

Waltons Music for Schools Competition

A National Competition and Celebration of Music in Irish Schools

Finalists Concert | Monday, 11 May 2015

Welcome & Introduction | Liz Nolan & Aideen Walton

Lisheen National School, Skibbereen, Co. Cork

Title 'Ceol na Mara'

Group Lisheen National School Music Group (37 students, 2nd – 6th Class)

Niamh McCarthy, Teacher/Piano

Loreto Secondary School, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

Title 'Yours / The Nights / Fire to the Rain / Uptown Funk'

Group Transition Year Music Group (40 students)

Ursula Finnegan, Teacher

Gaelscoil an tSlí Dála, An Bealach Mór, Contae Laoise

Title 'Ceol Tradisiúnya'

Group Na Síoga (21 Students, 1st – 6th Class)

Castlecomer Community School, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny

Title 'Worlds Apart – Threaded by Music'

Group Mianta Chaisleán an Chomair (44 Students, 1st – 6th Year)

Karena Dowling-Dunny, Teacher/Conductor

Bunscoil Loreto, Gorey, Co. Wexford

Title 'Thank You for the Music'

Group Bunscoil Loreto Music Group (45 Students, 2nd – 6th Class)

Niall Quillinan, Teacher/Conductor

Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan

Title 'Musical Enlightenment'

Group Our Lady's Performing Arts Group (45 Students, 1st – 6th Year)

Cara Murray, Teacher/Conductor

St. Patrick's National School, Craanford, Gorey, Co. Wexford

Title 'Let It Go Traditionally'

Group Let It Go Group (43 Students, 1st – 6th Class)

Mandy O'Callaghan, Teacher/Piano | Sinéad Tobin, Teacher/Conductor

Ursuline College, Finisklin Road, Co. Sligo

Title 'Up Ceol Funk'

Group Funky Monkeys (45 Students, 1st – 5th Year)

Emer Prendergast, Teacher/Conductor

Ss. Peter & Paul's C.B.S., Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Title 'Music Takes You Everywhere'

Group Ss. Peter & Paul's C.B.S. Senior Band & Narrators (45 Students, 1st – 6th Class)

Yvonne Moran, Teacher/Conductor

Mercy Heights Secondary School, Skibbereen, Co. Cork

Title '6 Variations on 4 Chords'

Group Mercy Heights Music Ensemble (39 Students, 2nd – 5th Year)

Colette Brennan, Teacher/Conductor

(see reverse)

Danescastle National School, Carrig on Bannow, Co. Wexford

Title 'Gach Rud Trad'

Group Ceoltóirí Scoil Náisiúnta Chaisleán an Danair (31 Students, 3rd – 6th Class)

Castleknock College, Castleknock, Dublin 15

Title 'Let Music Do the Changing'

Group Castleknock College Pop Ensemble (42 Students, 1st – 6th Year)

Fearghus Fallon, Teacher/Conductor

Guest Performance | Tig Linn

Prize Giving & Closing | Liz Nolan & John Mardirosian

MC

Liz Nolan hails from Dublin and trained in voice, oboe and piano at the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama and the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Following a degree in English Literature (Trinity College Dublin), a Diploma in Vocal Teaching (DIT) and an M.Phil. in Music (DIT/TCD), she taught at both the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama and Waltons New School of Music. A Diploma in Arts Administration led to her appointment as Education & Outreach Officer for the Association of Irish Choirs. Since 2001 she has worked at RTÉ lyric fm, where she has presented several programmes and acclaimed arts features and currently presents Liz Nolan's Classic Drive. This is her fourth year compering the Waltons Music for Schools Competition Finalists Concert.

Adjudicators

David Brophy is one of Ireland's leading conductors. He recently stepped down as Principal Conductor of the RTÉ Concert Orchestra and previously worked with both the National Chamber Choir of Ireland and the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra. David's career, while primarily based in Ireland, has seen him perform in many parts of Europe, Africa, the US and Canada. He has worked with acclaimed musicians, composers and songwriters ranging from Nicola Benedetti to Lang Lang, Sinéad O'Connor to Neil Hannon, Liam O'Flynn to Martin Hayes and Bill Whelan to Arvo Pärt. His work with specialist new music ensembles, among them Vox 21 and Crash Ensemble, has led to numerous premieres. David has conducted in venues ranging from New York's Lincoln Centre to London's Barbican; conducted many operas with Opera Ireland and Opera Theatre Company, among others; and recorded several film scores.

Performer, composer and broadcaster **Ellen Cranitch** started her professional life as a classical flautist, working with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Opera Theatre Company, and many other ensembles and chamber groups. Her interest in jazz and improvised music then led to collaborations, as both a performer and composer, with several leading dance and theatre companies, including Rough Magic, Coiscéim Dance Theatre and the Abbey Theatre. She has also produced a number of radio and film arts documentaries and series, including the New York Festivals Bronze Medal Winner, *More Than Just Bagpipes*. Not only does Ellen present the flagship traditional programme Grace Notes on RTÉ lyric fm, but she also serves on the board of both Music Generation and the Royal Irish Academy of Music and is a co-founder and director of Una Corda – The Ireland Cuba Piano Project.

Guest Performance

Tig Linn is a group of Irish and Nigerian musicians based in Dublin, writing original songs in Yoruba and English and drawing from both the Irish and Nigerian traditions. The group grew out of a larger, looser collective of African and Irish musicians in 2011 and has used its music in support of many causes. It was partly this interest in social justice that prompted gospel legend Mavis Staples to choose them as support act for her Waltons World Masters Series performance at the National Concert Hall in 2012. They also supported the great South African musician Hugh Masekela for his World Masters performance at the National Concert Hall in 2014. Tig Linn has performed at numerous Irish festivals and venues, including Electric Picnic, Body & Soul, Castlepalooza, The Grand Social, Whelan's and The Village. They were guest performers for the Waltons Music for Schools Competition 2014 Finalists Concert.

Waltons Music for Schools Competition

Presented by **Waltons Music** and **Waltons New School of Music**, the Waltons Music for Schools Competition is a non-profit national event celebrating music in Irish schools. All primary and post-primary schools recognised by the Department of Education and Skills in the Republic of Ireland are eligible to enter, and over the past four years schools from all 26 counties have taken part. The objective of the Competition is to promote the enormous benefits of creative music making for young people, and it annually awards €10,000 worth of musical instruments and equipment as an incentive for schools to develop existing music programmes or create new ones and make music accessible to all.

The performances today will be featured on the Waltons Music for Schools Competition YouTube Channel:

www.youtube.com/waltonsmusicschools. More information on the Competition: www.newschool.ie/musicforschools.

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