The thirteenth Leeds Gathering festival is a celebration of Irish music and arts, between the 18th to the 26th November. Our aim is to bring you the finest examples of traditional and contemporary Irish arts, we’re sure you’ll enjoy it...

Well...
You’re welcome here kind stranger.

Leeds Irish Arts Foundation
Registered Charity No. 1101657
Company Limited by Guarantee in England & Wales No. 4927919
The Leeds Gathering
Festival
Educational Tour

Throughout the festival and during the academic year a team of tutors from the Irish Arts Foundation will visit a number of primary schools in Leeds.

We deliver workshops on Irish music, dance and arts as well as background on Ireland and the Irish in Britain.

If your school would be interested in hosting a workshop please contact

Irish Arts Foundation
0113 278 7442
info@irisharts.org.uk
www.irisharts.org.uk

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**Saturday 18th**

**7.00PM**
CD Launch: Matt Tighe

Living in south London and born to an Irish and Trinidadian background, Fiddle player Matt Tighe is quickly making a name for himself in the world of folk and traditional music.

Now twenty-one years old, he has been described as a fiery virtuoso and has already had an extensive experience in performance, playing at many festivals and clubs within the UK and Ireland. He also has great experience in teaching music, and has taught with virtuoso accordionist, Luke Daniels for Daniels’ organisation, Gael Music. Matt was also part of the On Drover Tracks tour with Daniels, Miranda Rutter and Matheu Watson.

His much-anticipated debut album will be released in September on the Greentrax record label, having been produced by the eminent Brian McNeill and recorded in the Highlands. He studied music at the Brit School in London and continues his studies at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance under John Crawford.

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His bodhrán and bouzouki playing can be heard on many recordings and films including the 2010 film Burke and Hare (John Landis), Barulle’s album Mananans Cloak, CrossHarbour self titled album, Ranagri album Tradition and the Tony Christie album The Great Irish Song Book.

PWYF (PAY WHAT YOU FEEL)
The Inkwell, Potternewton Lane LEEDS LS7 3LW
Sunday 19th

**2.30PM**
**Traditional Irish Music Session**
Hosted by local Leeds musicians Ian Pearson and Karen Lacey-Roberts (fiddles), Kevin Hurley (flute) and Clare Keane (button accordion). We also welcome a special guest Shane MacGowan’s band The Popes — Brian Kelly (banjo).

**FREE EVENT**
The Grove Inn, Back Row, Holbeck Urban Village LEEDS LS11 5PL

**8.00PM**
**Brian Kennedy**
Brian Kennedy is an internationally celebrated Singer, Songwriter, Novelist, Coach on The Voice of Ireland, former lead performer with Van Morrison’s Blues & Soul Revue for six years, featured Lead Performer in Riverdance on Broadway for nine months in an especially tailored role at the request of the composer Bill Whelan. His debut for chart-making albums, A Better Man (1996) and Now That I Know What I Want (1999), went platinum at No.1 and earned him the awards of Irish Best Male Singer, Songwriter, Novel, and old strive to give the best performance in their age group in order to be named Irish Best Male Artist and Irish Best Male Album, as did the highly acclaimed Homebird (2006) and cover album Interpretations (2008). But it was Brian’s heart wrenching LIVE performance of You Raise Me Up at the Funeral of Football Legend George Best that earned him a spot in the top 5 of the UK charts. No show would be complete without including a selection from his back catalogue. So come, experience and celebrate that voice, musicianship and personality.

**TICKETS £17 + BOOKING FEE**
Otley Courthouse, Courthouse Street OTLEY LS21 3AN 01943 467466 admin@otleycourthouse.org.uk www.otleycourthouse.org.uk

Monday 20th

**8.00PM**
**The Leeds Gathering Film Event: The Journey**
**IN ASSOCIATION WITH SCREEN SEVEN**

Nick Hamm’s The Journey is a speculative what-if drama about a vital and mysterious aspect of the Northern Ireland peace process: the extraordinary rapprochement between two old enemies — the DUP’s Ian Paisley and Sinn Féin’s Martin McGuinness. The film imagines that, halfway through the peace negotiations, Ian Paisley had to make a long car journey to get to his 50th wedding anniversary party and for reasons of diplomatic protocol, McGuinness would have to join him. This was the literal and figurative journey during which the ice would break.

Since the film’s premiere at Venice last year, McGuinness has died, there is political instability and Brexit threatens to disturb a hard-won peace accord. So this film really is more relevant than ever.

**Director:** Nick Hamm
**UK, France, 1hr 34min PG-13**
**Stars:** Timothy Spall, Colm Meaney, John Hurt

**£6 / £5 CONC.**
Seven Artspace, 31a Harrogate Road LEEDS LS7 3PD 0113 262 6777 info@sevenleeds.co.uk

Tuesday 21st

**12.15PM**
**Tuesday Irish Elders Club**
Includes bingo and refreshments. This Tuesday features music from Irish Arts musicians Gerry Brownridge and Kevin Mullowney.

Contact Leeds Irish Centre for more details on how to join on 0113 2480887 www.theleedsirishcentre.co.uk

**8.45PM**
**In Collaboration with Leeds CCE Book Launch: Fawcett’s Fleadh! Memories of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann**

Peter Fawcett is Comhaltas Ceoltóiri na hÉireann (CCE – Irish Musicians Association) Public Relations Officer for the North of England. He has been taking photos at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann for over forty years.

This book is part memoir part historical record of All-Ireland Fleadhanna Cheoil since 1975. The fleadh cheoil for the uninitiated is a week-long jamboree of traditional music, with concerts, pub sessions and street music.

The beating heart of the fleadh, though, is found in the halls and classrooms distributed around the town where competitors young and old strive to give the best performance in their age group in order to be named All-Ireland champion. It is the blue riband event in Comhaltas’ year moving regularly from town to town and attracting huge crowds of followers. The photographs in this book are only a small fraction of Peter’s collection, but he has chosen ones that capture the spirit of the fleadh as well as the adventures of a Yorkshireman in Ireland.

**FREE EVENT**
Leeds Irish Centre, York Road LEEDS LS9 9NT

Wednesday 22nd

**10.00AM**
**Untold Stories: The Leeds Irish Community**

Untold Stories is a community archive project undertaken by the Irish Arts Foundation. Initially funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund, the project looks at the experiences of the emigrant Irish community in Leeds in the second half of the twentieth century, particularly their settlement patterns and cultural traditions such as music, dance, song and sport.

This event features a presentation using the Untold Stories website and documentary as well as live traditional Irish music.

Contact Leeds Irish Health & Homes on 0113 262 5614 www.lihh.org St Anthony’s Parish Hall, Old Lane, Beeston LEEDS LS11 7AA

**FREE EVENT**
Forum 2000, The Grove Centre New Street, Horsforth LEEDS LS18 4BH

**10.30AM**
**Irish Elders Coffee Morning**
A regular event, this week featuring live Irish music.

For information contact Leeds Irish Health & Homes on 0113 262 5614 www.lihh.org St Anthony’s Parish Hall, Old Lane, Beeston LEEDS LS11 7AA
**Friday 24th**

**12.15PM
Over 55’s Day Club**

New people are always welcome to join the relaxed Irish environment at the Montague Burton Resource Centre. Lunch is provided and to celebrate the Leeds Gathering Festival. This week musicians from the Irish Arts Foundation will deliver a showcase of Irish music.

Music in a Breeze of Wind

Traditional Dance Music in west Clare 1870–1970

Barry Taylor – musician and researcher – recalls tales from his latest book *Music in a Breeze of Wind* that portrays the lives of some of the prominent musical families in the region, many of who became household names during the renaissance of Irish music in the 1950’s.

For information contact Leeds Irish Health & Homes on 0113 262 5614

www.lihh.org

Montague Burton Resource Centre

Banstead Street West, Roundhay Road

LEEDS LS8 5RU

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**8.00PM
Cronin play the Songs of Shane MacGowan**

Leeds/Irish brothers Cronin play a special show for Leeds Gathering. A show of two sets, one their own songs, one the songs of Ireland’s finest legendary songwriter of The Poguesology Shane MacGowan.

As well as Pogues songs it will also feature some of his solo material in a show that Shane himself has chosen the set list.

Since the Cronin brothers returned to Ireland they have been lucky enough to get to know their idol and are now Mr. MacGowan’s go to band of choice for collaborations and also as his backing band and appeared on the Sky Arts documentary *Shane MacGowan A Wreck Reborn.*

“Cronin have pure celtic soul. They sing my songs better than I do.”

SHANE MACGOWAN

Cronin with Shane MacGowan

Electric Picnic 2017

https://youtu.be/D-w3P3BtiXY

£10 ON THE DOOR

Seven Artspace 31a Harrogate Road

LEEDS LS7 3PD

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**Saturday 25th**

**7.45PM
Lau Decade**

Lau is the pioneering contemporary folk trio made up of three of the UK’s finest traditional musicians: Kris Drever (vocals, guitar), Martin Green (accordion, Wurlitzer, keys, electronics) and Aidan O’Rourke (fiddle).

Both extraordinary musicians and creative visionaries, Lau’s music is rooted in gorgeous melody, but explores folk music in every direction, with virtuosic playing, rich electronics and ideas that constantly leap and dip in unexpected contours.

Decade celebrates 10 years of incredible stage performances from this multiple award-winning band.

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**8.00PM
Tom McConville Band**

The Tom McConville Band is surely the most entertaining, exciting four-piece operating on the festival circuit today.

Fronted by the incendiary fiddle playing of BBC Radio 2 Musician of the Year Tom McConville, (who Seth Lakeman regards as his biggest influence), this band also features Shona Kipling, herself a BBC Folk Award nominee, and one of the finest accordion players in the country. Add to that David Newey’s ‘incredible, unique guitar playing’ (BBC Radio 6), and Phil Murray — the man Mike Harding called ‘the best bass player in Britain’, and you have a force to be reckoned with.

Whilst this band has a backbone in traditional music, you’ll hear country, jazz, blues and rock and roll, all being delivered by an acoustic four piece. Tom’s exceptional voice is bought to the fore with big choruses and a great choice of songs and tunes; one minute they’ll be tearing through a heart stopping set of Irish and Scottish reels — the next, you’ll be transported to a world of travellers and tradesmen, tricksters and true lovers.

TICKETS £12 + BOOKING FEE

Otley Courthouse, Courthouse Street

OTLEY LS21 3AN

01943 467466

admin@otleycourthouse.org.uk

www.otleycourthouse.org.uk

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**Irish Arts Foundation**

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Sunday 26th

2.30PM
Traditional Irish Music Session
with special guests
Tom Oakes and Jim Filgate

Up until the late 1950’s The Garden Gate and The Grove Inn were well-known meeting places for the Irish community in Leeds, particularly before going to the dances that took place in the now long gone St Francis’ Dance Hall in nearby Holbeck.

Regarded as one of the UK’s most accomplished and versatile wooden flautists and as a leading DADGAD guitarist and composer, Edinburgh based Tom Oakes (Bmus) has spent the last decade ploughing many different furrows as an Irish traditional musician, composer, producer, contemporary artist, collaborator, teacher, event organiser and special needs facilitator.

Working with scenes as diverse as Arabic hip-hop + Moroccan gnawa (In Marrakech and Casablanca, contemporary bluegrass (With Laura Cortese and the dance cards), Indian traditional, classical and bhangra music (In residency in Mumbai), Scandinavian traditional music and jazz (across Scandinavia) and on projects with the Northern Sinfonia, McFall’s Chamber (Featuring Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Opera and RSNO) and the pan-global Solaris String Quartet (In the UK).

His flute playing has led to him being Principle Traditional Flute Tutor at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and for final year students at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne (where he graduated in 2005). He is Co-director of the Great Scottish Flute Night and Director of Winter Trad. The latter a weekend of music and teaching based around his duo with Shetland fiddle star Ross Couper.

We are also delighted to welcome Jim Filgate, a well-known figure in the Irish scene in London. Jim ran the Kilburn Irish Festival for a number of years and has also been instrumental in running set dancing events across London and further afield. On this occasion Jim will be joining the musicians to give a bit of Sean-nós (old style) dancing as well as singing a few songs – well worth a look.

FREE EVENT
The Garden Gate, 3 Whitfield Place, Hunslet
LEEDS LS10 2QB

Irish Arts Foundation
0113 278 7442
info@irisharts.org.uk

The Leeds Gathering
18th–26th November 2017

IrishArts
Foundation

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Irish Arts Foundation
0113 278 7442
info@irisharts.org.uk

All details are correct as of 12th October 2017. The Irish Arts Foundation reserves the right to amend any programme details.

Image: In The Grove by Gerry Hughes