

Autumn-Winter Programme 2025



MUSIC THAT MOVES GALWAY



MusicConnects

Music that moves Galway

MusicConnects is where music, community, and place come together. We bring inspiring music and musicians into the heart of everyday life, reaching people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities across Galway City and County.

Though we may sound new, we have been enriching lives in Galway for over 23 years. Formerly known as Galway Music Residency, we've changed our name—but who we are and what we do remains the same.

MusicConnects is a music residency programme deeply rooted in the rhythm of Galway life. Through our work with ConTempo Quartet, our long-term resident artists, and collaborations with local and national musicians, we connect.



We connect people to music – and to each other – from the earliest notes of childhood to the gentle hum of older age.

We connect with other art forms – sparking curiosity, creativity, and bold new ideas.

We connect you to the pressing issues of our time – to the sound of the stories that shape us.

This season, as we continue to explore the natural world through music, we invite you to pause, listen, and connect. Discover something new, return to something familiar, and find meaningful connection through music. We are so glad to have you with us.

Maeve Bryan

Executive Director

Jacqueline Teegarden

Operations Manager



2025 Theme: Nature & Ecology

MusicConnects celebrates the natural world through music this year, performed by our resident string quartet ConTempo Quartet and guest artists. Here in the West we are deeply connected to, and defined by, nature and the elements. Join us to explore music through the lens of delicately balanced ecosystems, the migratory patterns of animals, the weather and more. Each month, we bring Galway audiences on a new journey through our wild and wonderful world. Check out our FREE autumn events below, featuring five key series.

Flagship concert series

- **Lunchtime with ConTempo** – our flagship monthly lunchtime series. Perfect for your lunchbreak.
- **ConTempo Countywide** – our series connecting with communities throughout Galway County.
- **3 Kinds of Music** – our popular tasting menu of musical genres, in partnership with The Black Gate.

Listening initiatives

These initiatives happen ahead of our Lunchtime and Countywide concerts to prepare your ears and empower you to have a more meaningful listening experience at the live performances. They can also be enjoyed independently. These events are open to all and no experience is needed.

- **Music Unveiled** – our Guided Listening initiative at Galway's city libraries, in collaboration with Galway City Council Arts Office's Cultural Partnership Programme and University of Galway's Department of Music. These informal and accessible sessions deconstruct some of the music to be performed each month.
- **Lines of Listening (NEW!)** – a Creative Responses series as part of Lochrán, our outreach initiative in partnership with Arts in Action, University of Galway. Artist Maeve Curtis and Author Mike McCormack guide these monthly, deep listening workshops where participants engage in process-oriented mark making either in paint or in words, responding to this season's music programme. Materials provided.

Go With The Flow

The Corrib River runs through Galway City and County supporting a rich ecosystem. Ahead of World Rivers Day on 28th September, celebrate the flow of water through music.

Tuesday 2 September **Lunchtime with ConTempo**

St Nicholas' Collegiate Church, 1.10pm-1.50pm

Sunday 7 September **Lines of Listening**

The Space, Áras na Mac Léinn, University of Galway, 11am-1pm

Sunday 21 September **ConTempo Countywide**

Irish Workhouse Centre, Portumna, H53 EK74, 3pm

As part of Shorelines Arts Festival

For The Birds II

There are over 450 bird species in Ireland including many rare, unusual or migratory birds. Celebrate the song and flight of these beautiful animals with ConTempo Quartet.

Friday 26 September **Music Unveiled**

Ballybane Library, H91 FX98, 11am

Featuring Dr Aidan Thomson & composer Jane O'Leary

Sunday 5 October **Lines of Listening**

The Space, Áras na Mac Léinn, University of Galway, 11am-1pm

Sunday 5 October **ConTempo Countywide**

St Fursa's Parish Hall, Headford, H91 N5P9, 6.30pm

As part of Something in the Water Festival, featuring the Irish Premiere of 'Taking Flight' by Jane O'Leary

Tuesday 7 October **Lunchtime with ConTempo**

St Nicholas' Collegiate Church, 1.10pm-1.50pm

Stormy Weather

The West of Ireland is no stranger to wild weather, but storms are becoming an ever more present part of our lives due to climate change. Explore this pressing issue through music.

Tuesday 28 October **Music Unveiled**

Westside Library, 2pm

Featuring Dr Aidan Thomson & composer Judith Ring

Sunday 2 November **Lines of Listening**

The Space, Áras na Mac Léinn, University of Galway, 11am -1pm

Tuesday 4 November **Lunchtime with ConTempo**

St Nicholas' Collegiate Church, 1:10pm-1:50pm

Featuring the **World Premiere** of 'Raise a Tragic Chorus in a Gale' by Judith Ring

Sunday 22 November **3 Kinds of Music**

The Mick Lally Theatre, 3pm

Saturday 29 November **ConTempo Countywide**

Kinvara Community Hall, H91 WC64, 8pm

In collaboration with Kinvara Community Orchestra





Wintering

Nature must slumber now to prepare for the spring ahead, and perhaps we should follow its lead. Prepare for hibernation with winter music.

Tuesday 25 November **Music Unveiled**

Galway City Library, 11am

Featuring Dr Aidan Thomson & composer Deirdre McKay

Sunday 30 November **Lines of Listening**

The Space, Áras na Mac Léinn, University of Galway, 11am-1pm

Tuesday 2 December **Lunchtime with ConTempo**

St Nicholas' Collegiate Church, 1:10pm-1:50pm

Sunday 7 December **ConTempo Countywide**

Scoil Éinne, An Spidéal, H91 N9C9, 3:30pm

In partnership with Comhlacht Forbartha an Spidéil

Saturday 20 December **3 Kinds of Music**

The Mick Lally Theatre, 3pm

Entry to all events is FREE.

No booking is required for concerts. Donations welcome.

Booking for *Music Unveiled* is through the individual Libraries.

Booking for *Lines of Listening* is through Eventbrite (Arts in Action)

A maximum of 16 places are available per session so early booking is advised.

Outreach

MusicConnects is dedicated to reaching those who may not be able to attend our live events, children or adults just starting out on their listening journeys, or students exploring music deeply.

Education

In 2025, we launched our **Learning to Listen** primary school programme developed with Anna Mullarkey for MusicConnects. A team of experienced educators trained in our Listening Thinking Strategies method, facilitate deep listening for children in 3rd to 6th class. This child-led method empowers young pupils to articulate their authentic response to music and supports co-composing projects. This initiative is supported by the AIB Community Fund.

We connect with the students of **University of Galway** in the fields of Music and Writing. We also work with **Secondary School** students across the county. Engaging with ConTempo Quartet live in the classroom enriches their learning, composition and performance.

Our **Ensemble Skills** programme supports the young string players of Galway city and county to develop their skills in working and performing with others.



MusicConnects

Community

Creating opportunities for adults in older age to connect with music and musicians is very dear to our hearts. **Music in the Afternoon** sees musicians taking up mini-residencies in Care Homes throughout the city and county. Together the musicians and residents build relationships, and share in the joy of music. This initiative is supported by Creative Ireland, Galway City and County Councils.

Listening initiatives are a very important community strand of our work. Through guided listening and creative response sessions, we provide opportunities for our audience members to connect with our music before it is performed in concert. Check out **Music Unveiled** and **Lines of Listening** in this programme.

Get Involved

Many of these initiatives need support to continue. If you work with an organisation interested in supporting the arts, help us to create connection by sponsoring a School Workshop, Care Home Visit or Ensemble Skills Tutor.

Become a Music Maker

Become a Music Maker to support our work more generally. Through a once-off or annual donation of €50, €100 or more you help to keep the lights on, the bow on the string, and a welcoming face at our doors.

Contact us today to discuss your options on 091-586706 or info@musicconnects.ie



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Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

