

MUSIC FOR GALWAY PRESENTS

Cellissimo 2024

A new international cello festival
on the edge of Europe



18-26 MAY 2024

cellissimo.ie #CellissimoIRL

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Co-funded by
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Creative
Climate Action



Clár Eire Bhdinach
Creative Ireland
Programme



THE IRISH TIMES

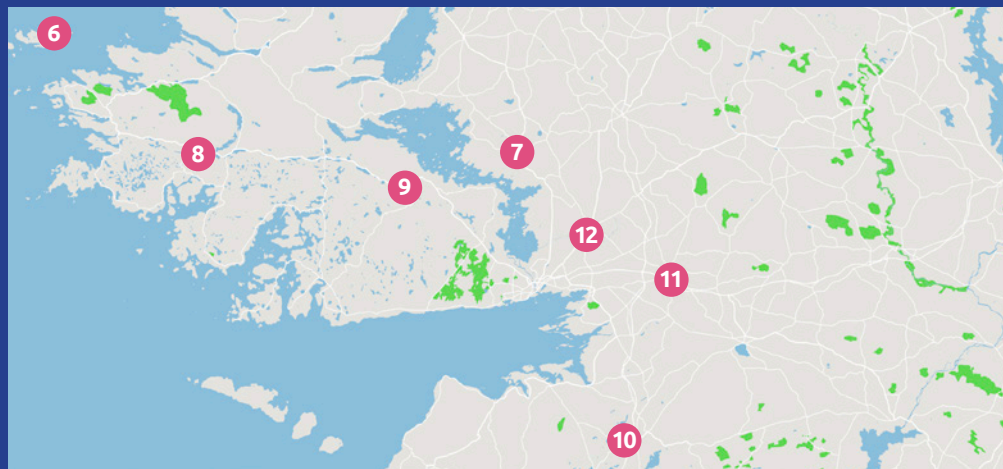


	SATURDAY 18 MAY	SUNDAY 19 MAY	MONDAY 20 MAY	TUESDAY 21 MAY	WEDNESDAY 22 MAY	THURSDAY 23 MAY	FRIDAY 24 MAY	SATURDAY 25 MAY	SUNDAY 26 MAY
9AM-1PM			9AM - 12 NOON Masterclass 1: Alban Gerhardt Nun's Island Theatre	9AM - 12 NOON Masterclass 3: Minding Creative Minds, wellness session Nun's Island Theatre	9AM - 12 NOON Masterclass 5: Jakob Koranyi Nun's Island Theatre	9AM - 12 NOON Masterclass 7: Natalie Clein Nun's Island Theatre	9AM - 12 NOON Masterclass 8: Adrian Mantu Nun's Island Theatre	11AM Songs of Travel: Evaluation Event Siobhan McKenna Theatre	8AM Inishbofin Cello Trail Inishbofin
				10AM & 12 NOON The Songs of the Trees Town Hall Theatre	10AM The Songs of the Trees Town Hall Theatre	10AM & 12 NOON The Songs of the Trees Town Hall Theatre	10AM & 12 NOON The Songs of the Trees Town Hall Theatre		
1-2PM	1PM Galway Bay is Calling Leisureland		1PM Bach Plus 1: Camille Thomas St Nicholas Church	1PM Bach Plus 2: Alban Gerhardt St Nicholas Church	1PM Bach Plus 3: Jane Cords-O'Hara St Nicholas Church	1PM Bach Plus 4: Adrian Mantu St Nicholas Church	1PM Bach Plus 5: Natalie Clein St Nicholas Church	1PM Bach Plus 6: Killian White St Nicholas Church	
2-7PM		2PM Songs of Travel: Interactive Comic Premiere Black Box	2-5PM Masterclass 2: Camille Thomas Nun's Island Theatre	2-5PM Masterclass 4: Jane Cords-O'Hara Nun's Island Theatre	2-5PM Masterclass 6: William Butt Nun's Island Theatre	5.30PM Classic Hour Town Hall Theatre	5.30PM Student Showcase Concert Town Hall Theatre	3PM Film: "Living the Tradition" Nun's Island Theatre	
			5.30PM Classic Hour Town Hall Theatre	2.30PM Bach Plus 2: William Butt Ballynahinch Castle	6PM The Songs of the Trees Town Hall Theatre		6.30PM Bach Plus 5: Natalie Clein Lady Gregory Hotel, Gor	4PM Bach Plus 6: Killian White Claregalway Castle	
			6.30PM Bach Plus 1: Jakob Koranyi Campbell's Tavern, Headford	5.30PM Classic Hour Town Hall Theatre	6PM Bach Plus 3: Jane Cords-O'Hara Kilcummin Church, Oughterard				
7-10PM	8PM The Journey Begins Leisureland	8PM The Story of a Cello Black Box	8PM Cellissimo Ambassador Evening Town Hall Theatre	8PM Songs of Travel: Every Minute Opens Doors Town Hall Theatre	8PM Songs of Travel: Voyage Town Hall Theatre	7PM Bach Plus 4: Adrian Mantu Clarín College, Athenry	8PM Nicolas Altstaedt & Friends Town Hall Theatre	7PM Cellissimo Spectacular Leisureland	
					8PM NSO with Eimear Noone Leisureland	8PM Songs of Travel: Pack Your Bags Town Hall Theatre			

FIND OUR FESTIVAL VENUES

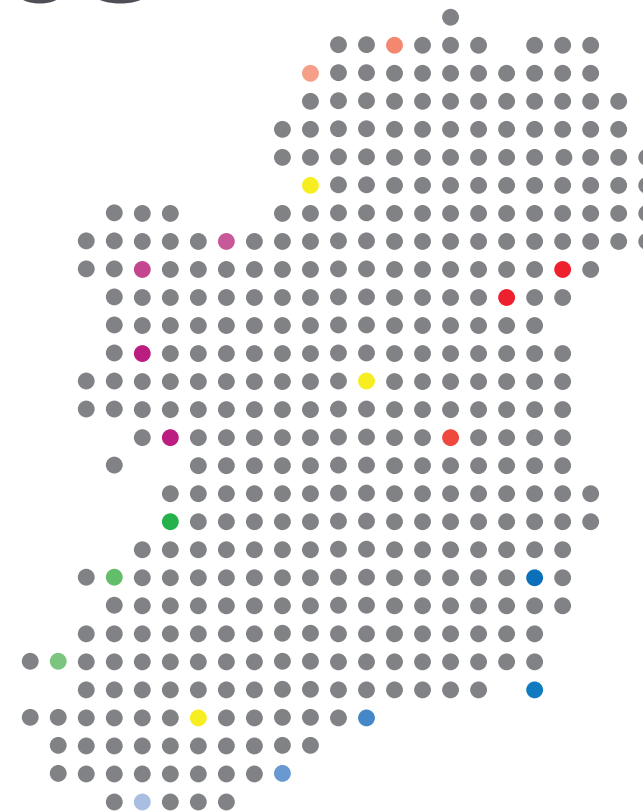
Galway City

- 1 Town Hall Theatre
1 Courthouse Square
- 2 St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church
Lombard St
- 3 Leisureland
Upper Salthill Rd
- 4 Black Box Theatre
Dyke Rd
- 5 Nun's Island Theatre



Galway County

- 6 Inishbofin
- 7 Campbell's Tavern, Headford
- 8 Ballynahinch Castle Hotel
- 9 Kilcummin Church, Oughterard
- 10 Lady Gregory Hotel, Gort
- 11 Clarin College, Athenry
- 12 Claregalway Castle



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Good things come to those who wait...

We have been waiting (very actively) for this moment, and I am delighted to be writing these lines of welcome to Cellissimo 2024. Waiting has now become a motif throughout Cellissimo. We have been waiting for nearly four years to present this exciting festival for real in Galway - waiting for answers from sponsors, funders, artists...

It has been possible to make Cellissimo 2024 a festival of such heft thanks to its important strand, *Songs of Travel*, a Creative Europe Cooperation Project principally co-funded by Europe and the Arts Council. With our three partner festivals (Fairplay Chamber Music, Sweden; Valdres Sommersymfoni, Norway; Piano Biënnale, Netherlands) and the fourth partner, the boutique gaming company Causa Creations (Austria), we are aiming to present co-commissioned music in such a way as to increase empathy in all of us towards two burning issues of our time: climate change and migration. Both of these issues do need attention from all of us. Waiting in this case is no longer an option – we all have a responsibility to act.

By coincidence, Elaine Agnew, the composer of the soundtrack to our interactive motion comic (a video game of sorts) *Songs of Travel*, has decided to call the concertante version of the score 'Waiting'. This is because she

noticed that in all five migrant stories that are told in the game, waiting is such a big part – waiting for the passport to arrive, waiting for the opportunity to flee, waiting for news from loved ones, waiting for their status to be confirmed...

Good things come to those who wait – we have been blessed with what has come our way in terms of funding, sponsorship, support (please note the funders page 36), artistic partnerships, team members, and the most wonderful artists who are making their way to Galway (many of them by land and sea!).

I would like to thank all in Music for Galway, especially the Board, our artistic director Finghin Collins, and programme administrator Suzanne Black, for staying the course.

We are proud to present a beautiful and diverse programme in Cellissimo 2024. Some of it certainly seeks to entertain but some also aims to challenge, inspire and influence.

We look forward to welcoming you on opening day, May 18th, when the wait will truly be over!

Anna Lardi, CEO Music for Galway

Celebrating the cello

It gives me huge pleasure to unveil the programme for Cellissimo 2024, the fruit of many years' labour! We have brought together a rich array of the finest cellists, composers and other artists and thinkers to celebrate the cello in the most wide and inclusive way. We are delighted in particular to welcome the National Symphony Orchestra to perform two very contrasting programmes, presenting Galway-born conductor, composer and Music for Galway Laoch Ceoil, Eimear Noone in her Galway début. The Irish Chamber Orchestra join with French sensation Camille Thomas to tell the story of a very special Stradivarius. We are very proud to present six newly commissioned cello pieces by six Irish composers to accompany the six Bach cello suites, performed in both city and county.

Our *Songs of Travel* strand, at the core of our festival, shines light on migration, sustainability and environmental issues, and also features five newly-commissioned works all including the cello in various shapes and forms. The core classical repertoire is the focus of our "Classic Hour" concerts as well as our "Nicolas Altstaedt and Friends" chamber concert.

We welcome eight outstanding young cellists to Galway for the International Student Programme with masterclasses, pop-up concerts and a showcase



concert. Together with Branar, we have commissioned a new theatre piece for children exploring the concept of home and how music can realise it. Above all the festival is a showcase of Galway city and county, with concerts around the region, a cello trail to Inishbofin, and nightly trad sessions curated by Galway musician Michael Chang. A new Cellissimo Ambassador will take over the Galway Cello for a further three years. The climax of the festival comes with our Cellissimo Spectacular, where cellists from far and wide, young and not so young, can join in and feel the passion.

We've had huge pleasure putting the programme together. How ever you have travelled to us, wherever you have come from, we hope that you will be entertained, challenged and stimulated by what you hear.

**Finghin Collins, Artistic Director,
Music for Galway / Cellissimo**

Songs of Travel

Four international festivals from Ireland (Cellissimo), Sweden (Fairplay Chamber Music), Norway (Valdres Sommersymfoni), and the Netherlands (Piano Biënnale) have teamed up with Causa Creations, an Austrian game development studio, for Songs of Travel. Conceived by Music for Galway's CEO Anna Lardi, and led by MfG, Songs of Travel (SOT) is a three-year transnational Creative Europe Cooperation Project that aims to raise awareness and foster empathy for climate change and migration through music. It also strives to develop and implement a sustainable operational model for specialised music festivals while improving access to, and circulation of, contemporary classical music. The outputs from the Project will be five musical scores, four SOT festival strands, an interactive motion comic, an education resource, green guidelines for specialised music festivals, and a report on sustainability research developed with research partner University of Galway.

Music for Galway is thrilled to lead this project that focusses on two urgent inextricably-linked issues, climate change and migration. We and our Partner festivals aim to lead by example: to inspire other specialised music festivals to adopt a sustainable



model; to influence people's attitudes to climate change and migration through the presentation of music, in combination with festival talks and workshops, our education package, and our interactive motion comic; to inspire discourse and motivation; and to make a real and lasting impact! It is envisioned that Songs of Travel will live on long after the Project officially ends through sustained change and an ongoing ripple effect.

For more information, visit the Song of Travel website
www.songsoftravel.eu

Contact the SOT Project Coordinator Valerie Parker at **sot@musicforgalway.ie**



Songs of Travel partners at our first and only in-person meeting, Hamburg, Germany, February 2023. We all slow-travelled to Hamburg (great fun!). All other partner meetings are held online.



Anna Lardi, CEO and Finghin Collins, Artistic Director, Music for Galway, slow travelling to Hamburg via the Eurostar!



Co-funded by
the European Union



Galway Bay is Calling

SATURDAY 18 MAY, 1PM
LEISURELAND

Tickets:
Standard €10
Social Inclusion €5

Galway Jam Circle
Voice of Galway
Galway Camerata
Naomi Berrill, cello/composer
Matthew Berrill, conductor

Galway Bay is Calling is a collaborative community project that Music for Galway (and Cellissimo 2024) is running in partnership with the Galway Atlantaquaria (GA) and ATU. It involves three community music groups, three marine specialists (Garry Kendellen, Dr. Maria Vittoria Marra, Dr. João Frias) and one cellist/composer (Naomi Berrill).

The project is about informing the participants about marine life, about Galway Bay, and to get them to reflect about how we influence the ocean and how it influences us. Over a series of workshops, the participants learned what they can do to mitigate stresses on our beloved bay and on the oceans of the world.

Following this activity, Headford born and Florence resident cellist, singer and composer Naomi Berrill visited ensembles in rehearsal. She talked to them, played with them and gathered



their impressions and sounds inspired by the workshops. For this, the first event of Cellissimo, you will hear the ensembles perform on their own before they come together to premiere the outcome of their collaborative work: A Cello Concerto for Mixed Bag Orchestra.

This is a project funded through the Creative Climate Action Fund, an initiative that is managed by Creative Ireland. This project is funded through the Spark Stream, by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communication.

The Journey Begins

SATURDAY 18 MAY, 8PM
LEISURELAND

Tickets: Premium €40 | Standard €30
Concession €27 | Social Inclusion €15



Mary Robinson, speaker
National Symphony Orchestra
Martyn Brabbins, conductor
Alban Gerhardt, cello
Jakob Koranyi, cello
Finghin Collins, piano

Djuro Zivkovic Concerto for piano and cello (world premiere)

Mary Robinson Keynote Address on Climate Justice

Shostakovich Cello Concerto No. 2

Mendelssohn Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage

Join the National Symphony Orchestra and a star-studded cast for the opening concert of Cellissimo 2024 in Leisureland, a concert which also sits at the heart of the Songs of Travel strand. The outstanding German cellist Alban Gerhardt will interpret Shostakovich's momentous Second Cello Concerto and we will also hear the world premiere of a brand-new concerto by Djuro Zivkovic for cello, piano and

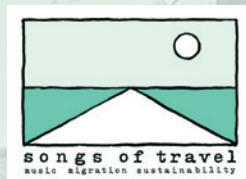


orchestra, performed by Swedish cellist Jakob Koranyi and our very own artistic director Finghin Collins. Former President of Ireland and Chair of the Elders Mary Robinson will give an address on climate justice while conductor Martyn Brabbins will wrap up proceedings with Mendelssohn's "Calm Seas and Prosperous Voyage".

songsoftravel.eu #SongsOfTravel
Co-funded by the European Union

Songs of Travel: Interactive Comic Premiere

SUNDAY 19 MAY, 2PM
BLACK BOX THEATRE



Tickets: Standard €20 | Social Inclusion €10

Daria van den Bercken, piano
Bogdan Sofei, violin
Jakob Koranyi, cello
Macdara Ó Seireadáin, clarinet
Alex Petcu, percussion
Anna Lardi, gamer



Songs of Travel – world premiere of the game with live music by **Elaine Agnew**
Panel discussion about SOT stories

Elaine Agnew Waiting

Composing for Games – interview with Elaine Agnew

More than just a game, 'Songs of Travel' is an interactive motion comic that follows the stories of five real people who, for various reasons, had to leave their homes in search of new ones. Narrated by Jack, a young man who was forced to leave Syria in 2014 and is now collaborating with the company that developed this comic,

you will explore the journeys of Light, Van, Michele, Hasan, and Olga.

At this event, we are presenting the motion comic to the public for the first time. It is a central element of the 'Songs of Travel' project, which has been funded by an EU Creative Europe grant. The game was developed by our partners, Causa Creations in Vienna, and features music composed by Elaine Agnew from County Antrim.

songsoftravel.eu #SongsOfTravel

Co-funded by the European Union
Sponsored by Optique Opticians

The Story of a Cello

SUNDAY 19 MAY, 8PM
BLACK BOX THEATRE

Tickets:

Premium €40 | Standard €30

Concession €27 | Social Inclusion €15

Irish Chamber Orchestra
Katherine Hunka, director
Camille Thomas, cello

Sibelius Andante Festivo

CPE Bach Cello Concerto in A minor WQ170

Chopin (arr. Franchomme)

Funeral March

Raindrop Prelude

Franchomme Air Russe Varié

Grieg Holberg Suite

French cellist Camille Thomas is in demand all over the world, enchanting audiences with her flawless technique and deeply passionate playing.

For her debut concert with the Irish Chamber Orchestra she will not only perform a concerto by the visionary composer Carl Philipp Emmanuel Bach (fifth son of JS Bach) but she will also perform music by the little-known Romantic French composer August Franchomme, whose Stradivarius cello she has inherited.



The ICO, directed by their effervescent leader Katherine Hunka, open and close the concert with popular works by Sibelius and Grieg. Come and discover this game for yourselves and hear the beautiful score performed live!

International Student Programme – Masterclasses

Cellissimo 2024 includes an International Student Programme (ISP) that will take place in Galway city from 20 to 24 May 2024. Eight recent graduates from across Europe will take part in the Masterclasses, have the opportunity to perform pop-up concerts in Galway and also take part in the Cellissimo Spectacular concert and the student showcase concert.

The masterclasses will take place at **Nun's Island Theatre** and be accompanied by pianist Dearbhla Brosnan. The masterclasses are **FREE** to attend.



20 MAY, 9AM-12PM

Alban Gerhardt



20 MAY, 2-5PM

Camille Thomas



21 MAY, 9AM-12PM

Minding Creative Minds,
wellness session



21 MAY, 2-5PM

Jane Cords-O'Hara



22 MAY, 9AM-12PM

Jakob Koranyi



22 MAY, 2-5PM

William Butt



23 MAY, 9AM-12PM

Natalie Clein



24 MAY, 9AM-12PM

Adrian Mantu

Bach Plus Series

A Tale of Sixes! Just as the six monumental Bach Cello Suites form the core of the entire solo cello repertoire, the Bach Plus Series forms the core of Cellissimo. Each day at 1.00pm, starting on Monday 20th May, we present a different cellist in the heart of Galway, in the historic setting of St Nicholas Collegiate Church. Six days, six suites, six cellists.

But that is not all. Music for Galway has commissioned six new solo cello works from six different Irish composers, one of which will be premiered each day alongside its partner suite. Each programme is repeated later the same day in a different venue in County Galway, sometimes with a different cellist. The series features a generous mix of Irish and International cellists and promises to bring moments of intimacy, grace and joy to those who attend.

Sponsored by Tigh Neachtain

Bach Plus 1

MONDAY 20 MAY



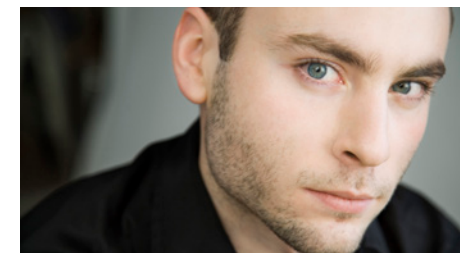
Camille Thomas, cello

ST. NICHOLAS' COLLEGIATE CHURCH,
1-1.45PM

Tickets: Standard €15

Concession €13.50 | Social Inclusion €7.50

Bach Suite No. 1 in G major BWV 1007
Donnacha Dennehy "Unfurling"
(world premiere)



Jakob Koranyi, cello

CAMPBELL'S TAVERN, HEADFORD,
6.30-7.15PM

Tickets: Standard €10

Concession €5 | Social Inclusion €5

Bach Suite No. 1 in G major BWV 1007
Donnacha Dennehy "Unfurling"

Classic Hour with Alban Gerhardt & Hugh Tinney

MONDAY 20 MAY, 5.30PM
TOWN HALL THEATRE

Alban Gerhardt, cello
Hugh Tinney, piano

Debussy Sonata

Prokofiev Sonata in C major Op. 119

Beethoven Sonata in A major Op. 69

German star cellist Alban Gerhardt and legendary Irish pianist Hugh Tinney team up for a programme of classic duos for cello and piano.



Tickets:

Premium €30 | Standard €20
Concession €18 | Social Inclusion €10

Cellissimo Ambassador Evening

MONDAY 20 MAY, 8PM
TOWN HALL THEATRE

Tickets:

Premium €30 | Standard €15
Concession €13.50 | Social Inclusion €7.50

Catherine Cotter, cello
Finghin Collins, piano

Carl Maria von Weber Adagio and Rondo
Fauré Papillon

Shostakovich Sonata for cello and piano

The Cellissimo Ambassador programme grew out of a special project – the Galway Cello. This is an instrument that was commissioned for the first edition of Cellissimo based on a concept by Philip Fogarty. Luthier Kuros Torkzadeh had the brief to fashion an instrument out of timbers that had grown in Co. Galway. Not only did the instrument turn out to be beautiful visually, with its scroll in the distinctive shape of a Claddagh Ring, but it has also developed a rich tone which is admired and enjoyed by a growing number of cellists. In order to give this instrument its deserved life, the Cellissimo Ambassador programme was devised.

We spend this evening with Mullingar cellist Catherine Cotter, our first Cellissimo Ambassador. Catherine speaks



with Music for Galway CEO Anna Lardi of her experiences with the Galway Cello over the past three years and performs with Artistic Director Finghin Collins. We also select the next Cellissimo Ambassador with three finalists performing live auditions (accompanied by Dearbhla Brosnan) and at the end of the evening the cello is handed over.

Sponsored by Techrete

The Galway Cello is sponsored by MJ Conroy

Branar and Music for Galway present: The Song of The Trees

TOWN HALL THEATRE

Little John Nee, narrator
Neil Martin, cello

The show will be approximately
45 minutes long. Suitable for
audiences aged 8 upwards.

School shows:

Tuesday 21 May, 10am
Tuesday 21 May, 12 noon
Wednesday 22 May, 10am
Thursday 23 May, 10am
Thursday 23 May, 12 noon
Friday 24 May, 10am
Friday 24 May, 12 noon

Public show:

Wednesday 22 May, 6pm

Directed by Marc MacLochlainn.
In his dusty workshop the cello maker
seeks the voice inside the wood as
he carefully carves the timber. He
patiently plies his tools sharing magical
stories of his ancient craft with his
musician friend. Ebony from Africa,
maple from Romania and pine from the
hills of Italy, each piece of wood carries
the song of its home. His friend shares
music from each land as they both
search for the song of the trees



Image credit: Maeve Clancy

The Song of the Trees is a new and
original performance piece combining
live music and storytelling directed by
Marc MacLochlainn who devised the
piece with the performers, celebrated
cellist Neil Martin and the legendary
Little John Nee. Original score
composed by Neil Martin.

This is a co-production between Branar
and Music for Galway commissioned
for Cellissimo.

For school bookings contact:
info@musicforgalway.ie | 091 705962

Tickets:

Standard €12 | Social Inclusion €6

Supported by the AIB Community Fund

Bach Plus 2

TUESDAY 21 MAY



Alban Gerhardt, cello

ST. NICHOLAS' COLLEGIATE CHURCH,
1-1.45PM

Tickets: Standard €15

Concession €13.50 | Social Inclusion €7.50

Bach Suite No. 2 in D minor BWV 1008

Garth Knox The Little Galway Bay Suite
(world premiere)



William Butt, cello

BALLYNAHINCH CASTLE,
2.30PM-3.15PM

Tickets: Standard €12

Concession €10 | Social Inclusion €10

Bach Suite No. 2 in D minor BWV 1008

Garth Knox The Little Galway Bay Suite

Classic Hour with Killian White & Daria van den Bercken

TUESDAY 21 MAY, 5.30PM
TOWN HALL THEATRE

Killian White, cello
Daria van den Bercken, piano

Beethoven Variations on a Theme from "The Magic Flute"

Boccherini Rondo

Schumann Adagio and Allegro Op. 70

Ravel Habanera

Chopin Introduction and Polonaise Brillante

Tchaikovsky October

Paganini Moses Variations

Rising star Irish cellist Killian White is joined by the charismatic Dutch pianist Daria van den Bercken for a programme of short favourites for cello and piano.



Tickets:
Premium €30 | Standard €20
Concession €18 | Social Inclusion €10

Songs of Travel: Every Minute Opens Doors

TUESDAY 21 MAY, 8PM
TOWN HALL THEATRE



Tickets: Premium €30 | Standard €20
Concession €18 | Social Inclusion €10

Adedotun Adekeye, speaker
Rachel Croash, soprano
Jakob Koranyi, cello
Bogdan Sofei, violin
Finghin Collins, piano

Lasse Thoresen Every Minute Opens Doors (world premiere)

Adedotun Adekeye Keynote Address on Migration

Beethoven Irish Folk Song arrangements

This concert, part of our Songs of Travel project, seeks to increase awareness and empathy towards those people who have to leave their native countries due to war, climate change or other issues. The programme includes the world premiere of a new chamber work by Lasse Thoresen for piano trio and voice which shines a light on the experiences of people in asylum centres around Europe and is the result of a visit by the composer to two such centres in Norway.



We also hear from Galway resident Adedotun Adekeye about his experiences as he migrated to Ireland with his family sixteen years ago. A selection of Irish folk song arrangements by Beethoven on the theme of travel and homesickness rounds off this varied programme.

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Co-funded by the European Union

Bach Plus 3

WEDNESDAY 22 MAY

Jane Cords-O'Hara, cello

Bach Suite No. 3 in C major BWV 1009

Kevin O'Connell Frammento (world premiere)

ST. NICHOLAS' COLLEGIATE CHURCH,
1-1.45PM

Tickets: Standard €15

Concession €13.50 | Social Inclusion €7.50

KILCUMMIN CHURCH, OUGHTERARD,
6-6.45PM

Tickets: Standard €12

Concession €10 | Social Inclusion €10



National Symphony Orchestra with Eimear Noone

WEDNESDAY 22 MAY, 8PM
LEISURELAND

Tickets:

Premium €40 | Standard €30

Concession €27 | Social Inclusion €15

National Symphony Orchestra
Eimear Noone, conductor
Adrian Mantu, cello

Tan Dun Crouching Tiger Cello Concerto

Elgar Cello Concerto in E minor Op. 85,
first movement

Eimear Noone and Craig Stuart
Garfinkle The Canterville Ghost Suite

Austin Wintory Nascence & Apotheosis
from "Journey"

Eimear Noone and Craig Stuart
Garfinkle "Malach" from World of
Warcraft

Further programme details to be
announced

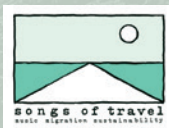
We are so proud to present the Galway debut of one of Galway's greatest musicians, the unique Eimear Noone. We celebrate Eimear's amazing global achievements as trailblazing composer and conductor with an eclectic programme of classical and contemporary music from the worlds of film and gaming. Our cello soloist is another proud Galway musician – the unstoppable Adrian Mantu of



the ConTempo Quartet. Featuring sweeping scores from critically acclaimed films such as Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon, August Rush, and Eimear's own The Canterville Ghost, as well as world premieres of Eimear's upcoming works, this promises to be an unforgettable concert by the National Symphony Orchestra.

Songs of Travel: Voyage

WEDNESDAY 22 MAY, 8PM
TOWN HALL THEATRE



Tickets: Standard €25
Concession €22.50 | Social Inclusion €12.50

Daria van den Bercken, piano
Bogdan Sofei, violin
Jakob Koranyi, cello
Macdara Ó Seireadáin, clarinet
Alex Petcu, percussion
Rachel Croash, soprano

Hawar Tawfiq Voyage (world premiere)
Messiaen Quartet for the End of Time

Building empathy for our planet and its people: Juxtaposed to one of the foremost works of the 20th century – Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time, composed while Europe was in the midst of the Second World War and the composer was in a prisoner-of-war camp in Silesia - this concert presents a brand-new work by Kurdish composer Hawar Tawfiq, who first came to The Netherlands as an unaccompanied minor and asks questions such as "What does travelling do with us?" and "Where does the fear of change come from?"



songsoftravel.eu #SongsOfTravel
Co-funded by the European Union

Bach Plus 4

THURSDAY 23 MAY

Adrian Mantu, cello

Bach Suite No. 4 in E flat

Amanda Feery In an Occupied Space
(world premiere)

ST. NICHOLAS' COLLEGIATE CHURCH,
1-1.45PM

Tickets: Standard €15
Concession €13.50 | Social Inclusion €7.50

CLARIN COLLEGE, ATHENRY, 7-7.45PM

Tickets: Standard €5
Concession €3 | Social Inclusion €3

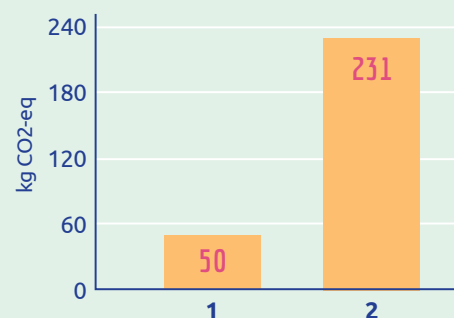


Travelling Slow v. Flying

In 2022 Jakob Koranyi travelled by land and sea to Galway to perform for the first edition of Cellissimo.

Column one shows the carbon footprint for the one-way journey to Galway and column two shows the equivalent produced, had he flown. Emissions estimated for fuel consumption (including electricity) for the transport modes considered*.

Travelling by train/ferry/bus v. flying



For this edition of Cellissimo, all artists who are travelling for Songs of Travel, and all international masterclass students are doing so by land and sea! This totals 34 journeys. Do the maths :-)

**Note that these are based on figures by Swedish airline SAS. Other estimations (based on data from Atmosfair for instance) result in nearly twice the amount of emissions shown in column two.*

Classic Hour with Natalie Clein & Finghin Collins

THURSDAY 23 MAY, 5.30PM
TOWN HALL THEATRE

Natalie Clein, cello
Finghin Collins, piano

Brahms Sonata in E minor Op. 38

Ligeti Sonata for solo cello

Brahms/Piatti Hungarian Dance No. 1
in G minor

One of Britain's most celebrated musicians, Natalie Clein returns to Galway to collaborate with Artistic Director Finghin Collins on a programme of Brahms with a Hungarian twist.



Songs of Travel: Pack Your Bags

THURSDAY 23 MAY, 8PM
TOWN HALL THEATRE



Tickets: Standard €20
Concession €18 | Social Inclusion €10

Pól Ó Conghaile, speaker
Killian White, cello
Stephanie Dufresne, dance artist

Bach Prelude Sarabande and Gigue from
Suite No. 6 in D minor

Pól Ó Conghaile Ten Secrets of
Sustainable Travel – talk

Karmit Fadael New work for cello and
dance artist (world premiere)

This concert presents the world premiere of the result of a long sustainable journey across Europe. Composer Karmit Fadael travels from Vienna to Scandinavia, on to The Netherlands and finally to Galway, visiting all the participating festivals in the Songs of Travel project.

Halfway along her journey she is joined by dancer Stephanie Dufresne and cellist Killian White and the piece is composed along the way.

Travel writer Pól Ó Conghaile speaks about sustainable travel and tourism,



and the event also includes a wide-ranging panel discussion about the issues highlighted by the Songs of Travel project.

Panel discussion about Songs of Travel, moderated by Anna Lardi

Panelists to include: Finghin Collins, Jakob Koranyi, Adedotun Adekeye, Pól Ó Conghaile and Karmit Fadael.

Bach Plus 5

FRIDAY 24 MAY

Natalie Klein, cello

Bach Suite No. 5 in C minor BWV 1011

Jennifer Walshe THAT'S A LOT OF MONEY AT THE TOP OF A ROCKET (world premiere)

ST. NICHOLAS' COLLEGIATE CHURCH,
1-1.45PM

Tickets: Standard €15

Concession €13.50 | Social Inclusion €7.50

LADY GREGORY HOTEL, GORT,
6.30-7.15PM

Tickets: Standard €10

Concession €5 | Social Inclusion €5



Student Showcase Concert

FRIDAY 24 MAY, 5.30PM
TOWN HALL THEATRE

Tickets: Standard €15

Concession €13.50 | Social Inclusion €7.50

Cheng-An Chan, cello

Hangwen Feng, cello

Margarita Guerrero, cello

Kokoro Ryu, cello

Lena Marie Schulz, cello

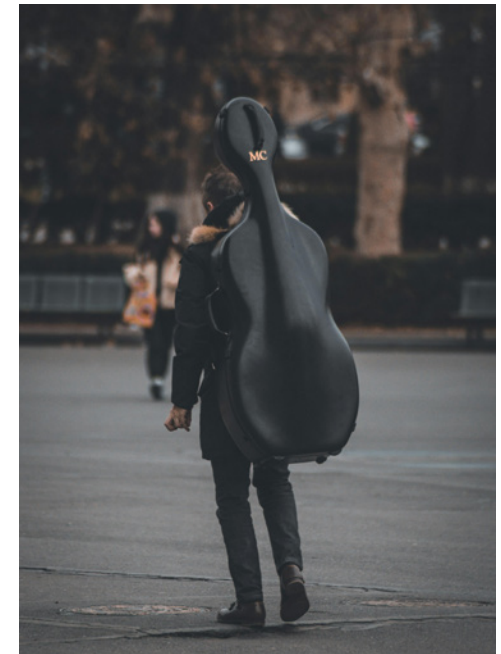
Clara Hope Simpson, cello

Francesco Tamburini, cello

Yixi Zia, cello

Dearbhla Brosnan, piano

The participants of the International Student Programme will have a busy week in Galway. Between an intense masterclass programme with some of the most inspirational cellists, a workshop with the great people from Minding Creative Minds and pop-up concerts around the town, they will also prepare their programme for this, their Showcase Concert. Prepare to be blown away by the energy and talent on stage.



Supported by Minding Creative Minds

Nicolas Altstaedt & Friends

FRIDAY 24 MAY, 8PM
TOWN HALL THEATRE

Tickets:
Premium €45 | Standard €35
Concession €31.50 | Social Inclusion €17.50

Nicolas Altstaedt, cello
José Gallardo, piano
Barnabás Kelemen, violin

Nadia Boulanger Trois Pièces pour violoncelle et piano

Martinu Variations on a Slovak Theme

Kodály Duo for violin and cello

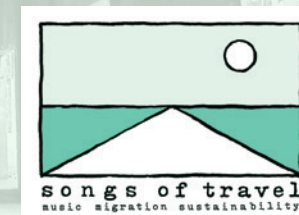
Dvorák Dumky Trio

German-French cellist Nicolas Altstaedt is one of the most sought-after and versatile cellists of our time. For his long-awaited Galway debut, he will be joined by two equally accomplished artists, the Hungarian violinist Barnabás Kelemen and the Argentinian pianist José Gallardo, for a programme with a decidedly Eastern European bent. The first half of the concert features the cello in duet with piano and then violin while in the second half all three artists come together for a performance of Dvorak's evergreen "Dumky" Trio.



Songs of Travel Evaluation Workshop

SATURDAY 25 MAY, 11AM-12.30PM
SIOBHAN MCKENNA THEATRE,
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



Tickets: FREE

With Songs of Travel we have set ourselves clear aims: through the presentation of co-commissioned music we want to raise the empathy of all stakeholders towards the environment and towards people who are forced to migrate. Did we reach our goal?

We are looking for a group of fifteen audience members who have attended at least two of the five Songs of Travel events (see pages 11,12,21,24,27) to join us for this workshop, led by Dr. Denis O'Hora, a psychologist at the University of Galway. With the help of Dr. O'Hora, you will explore your experiences of Cellissimo and themes of migration and climate change to help us evaluate our approach.

As a thank you, each participant will receive a pair of tickets to the Cellissimo Spectacular (see page 34).



Free of charge. Places are limited, and must be reserved in advance. If you are interested in joining, please contact sot@musicforgalway.ie

songsoftravel.eu #SongsOfTravel
Co-funded by the European Union

Bach Plus 6

SATURDAY 25 MAY

Killian White, cello

Bach Suite No. 6 in D major BWV 1012

Anne-Marie O’Farrell Bach-Chat (world premiere)

ST. NICHOLAS’ COLLEGIATE CHURCH, 1-1.45PM

Tickets: Standard €15
Concession €13.50 | Social Inclusion €7.50

CLAREGALWAY CASTLE, 4-4.45PM

Tickets: Standard €15
Concession €10 | Social Inclusion €10



Documentary Film Screening

Living the Tradition

SATURDAY 25 MAY, 3PM

NUN’S ISLAND THEATRE

Tickets: Standard €7
Social Inclusion €3.50

Living the Tradition is the journey of cellist and composer Ilse de Ziah around Ireland in a search for undiscovered secrets of ten Irish Airs. Along the way she meets with renowned Irish musicians, scholars and local characters who share with her the history and stories behind the music. Ilse performs each of these intensely beautiful pieces in the settings they were written. Filmmaker Maarten Roos captures the landscapes, the charm of the Irish people and the powerful resonance of the cello, creating a fresh account of Irish music and culture.

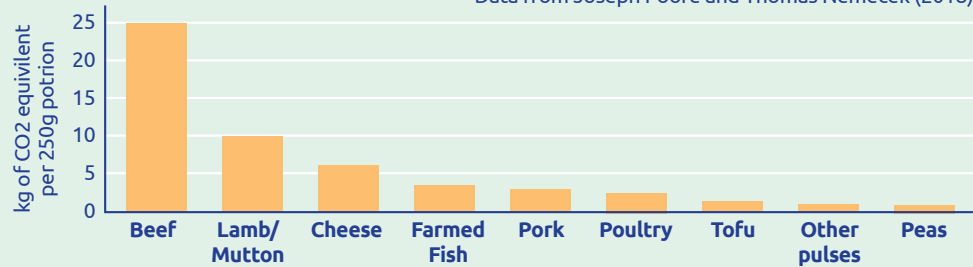
Followed by Q&A session with Ilse de Ziah.



The Climate impact of your meal

Greenhouse gas emissions per 250g food portion

Data from Joseph Poore and Thomas Nemecek (2018)



This plot shows estimated greenhouse gas emissions for various meals. Calculations are based on global average emission estimates, across 38,700 farms and 119 countries, taking into consideration to entire life-cycle of food source from land use right through the supply chain to retail.

Festival-goers, why not try out plant-based & local cuisine in keeping with the aim of reducing Cellissimo’s emissions?

Reference: Poore, J., & Nemecek, T. (2018). Reducing food’s environmental impacts through producers and consumers. Science. – processed by Our World in Data.

The Cellissimo Spectacular

SATURDAY 25 MAY, 7PM
LEISURELAND

Tickets:
Premium €30 | Standard €25
Concession €22.50 | Social Inclusion €12.50

Cello Ireland (see page 35 for names)

Eight international cello students (see page 29 for names)

Amateur cellists of all ages

Claudia Boyle, soprano

Nicolas Altstaedt, cello

Adrian Mantu, cello

Catherine Cotter, cello



Vivaldi Double Cello Concerto

Piazzolla La Muerte del Angel and Oblivion

Caccini Ave Maria

Villa-Lobos Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5

Daniel McDermott Derecho

Arvo Pärt Summa

Tchaikovsky Andante Cantabile

Fauré, arr. Simon Parkin Pavane

Bach, arr. Simon Parkin Jig

The eight cellists that comprise Cello Ireland are at the heart of this very special concert. The first part of the evening showcases the wide diversity of their repertoire.

Towards the end of the evening, cellists of all ages and abilities – children,

students, amateurs, professionals – join Cello Ireland and our international students to create a mammoth cello orchestra.

With a mouth-watering programme and international stars such as soprano Claudia Boyle and cellist Nicolas Altstaedt, this promises to be a feast for the senses.

To get the full line-up, visit here the website through the QR code below. We will add the names of people as they sign up.



Inishbofin Cello Trail

SUNDAY 26 MAY, 8AM
GALWAY CATHEDRAL CAR PARK
– DEPARTING 8AM SHARP

Tickets: Individual €120
For a family of 4 €400

Cello Ireland:

Aoife Burke, cello

William Butt, cello

Jane Cords O'Hara, cello

Martin Johnson, cello

Adrian Mantu, cello

David McCann, cello

Una Ní Chanainn, cello

Maria O'Connor, cello



Travel from Galway to Cleggan via Kylemore Abbey (short stop) by coach, and to Inishbofin by ferry. In small groups you will be led on a cello trail around the island*. Along the 2.4km walk, there will be four stops with short performances. After a lunch break, everyone will gather in the Church for a cello octet concert of about 45 minutes. The ferry will be ready to take everyone back to the bus for the return journey to Galway. We expect to arrive back in Galway at approximately 7.45pm.

Experience breath-taking scenery and magical music in stunning locations. Places are limited so book early, to book call the Town Hall Theatre on +353 91 569777.

*Weather appropriate clothing and walking shoes are a must. As the event requires walking 2.4 km with inclines, it is not easily accessible to everyone. Please contact us at info@musicforgalway.ie or call 091 705962 for more detail if you have any concerns.

Ticket includes bus and ferry transfers; tea/coffee and buns on arriving in Inishbofin; all music performances.

OUR FUNDERS & SPONSORS

We ask you to take a moment to have a look at this list below. We are immensely grateful for the trust these agencies, businesses and individuals put in us. They were inspired by our vision and helped us to make Cellissimo 2024 a wonderful festival for all.

Funders:



Sponsors:



Galway Cello:



Songs of Travel Partners:



Creative Partners:



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Irish Ferries. Sea Travel Differently.



Car drivers, if you travelled by rail today, you would have saved up to 77% on your CO₂ emissions.

Maybe tomorrow?

...and last but not least – thank you to:

Jennifer Ahearn
Light Almelkawi
Pete Ashton
Katharina Baker
Tania Banotti
Joanne Beirne
Norman Black
Anne-Marie Bell
Mairead Berrill
Simon Bopp
Magda Boreson
Fr. Eugene Boyle
Niamh Butler
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Margaret Jenkins
Peter Friis
Johansson
Liz Johnston
Natasha Johnston
Gerry Keenan
Dermot Kelly
Lucy Kelly
Garry Kendellen
Mona Kleven
Guro Kleven Hagen
Norbert Kögging
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Gimle
Jakob Koranyi
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Silke Küster
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Leslie Lyons
Marc MacLochlainn
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Michaël Neuburger
Seona Ní Chonghaile
Colm Ó hEocha
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Aoife Tunney
Hasan Ulukisa
Daria van der Bercken
Leticia Wade
Ben Wahl
Ольга Гвоздикова

Thank you to the Cellissimo Volunteers! You can find them listed on our website

Special thanks to Mary Deely for her invaluable work in making SOT happen

Jekyll – Hyde Bar Galway

And after a full day of music, why not head to Jeckyll to relax in good company and some of the finest Traditional Irish music to be had in town. Fiddle player par excellence Michael Chang is hosting some of the best players every night from 10pm to 12 midnight.

And who knows, some adventurous cellists might join in...



Admission: FREE – present your Cellissimo concert ticket to gain admission

Cellissimo Team

Cellissimo:

Anna Lardi, CEO
Finghin Collins, Artistic Director
Suzanne Black, Programme Manager
Valerie Parker Chang, Songs of Travel Project Coordinator
Alice Kelly, International Student Programme (ISP)/Cellissimo Ambassador Coordinator
Michael Chang, Trad Sessions Programmer
Connell Irvine, Intern

PR:

Sync and Swim
Aileen Galvin
Emma Harney
Rowena Shanley

Digital Marketing:

Camille Twomey, Digital Marketing
Julia Leprechey, Digital Marketing Content

Production:

Niall Barrett, Production Manager
Paul Kelly, Indigo Lighting
Christopher O'Malley, Regional Production Manager

Sound/Recording:

Paul Ashe-Browne

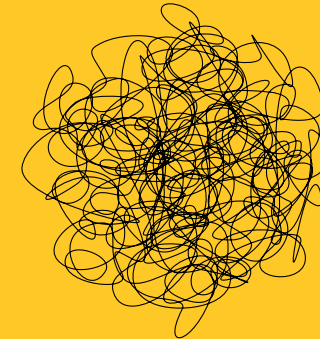
Video Recording:

Unbound Media
Maclaine Black, ISP Recording

Volunteer Coordinator:

Aoife Natsumi Frehan

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Support Cellissimo

We are incredibly grateful for the financial and in-kind support that Music for Galway receives from government, agencies, organisations, groups, and individuals. It is this investment through funding, awards, donations, and ticket sales that ensures we can continue our 42 years of work, nurturing classical seedlings, uplifting artists and communities, and bringing the joy of music to audiences across the West of Ireland.

Cellissimo Fundraiser

If you are in a position to support our ambitions to develop and grow Cellissimo into Europe's most extraordinary triennial celebration of the cello and the cellist and would like to help us ensure the festival is accessible to all to attend, participate and enjoy, your contribution would be hugely welcomed and very much appreciated.



DONATE TO CELLISSIMO

Scan the QR code or go to cellissimo.ie

Thank you to our Patrons

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Green Commitments



Co-funded by
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The following is a list of actions and considerations to be taken by the festivals collaborating under the Songs of Travel umbrella in 2024–2025.

Travel/Transport:

1. No flights for artists, staff and students included in the SOT programme.
2. Choose public transport over individual car travel.
3. We commit to renting at least one electric vehicle for the full festival period with the view to getting first-hand experience regarding the feasibility of such alternatives.
4. Use electric vans and trucks for material transportation when possible.
5. Encourage active travel (walking, cycling) when feasible.
6. Avoid using fossil fueled cars when possible.
7. Always ask suppliers and partners to use electric transportation. If they can't comply, always offer your own electric transportation if available.
8. Drive slowly to conserve emissions/energy.
9. When organizing venues, consider the emissions from attendees and prioritize locations that are easily accessible by public transport or active travel.

Energy:

1. Minimize electricity usage.
2. Choose venues with solar panels or other renewable energy sources when possible.
3. Opt for more energy-efficient buildings when possible.

4. Choose a renewable energy subscription when possible. Discuss with the venues to change their energy plan!

Food:

1. Only serve (or pay for) vegan or vegetarian dishes to artists, staff and students.
2. Try to reduce cheese, fish, poultry, meat and especially red meat served at the festival locations.
3. Ensure suitable portion sizes to minimize food waste.

Waste:

1. Limit opportunities for waste generation.
2. No provision of one-off plastics or biodegradable materials.
3. Ensure that food and drink materials are recyclable e.g. paper rather than plastics etc.
4. Separate waste properly, considering both venue and food-related waste.
5. Recycle as much as local waste collection services allow.
6. Select/encourage food suppliers to minimize packaging.

Accommodation:

1. Demand reduced cleaning services, twice per week is a maximum.
2. Choose accommodation within walking distance from the main venues.
3. Be cautious with high-end hotels, as they usually have higher emissions; however, assess individual hotels for efficiency.

4. Avoid hotels with energy-intensive features like swimming pools and 24/7 saunas.

Festival Materials and communications:

1. Minimize the printing of materials like posters, banners, and program books.
2. We will not send out physical promotion letters/leaflets to audiences.
3. Seek alternative methods for program communication to replace program leaflets, for example wall projections in the hall.
4. Make sure banners and other reusables are printed without specific dates or names. Alternatively buy materials where you can reuse frames, stands etc and switch the fabric/poster.
5. Reduce the use of high data emails.
6. Only record performances when necessary and minimize online and offline long-term storage of videos.
7. Be mindful of the emissions associated with digital communications. Turn off your camera in digital meetings when possible.
8. Consider the environmental impact of materials used for festival items such as pens, mugs, t-shirts etc. We don't need to hand out merch automatically to all artists/students/audiences.

Data Collection:

1. Travel: Send out survey obtained from University of Galway to assess artist and audiences' travel patterns.
2. Ask audiences to put a pea in a jar to represent their mode of transportation. This raises audience awareness in a fun and visual way.

3. Energy: Electricity, gas, oil, water meter readings for the period of the festival and for each venue.

4. Food: Number of meals served, % vegetarian, vegan and meat (% red meat meals separated if possible).
5. Accommodation: Star rating of hotels used and bed-nights during festival plus (if available) sustainability reports from hotel groups.
6. Print and merchandise: What (e.g. t-shirts, pens etc) and how many produced and material where possible (e.g. clothing cotton, bamboo etc).

List of stakeholders:

1. Festival Staff
2. Artists
3. Students
4. Volunteers
5. Audiences
6. Partners
7. Suppliers
8. Donors and financial supporters

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PIANO
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GAILLIMHE
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OF GALWAY



Policies

Alterations to the programme

MfG reserves the right to alter any advertised programme if necessary.

Latecomers

Please check starting times for individual concerts on our website. Latecomers will only be admitted during a break in the programme.

Tickets

Concessions are 10% off standard priced tickets and apply to senior citizens (over 66).

Social Inclusion tickets are 50% off standard priced tickets and include full time students, asylum seekers, people in receipt of job seeker allowance and disability allowance. Social Inclusion tickets can be purchased online and collected at the door with proof of relevant status.

Please note that all tickets are non-refundable.

Booking

www.cellissimo.ie or by phone **091 569777**

Music for Galway Board:

Mark Gantly, Chair

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