



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

I am delighted to present in these pages the programme for TRADFEST Belgium 2016.

The Embassy of Ireland initiated this festival last year with the twin aims of bringing Irish music and culture to the large Irish community here, and of introducing Ireland and its culture to a Belgian and wider international audience.

TRADFEST 2015 proved that there was a huge appetite across the board for live Irish music – we reached thousands directly with our events and many more through TV and media coverage of the festival.

We are conscious in promoting the festival that Irish culture is often the gateway through which people come to know Ireland.

Visitors from Belgium rose by 22% last year and we hope that TRADFEST 2016 will play a significant role in attracting more people to the island of Ireland in the coming years.

This year we have widened the festival in terms of both content and venues. We have in particular gone beyond Brussels with TRADFEST events being hosted in other places including Antwerp, Loker, Roeselare, Zaventem and Liege. In addition we have added lectures on diaspora and music themes and also included a book launch and a photographic exhibition as well as Irish language and dance classes.

The objective has been to offer a window on what is unique and special about Ireland.

In all nearly 40 events will be held over 6 days in at least 20 venues.

Great Irish musicians and singers will travel from Ireland for the festival including Kíla, Liam Ó Maonlaí, Cór Cúil Aodha, Perfect Friction, Brú Ború, Compánach and many others, to join the large number of wonderful local and continental traditional musicians who are in fact the inspiration for this festival.

This year they will be joined by experts on diaspora and music including Philip King & Nuala O'Connor.

Historians Prof. Christine Kinealy and Dr. Gerard Moran will offer expert lectures on diaspora themes.

Such a rich and varied programme could not have happened without the support of many volunteers and sponsors who have put their collective weight behind our efforts.

Above all I want to thank more than 70 artists and experts from Ireland, Belgium and elsewhere who are at the heart of this programme.

I also want to acknowledge with sincere thanks the generous offer of the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive to co-host our opening event on 7 June.

I invite the Irish community and all friends of Ireland to attend as many events as possible and to make the festival the success it deserves to be.

Guím gach rath ar an bhféile – bainigí uilig sult as!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Éamonn Mac Aodha'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Éamonn Mac Aodha
Ambassador of Ireland

TRADFEST Belgium

7 – 12 June 2016

Full programme

Tuesday 7th June 2016

<p>TRADFEST Belgium Official Opening</p> <p>Time: 18.30</p> <p>Venue: The Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels Chaussée d'Etterbeek 180, 1040 Brussels (1st floor)</p> <p>Opening Programme Highlights:</p> <p>Photographic Exhibition Time: 18.45</p> <p>Compánach Time: 19.00</p> <p>Stonewall Time: 20.30</p> <p>Prior registration is required. Please register for this event online through the following link</p>	<p>The Embassy of Ireland and the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels will host a special reception to mark the opening of Belgium's traditional Irish music festival.</p> <p>Opening remarks by H.E. Eamonn Mac Aodha, Ambassador of Ireland to the Kingdom of Belgium.</p> <p>Photographic Exhibition by Samantha Hunt unveiled.</p> <p>Brussels based photographer Samantha Hunt has captured the spirit of last year's TRADFEST in a collection of striking photographs.</p> <p>Compánach – Fintan Vallely, Rebecca Draisey-Collishaw, Sibéal Elena Davitt, Gerard Michael O'Connor, Seán Tiarnán Ó Duinnchin, Jacques Nutan Piraprez and Karan Casey bring a compendium of Irish songs, music and dance.</p> <p>Compánach is a fast-moving, cross-media concert of traditional Irish music, song and dance. A unique concept, it links the narrative power and subtle judgment of the photographer's eye to the genre-specific tapestry and aesthetic precision of musicianship.</p> <p>Stonewall Colin Slaine, Andrew Cornett and Kenny Qua together make up Stonewall and hail from Co. Armagh. They are a leading presence on the Scottish Ceilidh scene.</p>
<p>Opening Session: Doreen Bourke and Friends</p> <p>Time: 20.00</p> <p>Venue: The Meeting Point Rue du Taciturne 39, 1000 Brussels</p>	<p>Doreen Bourke and Friends</p> <p>Opening session, all welcome!</p>
<p>Karen McHugh and friends</p> <p>Time: 22.00</p> <p>Venue: The Coolock Rue Archimède 55, 1000 Brussels (métro Schuman) All welcome!</p>	<p>Karen McHugh and Friends</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>

BOOK LAUNCH – “Irlande 66/69”

Time: 13.00

Venue: The Embassy of Ireland, Belgium
Rue Froissart/Froissartstraat 50
1040 Brussels
(métro Schuman)

Prior registration is required. [Please register for this event online through the following link](#)

Book Launch – Irlande 66/69

This book brings together a unique set of photographs taken by Belgian photographers Guy Jungblut and Jacques Piraprez (alias Nutan) in 1966 and 1969 respectively. The photographs offer a special insight into Dublin and Ireland of that era.

Leurs photographies en noir et blanc, indistinctement présentées, montrent une Irlande, et plus particulièrement sa capitale, Dublin, cinquante ans après l'Insurrection de 1916 – celle qu'on désigne encore sous le nom de « Pâques sanglantes ».

Headline act – Kíla

Time: 18.30 – 22.00

Venue: Flagey- Studio 4
Place Sainte-Croix, 1050 Brussels
TRAM : 81, 83
BUS : 38, 59, 60, 71

Kíla – Kíla’s music is a celebration of their ‘energy, creativity and wild exuberance’ (as described by France’s *Trad Mag*). As 2016 welcomes a new concert season, Kíla will be celebrating the continued success of their recent album **Suas Síos**, the remarkable film **Song of the Sea** (for which they co-wrote the score) and the most recent news that the music they wrote for the documentary about the Shannon - **Ireland’s Secret River** – received an Emmy nomination.

For further information: www.kila.ie



Perfect Friction formed in early 2012 when 5 young musicians who had been playing traditional Irish music sessions together in Wicklow town, decided to enlist the services of a talented vocalist and put a new sound on the road. The band’s music ranges from high-energy trad sets with a full range of instruments (fiddle, flute, uilleann pipes, concertina, accordion, whistle, bodhran, guitar, piano), to pop and rock songs tastefully arranged with a trad theme. Collectively they deliver a sound that will have your foot tapping and will leave you wondering what the magic ingredient is.

For further information: www.perfectfriction.ie

Lead sponsors for this event are BNP Paribas and Ryanair.

Prior registration is required. [Please register for this event online through the following link](#)



Louise Kelly, Dublin (Vocals)
Antoin Bracken, Dublin (Guitar)
Debbie Byrne, Wexford (Accordion)
Courtney Cullen, Wicklow (Fiddle/Whistle)
Lottie Cullen, Wicklow (Concertina/Uilleann Pipes)
Robbie Walsh, Dublin (Bodhran)

Cairde sa Bheilg

Time: 21:30

Venue: de Valera's
Place Eugène Flagey 17, 1050 Brussels

All welcome!

Cairde sa Bheilg - means friends in Belgium, and **Micheal 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.

The combination of uilleann pipes, Irish flute, guitar and fiddle is equally suited to their treatment of the old Irish airs of Turlough O'Carolan as to the more contemporary reels and jigs to create a unique interpretation and presentation of this internationally popular musical genre.

Oisín Dillon

Time: 21:00 – 22:00

Venue: The Bru House
14 Heldenplein, 1930 Zaventem

All welcome!

Oisín Dillon began playing traditional Irish music at the age of six. Beginning on the Irish Tin Whistle before moving on to guitar a few years later.

Since then he has gained over fourteen years experience as a professional musician. Performing with acts such as Shannon, The Celtic Rivers Orchestra, The Young Wolf tones, The Discovery Gospel Choir, The Voyagers and has toured in Europe, Poland and the U.S.

Thursday 9th June 2016

Tracey McRory and Richard Laird Ireland and WWI – a musical reflection.

Time: 13.00

Venue: The Embassy of Ireland, Belgium
Rue Froissart/Froissartstraat 50
1040 Brussels
(métro Schuman)

Tracey McRory

Four All Ireland Fiddle Champion and noted harp player **Tracey McRory** from Donegal, comes from a family steeped in musical traditions of Ireland. Tracey plays seven instruments and has the distinction of having performed for three different Irish Presidents.

Richard Laird is a singer/song writer from Northern Ireland who is accomplished in piano and guitar. He has composed songs and music around the theme of reconciliation, Ireland and World War 1 for over 10 years. Awarded by President McAleese for his musical services to peace and reconciliation in 2004.

Prior registration is required.

[Please register for this event online through the following link](#)



Ronnie Bracke and Jan Thoelen

Time: 18:30

Venue: The Michael Collins
Rue du Bailli 1, 1000 Brussels
(corner of Avenue Louise)

Ronnie Bracke is a flute player based near Ghent with a passion for Irish traditional music from a young age. As a frequent visitor to Ireland he has become part of the traditional music scene of the West of Ireland, he has enjoyed the company of local musicians and performed occasionally as a guest musician.

Jan Thoelen (fiddle) from Tervuren became interested in Irish music in the 70s after a trip to county Kerry. Listening to bands like Planxty and

All welcome!

The Dubliners, he started to play tunes on different stringed instruments (bouzouki, tenor banjo and mandolin), the banjo being his favourite for a long time. In the late 80s he picked up the fiddle and since then has been playing it as his main instrument. Jan has often played at sessions in Antwerp and Brussels and with local bands such as Dolmen and Gallarus.

Céilí and Set Dancing

Time: 19:30

Venue: Maison des Ailes
Rue Montoyer, 1, 1000 Brussels
(**métro Troon**)

Céilí and Set Dancing – Take part in Irish traditional dancing which has intrigued audiences internationally. A dance that fills the air with excitement and adrenalin making it nearly impossible not to enjoy the experience

All welcome!

Liam Ó Maonlaí

Time: 20:00

Venue: De Lijsterbes
Lijsterbessenbomenlaan 6, 1950 Kraainem

[To purchase tickets online please follow this link.](#)
Or contact the Embassy at brusselsevent@dfa.ie

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

Comhaltas - Brú Ború group

Time: 20:00

Venue: The Wild Geese
Avenue Livingstone 2, 1000 Brussels
(**métro Schuman**)



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 second year in a row.

Featuring Seán Ó Sé, harpist Mary Kelly, accordion player Bobby Gardiner, dancer Mark Nestor and more...

For further information: www.comhaltas.ie
All welcome!

Mary Mac Gabhann, Meadhbh Bolger and Edel Hurley

Time: 21:30

Venue: The Old Hack Irish Pub
Rue Joseph II 176, 1000 Brussels (**métro Schuman**)

In a snug setting Mary, Meadhbh and Edel will entertain the audience with Irish traditional music. Experience the upbeat tempos that will compel you to [dance a jig](#), clap your hands and join in.

All welcome!

Oisín Dillon

Time: 21:00 – 22:00

Venue: The Bru House
14 Heldenplein, 1930 Zaventem

All welcome!

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Since then he has gained over fourteen years experience as a professional musician. Performing with acts such as Shannon, The Celtic Rivers Orchestra, The Young Wolf tones, The Discovery Gospel Choir, The Voyagers and has toured in Europe, Poland and the U.S.

Friday 10th June 2016

“Leaving Ireland's Green Shores: Examining Irish Emigration through Songs and Music”
Lecture by Dr. Gerard Moran

Time: 13:00

Venue: The Embassy of Ireland, Belgium
Rue Froissart/Froissartstraat 50, 1040 Brussels
(**métro Schuman**)

Prior registration is required. [Please register for this event online through the following link](#)

Dr Gerard Moran, Social Historian, is coordinator of History at the European School, Brussels and has been a lecturer in the Dept. of History at NUI Galway and NUI Maynooth, where he established and was the Director of its MA in Irish History programme. He has published extensively on nineteenth-century Ireland, and is the author of *Sending Out Ireland's Poor: Assisted Emigration from Ireland in the Nineteenth Century* (Dublin, 2004), *Sir Robert Gore Booth and his Landed Estate in Co. Sligo, 1815-1878: Land, Famine, Emigration and Politics* (Dublin, 2006) and joint editor of *Mayo: History and Society* (Dublin, 2014) and *Irish Hunger and Migration: Myth, Memory and Memorization* (Quinnipiac UP, 2015).

“The Great Famine”
Lecture by Prof. Christine Kinealy

and Harp Recital by Mary Kelly

Time: 18:00

Venue: The Embassy of Ireland, Belgium
Rue Froissart/Froissartstraat 50, 1040 Brussels
(**métro Schuman**)

Prior registration is required. [Please register for this event online through the following link](#)

Prof. Christine Kinealy is renowned lecturer and global expert specializing on the Great Irish Famine. She will deliver a lecture during the festival on the Great Famine “*Europe responds to the Great Hunger: The Kindness of Strangers*”.

Renowned harpist **Mary Kelly** of Brú Ború, Co. Tipperary will give a harp recital to accompany the Great Famine lecture. Mary has played at both Irish national and also international events.

Members of Shantalla

Time: 20:00

Venue: The Coolock
Rue Archimède 55, 1000 Brussels
(**métro Schuman**)

All welcome !



Members of Shantalla:

Simon Donnelly: Guitar, Bouzouki

Michael Horgan: Uilleann Pipes, Flute, Low & High Whistles

Gerry Murray: Accordion, Low & High Whistles.

Kieran Fahy (fiddle)

For further information: www.shantallamusic.com

1916 FILM

Time: 19:30 doors open

Doors open at 19:30
Information about the Easter Rising at 19:45
Film starts at 20:00

Venue: ARhus, Kenniscentrum, De Munt, 8800
ROESELARE – West Flanders

1916 Film – ROESELARE, West Flanders

A captivating and moving documentary narrated by Liam Neeson which provides the audience with an insight into historic events in 1916.

The film is being shown by Bart sr Depestel and his companions in the Flanders Ireland Society:

Vlaanderen-Ierland

Tornooistraat 8, B-8800 Roeselare

For further information: www.vlaanderen-ierland.be

Irish Traditional Night at Redmonds Irish Pub

Time:

8.00 pm The Britches

9.00 pm The Saint Patrick Friends

Venue: Loker/ Heuvelland Dikkebusstraat 135,
8950
Tel: 057 44 81 01

The Britches – Irish Traditional Music

The Saint Patrick Friends and Irish Guests

Irish folk with roots

Ciarán Ó Ceallaigh, James Duggan & Meadhbh Bolger

Time: 21:00

Venue: The Grapevine

Place du Luxembourg, 11, 1050 Brussels
(**métro Troon**)

All welcome !

Ciarán took up the whistle in 2003 and 3 years later released his solo album "A whistle stop tour" which Siobhán Long of the Irish Times described as a "fiery debut". Turning his hand to the accordion in the last few years he is a regular feature on the Brussels Trad scene playing these 2 instruments.

Meadhbh is a concertina player from Dublin who began playing Irish music at a young age with her local Comhaltas branch. She is also an Irish dancer and plays and dances with the group The Irish House Party.

BRÚ BORÚ

Time: 22:00

Venue: The Old Oak

Rue Franklin 26, 1000 Brussels
(**métro Schuman**)

All welcome!

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 second year in a row.

For further information: www.comhaltas.ie

Saturday 11th June 2016

Traditional Irish Music Class

Time: 14:00

Venue: Embassy of Ireland
Rue Froissart/Froissartstraat 50, 1040 Brussels
(**métro Schuman**)

Prior registration is required. [Please register for this event online through the following link](#)

Please bring along your music instrument.

Traditional Irish Dancing Class

Time: 14:00

Venue: Embassy of Ireland
Rue Froissart/Froissartstraat 50, 1040 Brussels
(**métro Schuman**)

Prior registration is required. [Please register for this event online through the following link](#)

Irish Language Class

Time: 13:00

Venue: Embassy of Ireland
Rue Froissart/Froissartstraat 50, 1040 Brussels
(**métro Schuman**)

Prior registration is required. [Please register for this event online through the following link](#)

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

Jan Thoelen & Samantha Hunt

Time: 16:00 - 18:00

Venue: The Old Hack Irish Pub
Rue Joseph II 176, 1000 Brussels
(**métro Schuman**)

All welcome !

Jan Thoelen (fiddle) from Tervuren became interested in Irish music in the 70s after a trip to county Kerry. Listening to bands like Planxty and The Dubliners, he started to play tunes on different stringed instruments (bouzouki, tenor banjo and mandolin), the banjo being his favourite for a long time. In the late 80s he picked up the fiddle and since then has been playing it as his main instrument. Jan has often played at sessions in Antwerp and Brussels and with local bands such as Dolmen and Gallarus.

Samantha Hunt: Fiddle

Samantha is the fiddle player in James Cameron's Titanic and appeared in the steerage class scene with the band Gaelic Storm.

Philip King and Nuala O'Connor

Time: 19:00

Venue: The Embassy of Ireland
Rue Froissart/Froissartstraat 50, 1040 Brussels
(**métro Schuman**)

Prior registration is required. [Please register for this event online through the following link](#)

Philip King has been closely involved with the arts in Ireland as a filmmaker and musician for over 20 years. He has presented a number of radio programmes including "An Droichead Beo" produced by Harry Bradshaw, "The Green Groves" produced by Julian Vignoles and more recently from the Radio na Gaeltachta studios in Baile na nGall, "The South Wind Blows". He is a contributing reviewer to the Irish Times.

Since 1987 when **Nuala O'Connor** and Philip King set up Hummingbird Productions she has worked as a

documentary film maker in the area of music and arts documentaries. Before that she worked in RTE radio and television as researcher and producer. Nuala is a graduate in History and Political Science from TCD and in post graduate Social Studies from Queens University Belfast.

Cór Cúil Aodha

Time: 20:30

Venue: The ALOFT Hotel
Place Jean Rey 3, 1040 Brussels
(métro Schuman)

[Please register for this event online through the following link](#)

Peadar Ó Riada Composer, musician and choir director, will lead a performance by Cór Cúil Aodha. The repertoire includes the famous 'Mise Éire'.

BRÚ BORÚ

Time: 22:00

Venue: The Coolock
Rue Archimède 55, 1000 Brussels
(métro Schuman)

All welcome !

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 second year in a row. For further information: www.comhaltas.ie

Sunday 12th June 2016

Mass
Sung by Cór Cúil Aodha

Time: 11:30

Venue: St. Anthony's Parish
Oudstrijderslaan 23-25, 1950 Kraainem
(bus 42)

Mass sung by **Cór Cúil Aodha**. They have a long tradition of Church choral singing and include the Ó Riada Mass in their repertoire.



SET DANCING - ANTWERP**Time: 11:00 - 12:00****Venue: dance school EMKA**
Ertbrandstraat 259, 2950 Kapellen

Set Dancing Workshop – Irish traditional dancing to the rhythm of reels or jigs or polkas with live music performed by Malahide, a group of Flemish musicians. Learn to dance with experienced dancers from Amsterdam (NL) and Lille (FR), Tournai, Brussels and Antwerp, and more.

Céilí - ANTWERP**Time: 13.00 – 17.00****Venue: dance school EMKA**
Ertbrandstraat 259, 2950 Kapellen

Céilí – This is a traditional and popular form of folk dancing, it is based around a very long tradition of gathering for fun, fellowship and laughs (or craic as the Irish might say).

Ciarán Ó Ceallaigh agus a Chairde at St Anthony's Parish fete**Time: 14:30****Venue: St. Anthony's Parish**
Oudstrijderslaan 23-25, 1950 Kraainem
(bus 42)

St Anthony's Parish Kraainem hold their annual fair on June 12th.

Ciarán took up the whistle in 2003 and 3 years later released his solo album "A whistle stop tour" which Siobhán Long of the Irish Times described as a "fiery debut". Turning his hand to the accordion in the last few years he is a regular feature on the Brussels Trad scene playing these 2 instruments.

TRADFEST closing session**Time: 16:00****Venue: The Old Oak**
Rue Franklin 26, 1000 Bruxelles
(métro Schuman)

All musicians welcome!

The festival events in Brussels will draw to a close with an impromptu open final session.

For full programme details and updates including other venues in Liege and Zaventem please see Facebook page: [TRADFEST Belgium 2016](#)

Follow us on Twitter: [@IrishEmbBelgium](#), [@TradFestB](#), #TradFestBelgium

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FORTIS



1815 - 2015
WATERLOO
The Beer of Bravery!



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COMHALTAS



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