



The Limerick Bastille Day Wild Geese Festival,
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
the Limerick City & County Council,
the Embassy of France in Ireland and the Irish World Academy of Music & Dance,
AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF
the University of Limerick, GIS E.I.R.E.,
the French Society for Irish Studies (SOFEIR) and Fondation Nantes Université,

PRESENTS:

The Annual Ceremony & Show At King John's Castle

FEATURING
the LegionÉire Dance Force
& the first ever performance of
"Symphony 32"

An event part of Limerick's Decade of Centenaries and the UL50 programme



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



Programme

Sunday 17 July 2022, King John's Castle, Limerick

12.00-12.45pm

Admissions

(the event is free but pre-registration on Eventbrite is compulsory for attendees, children included). There will be a limited number of seats, most attendees will be standing.

1.00pm

Start of the event

(Master of Ceremony Dr Loïc Guyon, Honorary Consul of France, Cultural Coordinator of Alliance française Limerick, founder and co-organiser of the festival)

1.10pm

Parade by members of the French Foreign Legion Veterans Association of Ireland, the Limerick Branch of the Irish Naval Association, the I.U.N.V.A. (Post 6), the Patrick Sarsfield Branch of the O.N.E. and the Limerick Branch of the Royal British Legion of Ireland, followed by reenactors from En Garde (the Franco-Irish Historical Society) dressed as soldiers from Napoleon's Légion irlandaise.

1.15pm

Welcome address

by the Mayor of Limerick City & County or Deputy Mayor

1.20pm

Raising of the Irish and French flags

by soldiers of the 12th Infantry Battalion of the Defence Forces and national anthems performed by the Irish Chamber Orchestra

1.25pm

Speech

by the Chairperson of the Limerick Civic Trust, Ms Patricia Roberts.

1.35pm

Performance by the LegionÉire Dance Force.

The LegionÉire Dance Force is a troop of dancers sponsored by Cremona Heritage, celebrating the long standing connection between France and Fingal County, uniquely combining Irish dance with 19th century European classical march music, such as Beethoven's Yorckscher March and the French march of Saint Cyr. The dancers are kitted out in replica uniforms and headwear as originally worn by the Irish Legion of Napoleon's Grande Armée. The flags are also from the Napoleonic era, no longer seen in modern Europe.

1.55pm

Performance by the Irish Chamber Orchestra,

special guest Jean-Michel Veillon, and students from the Irish World Academy of Music & Dance, of "Symphony 32 / Siansach 32", an original piece of music written by French composer Dr Erick Falc'her-Poyroux in honour of the centenary of Ireland's partial independence and conducted by Franco-Irish maestro Robert Houlihan. This exceptional event is part of Limerick's Decade of Centenaries programme and the University of Limerick's UL50 series of events and is organised in partnership with the French Embassy in Ireland and the Irish World Academy of Music & Dance, with the support of the University of Limerick, the GIS E.I.R.E., the French Society for Irish Studies (SOFEIR) and Fondation Nantes Université.

1ST MOVEMENT

Mythology And Religion

01 *Taisteal Go Mall*

- The first humans came to Ireland about 10,000 years ago and we know almost nothing about these early inhabitants, except that they imported the construction of megaliths and burial mounds such as those of Newgrange, Howth, etc.. As everywhere, life began here very slowly. "Taisteal Go Mall", an Irish expression found nowadays on road signs in the Gaeltachtaí (Irish-speaking areas), means "Go slowly".

02 *Amhergin's March - The Boyne Jig*

- Amhergin (Amergin, Amorgen, etc.) was the principal druid & judge of the last mythological people to conquer Ireland, the Milesians. After the victory of his tribe, he ruled that his people could live on the land of Ireland, while the losers (the Tuatha Dé Danann) had to live underground.
- The River Boyne, north of Dublin, takes its name from the goddess Boann: she belonged to the Tuatha Dé Danann clan, and her lover - the god Dagda - used magic so that she could become pregnant and give birth to Aengus on the same day. It was also in the Boyne River that Fionn Mac Cumhaill (Finn McCool) caught the Salmon of Knowledge, which gave him all the world's knowledge.

03 *Brigid's Fancy*

- St. Brigid is one of the main figures who evangelised Ireland in the 5th century AD, along with St. Patrick. St. Brigid's Day is celebrated on February 1st and marks the beginning of the Irish Spring, replacing a similar ancient Celtic festival, Imbolc. But Brigid also appears as the goddess of poetry in the manuscript of the Lebor Gabála Éirenn, before the arrival of Christianity. Her character was probably adopted and adapted by the early Christian missionaries, marking the transition from the mythological history to the Christian history of Ireland.

2ND MOVEMENT

Invaders

04 *The Tears of Rathlin Island*

- Rathlin Island, off the coast of County Antrim in Northern Ireland, was the first victim of the Viking raids in the year 795. The dark period of Viking raids would end with Brian Boru's victory at the Battle of Clontarf in 1014. In the meantime the Vikings had plundered villages and monasteries, but had also founded ports and cities, including Dublin, Cork... and Limerick.

05 *Adrian's Bull - Derbforgaill - Bannow Bay*

- In 1155 a papal bull (i.e. decree) was issued by Pope Adrian IV - the only English pope in history -, which granted King Henry II of England the right to invade and govern Ireland, which had become too pagan for some. But the authenticity of this bull is still disputed.
- Derbforgaill, daughter of the King of Meath, was abducted in 1152 by Dermot McMurrough, King of Leinster. Exiled out of Ireland for this crime in 1166, he sought the help of King Henry II of England to regain his throne.
- In May 1169, with Henry II's blessing, an Anglo-Norman army raised by his vassal Richard Strongbow landed in Bannow Bay, Co. Wexford to help Dermot McMurrough recover his kingdom. This marks the beginning of the Anglo-Norman presence in Ireland.

06 *Beyond the Pale*

- The mutual incomprehension between the Gaelic way of life and the Anglo-Norman (and later English) way of life gave rise to the English expression "Beyond the pale", i.e. "unacceptable". It originated in the English-dominated region around Dublin, called The Pale, which considered everything beyond its limits as incomprehensible, even intolerable. The gap widened even further when King Henry VIII decided in 1534 to separate the English Church from Rome and to become the head of an official Protestant church, while Ireland remained firmly Catholic.

3RD MOVEMENT

The End Of A World

07 *Cormac MacDermott - The Globe Jig - The Humours of Kinsale*

- Few people know that Queen Elizabeth (1558-1603) maintained Irish musicians in her service, including harpers like Cormac MacDermott. He remained in the service of her successor, King James I of England, until the musician's death in 1618.
- The jig is a very common 6/8 musical form in Irish and Scottish music, but it is also the name of the theatrical entertainment given after the main performance at the time of Shakespeare and his London theatre, the Globe.
- In 1601, a large Spanish army led by General del Águila came to help the Gaelic clan chiefs against England. But the combined Irish and Spanish forces were defeated by the English army at the Battle of Kinsale, which signalled the end of Gaelic Ireland.

08 *Major General Boisseleau*

- The struggle between Catholics and Protestants for the throne of England continued throughout the 18th century, including in Ireland during two important battles: The Protestant army of William of Orange won a decisive victory against the Catholic army of James II at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, then at Aughrim in 1691. France, like Spain, was an important ally of the Irish Catholics, and it was French Major General Boisseleau who commanded defence operations during the siege of Limerick in the summer of 1690 and who successfully defended the city.

09 *Grattan's Parliament - the Eagle Tavern - The Republic of Connacht*

- At the end of the 18th century, the first Irish nationalist aspirations were expressed by Protestants, and in particular by Henry Grattan, who obtained from London the creation of a truly independent Irish parliament, but still without rights for Catholics.
- A unique period of union between Catholics and Protestants then developed: on November 9, 1791 the Society of United Irishmen was founded at the Eagle Tavern in Belfast. Its ultimate goal was an independent Irish Republic, with the help of French revolutionaries.
- In 1798, after an unsuccessful attempt in 1796, the French *Directoire* decided to support an Irish rebellion, at the request of Theobald Wolfe Tone. The troops led by French General Humbert landed at Kilcummin, Co. Mayo, in the north-west: the first days were euphoric and a Republic was proclaimed. It lasted only twelve days.

4TH MOVEMENT

Slow Awakening

10 - *The Lad from Cahirciveen*

- Daniel O'Connell, born in 1775 in Cahirciveen Co. Kerry, was the first Catholic to be elected to the Westminster Parliament in 1828, but he refused to swear an oath of allegiance to the Protestant King. In a gesture of appeasement, the Catholic Emancipation Act was passed at Westminster in 1829, followed in 1858 by the emancipation of the Jews. O'Connell died in 1847 while trying to secure the creation of an independent Kingdom of Ireland.

11 - *An Drochshaoil*

- The period of the Great Famine in Ireland (1845-1850) was long surrounded by a sense of shame and guilt for many reasons. The most common expression used at the end of the 19th century to describe these 5 years - which saw the Irish population decline from 8.5 to 5 million - was "an Drochshaoil", the "bad times", or literally, the "bad life".

12 - *The Rising Polka - The 32 Polka*

- Taking advantage of the British engagement on the continent during the First World War, a few dozen Irishmen and women decided to organize an uprising at Easter 1916, which was a resounding strategic failure. But the brutality of the British retaliation quickly turned this failure into a political success: Irish Independence was granted on December 6, 1921 and took effect on December 6, 1922.
- However, only 26 of Ireland's 32 counties gained their independence and 6 counties remain part of the United Kingdom in Northern Ireland. Between 1968 and 1998, an armed struggle resulted in more than 3000 deaths. The Good Friday Agreement put a stop to this carnage.

Credits



COMPOSER

Erick Falc'her-Poyroux

Dr Erick Falc'her-Poyroux was born in 1964 in Nantes, Brittany (France), and Ireland has been his second home since the 1980's. He is an Associate Professor in France, the author of a Ph.D. on Irish music (1996), and he has translated or written several books on Ireland, as well as on the Beatles.



CONDUCTOR

Robert Houlihan

A native of Killarney, County Kerry, Robert lived in Metz, France from 1981 until 2002, where he conducted for several years at the Municipal Theatre as well as frequently guest conducting l'Orchestre National de Lorraine, l'Orchestre de Chambre de Metz and his own ensemble le Nouvel Ensemble Instrumental. From 1990 to 1993 Robert was Principal Conductor of the Tirgu Mures Philharmonic, Romania. Between 1992 and 1998 he held the position of Principal Conductor and Artistic Director of the Savaria Symphony Orchestra, Hungary. Robert has conducted over 100 different orchestras since he began his career. He now regularly conducts the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland and the RTÉ Concert Orchestra as well as appearing as a guest with orchestras in Europe and in South America.



SPECIAL GUEST

Jean-Michel Veillon

Jean-Michel Veillon is best known as the flute player with the Breton groups Kornog and Pennou Skoulm. He pioneered the use of the wooden flute in Breton music, and is also an excellent player of Irish tunes. His musical style is sensitive yet powerful, full of energy, subtlety, and great feeling. He is regarded by many musicians as the Celtic world's finest player of the wooden flute. From 1981-1987, Jean-Michel played with the group Kornog throughout Europe and the USA. He was a founding member of the dance band Pennou Skoulm with Patrick and Jacky Molard, Soig Sibérial, and Christian Lemaître. From 1988-1992, Jean-Michel played in the group Den. He also was a founding member of Barzaz with the great singer Yann-Fanch Kemener. His highly regarded first solo album, "E Koad Nizan" is the first record dedicated to Breton music on transverse wooden flute. Jean-Michel now plays in duet with the guitarist Yvon Riou.



SPECIAL GUEST

Helen Lawlor

Dr Helen Lawlor (née Lyons) is an award-winning musician and academic, specialising in Irish harping. She specialises in research on music in Ireland with a focus on the musical practice, education and history of the harp. She is author of *Irish harping 1900–2010* (2012) and co-editor with Sandra Joyce of *Harp studies: perspectives on the Irish harp* (2016). Her work is also published in *The Encyclopaedia of Music in Ireland*, *Ancestral Imprints*, *Sonus*, *American Harp Journal*, *JSMI* and *JMI*. She is a member of the editorial board of the *JSMI* and is Secretary of Performance Research Ireland. Helen holds a BMusEd (TCD), MMus (UCD) and a PhD (UCD) for which she was an Ad Astra Research Scholarship recipient. Helen has performed and taught traditional Irish harping at numerous international music festivals including the Interceltic Festival (Lorient), Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy, Blas and The Gaelic Roots festival in Boston.



SPECIAL GUEST

Niall Keegan

Dr Niall Keegan is a traditional Irish flute player born into the second-generation Irish community in the south-east of England. Niall is regarded by many to be one of the more innovative of Irish musicians performing today, stretching what it means to be a traditional artist. He is a lecturer at the Irish World Academy, University of Limerick and is currently course director for the MA in Irish Traditional Music Performance and Director of Undergraduate Studies. His research interests include performance style, cognition, music and language, identity and diaspora.

IRISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA:

Dr Diane Daly

(leader)

OTHER GUEST MUSICIANS:

Susan Coleman

(Concertina)*

Karen Hickey

(Fiddle)*

Dr Sandra Joyce

(Bodhran)*

Tomas O'Sullivan

(Bouzouki)

- *Simon Pfisterer*

(Uilleann Pipes)*

**Irish World Academy of Music & Dance*

2.45pm	Gun salute by the En Garde reenactors
2.50pm	European anthem
3.00pm	End of the event (the festival continues with animations on Nicholas Street)

See you next year! À bientôt! Slán go fáill!

THE 2022 EDITION OF THE LIMERICK BASTILLE DAY WILD GEESE FESTIVAL

was brought to you by



with the support of



and of our official sponsors



The organisers also wish to thank all of the following “Friends of our Festival” for their support:



Alliance française Limerick offers French language classes and culture for all ages. Scan the QR code or visit www.aflimerick.org to find out more

