



Press Book

from 01.02.2014 to 28.02.2014

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Evening Echo

"My mother was the teacher in the school so being musical was a necessity and my father used to sing Marty Robbins to the cows but hides his beautiful voice until the rare late night session can coax it out of him. But it was definitely my granny that sparked it all for me" — Niall McCabe

Hugh Dillon, Niall McCabe, David Duffy and Davey Ryan.

Picture: John Allen



THE lucky ears that have heard the record are all in agreement that it's already a contender for album of the year. Niall describes his sound as 'transatlantic soul' but his introduction to music came from a much more local source; "I grew up on Clare Island, we had a bar in our house growing up, going to bed I could hear every session and singsong.

"My entire family was a musical influence; my mother was the teacher in the school so being musical was a necessity and my father used to sing Marty Robbins to the cows but hides his beautiful voice until the rare late-night session can coax it out of him.

"But it was definitely my granny that sparked it all for me; she was always playing her concertina and was forever recording songs off the radio for me and my brothers and sisters to learn. She was brutally honest and was my first proper critic!"

While many consider Niall to be one of the most naturally talented vocalists and guitarists in Cork, he is far more humble about his abilities.

"What is most important for me when performing, regardless of the genre or style, is being honest musically. I've always tried to be myself in any musical situation and hopefully that comes across in the performance.

"That said, I've always learned a huge amount by listening to different styles and singers, but with an eye to incorporating skills and ideas rather than just copying them."

While juggling the attentions of a five-month-old and two-year-old during an interview from his home in Kinsale, Niall McCabe spoke with Ronan Leonard ahead of the release of Part of The Light his latest single, and also the title track of his forthcoming album

Niall explained how he put together the rest of The Niall McCabe Band.

"I met Dave Ryan (drums, who also plays with The Hard Ground) and David Duffy (bass, who is also a composer with Eat My Noise) in UCC.

"They were the go-to rhythm section in the music department; I remember them having to play about 100 songs for the end-of-year recitals for different students.

"They both played at the jazz nights in the college bar: I got up and sang one night and the rest is a contestable collection of hazy facts that we call history.

"When I asked the guys to recommend a guitarist, the answer in stereo was 'Hugh Dillon'. So I set him my definitive test for a

musician test... I asked him up to Clare Island. He was quite obviously the man for the job."

Niall went on to describe his style.

"I suppose the best way to describe it is a sound caught somewhere in the Atlantic between the American soul of Motown/Staxx and the folk influences of Ireland and England.

"Growing up on an island affects everything, you never really lose your sense of being an islander and that comes through in the music for sure. You're forever looking out from an island and that's also part of what music has been about for me. Whether writing or playing, it's about reaching out from the insularity and connecting with something outside myself. I wouldn't be what you'd call a charismatic frontman so I try to connect in other ways."

The Niall McCabe Band keep the sound developing with a free session every Sunday in Coughlan's on Douglas Street, a venue which just won the **IMRO** live music venue of the year, an accolade that Niall agrees with.

"It's thoroughly deserved. They've developed that place from nothing in such a short amount of time and all through hard work and building relationships with actual musicians. It's also nice to be able to say we're resident band in Ireland's best venue!"

Part Of The Light is available for free download from Friday, March 7, and the accompanying album will go on sale on Friday, March 21. Full details can be found at www.niallmccabe.com.



Theatre award

An Grianan Theatre in Letterkenny has been named as the Best Live Music Venue in Ulster by the Irish **Music Rights** Organisation.



Ulster 'Live Music' award for An Grianán theatre

AN Grianán Theatre, Letterkenny was announced as the **IMRO** Ulster Live Music of The Year Award winner for 2013 in Cork on Wednesday night.

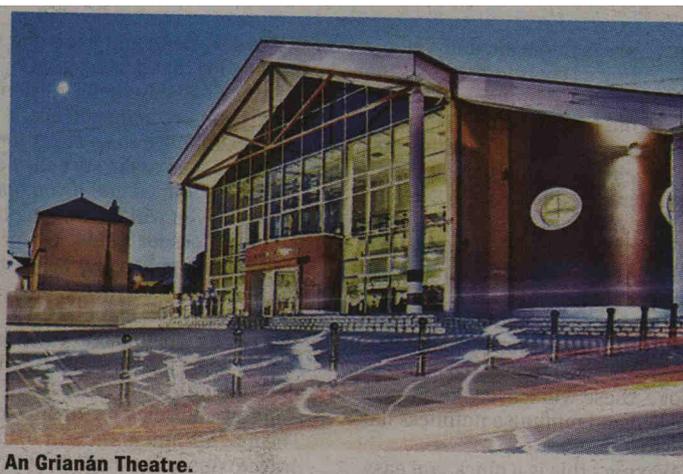
An Grianán has been nominated every year since the awards began in 2008. The Director of An Grianán Theatre, Patricia McBride, was delighted with the award.

"It's certainly nice to get it, we had some amazing live music gigs last year with the likes of David Gray, Josh Ritter, In Their Thousands and others packing the place out. All of them commented on the fact it is a special venue to play: that the acoustics are superb, that the technical and front of house staff are so helpful and that the audiences are really respectful and so responsive. We're proud that we are quickly becoming many artists favourite venue to play'. Indeed Glen Hansard's accolade that it is 'the best room in Ireland' is proudly framed on An Grianán greenroom wall," she said.

Last year An Grianán put in a new Turbosound P.A. which has brought the quality of the sound up even further. "It was a considerable expense, but that's what we are about, we're not about making the most money, we're about the artist and the audi-



Patricia McBride, Director of An Grianán Theatre, Letterkenny.



An Grianán Theatre.

ence, and providing the best possible experience for both, and this was an investment in that experience.

"We took it up a notch last year and we feel that our hard work and investment is being recognised in this award," said Ms McBride.

The awards ceremony, hosted by 2FM's Paddy McKenna, saw performances from Kodaline, singer/songwriter Gavin James, I Am The Cosmos and Donegal's own Eve Murtagh.

"Eve performed at An Grianán on Culture Night alongside Ruairi Friel and certainly caught everyone's ear," said Daithi Ramsay, Marketing Manager of An

Grianán.

"She's part of a wealth of talent in the North West making inroads into the national and international scene which includes Derry talent Soak and Downings' Rosie Carney, both of whom have signed major deals in the past year, and of course In Their Thousands who played a remarkable gig to a full house over Christmas.

"We also have some great gigs lined up ahead including The Henry Girls, Cara Dillon and Winter Mountain, Kieran Goss, and The Webb Sisters who are part of Leonard Cohen's band. And we're always on the lookout for more."

The annual awards are voted for by over 8,500 **IMRO** members. Keith Donald, **IMRO** Chairman said: "The **IMRO** Live Music Venue of The Year Awards is an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the hard work, vision and creativity that the live music venue and festival sectors deliver week in, week out throughout Ireland".

An Grianán Theatre will be holding a celebration night this Saturday with The Henry Girls, who will be launching their new album 'More Than Words', and the Inishowen Gospel Choir. For more information go online www.angrianan.com or call 074 91 20777.



Evening Echo

WHAT'S ON WEDNESDAY

LIVE MUSIC

Rearden's, Washington St
Andy Dunne
10pm, adm free

Andy Dunne is a songwriter from Cork. His solo performances are the most eclectic set of songs you will hear.

Ballymaloe Grainstore
Eddi Reader
8pm, adm €20

One of popular music's most thrilling and moving performers, the Scottish singer first gained the limelight with *Fairground Attraction* and their hit single *Perfect* back in 1988.

Eddi's joyous combination of meltingly true vocals and towering romanticism are best savoured live.

The Savoy,
Patrick St

Gig Guide

In association with peoplesrepublicofcork.com

The 1975 and special guests
8pm, adm €17.50

The band recently embarked on a support slot across Europe with Two Door Cinema Club, played a clutch of triumphant shows at SXSW and had a top 20 hit with *Chocolate*. Though they formed as a punk band while still at school, there's no straitjacket to their current sound, which veers between rock, electronica, R&B and Eights gloss pop.

Crane Lane Theatre
Jam Session
8.30pm, adm free

Cork's young musicians get together and strut their stuff. Players

from Cork's music colleges UCC and Stiofáin Naofa, hosted and organised by students from CIT's BA in Popular Music, perform weekly in an open-mic style jam session.

The South County, Douglas
The Song Collector Sessions
8.30pm, adm €10

This is the second of a series of Song Collector Sessions to be held at the South County Bar in Douglas and looks like being a sell-out once again.

The gig features John Spillane, Ricky Lynch & Roy Buckley and Dave Browne. Tickets available at the South County.

Coughlan's, Douglas Street
Niall Connolly
9pm, adm €10

Niall Connolly is a compelling live performer with infectious melodies and engaging lyrics that regularly move listeners to tears and laughter.

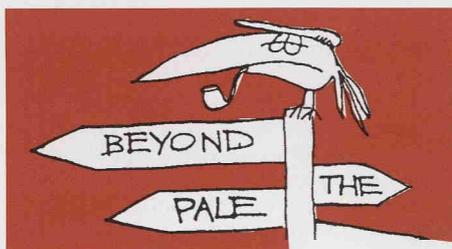
Brú, MacCurtain Street
Evan Prendergast
9.30pm, adm free

Primarily a drummer, Evan Prendergast has tried his hand at writing and touring as a single entity, reaching vast critical acclaim.

Having recently undergone a strong promotional tour, Evan has secured himself a slot in last year's **IMRO** venue of the year, The Pavilion in Cork.

With dates around Ireland cropping up everyday, Evan has been cited as one to watch.

To include your listing here next week, go to www.peoplesrepublicofcork.com/eventguide/ and click on 'submit event'



YELLOW CARD FOR DAVY FITZ

JUST days after his team was beaten in the National Hurling League by Dublin, Clare hurling manager Davy Fitzgerald has received some more bad news. According to the latest issue of *Stubbs Gazette*, the excitable hurling legend has had a judgment of €35,000 registered against him by Clare County Council.

It is understood that the judgment is in connection with unpaid rates. Fitzgerald, who has various pub interests in the Banner County, had previously been ordered to pay the council €13,000 in rates due by the Ennis District Court, in a case taken against him in 2011. This was in connection with one of his pubs, Bellsfort Inn at Newmarket-on-Fergus, with his solicitor telling the court on that occasion that the former inter-county star was in "poor" financial circumstances.

Fitzgerald retired from the inter-county scene in 2008 having played in goal for many years, before going on to manage Waterford and then Clare, the current All-Ireland holders. Outside of hurling, he has tried his hand at a number of business ventures over the years and has had a number of small judgments registered against him. The pub trade has been his primary focus and along with soccer player, Noel Hunt, who plays for Reading, Fitzgerald had also leased an Ennis pub called the Dugout for a spell, although this project finished up when the pub premises



Davy Fitzgerald

was sold last year.

Bellsfort Inn had a small judgment of €4,200 registered against it by Irish **Music Rights** Organisation in 2011, while also in 2011, Permanent TSB was granted a judgment mortgage against various properties owned by Fitzgerald in his native county, having previously been awarded a Circuit Court judgment against him. Meanwhile, last year Ennis solicitors Connellan & Associates registered a judgment of €5,500 against the hurling manager.

Fitzgerald also dabbled in the property game during the boom and was the director (along with his father, Pat Fitzgerald, who is also the secretary of the GAA's Clare County Board) of a property development company called Goldswan Developments Ltd. This was based at Fitzgerald's hometown of Sixmilebridge but collapsed into liquidation in 2004.

The hurling manager didn't have any better luck with a shortly-lived venture called Fitz Crystal Mineral Water Ltd, which he and a business associate set up in 2009 to sell mineral water. Two years later, however, Fitzgerald had taken his eye off the ball as this company was struck off by the Companies Registration Office (CRO) for not filing its accounts, as was another pub-related venture Fitzgerald half-owned, DF Properties Ltd, struck off in 2011. Yet another venture – a shortly-lived company involved in sports training camps, called Winning Edge Boot Camps Ltd, where Fitzgerald was a director and owned a third of the shares – was struck off by the CRO in 2012, once again for not filing accounts.

Fitzgerald will be hoping for better luck with his latest project, a show on RTÉ called *Ireland's Fittest Family*, which first aired in January. Along with Clare businessman James Sexton, Fitzgerald came up with the concept for the show, which involves families competing with one another to win the title of 'Ireland's Fittest Family.' The hurling manager is also one of the mentors on the programme.