick Hill***

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**Time : 13.00**

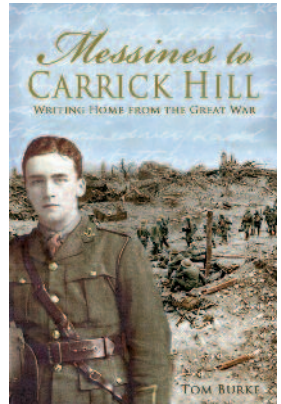
**Venue : Aloft Hotel**, Place Jean Rey, 1040 Brussels

Please register for this event online through the following link :

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/book-launch-by-thomas-burke-messines-to-carrick-hill-at-aloft-registration-34622171848>

We are delighted to announce that Thomas Burke will join us to launch his book *Messines to Carrick Hill*. The book is structured around a collection of letters written by a nineteen year old Irish officer in the 6<sup>th</sup> Royal Irish Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Michael Wall from Carrick Hill, near Malahide in north Co. Dublin. Michael was educated by the Christian Brothers in Dublin and destined to study science at UCD before being seduced

by the illusion of adventure through war. By contextualising and expanding the content of Wall's letters and setting them within the entrenched battle zone of the Messines Ridge, Burke offers a unique insight into the trench life this young Irish man experienced, his disillusionment with war and his desire to get home.



#### Music Session :

#### **Na Fir Sneachta**

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**Time : 20.00**

**Venue : The Wild Geese**

Avenue Livingstone 2,  
1000 Brussels



A multi-generational collective of family and friends drawn from the four provinces of Ireland, playing a diverse mix of traditional tunes and ballads, featuring accordion, fiddle, flute, tin whistle, banjo, mandolin, guitar, harmonica and bodhrán. The group consists of brothers

Donogh and Eoin Lane, their cousin Eileen and her husband Gerry Keady, Marty Lynch and his daughter Aine and cousin Maeve, with friends Patsy Fortune and Dave Lyons completing the line-up.

**All welcome !**

# Wednesday 14 June

## Art Exhibition Launch Helen O'Sullivan Tyrrell

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**Time : 13.00**

**Venue : Aloft Hotel**

Place Jean Rey, 1040 Brussels

All welcome !

Born in London in 1968, O'Sullivan-Tyrrell grew up in Bray Co. Wicklow (Ireland). She studied architecture at the Dublin institute of Technology. In 1995 she moved to Brussels and later studied painting at the Flemish art academy BKO (Beeldende Kunst Overijse).

While mainly a figurative painter, Helen's subjects range from portraiture, still life and landscape and she is currently examining the theme of tribal identities; particularly how the imagery associated with Catholicism is intertwined in what is viewed as 'Irishness'.



## Lunchtime concert and CD launch

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**Time : 13.30**

**Venue : Aloft Hotel**

Place Jean Rey, 1040 Brussels

All welcome !

Amala is a newly-formed duo: Reidun Schlesinger (harps) and Paul de Grae (guitars). They play music from several centuries, in original arrangements. The core of their repertoire is Irish: traditional Irish tunes, and music from the Irish harp repertoire; they also play tunes from various continental European countries, Renaissance and early classical pieces, some jazz, and our own jazz-tinged compositions.



Reidun is originally from Belgium and has lived in Kerry since 2008; she has considerable experience of playing solo and in bands in Belgium, Germany and France, and recorded three CDs with the Belgian band Amorrroma. From Dublin, but now also based in Kerry, Paul has played and recorded with Matt Cranitch & Jackie Daly, Aoife Ní Chaoimh & Paudie O'Connor, and the trio Smoky Chimney, among others. Their debut CD "resonance" has received some great reviews.

# TradFest Belgium 12 > 18 June 2017

## Programme

### Maighread and Triona Ní Dhomhnaill & Connla concert

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**Time : 18.30**

**Venue : Office of the Northern Ireland Executive**  
180 Chaussée d'Etterbeek - 1040 Brussels

Prior registration is required  
at [brusselsevents@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:brusselsevents@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)

Sisters **Maighread and Triona Ní Dhomhnaill** belong to a renowned singing family originally from the Donegal Gaeltacht. The unique style and repertoire of traditional singing they represent so gloriously, comes down to them through generations of the Ó Dhomhnaill family. Added to this is their distinctive unison and harmonic interpretations of Donegal songs and their fluent and accomplished singing to instrumental accompaniment.



**Connla** - Hailing from the cities of Armagh and Derry and made up of Ciara McCafferty (vocals), Ciaran Carlin (Flute/Whistles) and Paul Starrett (Guitar) Emer Mallon (Harp) and Conor Mallon (Uilleann Pipes/Whistles). Labelled as the Hottest New Group out of Northern Ireland, (Chicago Irish American News) Connla have been quickly making an impact on the folk/traditional scene. Since the release of their EP in April 2015, and album "River Waiting" in July 2016

they have received fantastic reviews at home and internationally.



### Music Sesion in Liège

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**Time : from 20.00**

**Venue : Shamrock Pub,**  
Rue Louvreix 1, 4000 Liège

**All welcome !**

This session is open to every musician regardless of familiarity with Irish traditional music. Repertoire is mainly Irish traditional, with various digressions to other genres, depending on who is playing and his/her mood. Do not be afraid to bring your instrument and join in!

## Music Session : Cairde sa Bheilig

Time : from 20.00

Venue : The Old Oak

Rue Franklin 26, 1000 Brussels

All welcome !

## Thursday 15 June

### Ronan McGreevy talk

Time : 13.00

Venue : Aloft Hotel

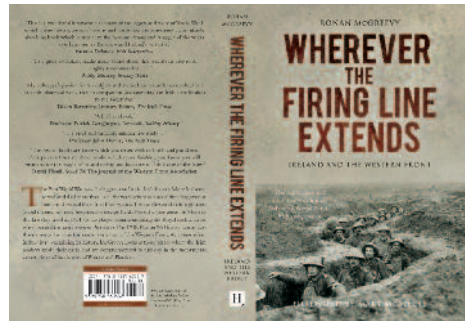
Place Jean Rey, 1040 Brussels

Please register for this event online through the following link :

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ronan-mcgreevy-wherever-the-firing-line-extends-ireland-and-the-western-front-registration-34686121122>

Ronan McGreevy is an Irish times journalist and videographer. He is the author of *Wherever the Firing Line Extends: Ireland and the Western Front*. The book has been described by *The Irish Independent* as the "superlative and definitive account of Ireland in World War I". Often forgotten at home and written out of Irish history, the Irish soldiers and their regiments found themselves more honoured in foreign fields. From the first shot monument in

**Cairde sa Bheilig** which in the Irish language means "Friends in Belgium". **Micheel O'Briain, Michel Jacqmain** and **Jan Thoelen** form a core of musicians and friends who come together to share their love of Irish traditional music.



Mons to the plaque to the Royal Irish Lancers who liberated the town on Armistice Day 1918, McGreevy takes a tour of the Western Front. At a time when Ireland is revisiting its history and its place in the world, he looks at those places where the Irish made their mark and are remembered in the monuments, cemeteries and landscapes of France and Flanders.

# TradFest Belgium 12 > 18 June 2017

## Programme

### Concert

#### Máirtín O'Connor Trio

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**Time : 20.00**

**Venue: Molière**, Galerie de la Porte de Namur, 3  
Square du Bastion, 1050 Brussels (Ixelles)

**Tickets :** [www.muziekpublieke.be](http://www.muziekpublieke.be)



Legendary accordion player, Máirtín O'Connor (De Danann, Skylark, Riverdance), Cathal Hayden on fiddle and banjo (Four Men and a Dog), and Seamie O'Dowd on guitar and vocals (Dervish) come together with a very special synergy that ignites audiences and brings them to their feet. Virtuoso accordion player, Máirtín, superb fiddle and banjo player, Cathal and beloved guitarist and vocalist Seamie, explore Irish music in innovative and contemporary styles

while staying rooted in the tradition. The Trio's joyous performances and kinship on stage make them a must see and hear.

*"Genius is an overused word, but it sits lightly on the shoulders of Galwegian accordionist and tune composer Máirtín O'Connor...His impish, quizzical style is as distinctive as a fingerprint." (Irish Times)*

- Máirtín O'Connor: accordion
- Seamus O'Dowd: guitar, vocals
- Cathal Hayden: violin, banjo

### Music Session

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**Time : 21.30**

#### Venue: The Meeting Point

Rue du Taciturne 39, 1000 Brussels  
Act to be confirmed

**All welcome !**





# Friday 16 June

## Phil Lynch poetry talk

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**Time : 13.00**

**Venue : Aloft Hotel**, Place Jean Rey, 1040 Brussels

Please register for this event online through the following link :

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/phil-lynch-poetry-talk-registration-34660318947>



Phil Lynch currently lives in Dublin and has also lived in Belgium. Publications in which his poems have appeared include: *Even The Daybreak* (35 years of Salmon Poetry), *Revival*, *Bare Hands Poetry*, *Boyne Berries Series*, *The Poetry Bus*, *Headstuff*, *OFi Press Literary Magazine* (Mexico), *Wordlegs*, *The Runt*, *Census*, *Circle Time*, *Bray Arts Journal*, *Flare* (*Sunflower Sessions*). In 2015, he was placed third in

the *Doolin Writers' Weekend Poetry Competition*, shortlisted in the *Red Line Poetry Competition* and longlisted in the *Dermot Healy International Poetry Competition*. In 2014 he was a runner up in the *iYeats Poetry Competition* and longlisted in the *Over The Edge New Writer of the Year Competition*. His first collection, *In a Changing Light*, was published by *Salmon Poetry* in 2016.

## Liam Ó Maonlaí in concert with support by Páidí Ó Dubháin

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**Time : 20.00**

**Venue : Office of the Northern Ireland Executive**

180 Chaussée d'Etterbeek - 1040 Brussels

Tickets on sale at the door for €10.

Please reserve your seat (limited seating) by email at [brusselsembassy@dfa.ie](mailto:brusselsembassy@dfa.ie)

**Páidí Ó Dubháin** is a graduate of the BA(Hons) in Applied Music at Dundalk Institute of Technology. His extensive repertoire ranges from opera and oratorio to art song and to traditional Irish sean-nós. In 2012, Páidí was awarded a place on the NI Opera Young Artist Programme, where he specialised in contemporary opera roles.



### Liam Ó Maonlaí

Bono once described Liam as 'The best white boy soul singer in the world' and he has been also described as one of Ireland's best Sean Nós (traditional Irish) singers. Liam has released two solo albums; *Rian* (2006) which was made into a contemporary dance show of the same name by choreographer Michael Keegan Dolan and toured worldwide. *To be touched* released in 2009 and recorded with the help of Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova. Liam tours regularly with Peter O Toole, guitarist from Hot House Flowers. For further information: [www.liamomaonlai.ie](http://www.liamomaonlai.ie)

# TradFest Belgium 12 > 18 June 2017

## Programme

### Music Session :

#### **Brú Ború group**

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**Time : 21.30**

**Venue : The Coolock**

Rue Archimède 55, 1000 Brussels

The unique **Brú Ború** group are in constant demand throughout the world because of their performance of Irish authentic traditional music, song and dance. They have represented Ireland at 5 World EXPO including performing for President Higgins on Ireland's National Day at the Milan EXPO 2015.

During the summer months from late June to mid-August the group perform in their



summer residence in the Brú Ború Cultural Centre, Cashel, Co. Tipperary. The group look forward to performing at Tradfest in Brussels for the third year in a row.

For further information : [www.comhaltas.ie](http://www.comhaltas.ie)

**All welcome !**

## Saturday 17 June

### **Irish Language Class**

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**Time : 13.00**

**Venue : Embassy of Ireland**

Rue Froissart/Froissartstraat 50,  
1040 Brussels

Please register for this event online through the following link :

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tradfest-belgium-2017-irish-language-class-at-1300-on-saturday-17-june-registration-34565978773>

Please specify your level in the registration form as beginner or non-beginner.

### **Traditional Irish Dancing Class**

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**Time : 14.00**

**Venue : Embassy of Ireland**

Rue Froissart/Froissartstraat 50,  
1040 Brussels

Please register for this event online through the following link :

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tradfest-belgium-2017-traditional-irish-dancing-class-at-1400-on-saturday-17-june-registration-34566063025>

### **Traditional Irish Music Class**

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**Time : 14.00**

**Venue : Embassy of Ireland**

Rue Froissart/Froissartstraat 50,  
1040 Brussels

Please register for this event online through the following link :

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tradfest-belgium-2017-traditional-irish-music-class-at-1400-on-saturday-17-june-registration-34566097127>

Classes will be organised for the following instruments : intro fiddle and whistle/flute

Please bring along your music instrument !

## Na Píobairí Uilleann Pipers talk and music

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**Time : 15.30**

**Venue : Embassy of Ireland**

Rue Froissart/Froissartstraat 50, 1040 Brussels

Please register for this event online through the following link :

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tradfest-belgium-2017-na-piobairi-uilleann-pipers-talk-and-music-on-saturday-17-june-registration-34617379514>

Gay McKeon took an interest in uilleann piping in the 1960s under the tutelage of piper and pipe-maker Leo Rowsome at the Piper's Club on Thomas Street in Dublin's city centre. Since the mid 1970s Gay has toured and recorded extensively with artists including Christy Moore, Maddy Prior and June Tabor and has featured on albums including The Drones and Chanters Volume 2 and The Piper's Rock, as well as a solo album Irish Piping Tradition, and a trio CD The Dusty Miller with his two sons Conor and Seán. Gay

has performed on three volumes of the tutor series The Art of Uilleann Piping and produced and directed publications including the Piper's Choice DVD series and numerous CD recordings published by Na Píobairí Uilleann. Gay teaches piping at summer schools and on a regular basis throughout the year. Serving on the Board of Na Píobairí Uilleann from 1987, Gay was Chairman from 2002 until 2006 when became CEO of the organisation.



## Bloomsnight

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**Time : 20.00**

**Venue : De Lijsterbes,**

Lijsterbessenbomenlaan 6, 1950 Kraainem

The Irish Theatre Group asbl, has been entertaining audiences in Brussels for 35 years. In association with the Embassy of Ireland and TradFest 2017, the ITG will host their annual, end-of-season Bloomsnight gathering at De Lijsterbes on Saturday 17 June.

It is a fun evening of food, drink and entertainment, including drama, poetry and song. Tickets are €20 (including light

buffet supper).

**Doors open at 7:30pm**, when food will be served for the first course, and **entertainment begins at 8pm.**

More info: [www.irishtheatrebrussels.com](http://www.irishtheatrebrussels.com)  
Tickets: <https://thelittleboxoffice.com/itg>



# TradFest Belgium 12 > 18 June 2017

## Programme

### Music Session:

#### Gerry O'Connor

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**Time : 20.00**

#### Brú Ború

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**Time: 21.00**

#### Venue : The Old Hack Irish Pub

Rue Joseph II 176, 1000 Brussels

**All welcome !**

Gerry O'Connor is from Dundalk, Co. Louth, where he grew up in a family of musicians, dancers and singers. From an early age Gerry was involved Irish music, winning numerous All Ireland awards in a range of duets, trios and céilí band titles. Gerry O'Connor has played and recorded with Lá Lúgh (Eithne Ní Uallacháin, Sony Music) and Skylark (Len Graham, Gary O'Briain & Máirtín O'Connor), recording four CDs on the Claddagh label. He has



toured and recorded with members of all the legendary Traditional music ensembles, including Planxty, Bothy Band, De Danann, Boys of the Lough and The Chieftains. Lá Lugh's album Brighid's Kiss was voted Album of the Year in 1996 by readers of Irish Music magazine, and Gerry's solo CD Journeyman was rated in the top five Albums of 2004 by The Irish Times.

[www.gerryoconnor.net](http://www.gerryoconnor.net)

## Sunday 18 June

### Trad Music Session

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**Time : 19.00**

#### Venue : The Wild Geese

Avenue Livingstone 2, 1000 Brussels

FREE ENTRY & GREAT CRAIC !!

[www.thewildgeese.eu](http://www.thewildgeese.eu)

**All welcome !**

Events outside 12-18 June 2017

## Special avant-premiere screening in Bozar on 22 June

**PILGRIMAGE - A FILM BY BRENDAN MULDOWNEY**

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**Time : 19.00**

**Venue : Bozar**, Rue Ravensteinstraat 23, 1000 Brussels

Please register for this event online through the following link :

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/special-avant-premiere-screening-of-pilgrimage-tickets-34715606313>



Ireland, 1209. An island on the edge of the world. A small group of monks begin a reluctant pilgrimage across an island torn between centuries of tribal warfare and the growing power of Norman invaders. Escorting their monastery's holiest relic - a rock used in the martyrdom of St. Mathias, the thirteenth apostle - to Rome, the monks' progress is seen through the eyes of a pious young novice

and a mute lay-brother with a violent past. As the true material, political and religious significance of the bejewelled relic becomes dangerously apparent, their path to the east coast becomes increasingly fraught with danger. The monks belatedly realise that in this wild land of ancient superstitions, the faith that binds them together may ultimately lead to their destruction.

# LOKER

## Wednesday 7 June

**Time : 6.30pm**

Special Moment at the Grave of Willie Redmond and at the Dry-stone wall Monument with the participation of the Dublin Fusiliers

## Friday 9 June

**Time : 7.30pm**

TradFest session in Redmond's Irish Pub Loker

## Saturday 10 June

**Time : 10am**

Tour based on the Book of Tom Burke "Messines to Carrick Hill: Writing Home from the Great War"

4pm - Cultural Event with the Poetry of Philip Mc Donagh and a new book on Messines by Tom Burke (see below).

## Sunday 11 June

**Time : 10am**

Tour based on "Messines to Carrick Hill : Writing Home from the Great War", a new book by Tom Burke.

For further information on all of these events please contact Redmond's Irish Pub Loker, Dikkebusstraat 135, 8958 Loker or phone: +32 473 23 92 68 or email:redmondsirishpubloker@hotmail.com

**For full programme details and updates  
check out our website : [www.embassyofireland.be](http://www.embassyofireland.be)  
Follow us on Twitter : @IrishEmbBelgium,  
#TradFestBelgium**

TradFest is organised by



Ambasáid na hÉireann  
Embassy of Ireland

With generous support of



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

and



**BNP PARIBAS**  
**FORTIS**





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