

## Culture Ireland

Culture Ireland creates and supports opportunities for Irish artists and companies to present and promote their work worldwide. Culture Ireland runs a strategic showcase programme and a regular funding scheme to support the presentation of Irish artists at international festivals and venues. Culture Ireland first led a delegation of Irish musicians to Womex World Music Expo in 2010. Since then Culture Ireland has been working to strengthen the presence of Irish traditional, folk, jazz and world music at WOMEX, which is regarded as one of Culture Ireland's key showcases.

[www.cultureireland.ie](http://www.cultureireland.ie)

## Arts Council of Northern Ireland

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) is the development and funding agency for the arts in Northern Ireland and is responsible for the distribution of public money and National Lottery funds to develop and deliver a wide variety of arts projects, events and initiatives across Northern Ireland. From theatre and literature to art in the community, ACNI works in partnership with hundreds of artists, arts organisations and venues. Art has the ability to reach across boundaries, inspiring, teaching and bringing people together.

[www.artscouncil-ni.org](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org)

## Horizons

Horizons is a partnership that was developed ahead of WOMEX 13, Cardiff to bring together, in partnership, the wealth of music traditions and cultures of England, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

[www.horizonsatwomex.com](http://www.horizonsatwomex.com)

# Culture Ireland

Promoting Irish Arts

Ireland at WOMEX  
World Music Expo 2014

22 – 26 October 2014

Stand Number: -1.109



# Horizons Ireland Partners

## Culture Ireland

**Christine Sisk, Director**

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Christine Sisk is the Director of Culture Ireland which promotes Irish artists worldwide. By providing funding, networking opportunities and other promotional supports, Culture Ireland enables

the presentation of Irish arts events in significant international festivals and venues. Culture Ireland also creates international opportunities for Irish artists through its strategic showcase programme, of which WOMEX is a key event.

## Thérèse O'Connor, General Manager

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Thérèse is General Manager with Culture Ireland since November 2013. Thérèse has responsibility for administering grant support for Irish artists who are promoting their work internationally and

the delivery of Culture Ireland showcase programme.

## Arts Council of Northern Ireland

**Ciaran Scullion, Head of Music**

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Ciaran Scullion is Head of Music with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. He supports and develops musicians and arts organisations across all genres through a range of funding opportunities. He is responsible for implementing policies and strategies within Music and Traditional Arts including the creation of new music;

raising the profile of music from Northern Ireland at home and abroad; and encouraging talent development through educational and professional programmes.

## Maria McAlister, Traditional Arts Officer

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Maria is Traditional Arts Officer with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, providing support and development for artists and arts organisations throughout the region through a range of funding opportunities. Maria is currently working on a full audit of Northern Ireland's traditional music and showcasing Northern Ireland's traditional arts locally and internationally through the promotion of festivals and touring programmes.

## Generator NI

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Generator NI is the Government appointed programme for the development of international markets and creative and business skills for the Northern Ireland music industry. Generator NI works closely with businesses and artists to maximise opportunities at international events. The programme is funded by Invest NI and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure.

# Delegates

## Jody Ackland

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Jody Ackland is an events producer, programmer and booking agent, whose roles have included: Irish Music Specialist for WOMEX Horizons 2013 with Culture Ireland, Founding Director/Programmer of the Festival of World Cultures and Project Manager of love:live

music / Ireland's National Music Day for Music Network. She has recently produced a series of Arts Council of Ireland touring projects, specialising in the new generation of traditional Irish music. At WOMEX Jody will represent Dónal Lunny, Pádraig Rynne & Sylvain Barou Trio, Pauline Scanlon & Notify, ALDOC and Murali Ensemble.

## Craobh Rua, Brian Connolly

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Belfast's Craobh Rua are an institution in Irish music having performed worldwide for over 25 years. Their powerful northern style combines quicksilver banjo picking Brian Connolly, driving fiddle duo Michael Cassidy and Conor Caldwell, dynamic uilleann

piping of Desy McCabe, and virtuoso guitarist/singer Jim Rainey. Often likened to the early Chieftains and The Bothy Band, the band's sound has developed over six critically acclaimed albums. Their latest album, *I'd Understand You if I Knew What You Meant* is delighting both critics and fans.

## Balkan Alien Sound, Martin Coyle

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Martin is the bouzouki player and manager for the folk fusion group Balkan Alien Sound. The seven piece ensemble are an exciting cultural crossover of Irish musicians whose sound is a melting pot of Eastern and Western Europe. As well as original compositions this group

breathes new life into traditional Balkan pieces. They have toured and headlined festivals throughout Europe as well as Glastonbury and WOMAD.

## Tracy Crawford

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BallyO Promotions is a County Clare based agency, specialising in tour and festival booking for traditional Irish artists. With over 17 years experience working in the industry BallyO Promotions has grown to represent some of Ireland's top traditional artists including The Máirtín O'Connor

Band (WOMEX showcase artists 2011). The agency has added some exciting new groups to the roster for 2014/15.

## Sarah Glennane

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Kíla, a multi award winning, eight piece, traditional fusion Irish band continue to bring high energy performances to festivals worldwide. A line up of uilleann pipes, bazouki, fiddle, and bodhrán along with electric guitar, bass and kit, Kíla infuse influences from many cultures

with a bed rock of traditional Irish. Kíla have collaborated with French composer Bruno Coulais on the soundtrack for the forthcoming feature animation *Song of the Sea*. Kíla have a new studio album out in Winter 2014 and are available for bookings for festivals and tours.

## Smalltown America Music, Charlene Hegarty

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Charlene Hegarty is the director of publishing at Smalltown America Music, a composition agency and music publisher based in Ireland's Northwest. Smalltown America Music manage a unique roster of world class writers, composers and artists who specialise in

producing original music content. Smalltown America Music take a hands on approach when it comes to artist development and have licensed new music into major brand campaigns for Vodafone, Nickelodeon, MTV, O'Neill, Lifetime and more.

## Bernadette Morris

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Building on the success of her debut album, County Tyrone born Irish singer Bernadette Morris continues to wow audiences throughout Ireland and beyond with her fresh take on traditional Irish folk songs and entralling them with her modern versions of

lilting Gaelic laments. *All the Ways you Wander*, is a varied and unique album with a rich mix of old traditional and contemporary songs. From a musical family, her talent is the type that can't be taught, her onstage presence is electric and her charm undeniable.

## Beoga, Eamon Murray

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Beoga are confirming their reputation as one of the most audacious traditional Irish bands. Their latest album *how to tune a fish* is ranked #1 traditional album of 2011 in the esteemed Irish Echo in the USA and Irish Music Magazine describes the collection as

"some of the best music in the world today". With their unique blend of inventive arrangements, virtuosi instrumental talents and beautiful vocals, Beoga's popularity continues to flourish as they captivate audiences on a global scale.

## MPI Bands Ltd, Martin Nolan

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Martin Nolan is a Band Manager who manages an International Booking Agency with offices in Dublin and Nashville. He is representing a number of artists including Altan, Sharon Shannon, Frances Black, Finbar Furey, Frankie Gavin and De Danann,

The High Kings, Hermitage Green, as well as We Banjo 3 who participated as Showcase artist for Womex 2013.

## Lumiere Events Limited, Stuart Campbell

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Lumiere Events are a leading provider of all-in-one event and productions management solutions in Ireland and the UK. They offer services from programming, production and technical procurement and management, health and safety planning as well as full

event control and management. Lumiere has worked on some of the largest events in NI over the last two years including 2013 City of Culture, The Turner Prize 2013 and most recently they managed the production of the MTV Crashes concerts in Derry.

## The Emerald Armada, Jonathan Tate

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The Emerald Armada are part Irish folk group, part stadium rock Gods! Selling out 500+ person venues in Northern Ireland and regularly doing 250+ tickets on short Scottish tours, their following is building. With 3 EPs released to date and an album in the

planning, songwriting is at the core of the band's output. Thunderous bodhran, acoustic melodies, four-piece harmonies, rock, bass and soaring lead guitar, create a wall of sound described as 'Mumford meets Thin Lizzy'.

## Armagh Rhymers, Dara Vallely

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Armagh Rhymers are one of Europe's most celebrated Celtic folk ensembles. A respected professional group of entertainers they have delighted audiences for over 30 years with their unique blend of music, song and dance. Their style is deeply

rooted in the old Celtic traditions and they are easily recognised by their willow and straw masks. They have performed at international cultural events such as Milwaukee Irish fest, Smithsonian Festival and New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.