MONDAY 2 MAY

## Music in Birr Castle

*3pm | For Festival Patrons & Sponsors*

**Patrick Rafter** (violin)

Regarded as one of Ireland's most outstanding musicians, international award-winning violinist Patrick Rafter tours the world, playing with the greatest orchestras and conductors of our time. This is a truly unique opportunity for patrons and sponsors of Birr Festival of Music to experience the virtuoso playing of this exciting young violinist in Birr Castle's historic music salon.

## Masterclasses

*Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 11.30am-1.00pm | FREE*

See the Trench Award finalists in a series of vocal and piano Masterclasses given by **Bruno Caproni** and **Julian Evans** and strings by **Patrick Rafter**.

*Open and **free** to music students, teachers and the public.*

## Become a Festival Patron

Become a Festival Patron/Sponsor.
Enjoy priority booking (until 25 March),
Exclusive entry to Music in Birr Castle & more.
For more info | www.birrfestivalofmusic.com
or call (057) 91 22911

# Birr Festival of Music

**May Bank Holiday Weekend 2022**

Incorporating **The Trench Award**, the aims of Birr Festival of Music are to expand the profile and enjoyment of classical music for all, to support emerging professional musicians in their training and development, to support children's choral singing and to work to establish a Community Festival Choir.

**Julia and Patrick Trench** had an abiding love of music. Both played piano, organ, flute and harp and were noted for their musical evenings at their home at Sopwell Hall, North Tipperary. Julia was one of the many generous benefactors of the establishment of Birr Theatre & Arts Centre. We are immensely grateful to The Trench Trust for its continued and generous support.

**Tickets: www.birrfestivalofmusic.com**
**Box Office: (057) 91 22911**

**Festival Team:** Maureen de Forge, Tommy Lyndon, Enda O'Connor, Emma Nee Haslam, Michelle de Forge, Anne O'Callaghan Rowan, Rachael Corboy, Rebecca Kelly, Colm Croffy.

the arts council an chomhairle ealaíon 70 YEARS

The Trench Trust

the arts council an chomhairle ealaíon

Faoin Spéir In the Open

Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí Offaly County Council

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre

Birr Castle Demesne

Lions International

# Birr Festival of Music

## 29 April - 2 May 2022

*Incorporating*

## The Trench Award

Birr, Co. Offaly

(057) 9122911 www.birrfestivalofmusic.com

FRIDAY 29 APRIL

## Irish Chamber Orchestra

*St. Brendan's R.C. Church, Wilmer Road | 8pm | €22/20*

The Irish Chamber Orchestra is Ireland's most dynamic ensemble, consisting of over 30 world-class musicians, combining high-quality performances with expansive and artistic vision. Presenting an evening of Mozart and including Widmann's oboe concerto and flute suite, in this beautiful Birr setting.

Director | **Jörg Widmann**

## Music for Life

*St. Brendan's Community School | Thursday & Friday*

Senior music students gain an insight into what it means to be a successful professional musician. Acclaimed baritone **Bruno Caproni** and concert pianist **Julian Evans** present music and stories from their international careers.

## Musical Interlude

*Birr Community Nursing Unit | 2pm*

**Bruno & Julian** bring much-loved melodies to residents, day-care clients, their families and staff.

> Classical Buskers in the Streets & Squares

SATURDAY 30 APRIL

## Soundscapes of Nature

*Birr Castle Courtyard | 9pm | €10/€5 (under 12's FREE)*

**Birr Young Voices** present Soundscapes of Nature created and animated by **Finn Nichol** with songs composed by **Laura Sheils**. Performance includes projections inspired by the natural world. Led by choral director Anne McCambridge and featuring past Trench Award finalists Breffni Fitzpatrick, David Kennedy and David Vesey.

## Coffee Concert

*Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 3pm | €15*

Enjoy an enchanting Saturday afternoon of great arias, musical classics and piano solos! International baritone **Bruno Caproni** has graced the world's major opera houses and performed with many of the greatest singers of our time. Pianist **Julian Evans** pursues a hugely successful career as a soloist in the leading European concert halls and is a prolific recording artist.

## Audrey Chisholm Memorial Masterclasses

*Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 4.30pm - 6.30pm | Free*

Students of piano and voice in Birr and the Midland region are offered the opportunity to take masterclasses with **Dearbhla Collins**, one of Ireland's most successful pianists and vocal coach at the RIAM.

*Register for a masterclass at birrfestivalofmusic@gmail.com by April 8th.*

SUNDAY 1 MAY

## The Trench Award 2022 Gala Concert

*Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 7.30pm | €16/€14*

Showcasing young singers and musicians of the future! Six singers/musicians each perform a 15-minute programme of their choice. All are pursuing professional careers in performance and were selected by an international panel of music experts. Recipients of The Trench Award, Birr Lions Club Bursary, Canto Al Serchio Prize (for voice), Audrey Chisholm Award (for instrument), will be announced. An Audience Choice and Musical Futures Bursary may also be awarded.

Accompanist | **Dearbhla Collins**

## Songs for Spring

*St. Brendan's Church of Ireland, Oxmantown Mall | 3pm | €12/10*

**Breffni Fitzpatrick** (soprano) is joined by guests **David Corr** (baritone) and **Katie Richardson McCrea** (mezzo-soprano) in a delightful programme of solos, duets and trios from the world of opera, classic musicals and song cycles.

Accompanist | **Dearbhla Collins**

Priority booking for patrons & sponsors up to 25 March.
Contact Box Office (057) 9122911