

Music

Luka Bloom is an acclaimed singer/songwriter born in Kildare and living in Clare, who has been a friend, supporter and contributor to Féile Bríde over many years. Among the many songs he has written are 'City of Chicago', 'Don't be Afraid of the Light that Shines within you', 'You couldn't have Come at a Better Time' and 'I am not at War with Anyone'. He recently released an instrumental Album called 'Out of the Blue' which came out of lockdown and is a work of musical genius.

Émer Lynam is a harper, solicitor and chair of Afri. She especially likes to play the music of Turlough O'Carolan, the last of the great harpers of Ireland. For Émer it is a joy to perform and keep this music alive, it being so important to Ireland's heritage. She was a student of Mullingar harp school, which has grown over the years and is now thriving.

Justine Nantale was born in Uganda but has been living in Ireland since 2003. She is a mother, educator and singer who uses music as a tool for development and she is the founder of Gomba Educare, a school's outreach programme which tailors cultural programmes to schools throughout Ireland, engaging students through the medium of music, movement, and storytelling. In 2013 she established Rhythm Africana, a musical ensemble which highlights traditional African styles of music and rhythm. Justine will be joined by band members Segun Akano and Miguel Brasil.

Tommy Sands was born in County Down and is a renowned singer/songwriter and social activist. He was the main songwriter for The Sands Family, one of Ireland's most influential folk groups of the 1960s and '70. His iconic and best known song is "There Were Roses" which has been recorded by Joan Baez, Dolores Keane, Sean Keane, Frank Patterson, Paddy Reilly and many others. Tommy contributed two powerful songs to Féile Bríde on line in 2022 and we are delighted that he will be joining us in person for our 30th Féile this year.

30th Féile Bríde

Saturday, February 4th
10am to 4pm



Afri wishes to acknowledge the support of Irish Aid, Concern and Trócaire.



This event is organised in partnership with St. Patrick's Kiltegan and Cairde Bríde.

Féile Bríde is part of a week-long series of events taking place in Kildare organised by the Brigidine Sisters and Cairde Bríde.

See: <http://solasbhríde.ie/>



Afri



Clár

DARKNESS, DAWNING, LIGHT

10.00am Ceremony of Light in Kildare town Square

11.00am Registration in Solas Bhríde

11.30am Arrival of the Flame with music by Emer Lynam

11.40am Fáilte

11.45am A message of Peace from Nobel Peace Prize winner - Máiréad Maguire

12.00am 'Brigid Today' - Adi Roche

12.40am Songs of Peace - Tommy Sands

1.00pm Lunch, and Tree Planting

2.00pm 'Climate Action Now' - Alma Clavin

2.45pm Music and Reflections from Africa - Junstine Nantale and friends

3.30pm 'I am not at War with Anyone' - Luka Bloom

3.45pm Close, and Farewell

INTRODUCTION

Our broken world is in constant need of light, healing and restoration. Féile Bríde, the festival of Brigid on the threshold of Spring, is an opportunity for reflection and renewal – and for care of our precious planet which has enough for everyone's need, but is scarred by inequality, exploitation and war.

This year, for the first time, Ireland holds an official holiday to honour Brigid – a woman of peace and a carer for the planet. In our 30th Féile Bríde conference, we proclaim her message of peace and protection at a time when it needs urgently to be seen clearly and followed faithfully. We celebrate her love of nature and care for our planet, along with the example of her giving away her father's sword to a poor man looking for food; vital, and closely linked, messages for today's troubled world.

We will also honour the women – past and present - who have lived, and today live out, Brigid's message; the Brigidines and Cairde Bríde, who have kept her flame burning for three decades in Kildare; the great anti-war campaigner and advocate for the rights of workers, especially women, Louie Bennett, who named her house 'St Brigid's'; Nobel Peace Prize winner Máiréad Maguire and Adi Roche, whose wonderful compassionate campaigning for the child victims of Chernobyl, speaks to our hearts as war rages in that region today.

Whilst many leaders in Ireland and worldwide seem to have abandoned the pursuit of peace for the drumbeats of war, we will continue to sound the siren of peace and refuse to accept the twisted 'logic' of violence. As the cost of war and weaponry has surpassed \$2 trillion for the first time and as the Irish Government actively promotes a weapons industry (as if we need more weapons in the world!), we will keep stressing the urgent need to disarm for development, for welfare not warfare; for housing and healthcare rather than arms fairs.

How can we tolerate the obscenity of millions living in poverty and hunger, while governments waste billions on weapons of death? Brigid's gesture towards the poor man seeking alms remains more relevant than ever, today. **- Joe Murray**

Máiréad Maguire is a Nobel Peace Prize winner and founder of the Peace People. She is a passionate opponent of war and has travelled all over the world to express solidarity with its victims. In 2022 she launched the Downpatrick Declaration calling on the Irish and British Governments to live up to their commitment in the Good Friday Agreement to use 'exclusively democratic and peaceful means of resolving differences'.

Adi Roche is an activist, anti-nuclear advocate, and campaigner for peace, humanitarian aid and education. In 1984 she began to work full-time as a volunteer for the Irish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and devised a Peace Education Programme which was delivered throughout Ireland. In 1990, she became the first Irish woman elected to the board of directors of the International Peace Bureau in Geneva. She founded and is CEO of the Chernobyl Children's Project International.

Alma Clavin is a researcher in the Cities, Governance and Sustainability group at the UCD School of Geography. She has worked with a number of public, private and non-governmental organisations in Ireland and the UK on planning, energy and sustainability issues. Her academic work explores how sustainability and ecological design can enhance human well-being and quality of life. Since its inception in 2018, Alma has been part of the international Repair Acts programme.

30th

Féile Bríde

Saturday, February 4th
10am to 4pm

Solas Bhríde Centre, Kildare Town

Darkness, Dawning, Light

Booking Form

Name:

Address:

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Tel No.:

Email:

Admission to Conference

Full Price € 30

Concession € 15

(Price includes lunch, tea & coffee)

I enclose €___ for conference fee.

Donation of €___ towards cost of running the event.

**Please return booking form and admission fee to
Afri, 8 Cabra Road, Dublin 7, D07T1W1**



Afri



The Solas Bhríde Centre is situated on Tully Road, on the way to Brigid's Well