



**Mary McGuigan** from Bellaghy in South Derry now lives in Eglinton near Derry City. Immersed in Irish song and dance at an early age she was taught dance by May Allen. Mary has danced competitively at local, Ulster and All-Ireland level, winning many championships. As well as teaching ceili and traditional step-dance, in recent years she has been performing as a sean-nos dancer on television, at festivals, The Oireachtas and the Ulster and All-Ireland Fleadhs.



**Méabh O'Hare** was born in Belfast. She first took up the fiddle while attending Bunscoil Phobail Feirste, Andersonstown. With a move to Cork and music studies at University College Cork she immersed herself in the local session scene and recorded an album with 17 fiddles and piano group Fiddle Sticks. She also played and toured with Dublin based flute player Conor Byrne recording the album Bavan. She presented the traditional music television series Banish Misfortune on RTE and in 2000 she received the TG4 Young Traditional Musician of the Year. Alongside her musical career she enjoys success as a film producer.



**Ian Prowse** is a singer/songwriter from Merseyside. He is founder and front man of Pele, and now fronts the band Amsterdam. Christy Moore has covered a Prowse-penned song and appears on Amsterdam's most recent album. Ian has written a Masters dissertation on Christy's role in Irish music.

ENTRY TO THE AFTER-PARTY AT CULTÚRLANN UÍ CHANÁIN IS WITH A VALID CONCERT TICKET.

Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin  
37 Mórshráid Shéamais /  
Great James Street

### The Irish Sea Sessions 2011 would like to thank

Hope Street Hotel, Liverpool  
Leon Yeadon of L's Kitchen  
[bookthecookcatering@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bookthecookcatering@hotmail.co.uk)  
for feeding us so magnificently at The Friary  
Bones Adderley  
The Huyton Fatties  
Mark McNulty  
Lisa Southern  
John Chandler, Jake Roney and all at Liverpool Irish Festival  
Moira Hall, George Seaton, Pat Peter, Richard Curtis, James Hanks, Stuart Almond, Paul Hooley, Deby Dunning, Judith Wood, Richard Nutter, Peter Garden and Stephan Heaton at Liverpool Philharmonic  
Polly Moseley  
The staff, pupils and parents of North Liverpool Academy  
Frank Bechofer  
David Jaymes  
Fiacre Gaffney  
Steven Hadley of Audiences NI  
Graeme Farrow  
Padraig O'Duinnin  
Lauren McKenna  
James McFetridge  
Esther Haller-Clarke  
David McLaughlin  
Catherine Ming  
Martin McGinley  
Nathan Flatman

And very special thanks for the support and encouragement from Eibhlín Ní Dhochartaigh and Anne-Marie Gallagher at Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin.



**John McSherry** is hailed as one of the finest exponents of uilleann piping in the world. He has taken piping and whistle playing to new heights with his unique style. Winner of two All Ireland Championships and the prestigious Oireachtas Piping Competition, John has been a member of several outstanding bands including Tamalin, Lunasa and Coolfin. He is a composer, producer, arranger and an established studio session musician of world class renown, recording and performing with everybody from Clannad and Donal Lunny to Nancy Griffiths and The Corrs.



**Dave Munnelly** is the Irish button accordion wizard behind TheDavid Munnelly Band. 'They are a creative force at the true epicentre of Irish traditional music' (liveIreland.com). He has toured and performed with The Chieftains and DeDanaan. He received the Composer of the Year Award consecutively in 2004 and 2005.



**Niamh Parsons** has come to be known as one of the most distinctive voices in Irish music. Her voice has drawn comparisons with singers like Dolores Keane, June Tabor and Sandy Denny. The great Scottish balladeer Archie Fisher said of Niamh 'a songstress like her comes along once or twice in a generation.'

it's liverpool



The first ever **Irish Sea Sessions** concert recorded live at Liverpool Philharmonic on Friday 22 October 2010, part for Liverpool Irish Festival 2010.

With the atmosphere and attitude of a session, but in a concert hall, the inaugural Irish Sea Sessions brings together musicians from both sides of the Irish Sea to explore the shared music and special bond between Liverpool and Ireland in an electrifying performance of tunes, songs and reels.

Featuring traditional instrumentalists and singers, and other musicians who started out in pop, rock and even punk, but have found themselves inspired by music from the Irish diaspora, this album is a unique collection of contemporary and traditional music that captures brilliantly the incredible atmosphere of inaugural session of 2010.

On sale tonight and at [www.liverpoolphil.com/ISSCD](http://www.liverpoolphil.com/ISSCD)



OUT  
NOW!

LIVERPOOL  
PHILHARMONIC

Liverpool Philharmonic presents

# THE IRISH SEA SESSIONS 2011

Liverpool  
Irish Festival

Millennium  
Forum  
Theatre & Conference Centre

cultúrlann  
uí chanáin

Ulster Bank  
BELFAST  
FESTIVAL  
AT QUEEN'S



Welcome

One of the most enjoyable aspects of this project is that the musicians and the audience are both taking a risk, which is relatively unusual characteristic of a concert on this scale: no-one is really quite sure what is going to happen until the day.

Our musical director, Bernard O'Neill, refers to it as "a seat of the pants show" so we thank you for taking a chance with us! Tonight we will hear the results of two days of musical musing on the relationship between Liverpool and Ireland, and with Belfast and Derry/Londonderry in particular. We will pay tribute to Van Morrison, and offer a reworking of the Elvis Costello –born Declan McManus in Birkenhead – classic *Shipbuilding* with Moving Hearts' tune *Titanic*. A set of tunes commissioned from Terry Clark-Coyne for this year's Irish Sea Sessions includes *Liverpool Remembers*, a slow air composed in reflection on mass migration to and through Liverpool in the 1840s with a lyric, *Going Into Exile*, provided by playwright and musician Lizzie Nunnery – who sang in last year's Sessions; the set ends with an upbeat reel celebrating great memories of the sessions at Liverpool Irish Centre on Mount Pleasant. We offer our take on Pete Wylie's anthem *Heart As Big As Liverpool*, especially in memory of Cherith Watson, who first introduced me to Pete on the Kop at Anfield many years ago and for whom every word rings true. We hope the other links are obvious, whether by their titles, or a lyric, or just the sense of place of a song or tune, from the great songsmiths and tunemasters assembled for the Sessions. Liverpool Philharmonic are delighted to have been awarded some funding from the Primary Care Trust to work with the community of North Liverpool Academy in exploring the themes of the Irish Sea Sessions with some of the musicians over coming months, and we welcome many of the pupils, parents and staff to the Liverpool show. We're honoured to be invited to the prestigious Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queens to appear at the beautiful Ulster Hall, and also to be making an inaugural visit to the Millennium Forum in Derry/Londonderry, in the build up to their year as UK City of Culture 2013, an award which was developed following the success of Liverpool's year as European Capital of Culture in 2008.

Last year's Irish Sea Sessions in Liverpool were excellently recorded and mixed by our audio producer Toby Mills, and the highlights have been released as a CD which is on sale tonight. In Liverpool, buying a CD in the Grand Foyer Bar will gain you admission to our aftershow session across the road at Hope Street Hotel, where many of the artists will be on hand to sign. In Derry/Londonderry, your concert ticket will gain you entry to the aftershow at Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin, the Irish language arts and enterprise centre who have been a great encouragement in planning Irish Sea Sessions' visit to their city, and whose extraordinary building was the runner-up in this year's Stirling Prize. Please do come along to the aftershows and share your thoughts, and perhaps a tune or a song.

To quote Bernard O'Neill again, "*The Irish Sea Sessions couldn't have started anywhere else other than Liverpool.*" I'm very grateful to the Boards and all the staff of Liverpool Philharmonic, and to colleagues on the Board of Liverpool Irish Festival, for their excellent support and partnership of the Irish Sea Sessions project: they are precisely why Bernard is correct.

Simon Glinn

Simon Glinn  
Executive Director of Liverpool Philharmonic Hall & Events

About tonight's session

The fourteen-strong ensemble gathered for the first time on Wednesday last at The Friary, Liverpool Philharmonic's rehearsal and education facility in the Grade II\* listed former church of St Mary of the Angels in West Everton, in the north of the city. By that evening they had put together the following set-list as the general idea for tonight's session:

- 1. Does This Train Stop on Merseyside/Graf Spey/Crooked Road to Dublin/ Swallow's Tail/Dan Breens
- 2. Derry Gaol
- 3. Tunes: The Drunken Sailor
- 4. Blackbirds and Thrushes/ The Blackbird Waltz /Pipers of Rogaty/Johnny O'Learys
- 5. Tupelo Honey
- 6. Séan Duibhir a Gleanna
- 7. Go to Sea No More
- 8. Going Into Exile: Liverpool Remembers/Belfast's Secret Garden/Great Craic on Mount Pleasant
- 9. Heart As Big As Liverpool Interval
- 10. Sliabh mBan
- 11. Trim the Velvet
- 12. Belfast Mountains/ Mist Covered Mountain/Dara Murphy's/Munster Buttermilk
- 13. Hope
- 14. The Auld Triangle
- 15. Star Above The Garter/Tipping It Up To Nancy/Ballyvourney/No.3
- 16. Shipbuilding / Titanic
- 17. Smuggling the Tin
- 18. Once I Loved/Kishor's Jig/Down in the Swamp/Damien O'Kane's
- 19. It's All Good /The Liverpool Hornpipe/Dublin Reel/Miss Thomson's/Primrose Lass
- 20. The Leaving Of Liverpool

Back Row: L-R Gino Lupari, Damien Dempsey, Bernard O'Neill, Graham Dunne, Stevie Dunne, Alan Burke, Dave Munnelly, Terry Clarke-Coyne, John McSherry. Front Row: L-R Ian Prowse, Jennifer John, Mary McGuiggan, Niamh Parsons, Méabh O'Hare



Credits

Alan Burke	Guitar, Vocal
Dave Munnelly	Button Accordion, piano
Graham Dunne	Guitar
Terry Clarke-Coyne	Flute, Whistles
Damien Dempsey	Guitar, Vocal
Niamh Parsons	Vocal
Jennifer John	Vocal
Ian Prowse	Guitar, Vocal
Stevie Dunne	Tenor Banjo
Bernard O'Neill	Double bass
John McSherry	Uilleann Pipes, Whistles
Méabh O'Hare	Fiddle
Mary McGuiggan	Dancer
Gino Lupari	Bodhran, Vocal, Percussion
Simon Glinn	Executive Producer
Richard Haswell	Deputy Executive Producer
Toby Mills	Audio Producer
Grant Hartley	Driver, Crew
Lynton Middendorp	Stage Technician, Driver
www.irishseasessions.com	



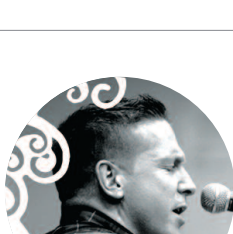
**Bernard O'Neill** was born in Dublin. In the past twenty years he has recorded on over 200 albums on Double bass, bass guitar and cello for a diverse group of artists including Rufus Wainright, Sinead O'Connor, Jeff Buckley, Natacha Atlas, Little Axe, Temple of Sound and Rolf Harris for whom he has been musical director and producer since 1993.



**Terry Clarke-Coyne** is one of Merseyside's most influential traditional musicians. Born into a family steeped in the traditional music of Ireland – his father was a member of the world famous Liverpool Ceili Band in the 1950s - Terry was a mainstay of the sessions at the Liverpool Irish Centre and is a former member of the traditional group Garva. He has won numerous competitions and top honours in world championships.



**Alan Burke** made his name as the lead singer, guitarist and bodhran player with Afterhours in the 80s and 90s. Born in the heart of the London Irish community and setting out in life as a drummer, Alan has lived in Belfast and is now settled back in Dublin. He has become a fluent Gaelic speaker, with an almost inexhaustible repertoire of songs and a driving guitar technique.



**Damien Dempsey** was born in Donaghmede on Dublin's Northside in 1975. He is the voice of the underclass, the



**Jennifer John** is originally from London's East end but has made Liverpool her home for 20 years, and has revolutionised singing in the city through her organisation Sense of Sound. Their a cappella choir reached the grand final of Radio 3's Choir of the Year in 2006 and the last six in BBC1's Last Choir Standing, and as well as being one of the most highly demanded backing vocalists on the scene she has lectured at Paul McCartney's Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (LIPA), been on stage alongside George Michael and Elton John, worked with Damon Albarn on his opera, Monkey: A Journey to the West, is one half of the duo Killer Fernandez, and has worked on a number of projects with Liverpool Philharmonic in recent years including Paco Pena's Flamenco Requiem.



**Stevie Dunne** is an integral part of the Belfast's vibrant music scene and is known for his energetic style of playing. Stevie is a founding member of Traditional Irish bands Ánfa and Luasc . He has played support to several top bands including Lunasa and Solas and has toured with the Belfast based band At First Light. Stevie regularly plays with the bands frontmen Donál O' Connor and John McSherry



**Graham Dunne**, a Dubliner who is now based in Ennis, is an exceptional guitarist in the Irish traditional music scene, known for his sensitivity of touch as an accompanist, and his fiery ability as a soloist. Graham is full-time guitarist with Niamh Parsons, and is currently also undertaking a degree in music technology.



**Gino Lupari** 'the king of the bodhrán,' is the front man of Four Men and a Dog. As a percussionist and vocalist he has recorded and performed with Sinead O'Connor and Shane McGowan and the Popes, and appeared in the BBC drama The Passion. A man of enormous charisma, if he weren't such a fine musician he'd undoubtedly be a comedian!