



MusicConnects Presents

Ag Tarraingt Ón Tobar

St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church

Thursday 23 July 2026 | 6pm



Welcome / Fáilte

Ag Tarraingt Ón Tobar / Drawing From the Well is the latest innovative multi-genre collaboration from MusicConnects. Galway's cherished ensemble-in-residence, ConTempo Quartet, and Connemara siblings Séamus & Caoimhe Uí Fhlatharta share the stage for this musical exploration of cultural resilience.

Featuring *Stolen Hearts* by Bill Whelan, new arrangements of sean-nós songs and melodies by composer-performer Matthew Berrill, and traditional Romanian Folk melodies, this thought-provoking evening of music explores the fight for cultural identity in the face of oppression. How do language, song and tradition survive and flourish when they are under threat?

With a seamless blend of strings, voice and traditional sounds, *Ag Tarraingt Ón Tobar* weaves together the classical and the traditional in a performance that is both intimate and quietly defiant.

This is a 1 hour performance with no interval.



Ag Tarraingt Ón Tobar

Programme

Séamus & Caoimhe Uí Fhlatharta | Sean-nós / Scott's Gaelic

Traditional

Eileanór na Rún

Tha Biodag ag Mac Thomais & Tha Fionnlaigh ag Innearadh

ConTempo Quartet | Romanian Folk Music

Béla Bartók (1881-1945)

Romanian Folk Dances

- *Jocul cu bâță / Stick Dance*
- *Brâul / Belt Dance*
- *Pe loc / In One Spot*
- *Buciumeana / Dance from Bucsum*
- *Poarga Românească / Romanian Polka*
- *Mărunțel / Fast Dance*

Uile/tutti | Fusion

Matthew Berrill (b. 1983) Composer & Guest Artist

Arrangements (WORLD PREMIERE)

- *An raibh tú ar an gCarraig?*
- *Blackbird*
- *Johnny Seoighe*
- *Bean Pháidín*

Bill Whelan (b.1950)

Stolen Hearts

The Artists

Séamus & Caoimhe Uí Fhlatharta



Séamus agus Caoimhe Uí Fhlatharta are a renowned brother-sister duo from Connemara, celebrated for their sean-nós singing and multi-instrumental skills. Immersed in tradition from a young age, they create unique, high-energy arrange-

ments of Irish and English songs, gaining international acclaim for their rich vocal harmonies.

ConTempo Quartet

Bogdan Sofei, violin i | Ingrid Nicola, violin ii
Andreea Banciu, viola | Adrian Mantu, cello



Formed in 1995 in Bucharest, ConTempo Quartet is recognised as one of the most exciting and vibrant chamber ensembles performing today. ConTempo Quartet was chosen as MusicConnects' ensemble-in-residence in 2003 and continues to captivate audiences throughout Galway city and county, and beyond, with its repertoire of classical, contemporary and folk music.

The Composers

Béla Bartók



Béla Bartók, driven by a desire to preserve uncorrupted rural peasant music, documented and collected thousands of Romanian folk melodies. In the early 1900s he brought a phonograph to remote villages throughout the Transylvanian region to capture authentic, living folklore.

Matthew Berrill



Matthew Berrill, from Headford, is a multi-instrumentalist known for his work in performance, improvisation, composition, and curation. His arrangements this evening reimagine traditional sean-nós melodies, celebrating the resilience of Ireland's song tradition through a modern lens.

Bill Whelan



Bill Whelan is one of Ireland's most celebrated composers, renowned for his fusion of traditional Irish music with orchestral and theatrical innovation. His work *Stolen Hearts* explores the loss and pain associated with forced migration woven through Ireland's history of colonisation.

Presented by

MusicConnects

MusicConnects is where music, community, and place come together. We exist to make exceptional music and musicians a vibrant part of everyday life, reaching people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities across Galway City and County.

A music programme rooted in the soul of Galway, our identity is inspired by connection, between people, between past and present, and between music and place.

We bring music and musicians beyond the stage, into schools, nursing homes, community halls, and public spaces. We nurture young talent, support emerging artists, and collaborate across art forms to create experiences that are as meaningful as they are memorable.

MusicConnects is music that moves Galway - emotionally, socially, and culturally.



Acknowledgements

A heartfelt thank you to our Artists - Séamus, Caoimhe, Ingrid, Andreea, Bogdan, Adrian and Matthew. Thank you to Paul, John, Declan, Ari, Elena, Cáit, volunteers and all at Galway International Arts Festival. Thank you to the very Reverend Lynda Peilow, John, Lori, and all at St Nicholas' Collegiate Church. Thank you to Liam on sound, Sarah on lighting and Emilija on camera. Thank you to our Board Members and Artistic Committee who give voluntarily of their time and expertise.

A special thank you to Former President Michael D. Higgins and Mrs. Sabina Higgins for joining us this evening.

Team

Executive Director - Maeve Bryan
Acting Operations Manager - Maeve Curtis
Social Media Manager - Érin Grant
Stage Manager - Oisín Parslow
Sound - BofinAudio
Photography - EMJ Camera
Lighting - CueOne

MusicConnects is proudly supported by



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