

Cantorai Umhail – Youth Choir

Cantorai Umhail, under the direction of Niamh O' Kelly will work with Mark Duley

Monday 7th November in Castlebar.



Cantorai Umhail (Mayo Girls Choir) was founded in 1994. Ages range from 10 to 18 and at present there are 30 members. They have won many competitions. They were engaged by Pierce Brosnan to sing at his wedding in Ballintubber Abbey. Their very varied repertoire ranges from medieval music to twenty-first century compositions.

Mark Duley was born in Napier, New Zealand and is a first class honours graduate of Auckland University. Posts held include Organist of Christ's Hospital, England's famous bluecoat school, and (1992 – 2003) Organist and Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin. He established the cathedral girls' choir – one of the first such ensembles in these islands. Currently he is Artistic Director of the Irish Baroque Orchestra (formerly Christ Church Baroque), co-founded by Mark in 1996. He is also chorusmaster to the RTE Philharmonic Choir, and is Festival Director of Pipeworks – the Dublin International Organ and Choir Festival. Mark lives in north County Galway.

Mayo Youth Orchestra – Blow your own trumpet!

James Cavanagh will be working with Mayo Youth Orchestra in a day - long master class

Sunday 20th November in Castlebar.



Mayo Youth Orchestra performs regularly around Co. Mayo, and has toured extensively (Holland, France, Norway etc.). The orchestra has also provided music on important occasions such as the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Presidential visits, and other high-profile events. The group represents the main opportunity for young classical musicians in the county to experience playing in an ensemble.

James Cavanagh began his professional career as a trumpet player with the army No1 Band before joining the RTE Symphony Orchestra. He studied conducting with Janos Furst and George Hurst and has conducted choirs all over the country. He was appointed Professor of Trumpet and Conductor of the Orchestras at the Royal Irish Academy of Music where he also lectures in conducting. He is currently Head of Wind, Brass and Percussion at the R.I.A.M and is also Musical Director of the Irish Youth Ensemble, which he founded in 1985.

Bofield Ceili Band – Teenage members

Mary Staunton (accordion), Liz and Yvonne Kane (fiddle), and Róisín Hambly (harp) will conduct Masterclasses with the teenage members of the famous Bofield Ceili Band.

Saturday 26th November, Fr. Peyton Centre, Attymass



Mary Staunton comes from Tourmakeady and has been singing from a young age. She always showed a great interest in musical instruments and attended music classes in the button accordion. In the 1980s Mary moved to Dublin to attend college and in 1988 she embarked on a tour of Brittany with Gerry Mulvihill and John Hoban. Mary later moved to Galway where she played regular sessions and met Sharon Shannon who invited Mary to sing with her band. In the

past few years Mary has appeared on radio and television and was also featured on the RTE Lifelines "Tribute to Mick Lally" programme in 1996. She recorded her own solo album "Bright Early Mornings" in 1998.

Liz & Yvonne Kane come from Dawros on the outskirts of Letterfrack, a village in Connemara, Galway. With a musical tradition on both sides of the family, it was only natural for the girls to play music. In 1992, Liz won the Fiddler of Dooney in Sligo and went on to win the All-Ireland senior fiddle and duet title as well as the Fiddler of Oriel in 1995. They played with 'Sharon Shannon and The Woodchoppers', which took them all over the world to promote the release of the album 'The Diamond Mountain Sessions'.

Róisín Hambly comes from Claremorris, County Mayo. She started to play Irish music on the concertina at an early age, before moving on to the harp and in 1995 became a member of the Belfast Harp Orchestra, with which she has toured extensively. She has received numerous awards at all the major Irish harp competitions. Róisín also teaches the Irish harp, both privately and at summer-schools.

Pipe and Drum Workshop Achill Pipe Bands (Teenage members)

Doagh Pipe Band, Dookinella Pipe Band, Tonrahee Pipe Band, Pollagh Pipe Band, Keel Pipe Band and St. Fionnan's Pipe Band

Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th November, Achill

Richard Parkes (pipes) and Keith Orr (drums), from the renowned Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band, will conduct Masterclasses with teenage members of the various pipe and drum bands from Achill, focusing on ensemble and solo playing.

Richard Parkes has completed over 21 seasons as pipe major and during this time has transformed the Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band into one of the most respected and successful pipe bands in the world. Richard's unique talent for producing consistent quality sound and excellent competition arrangements has taken the band to numerous major championships.

Keith Orr was appointed to the position of leading drummer with the Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band in 2003, inheriting a world class drum corps. In his first season in charge, Keith consolidated the corps' position as a competitive force in Grade 1 and helped the band to another Champion of Champions title, more than proving that he was the right man for the job.

Percussion Workshops

Klaus Vormehr will work with two of the schools receiving the Music Instruments for Post-primary schools: Jesus and Mary Secondary School, Gortnor Abbey and the Sacred Heart School in Westport.

Klaus will also be giving specialist tuition to a Youth Samba group in Ballina who have availed of Mayo County Council's Percussion instruments for communities.

In association with Parkside Community Development Ltd



Klaus Vormehr is an experienced musician with specialist skills in percussion, rhythm, samba, composition and making percussion instruments from different cultures. Based in Co. Cork, he travels nationally, teaching percussion to people of all ages.

Film Project

Galway Film Centre will work with teenagers to produce a short film. The group will workshop ideas for a film, plan the shoot, learn camera operation, work with lighting and sound and shoot their own short film. This year the film group will be working with people with disabilities from all over Mayo.

Galway Film Centre was established to promote film and video-making in the West of Ireland through short film production schemes, training, education, equipment hire and information. The centre provides youth outreach training programmes. All training programmes are devised and run by professional film-makers.

So you think you're funny!

An audience with Maeve Higgins: all you ever wanted to know about becoming a comedian but were afraid to ask.

Monday 21st November @ 8pm in the Ruby Room, TF Royal Hotel, Castlebar.



Maeve Higgins is an up and coming shop assistant by day and a stand up comedian by night! She used to moonlight as a bouncer in comedy clubs around the country, and was sometimes allowed to do stand-up. As well as her challenging career as a t-shirt folder and a comic, Maeve does a radio slot every Tuesday on the Ray D'arcy Show on Today FM, discussing crucial issues and trying not to make mouth sounds (she hates when other people on the radio make mouth sounds). She also featured on hit show Naked Camera on RTE2, where she tricked unsuspecting members of the public, then felt bad, but kept doing it anyway, because it was fun. Maeve's dream is to be the next child star, though it's looking increasingly unlikely as time marches on, she is however currently filming the second series of Naked Camera.

Visual Arts- Portfolio Preparation Talk

*Friday 18th November @ 9.30am and 11.30am
Ballina Arts Centre, Market Square, Ballina*

An expert panel will provide information on portfolio preparation for young people wishing to go to Art College.

Panel Members:

Tony Pilbro Course Co-ordinator for the Art and Design Course at Carrowbeg College, Westport. Anthony is a figurative painter who studied Fine Art at the Slade School of Fine Art, University College London.



Christine Pybus, Lecturer in Crawford College of Art and Design. She runs a portfolio preparation courses on Saturdays in CCAD and regularly sits on the interview panels for new intake.

Sean Larkin, Head of School of Creative Arts at IADT (Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology)

Lunchbox Animation Workshop with the Galway Film Centre

Saturday 26th November @ 10am, TF Royal Hotel, Castlebar

This is an exciting way to explore story-telling and visual images through animation using the Animation Lunchbox. The Lunchbox used with a video camera and monitor allows animators to shoot and replay animation. Participants will be shown how to create their own images and characters and transform this into a short animated film. Each participant will be given a DVD copy of the animations after the workshop.

Want to get Stage Wise?

Wednesday 16th November @ 6pm in the Newman Institute, Ballina

Through a question and answer session an expert panel, will provide information for young people interested in a career in Drama/ Theatre/ Film.



Garrett Lombard has recently been seen on our screens playing the role of 'Scobie' in the hit TV mini-series written by Eugene O' Brien, 'Pure Mule'. (For which he has been nominated for 'best supporting actor in television' in the 2005 Irish Film and Television Awards). Other TV credits include Love is the Drug and Fair City. He played Leonatus in Oliver Stones blockbuster film Alexander in 2004. Garrett's theatre credits include: *The Field, Playing from the Heart* and *Alone it Stands*. He holds an honours degree from Trinity College in Bachelor of Theatre Studies.

Eric Weitz, School of Drama, Trinity College, Lectures in Theatre Studies, and is Co ordinator of the Bachelor in Acting Studies. Eric is the Principle Acting Teacher in Research: specialising in humour, comedy and performance. He contributes to: *The Power of Laughter: Comedy and Contemporary Irish Theatre*, (Carysfort, 2004); *Lady Gregory's Humour of Character: A Commedia Approach to "Spreading the News"* in Irish University Review Special Issue, Spring/Summer 2004; various contributions to the Oxford Encyclopedia of Theatre and Performance, ed. by Dennis Kennedy (Oxford, 2003)

John Delaney is a tutor in the Gaiety School of Acting. The school is now widely regarded as one the country's premier training facility for actors. The School provides various full-time and part-time courses.

Breakdance in Belmullet!

Saturday 19th November, 11am to 3pm in Belmullet Sports Complex.



The *Belfast City Breakers* have been involved in Hip-Hop culture for over 20 years. They have represented Ireland for the past number of years in London at the UK Breakdance Championship 'Fresh Tour'.

The Belfast City Breakers Crew will carry out a performance followed by workshops where participants will be introduced to the major breakdance body moves.

In association with Erris CDP.

Hip Hop DJ Workshop

Saturday 19th November, @ 12.30pm in Belmullet



This interactive workshop will cover all areas of Hip-Hop DJing, including scratching, mixing and presentation. Participants will be invited to practice specific hands-on exercises (according to level of skill) and will be given a full overview of the concepts, technology and techniques involved in this exciting skill.

Arts Programme

Following very successful programmes in 2003 and 2004 Mayo County Council is delighted to be announcing another Youth Arts Programme, aimed at teenagers and young adults. This programme builds on the work of Mayo Youth Theatre and our Dance and Music programmes, which always include teenagers. The Youth Arts Programme links with existing groups in the county who cater for young people: CDSP's and various community groups. We are pleased to be working again in a developmental way with groups involving young people with specific arts interests: Mayo Youth Orchestra, Cantorai Umhail and the Achill Pipe Bands among others. EXCEL 05 will provide specialist workshops and masterclasses to support the work of these groups throughout the county. We hope the programme offers challenging opportunities and fun in equal measure.

Mayo Youth Theatre

Mayo Youth Theatre (MYT) was established in 1999 and is an initiative of Mayo County Council's Arts Office aiming to provide a quality theatre training experience to young people. Through weekly workshops and regular performance, participants are encouraged to explore their creativity in an energetic, friendly atmosphere. The Youth Theatre is aimed at anyone with an interest in any aspect of drama: acting (for theatre or film), music, dance, sound, lighting, production management, event management or script-writing. MYT has branches in Ballina and Castlebar and caters for 14 – 22 year olds.

For details on joining MYT please contact the Arts Office

Percussion Instruments for Post-Primary School's Scheme.

Mayo County Council Arts Office in partnership with Mayo Education Centre, Castlebar, initiated this new music scheme for Post Primary Schools in 2004. Percussion instruments were purchased by Mayo County Council Arts Office in order to increase the music resources available to young people within the county. Each set comprises 32 percussion instruments, including drums, shakers, tamborims, snares and bells. The Mayo Education Centre is the key lending agency for the instruments, enabling schools to borrow the instruments for up to four months.



Mayo County Council's Youth Arts Programme
7th to 27th November

Mayo County Council
Arts Office



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EXCEL 05