

DÚN ULADH  
CULTURAL  
HERITAGE  
CENTRE  
PRESENTS



# Remembering Bunting Festival

8th-10th  
February  
2019



FREE  
WEEKEND  
EVENT

LIVE MUSIC

FILMS

SPECIAL  
GUEST  
SPEAKERS

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information visit  
[www.dunuladh.ie](http://www.dunuladh.ie)  
on 028 8224 2777

*Entertainment  
that enlightens  
and inspires*

“Explore rich cultural and musical history and heritage by honouring the important and significant work of Belfast’s “adopted son”, Edward Bunting. The Remembering Bunting Festival celebrates its second anniversary with an exciting line up of lectures, demonstrations and concerts as well as interactive workshops, and traditional music sessions. Expert guest speakers, Belfast’s own community choirs and world class musicians bring it all together in honour of Edward Bunting and his invaluable contribution to the music of Ireland.

”

## Edward Bunting

Born in Armagh, Edward began formal music studies in Drogheda at the young age of seven. By age eleven, he became organist apprentice at St. Anne’s church in Belfast whilst residing at the home of the famous Belfast McCracken family. At age nineteen, with the shared interests and support of siblings, Mary Ann and Henry Joy McCracken, he was hired to transcribe the music presented at the Belfast Harpers’ Gathering in 1792. From 1817 -1819, Edward was the church organist at St. George’s Church, High Street, Belfast. In addition to organizing a second festival in 1813, Bunting went on to become a prolific collector of traditional songs and tunes. His three volumes of the Ancient Music of Ireland, were published in 1796, 1809 and 1840 respectively. Lost for many years, these collective works of approximately 250 items have preserved precious history and heritage. In addition, the Bunting manuscripts contain invaluable clues and commentary that reveal the art practices and perceptions of the day. Bequeathed to Queen’s University, Belfast in 1916, by Charlotte Milligan Fox, Secretary of the Irish Folk Song Society, Bunting’s contribution to traditional music cannot be overstated and his story, our story, continues to live on through the music of today both knowingly and unknowingly!

## The Ceol Project

The Community Engagement, Outreach and Liaison Project or CEOL for short, was initiated by Comhaltas through its Regional Cultural Centre, Dún Uladh in 2016. The CEOL Project acts as a bridge uniting diverse communities across Ulster to enable the whole community to feel comfortable accessing Irish traditional music sessions, classes, competitions and concerts.

CEOL has enabled Comhaltas in Ulster to develop links with similar organizations within the Scottish pipe band sector, such as our project colleagues the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland and the Music Service for Pipes and Drums. This continues to facilitate exciting new relationships and musical collaborations which explore, showcase and celebrate our shared musical heritage.

## Vocal Tutors

Jaff Piobaire & Aoife Ní Roideáin

## Ceol Band Tutors

VIVIAN MURPHY MULCAHY

Newcastle Comhaltas

IAN BURROWS

Royal Scottish Pipe Band  
Northern Ireland

ANDY MCGREGOR

Music Service for Pipes and Drums



## FRIDAY 8 FEBRUARY

**A Tale of Two Tunes: Bunting & Irish Music History**

Sarah McCleave (QUB) discusses two representative tunes found in multiple versions within Bunting's vast collection and arrangement of Irish tunes and song lyrics, with a focus on musical variants for "The Girl Left Behind Me" and on textual variants for "The Pretty Girl Milking Her Cow".

**Before Bunting: The music of the old Irish Harpers**

Edward Bunting started transcribing tunes from the old Irish harpers in 1792. Simon Chadwick explores what Bunting's manuscripts can tell us about the old harpers and their music. Where did this music come from? What were the early Irish harps like? Find out more about the history and traditions of the Irish harp in Bunting's time and before, and how this can inform modern revivals.

**All the Birds in the Forest... Songs of the Old Irish Harpers**

Ireland's foremost historical harpist, Siobhán Armstrong, is joined by prize-winning singer, Eibhlís Ní Ríordáin, to present evocative songs collected by Edward Bunting, accompanied on the exquisite, early Irish harp that Bunting so admired.

**Hands-On Early Irish Harp Beginners' Workshop - with Sylvia Crawford in association with the Historical Harp Society of Ireland**

Bunting's manuscripts include important information about how the old Irish harp was played. This workshop gives you the opportunity to try out a tune from the Bunting manuscripts, using copies of some of the harps played in 1792. Suitable for adults and children over 10. No previous experience needed. Harps will be supplied. Pre-booking essential as places are limited.

**Edward Bunting Collection Exhibition**

A select number of items from the Bunting Collection will be displayed in the Special Collections Reading Room in the McClay Library (10 College Park). The exhibition materials will be introduced by Louisa Costelloe, Assistant Librarian in Special Collections. She will also give an overview of how the Bunting Collection came to be in Queen's University Belfast. This is a free event but places are limited to 20 as there will be so many unique manuscripts on display and space is relatively limited in the Reading Room. Please email [specialcollections@qub.ac.uk](mailto:specialcollections@qub.ac.uk) with your full name and contact number if you would like to attend.

## FRIDAY 8 FEBRUARY

**Film Screening - Belfast 1792 – The Hub of the Harp**

Filmmaker, Bernard Conlon's film describes the events surrounding the 1792 Belfast Harpers Assembly, which took place in the Assembly Rooms building at the junction of Donegall and Waring streets. The 220th anniversary in 2012 was an event that took place in the Central Library to commemorate it. This event revealed research about the life and times of Arthur (Art) O'Neill, one of the oldest harpers at the Assembly as carried out by Eugene Dunphy. The film highlights an era in Belfast when there was common purpose and great cultural and political dynamic. Following the screening, Bernard will be available for a short Q & A period.

**Keynote Address by Frank Bunting**

"Bunting's father (Edward) came from the Ashover area of Derbyshire arriving in Tyrone in 1754, then to Armagh around 1760. Kilmore parish, county Armagh was the home area for Bunting's Irish mother and her wider family. Bunting's sister, Sarah, and other relatives either lived in this parish or in adjacent townlands. This location, close to Bunting's birth town of Armagh, was where Edward Bunting, born 1773, surely acquired his love of Irish music and culture at a young age.

Soon after though, in the 1780s and 1790s, Bunting's immediate family would have been embroiled in both sides of the deep political divisions of that time and place. How did this affect Edward? We know that Edward Bunting through these times was a foster brother of siblings Henry Joy and Mary Ann McCracken, living with them in Belfast. Young Bunting was present at early meetings with what was to become the Belfast Society of the United Irishmen, entertaining them with his music. However, wisely he spurned the militant means of others, choosing rather to preserve native Irish culture using his musical talents. His legacy is alive for us all to enjoy today, and traditional Irish music continues to offer the world a slice of rich Irish culture."

*All these events are FREE*

*Booking may be advised in some cases*

# Saturday & Sunday Events

## SATURDAY 9 FEBRUARY

### Bunting Tunes: Then and Now

Dr. Conor Caldwell explores the evolution of some of the tunes collected by Bunting... a talk illuminated by his virtuosic fiddle playing.

### Live on Saturday Night

The Remembering Bunting Festival offers a line-up of brilliant solo and ensemble musicians that will showcase the unique skills, styles and varieties of traditional music. This night of entertainment promises to be uplifting and enlightening!

## SUNDAY 10 FEBRUARY

### What the Focal? Short Film with Q&A immediately following.

Screening of a short film produced by Linda Ervine, adapted by Jonathan Burgess (Blue Eagle Productions) in partnership with Cultúrlann Uí Chanáinn. Come and find out what happens when Maggie from East Belfast enrolls in an Irish Language Class, much to the horror of her staunchly loyalist husband.

### CEOL Band Performance followed by short Session of tunes and songs

Performance by the cross community CEOL Band which is comprised of members of the Newcastle Branch of Comhaltas alongside members of the Music Service for Pipes and Drums and the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland.

### Festival Farewell Session

Traditional music session of tunes led by Gerry Ó Connor, with the virtuoso performer drawing on knowledge of south Ulster and Scottish tunes.

## Local Traditional Music Sessions

### Friday 8 February

5:00pm The Garrick Bar  
6:00pm Madden's Bar  
8:30pm Sunflower Public House  
10:00pm Madden's Bar

### Saturday 9 February

4:00pm The John Hewitt Bar  
8:30pm Sunflower Public House  
10:00pm Madden's Bar

### Sunday 10 February

4.00pm Sunflower Public House  
6:00pm The Garrick Bar  
9:00pm Madden's Bar

The Garrick Bar  
Chichester St,  
Belfast BT1 4JB  
028 9032 1984

Sunflower Public House  
65 Union Street,  
Belfast BT1 2JG  
028 9023 2474

Madden's Bar  
74 Berry St,  
Belfast BT1 1FJ  
028 9024 4114

The John Hewitt Bar  
51 Donegall St,  
Belfast BT1 2FH  
028 9023 3768

# Schedule of Events

Friday 8 February	Saturday 9 February	Sunday 10 February
<p><b>11:00am A Tale of Two Tunes: Bunting &amp; Irish Music History</b> Dr. Sarah McCleave <b>Queen's University Belfast</b> Harty Room - Music Faculty</p>		<p>Events are <b>FREE</b> but booking may be required</p>
<p><b>11:45am Before Bunting:</b> The Music of the Old Irish Harpers Simon Chadwick <b>Queen's University Belfast</b> Harty Room - Music Faculty</p>		<p><b>12:00 What the Focal?</b> Screening of a short film by Linda Ervine adapted by Jonathan Burgess Blue Eagle Productions</p>
<p><b>1:00pm CONCERT</b> Siobhan Armstrong <b>Queen's University Belfast</b> Harty Room - Music Faculty</p>	<p><b>1:00pm Bunting Tunes:</b> Then and Now Recital and Talk Dr. Conor Caldwell <b>Duncairn Centre</b></p>	<p>Q&amp;A to follow with Linda Ervine <b>Coláiste Feirste.</b></p>
<p><b>2:00pm Harp Workshop</b> Sylvia Crawford <b>Queen's University Belfast</b> Harty Room - Music Faculty</p>		<p><b>2:00pm Ceol Band Performance</b> followed by Short Session of Tunes and Songs <b>Coláiste Feirste</b></p>
<p><b>3:15pm An Introduction to the Bunting Manuscripts</b> with exhibition Louisa Costelloe <b>Queen's University Belfast</b> Special Collections/Archives</p>		<p><b>4:00pm Festival Farewell Session</b> led by Gerry Ó Connor <b>Cultúrlann MacAdam Ó Fiaich</b></p>
<p><b>7:00pm Festival Launch</b> <b>Skainos Centre</b> CEOL BAND</p>	<p><b>7:00pm Live on Saturday Night</b> Tyrone Traditional Arts Group, Katy Bustard School of Harpers, Aoife Ní Roideáin, Glór Feirste, Siobhan Armstrong, Craobh Rua. <b>St. George's Church</b></p>	<p>Venue locations and contact details are printed on page 11 of this booklet</p>
<p><b>7:15pm Film Screening Belfast 1792 –</b> The Hub of the Harp Bernard Conlon Q&amp;A <b>Skainos Centre</b></p>		
<p><b>8:00pm Frank Bunting</b> Keynote Address <b>Skainos Centre</b></p>		

# Featured Artists & Academics

## DR SARAH McCLEAVE

School of Arts, English and Languages - Senior Lecturer, Musicology & Composition  
A musicologist, Sarah is a senior lecturer in the School of Arts, English and Languages at Queen's University Belfast. With Tríona O'Hanlon, between 2015 and 2017 she undertook the Horizon 2020-funded project ERIN (Europe's Reception of the Irish Melodies and National Airs: Thomas Moore in Europe), with digital outputs already available at <http://omeka.qub.ac.uk> and <http://blogs.qub.ac.uk/erin>. McCleave considers Moore's working methods in her chapter, "The genesis of Thomas Moore's Irish Melodies", for *Cheap Print and Popular Song in the Nineteenth Century*, a volume of essays published by Cambridge University Press in 2017. With Brian Caraher, she is co-editor of *Thomas Moore and Romantic Inspiration: Poetry, Music, and Politics* (Routledge, 2016); with Tríona O'Hanlon, she is co-editor of *The Reputations of Thomas Moore* (Routledge, forthcoming).



## SIMON CHADWICK - HISTORICAL HARPS SOCIETY

Simon's current work is concentrating on the tradition-bearers of the late 18th and early 19th century. He is interested in lineage, transmission and trying to connect to the broken end of the living tradition through studying Bunting's manuscripts and other sources. Published in 2017, Mr. Chadwick's book, *Progressive Lessons* presents the source material for the three beginners' tunes "traditionally taught young harpers". These tunes were collected by Edward Bunting from the last of the old Irish harpers in the 1790s, and written into his manuscript notebooks. The book includes actual-size colour facsimiles of the key source manuscripts, with detailed commentary on them. As well as the three tunes, there is information about the old harpers and their harps. Simon is currently researching and commissioning a detailed "archaeological" copy of one of the 18th century harps preserved in the National Museum of Ireland. As well as performing and teaching, he organises events, mostly as part of the Historical Harp Society of Ireland.



## SIOBHAN ARMSTRONG - HISTORICAL HARPS SOCIETY

Siobhán is one of Europe's foremost historical harpists, performing and recording 16th- to 18th-century opera and chamber music with many of Europe's most prestigious historical performers, and also collaborating with some of Ireland's best traditional musicians. She founded and chairs The Historical Harp Society of Ireland. Her own early Irish harp is a copy of the medieval Trinity College or Brian Boru harp—the national emblem of Ireland. In 2014, Middlesex University, London, awarded her a three-year post-graduate research bursary to pursue PhD studies in early Irish harp performance practice. Siobhán has also embarked on a recording project, with her group, The Irish Consort, to present a series of five CDs of music in Ireland 1500-1800. *Music of Ireland Vol. I: The Kingdom of Ireland 1500—1600* will appear in 2016. This project is kindly funded by the Arts Council Music Recording Scheme, managed by Music Network.



## EIBHLÍS NÍ RÍORDÁIN

Eibhlís has won many prizes for her singing in Irish at the Oireachtas and the Fleadh and is almost unique in researching and performing the songs of the 17th- and 18th-century Irish harpers. She is a music graduate of University College Cork, holds a Licentiate in Piano Teaching from Trinity College London and also a first-class honours MA in Women's Studies. Her singing influences include Níoclás Tóibín, Labhrás Ó Cadhla, Áine Uí Cheallaigh, and Ciarán Ó Geallabháin in the Déise region of East Munster. Eibhlís recently began playing early Irish harp herself and uses it to accompany her harper-song repertory and also for traditional Irish-language song more generally.



# Featured Artists & Academics

## SYLVIA CRAWFORD - HISTORICAL HARPS SOCIETY

Sylvia Crawford, from Co. Armagh, combines both a classical and a traditional music background. She graduated in music and ethnomusicology from Queen's University Belfast, and in arts administration from NUI Galway. She is currently completing a Masters by Research at Dundalk Institute of Technology on music and tourism in the Oriel region, with a focus on the life and music of Patrick Quin, an eighteenth century harper from Co. Armagh. Sylvia teaches and plays early Irish harp, fiddle and piano. She is actively involved with the running of The Historical Harp Society of Ireland, as well as teaching at Scoil na gCláirseach. Most recently she has been working with Irish singer, Pádraigin Ní Uallacháin, and Sylvia's harp music and research features on Pádraigin's 2017 online project, Oriel Arts.



## LOUISA COSTELLOE - QUEENS UNIVERSITY BELFAST

Louisa Costelloe is a Chartered Librarian in Special Collections at Queen's University Belfast. She has experience in both the public and academic library sector and has specialised in historic book and manuscript collections. Louisa has led a digital transformation in Special Collections and has focused on increasing accessibility to the digital and physical collections, while ensuring their preservation for future generations. Her experience of playing the harp and concertina has led to a particular interest in the Edward Bunting Collection.



## BERNARD CONLON

Bernard was born in Glengormley, on the outskirts of Belfast. He studied history, politics and communications at what is now Ulster University. After press and research work in Belfast, he went to Luxembourg on a scholarship. He honed his journalism skills working with a Brussels publisher. He wrote on European affairs, worked for trade union bodies and others and spearheaded cultural activity in the Belgian capital, for a long time. Returning to Belfast, he did communications work in the peace-building and other sectors. He set up Inforculture - a community interest company (CIC) facilitating "information and creativity." While working for various community organisations he made documentaries. He is working on poetic and other writing projects and is planning more documentary work.



## FRANK BUNTING

Frank Bunting is a four times grand nephew of Edward Bunting and direct descendant of Anthony Bunting, Edward's sibling, who was both his early music teacher and one time carer in Drogheda, with a resultant high influence on Edward. An Australian by birth, London resident and a retired geologist, Frank has devoted some six years tracing the history of his Buntings back to their roots in County Armagh, and with earlier deeper origins back in Derbyshire, England. What started as a retirement hobby led to the uncovering of significant new information regarding the family, ancestors and life context of Edward Bunting. Frank's work also significantly updates previous knowledge of Irish music historians of Bunting's political leanings and his desire to safeguard traditional Irish music from "oblivion". He has also researched and published two extensive articles on these matters which look at both the history of Bunting's Protestant family, and that of his Catholic mother, Mary O'Quinn. The papers are published in the respected journal of the O'Neill Country Historical Society, *Dúiche Néill* (Volumes 24 and 25). This will be Frank's second visit to the Remembering Bunting Festival and his first as a key note speaker.



# Featured Artists & Academics

## DR CONOR CALDWELL

Queen's University Belfast, Creative Arts, Adjunct Traditional Irish Music



Conor Caldwell is a traditional fiddler and composer from Belfast. His music takes a contemporary approach whilst remaining reflective of his roots in the Donegal and Northern fiddle tradition. Exploring the capabilities of the fiddle and through the use of electronics he creates music that is spacious with harmonies and accompaniment sympathetic to the old and original tunes he plays. Aside from his solo work, he plays in a duo project with fellow fiddler Danny Diamond (Slow Moving Clouds), with whom he released the critically acclaimed album NORTH in 2016, nominated by the Irish Times in its 'Best Traditional' category for 2016 and described by Musical Traditions as 'an impressive, highly-enjoyable and illuminating achievement'. He has also toured as a member of Craobh Rua since 2009, performing across Europe and the USA.

## KATY BUSTARD Harpist

Katy Bustard is a piano and harp teacher based in Portballintrae, County Antrim. Educated at Queen's University, Belfast (BA, MSc) and the University of Exeter (PGCE), Katy is also a classically trained musician holding Dip LCM and ALCM diplomas in Pianoforte Performance and Irish Traditional Harp from the London College of Music.

With over 14 years of experience teaching in schools and as a private music tutor, Katy is passionate about teaching children and young people. She is committed to sharing the joy of music, to unlocking musical ability, talent and potential in each and every pupil, and to raising up confident and skilled performers aware of their rich musical heritage.



## AOIFE NÍ ROIDEÁIN

As a member of the highly innovative Irish language rock group, "Dysania", Aoife is no stranger to performing in Belfast. A student of Irish and music at Maynooth University, she is equally at home singing in Irish and English. She performs regularly in the Irish folk roots trio, "Hand Like a Foot" and has played in a variety of line-ups at festivals throughout Ireland including, Electric Picnic, Ceol Chairlinn, Feile Patrick Byrne and Carrickmacross Arts Festival.

## CROABH RUA

Hailing from Belfast they perform Irish traditional music with their distinctive northern style. Their music has delighted audiences and earned them wide acclaim and recognition. Craobh Rua are now regarded around the world as one of the finest ambassadors of Irish traditional music. The band's musicians bring their own individual experience to the group and fuse their talents to bring life to a

wide array of instruments including the banjo, mandolin, fiddle, uilleann pipes, tin whistle, guitar and vocals. They take a refreshing, unpretentious but uncommonly skilled run at some of the greatest music in the world. They have given concerts and festival performances in the USA, Canada, Australia, Germany, Austria, Italy, Holland, Switzerland, Brittany, Asturias, Belgium, Poland, Slovenia, Denmark, Norway, Bulgaria, England, Scotland, Wales and of course their native home - Ireland. Craobh Rua has released six albums to date and appeared on a number of compilation albums. Their latest release, I'd Understand You If I Knew What You Meant, has been critically acclaimed and spent most of 2015 near the tops of the traditional music album charts.



# Featured Artists & Academics

## TYRONE TRADITIONAL ARTS GROUP

Tyrone Traditional Arts Group is a new cross-community initiative bringing together musicians and dancers from across the Red hand County and drawn from both a Catholic and Protestant community background. The Tyrone Traditional Arts Group involves members of the Newtown Stewart Highland Dancers and Niamb Browne School of Irish Dancers and musicians from across County Tyrone. This initiative is supported by the Irish Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the Reconciliation Fund.

## LINDA ERVINE – TURAS

Linda Ervine has the unlikely responsibility of being the first Irish Language Officer based in a loyalist area. She was introduced to the language through a cross community taster session in East Belfast Mission, a Methodist Church on the Newtownards Road. When she began learning Irish in 2011, no one would have conceived of the idea of an Irish language centre in the heart of east Belfast. Today Linda oversees 15 Irish language class, dance and music classes which bring together people from all parts of Belfast. In 2013 Linda received the Roll of Honour in the Aisling Award for her work promoting the Irish language. In 2015 she received the Community Relations Council (CRC) Civic Leadership Award for her commitment to Turas, an Irish Language project at East Belfast Mission.



## CEOL BAND

This 20 piece cross community youth band formed last year, is drawn from members of the Newcastle Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland and the Music Service for Pipes and Drums. Debuting in October of 2017, they played in the Ulster Fleadh this past July, as well as at last year's inaugural Remembering Bunting Festival. Collectively, they will perform an exciting showcase of tunes and songs that shine a light on the continuing involvement of their shared heritage of traditional music.

## CEOL BAND TUTORS

Vivian Murphy Mulcahy - Newcastle Comhaltas

Ian Burrows - Royal Scottish Pipe Band Northern Ireland

Andy McGregor – Music Service for Pipes and Drums

## Festival Venues

### Queen's University

Belfast,  
University Road,  
Belfast,  
BT7 1NN,  
+44 (0)28 9097 2222

### Skainos Centre

239 Newtownards Road  
Belfast, BT4 1AF  
+44 (0)28 9045 8560

### The Duncairn

Duncairn Avenue,  
Belfast,  
County Antrim,  
BT14 6BP  
+44 (0)28 9074 7114

### St. George's Church

105 High Street  
Belfast  
BT1 2AG  
+44 (0)28 9023 1275

### Cultúrlann - McAdam Ó Fiaich

216 Falls Road,  
Belfast BT12 6AH  
+44 (0)28 9096 4180

### Colaiste Feirste

Teach Ard na bhFeá  
7 Páirc Radharc na  
bhFeá  
An Ceathrú Gaeltachta  
Béal Feirste  
BT12 7PY  
+44 (0)28 9032 0707

The Remembering Bunting Festival  
 which is organised by  
 DúnUladh, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann's  
 Regional Cultural and Heritage Centre  
 based in Omagh,  
 has been financially assisted by  
 The Executive Office, through  
 the Together Building a  
 United Community Programme and  
 The Republic of Ireland's  
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade,  
 through the Reconciliation Fund.

For more information contact  
 Dún Uladh Cultural Heritage Centre  
 on 028 8224 2777  
 or e-mail  
[outreach@dunuladh.ie](mailto:outreach@dunuladh.ie)



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