

SOUNDS LIKE SWORDS

Welcome to our event in Swords Castle, which celebrates local writers and musicians performing together as part of this year's Culture Night festivities. Fingal is blessed with a plethora of artistic talent. Where would we Irish be without our writers and musicians? Socio-economics dictates that the world of work is of paramount importance - and this may be true to keep things ticking over. But what are we working for? How do we create meaning for ourselves? What is the medium of our most essential interactions? How do we let our hair down and have a bit of fun? The arts play a huge role in answering these questions, and our artists are the makers of meanings, connections and craic.

Hence, the importance of a strong support structure for artists. Earlier this year, Fingal Arts Office sought to discover more about its local writers, and sent out an open call to professional writers to ask their opinion on a variety of subjects. The interest and range of responses were numerous and articulate. One of the suggestions was that there should be more opportunities to perform and share their work with a public audience. So here they are, five writers who have written works – poetry, play, auto-fiction, prose and flash fiction soundscapes – all inspired by Fingal sites, and sharing the stage with local musicians.

Fingal is fortunate to have an enlightened Arts Office and a supportive Economic Enterprise and Tourism Department, whose officers understand the value of supporting artists and the contribution that they make in enriching all of our lives. You, the audience, play an important role with your attendance, so thank you for coming, enjoy the evening and we look forward to seeing you again sometime down the line.

Valerie Bistany
Literary Curator

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL WELCOMES YOU TO 'SOUNDS LIKE SWORDS'

Fingal County Council is committed to the development of a Cultural Quarter in the heart of Swords. The Cultural Centre will be at the core of the Swords Cultural Quarter (SCQ) and will include a library space, performance venue and arts venue. Furthermore, it will include a number of facilities which can be utilised to support the artistic, cultural and community needs.

SCQ will reinforce Swords' position as the County town and will prove a vital asset in developing and strengthening the cultural landscape of Swords and creating a distinctive identity. As these plans unfold for the new SCQ, Fingal Arts Office has continued its commitment to identify initiatives to support and celebrate the wealth of artistic talent in Fingal.

Earlier this year the Arts Office invited expressions of interests from professional writers based in Fingal to participate in Culture Night 2019. The Arts Office also wanted to engage with our local audience here in Swords. Through the commissioning of these original works our aim is to support Fingal writers throughout their professional careers and to offer you the audience an opportunity to see these new works presented in Swords Castle.

The support of you our audience, and our Fingal writers as producers, will be key to the future direction of the SCQ and we look forward to welcoming you to more events here in the Swords Castle.

Sarah O'Neill
Deputy Arts Officer

For further details on Culture Night Fingal see:
www.finglarts.ie or email artsoffice@fingal.ie
Please visit www.culturenight.ie for full details of the national programme.

Culture Night is brought to you by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in partnership with the regional arts offices, local authorities and cultural organisations throughout the island of Ireland.

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BLIANA
YEARS

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



An Roinn
Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta
Department of
Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Clár Éire Bliánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017-2021



SOUNDS LIKE SWORDS

WORDS AND MUSIC INSPIRED BY OUR PLACE

FRI 20
SEPT
2019
CULTURENIGHT.IE
FINGAL 2019



WRITERS

Georgia by Elizabeth Brennan

A mother watches her young child flourish on their daily walks in the space and freedom of the parklands of Newbridge House, but preschool brings a change.

Tales of a River by Maria Hoey

In her reflective piece, Maria gives us a historical perspective on the Ward River, which is affectionately known as “The Jako”, and recites an ode to the river in its poetic voice.

Shopping/Traffic/Crowds by Lauren Foley

Inspired by the sounds of Swords, Lauren’s flash fiction soundscapes recreate the rhythm and pace of the daily quotidian life that surrounds us.

The Vigil of Coco by Ronan Dempsey

Based in Swords in the middle of a power cut, this play is about a father and son who battle to come to terms with the loss of their wife and mother, Coco. By candlelight, they confront their issues.

Poems by Eithne Lannon

Penned to give a sense of Fingal’s places and history, Eithne’s poems speak of After the Battle, Broadmeadow’s River and Tobar Choilmcille, as well as familiar local clans The Talbots and The Kettle family.

MUSICIANS

Kinsealy Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and Celticbreeze will perform a selection of traditional Irish songs and music.

SCHEDULE

5.00pm – 6.45pm	Kinsealy Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann
6.45pm – 7.15pm	Celticbreeze featuring Andrea Gallagher
7.15pm – 8.00pm	Writers
8.00pm – 8.30pm	Celticbreeze featuring Andrea Gallagher
8.30pm – 9.00pm	Writers

Books and CDs will be available to purchase thanks to Robert Redmond of Manor Book Shop, Malahide, Co. Dublin.

Cover: Newbridge House, Donabate courtesy of Elizabeth Brennan

BIOGS

Eithne Lannon

Eithne Lannon is a poet from Dublin. Her first collection, ‘Earth Music’, was published earlier this year by Turas Press. Other work has been widely published in Ireland and abroad in various publications, anthologies, and on-line. She was winner in 2018 of the Ballyroan Poetry Day Competition and Runner-up in the International Blackwater Poetry Festival and Against the Grain competitions this year. Her writing has been listed in many competitions including the Dermot Healy competition, Bray Literary Festival, Yaffle Poetry competition and Galway University Poems for Patience. Her work was also Highly Commended in the Blue Nib Chapbook competition and the Jonathan Swift Awards 2018. Eithne was awarded a Fingal Arts Bursary in 2019 and 2018. She was Artist in Residence in Loughshinny Boat house in 2016. She lives in Malahide, County Dublin.



Lauren Foley

My stories are published internationally. Credits include: Overland, The Irish Times, Award Winning Australian Writing, Lighthouse, No Alibis and Gorse. I have Lupus and am disabled; owing to this the majority of my writing is dictated. My short story, ‘K-K-K’, won the Neilma Sidney Short Story Prize with Overland Literary Journal and was shortlisted for the Irish Book Awards Short Story of the Year. I was shortlisted for the Hennessy New Irish Writer of the Year; and am a recent Pushcart Prize nominee. I have been awarded a Varuna Fellowship, two Tyrone Guthrie Residencies, and Cill Rialaig Residency. The Arts Council of Ireland awarded me with a prestigious Next Generation Artist’s Award in Literature in 2018.



Maria Hoey

Maria is an author and poet. Her poetry has appeared in Ireland’s foremost poetry publication, Poetry Ireland. Her short story, Reading Brother Boniface, was shortlisted for the Michael McLaverty Short Story Award. In July 2017, her debut novel, THE LAST LOST GIRL, was published by Poolbeg Press. The book went on to be shortlisted for the Kate O’Brien Debut Award 2018 and the Annie McHale Debut Award 2018. Maria’s second novel, ON BONE BRIDGE was published in July 2018. Maria’s third novel, BAD SWEET THINGS will be published in Spring of 2019. Maria’s book for children, THE LITTLE BOOK OF IRISH SAINTS, was published in February 2019. Her articles regularly feature in magazines. Maria also teaches an online writing course: Begin Your Novel. Maria lives in Portmarnock, Co Dublin, with her husband, Garrett. She has one daughter, Rebecca.



Ronan Dempsey

Ronan Dempsey is a Writer, Director and Actor in theatre and film and is based in Saint Margaret’s, County Dublin. Recent theatre credits include ‘The Words Are There’ which was a multi 5 star critically acclaimed top five Theatre show at the Edinburgh Festival 2019. Recent film credits include ‘Afloat’, a short film telling the story of a day in the life of an asylum seeker in Dublin city. It is working through international festivals at the moment. Ronan is also a drama facilitator at the Blue Diamond drama academy, a full time actor training programme for adults with intellectual disabilities. He also teaches physical theatre on the Masters in Theatre programme at UCD and works for Communicate, teaching presentation skills at The Law Society of Ireland.



Celticbreeze featuring Andrea Gallagher

Celticbreeze are a traditional Irish music trio featuring Michael, Sharon and Padhraic, who are multi-instrumentalists and play Tin Whistle, Low Whistle, Violin, Mandolin, Banjo, Bouzouki, Guitar, Flute and Bodhran. Andrea Gallagher, a talented local musician, has been playing traditional musical instruments for the past 30 years, including Fiddle, Bodhran and Tin Whistle.



Kinsealy Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann is involved in the preservation and promotion of Irish traditional music. It is a non-profit cultural movement with hundreds of local branches around the world. Kinsealy Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann comprises of talented musicians of various ages who play a variety of instruments such as Tin Whistle, Flute, Fiddle, Bodhran, Banjo, Guitar, Accordion and Mandolin.



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