

# Birr Festival of Music

1-5 MAY 2025



Featuring  
**The  
Trench  
Award**

BIRR, CO. OFFALY

[birrfestivalofmusic.com](http://birrfestivalofmusic.com)



FRIDAY  
2 MAY



## RTÉ Concert Orchestra Opera & Orchestral Favourites

*St Brendan's R.C. Church, Wilmer Road | 7.30pm | €25\**

Join the **RTÉ Concert Orchestra** for an unforgettable evening of music. Conducted by **Niall Kinsella**, with internationally-acclaimed Irish soprano **Ava Dodd** and presenter **Liz Nolan** of RTÉ lyric fm, the concert features beloved classics by Mozart, Donizetti, Ravel, Puccini, Bernstein, and many more.



## Community Outreach

**Sing, Sing, Sing!** Students from local secondary schools come together for a day of fun-filled singing workshops led by dynamic choral director **Mary Amond O'Brien**. **THURSDAY 1 MAY**

**Music for Life** Senior music students gain an insight into what it means to be a successful professional musician as celebrated duo, baritone **Bruno Caproni** and concert pianist **Julian Evans**, visit local schools. **THURSDAY 1 MAY**

**Musical Memories** A trip down memory lane bringing much-loved melodies and classic songs to residents, families and staff in Birr Community Nursing Unit and other local care homes.



SATURDAY  
3 MAY

## 4 in a Bar Love Songs Through the Ages

*Craughwell's Courtyard | 1pm*  
€18\* (includes light lunch)

**4 in a Bar** is an award-winning vocal quartet based in Dublin - four friends who combine their classical music backgrounds with a love for modern, close-harmony singing. For this lunchtime concert, they trace the theme of love through centuries, embracing a broad range of music from Baroque to Barbershop, all presented with characteristic spontaneity and wit!



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## Liza Pulman & Gareth Williams Let's Begin with Harold Arlen...

*Birr Theatre & Arts Centre*  
8pm | €20/18\*

Acclaimed singer (and one third of the iconic Fascinating Aïda) **Liza Pulman** explores the Great American Songbook, starting with the genius of Harold Arlen, moving onto Rodgers & Hart, Irving Berlin, Cole Porter and as many songs as she can squeeze into one evening. Her effortless vocals and unique musicianship are partnered with award winning jazz pianist **Gareth Williams**, one of the most dynamic and exciting performers in the UK.



## Pop-up Performances

In various locations around Birr.

*See Festival Social Media for times & locations*

SUNDAY  
4 MAY

## Music in Birr Castle

*For Festival Patrons  
& Sponsors | 2.30pm*



This year's concert in the Music Room at Birr Castle features two recent Trench Award finalists. Rising star soprano **Deirdre Higgins** (Birr Lions Club Bursary 2023) and cellist **Jayden Lamcellari** (The Trench Award 2024), perform a recital with long-time festival collaborator, pianist **Julian Evans**.

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## The Trench Award Gala Concert

*Birr Theatre & Arts Centre  
7.30pm | €18/€16\**

This year's six finalists each perform a 15-minute programme of their choice. All are pursuing professional careers in classical music and were selected by an international panel. Recipients of The Trench Award, Birr Lions Club Bursary, the Canto Al Serchio Prize and the Connolly Award (new this year) will be announced.

Accompanist | **Dearbhla Brosnan**



The Trench Award 2024

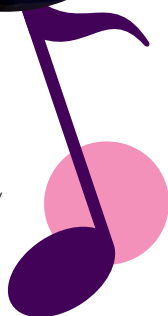
MONDAY  
5 MAY



## Masterclasses

*Birr Theatre & Arts Centre*  
11.00am - 2pm | Free

Observe The Trench Award finalists in vocal and piano masterclasses given by **Bruno Caproni** and **Julian Evans**. Free and open to all; music students and teachers are especially welcome.



## Myths & Magic

*St Brendan's Church of Ireland, Oxmantown Mall*  
3.30pm | €10\* (Children Free)

A performance of songs inspired by folklore and legends from Celtic and European tales. Birr Young Voices explore the River Shannon through the legends of Sionnan, the River Goddess, and the River Monster, Cata. They also worked with animator **Finn Nichol** to create moving and still images to complement their music.

Choral Director | **Gregory Ward**. Pianist | **Sophie Ward**.



**Birr**  
**Young**  
**Voices**

## BECOME A FESTIVAL PATRON

Exclusive entry to Music in Birr Castle and more.  
Lend your support now: [birrfestivalofmusic.com](http://birrfestivalofmusic.com)



# Birr Festival of Music

MAY  
BANK HOLIDAY  
WEEKEND 2025

Established in 2016, Birr Festival of Music is an ever-developing annual classical music festival in Co. Offaly. Our programme includes a vibrant range of events; concerts, masterclasses, street performances and more featuring singers and instrumentalists of national and international acclaim.

The aims of the Festival are to expand the profile and enjoyment of classical music for all, support emerging singers and instrumentalists in their training and development and to facilitate the development of choral singing for children through Birr Young Voices and for all ages through Sing It! Community Choir.

## Niall Kinsella | Artistic Director

The Festival welcomes the recent appointment of **Niall Kinsella** as its first Artistic Director. This marks a significant development for Birr Festival of Music which is illustrated by the outstanding calibre of events and artists he brings to Birr this year. A pianist and conductor, Niall is recognised as one of Ireland's most exciting, versatile and sought-after musicians.



**Birr Festival of Music is immensely grateful to The JVM Trench Will Trust for its continued and generous support.**

**Tickets: [birrfestivalofmusic.com](http://birrfestivalofmusic.com)**

**Box Office: (057) 91 22911**

*\*Booking fees will apply at time of purchase*

**Festival Steering Committee:** Maureen de Forge, Tommy Lyndon, Enda O'Connor, Emma Nee Haslam, Michelle de Forge, Anne O'Callaghan Rowan, Rachael Corboy, Anne Reilly, Brian Connolly, Susan Molloy and DJ Wilson.

**Marketing & PR Manager |** Rebecca Kelly.

