

The
**Ace & Deuce
of Piping
2020**

Colm Broderick

Doireann Glackin & Sarah Flynn

Anne Skelton

Mary Bergin & Mick Conneely

Néillidh & Caoimhe Mulligan

Brian Lennon, Séamus Quinn & Ciarán Curran

MC: Síle Denvir

Saturday 3rd October | 8pm

On All Social Media Platforms

and on www.pipers.ie

(until Saturday 17th October)

The Ace and Deuce of Piping 2020

The Ace and Deuce of Piping is a concert held annually by Na Píobairí Uilleann at Dublin's Liberty Hall Theatre. For many years the concert has presented many of the finest musicians, singers and dancers from Ireland and overseas.

Due to the current public health situation it was not possible to hold the concert in Dublin but we decided to film all of the artists and bring the concert to you.

The artists were recorded in late August 2020 and we are delighted to present their performances to you here. We hope you enjoy the music, songs and dance.

Under normal circumstances, the tickets sold for the Ace and Deuce of Piping support the event and allow us to continue to support the artists and production teams involved.

This year we ask that you please consider making a donation to Na Píobairí Uilleann.

Release date: Saturday 3rd October 8PM (IST)
Available until Saturday 17th October

Viewing time: 1 hr 45 m
Platform: <https://www.pipers.ie/npu-tv>

MC: Síle Denvir

0:00:35 Colm Broderick (uilleann pipes)

0:18:16 Sarah Flynn (concertina) and Doireann Glackin (fiddle)

0:30:40 Anne Skelton (songs)

0:44:02 Mary Bergin (whistle) and Mick Conneely (bouzouki)

1:01:34 Néillidh Mulligan (uilleann pipes) and
Caoimhe Mulligan (fiddle/dance)

1:19:44 Brian Lennon (flute), Séamus Quinn (fiddle) and
Ciarán Curran (bouzouki).

Meet the Artists

Colm Broderick (uilleann pipes)

Carlow-born Colm Broderick began piping at 13 and is one of the country's most exciting young talents. Having received tuition from Ciarán Somers, John Tuohy, David Power and Gay McKeon and at Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy, Colm featured on Na Píobairí Uilleann's 2018 compilation CD of young pipers, A New Harvest.

He cites Leo Rowsome and Liam O'Flynn as the most significant influences on his music. It is therefore fitting that he is currently playing the 1936 set of Leo Rowsome pipes which were made famous by Liam O'Flynn, who performed on them for most of his life. The pipes are on loan to Colm from Na Píobairí Uilleann.



Sarah Flynn (concertina) and Doireann Glackin (fiddle)

Sarah Flynn (concertina) and Doireann Glackin (fiddle) are neighbours hailing from the north side of Dublin. Their 2018 recording The Housekeepers, produced as part of The Arts Council's Deis Programme, has propelled this wonderful duet to the forefront of Irish music. The Housekeepers shines a light on the music and lives of six remarkable early 20th Century Irish Traditional Musicians; Ella Mae O'Dwyer, Nora Hurley, Aggie Whyte, Ellen Galvin, Molly Myers Murphy and Julia Clifford.

Sarah is drawn to the concertina and fiddle music of County Clare. Noel Hill, Mary MacNamara and Bobby Casey have greatly inspired her. Musicians from other regional styles including Ella Mae O'Dwyer and Jesse Smith have also influenced her playing.

Doireann meanwhile is a fiddler player and sean-nós singer. She learned the fiddle at an early age from her father, Kevin Glackin and she has been heavily influenced by the music of her family and her locality. From her maternal family, the Ó Riadas of Cúil Aodha, she inherited a love for sean-nós singing. Doireann has been conducting research into the sean-nós singing tradition of the Muscraí Gaeltacht as part of a PhD at NUIG.

Glackin cites musicians such as Tommy Potts, John Kelly and Joe Ryan as her main influences.



Anne Skelton (songs)

Anne Skelton is a native of Claremorris, Co. Mayo though she has been living in Galway for almost 30 years. She began singing at the age of 8, learning songs from her father - John Kelly - a singer and step dancer who learnt in turn from his father and uncle. Her style follows in the line of her mother's family - the Murrays - who were all singers as well. Anne's singing also takes a lot from the Northern Singing Tradition, and she was influenced in particular by the music of Rita Gallagher and Róisín White.

She teaches at traditional summer schools throughout Ireland regularly and has participated in National Singing Projects such as Man, Woman and Child and the Birdsong Project. She guests regularly at Singing Festivals and Singing Circle events.



Mary Bergin (whistle) and Mick Conneely (bouzouki)

Legendary whistle player Mary Bergin was born into a musical family in Shankill, Co. Dublin and has enjoyed an outstanding career in traditional music touring extensively worldwide. She has contributed to many great recordings both as a solo artist and with the group Dordán and her 1979 solo album *Feadóga Stáin* remains a stand-out classic. In 2000, Mary won the prestigious TG4 Traditional Musician of the Year Award.

Mick Conneely was born in Bedford with roots in Co. Galway where he now lives. As a child he attended classes with Brendan Mulkere, as well as learning at home from his father, Mick Snr. He has played, toured and recorded with many artists, including playing fiddle with De Dannan periodically over a 22-year period from 1991–2013. In 2001 his debut solo album *Selkie* was released to critical acclaim on the Cló Iar-Chonnachta label.



Néillidh Mulligan (pipes) and Caoimhe Ní Mhaolagáin (fiddle and dance)

Néillidh Mulligan was born in Dublin into a family steeped in the traditional music of Co. Limerick. His father, Tom Mulligan, was a renowned fiddle player and piper.

Néillidh received his first grounding in traditional music attending whistle lessons with Paidí Bán Ó Broin and Ned Stapleton at the Church Street club. His father Tom then “graduated” him to the pipes aged 11.

Néillidh attended classes with Leo Rowsome, who taught both in the School of Music on Chatham Row and in the Thomas Street Piper’s Club. Other influences included pipers Séamus Ennis and Tommy Reck, both of whom were friends of the Mulligan family.

He has released three solo CDs: *Barr na Cúille*, *The Leitrim Thrush*, and *An Tobar Glé*. More recently Néillidh was featured as part of Na Píobairí Uilleann’s Piper’s Choice series of DVDs alongside pipers Pádraig McGovern, and also Pat Broderick who passed away earlier this year. Na Píobairí Uilleann would like to remember Pat for his great dedication to the instrument.

Dublin-born Caoimhe Ní Mhaolagáin is Néillidh’s daughter. She is a fiddle player and sean-nós dancer. Caoimhe has developed her own distinct, original style, and with strong connections to West of Ireland, she has been influenced by the old traditional, Connemara dance style.



Brian Lennon (flute), Seamus Quinn (fiddle) and Ciarán Curran (bouzouki)

Brian Lennon, son of the late Irish music giant Ben Lennon, plays flute, whistle and fiddle. He is a member of traditional group, Céide, and the recently-formed largely acapella group, Coda. He is also a former member of Cois Cladaigh chamber choir.

Fiddle player Seamus Quinn, from Derrygonnelly in Fermanagh, is a devotee of the great Sligo-Leitrim musicians who flourished in the 1920s and 30s in America such as the fiddle players Michael Coleman, James Morrison and Paddy Killoran. His own playing incorporates much of the lonesome, lilting lift that those great musicians brought to their music.

Ciarán Curran is a native of Kinawley, Co.Fermanagh. He too boasts a strong family tradition - his late uncle Ned Curran was a renowned fiddle player. Other influences include his friend Cathal McConnell, and of course Ben Lennon himself, to whom he attributes his strong backing rhythm and bounce. Along with Gabriel McArdle, Seamus and Ciarán recorded with Ben on the classic Dog Big Dog Little album, named after two mountains on the borders of County Fermanagh and Co Leitrim.

Ciarán is perhaps best known as a longstanding member of the highly acclaimed band, Altan.

Thanks

We would like to thank the following for making this production possible:

- Maitiú Ó Casaide (producer, director, and editor)
- Victor Tzelepis (camera operator)
- John Blake (sound engineer)
- All the artists for their performances
- The Arts Council /An Chomhairle Ealaíon

Find out more about Na Píobairí Uilleann

Throughout 2020, Na Píobairí Uilleann have been working to ensure members and the public can continue to benefit from our resources. Here's how you can stay connected with us:

Tuition

We are running uilleann piping classes in numerous locations around Ireland and can assist students outside of Ireland in finding tuition. If you are interested in learning more, please contact us and we will provide information on tuition available near you!

Learn videos: <https://pipers.ie/source/section/?sectionId=2041>

Pipemaking

Instrument Making at Ballyfermot College of Further Education

Na Píobairí Uilleann run an instrument-making course in conjunction with Ballyfermot College of Further Education at the Pipecraft training facility, Dublin. From September 2020, the following instruments will be offered: uilleann pipes, flute, harp, whistle, and mandolin/mandola. The 2020 application process is closed, but if you or someone you know may be interested in applying in future years, do not hesitate to get in touch.

Watch our latest video on Pipecraft featuring both past students and NPU's CEO, Gay McKeon, speaking about their experience of the course. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZcwrKt5HMQk&t>

Pipes on Loan

We are continuing to operate our Pipes on Loan instrument-loaning programme, which facilitates new students accessing a practice set (subject to availability and demand). For more information, contact us.

Access our Archive

Our archive is home to over 4,000 performance videos, images, audio files, music collections, tutor videos and more research materials. We have recently updated the Indexes for An Píobaire, dating back to 1969. www.pipers.ie/source

Piping from the Parlour

Since April, Piping from the Parlour has featured over 40 performances from pipers and members worldwide. Check out the full gallery of performances at <https://pipers.ie/source/gallery/?galleryId=1373>.

International Uilleann Piping Day

Coming up on Saturday 7th November, International Uilleann Piping Day will be celebrated across the globe, raising awareness of the instrument and enabling pipers to meet (virtually or in person!). We will host a programme of events online on the day, and we encourage you to mark the occasion in your own locality. Let us know if you are interested in getting involved.

Join the facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/uilleannpipingday/>

Join our Supporters

Support our work by getting in touch or joining as a member on www.pipers.ie or email info@pipers.ie

Membership is €60 per annum
€30 for concessions - students, seniors and unwaged

If you enjoyed the concert, you can make a donation here:
www.pipers.ie/npu-tv

Contact us

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About Na Píobairí Uilleann

Na Píobairí Uilleann (NPU), the Society of Uilleann Pipers, was founded in 1968 when there were fewer than 100 uilleann pipers remaining. Today NPU is a thriving arts organisation dedicated to Sharing the Sound of Ireland through Access, Education, Performance and Preservation.

Since unveiling its restored Georgian premises at 15 Henrietta Street, Dublin, in January 2007, NPU has been busy catering for the expanding demand for regular tuition, as well as releasing a number of significant publications and recordings. With demand for pipes considerably exceeding supply, a dedicated Training Centre - PipeCraft - was established in 2011 to deliver training in the very highly skilled craft of uilleann pipe making.

NPU is accredited to UNESCO as a competent NGO in the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH).

NPU lobbied the Irish Government to ratify the UNESCO Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage which resulted in the inclusion of Uilleann Piping on the UNESCO representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in December 2017.

Na Píobairí Uilleann's primary funding agencies include the Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht, The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon and Dublin City Council.

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