

*“Let us celebrate the way we were and the way we live now.
Let us celebrate the ways we will be...
Let us count the ways to celebrate.
Let us celebrate.”*

(Roger McGough - Poems of Celebration)



A Serenade to Music

*“We are the music-makers
And we are the dreamers of dreams...”*
(Arthur William Edgar O'Shaughnessy, *Ode*)

The story of BBC Northern Ireland's involvement in nurturing and broadcasting local musical talent is still in the making. This exhibition provides a revealing glimpse of work in progress at the BBC's Community Archive in documenting the programmes and personalities who have brought music in all its different forms to life, and looks at how today's broadcasters are responding to the musical styles and opportunities of a new century. It celebrates BBC NI's role in supporting musical diversity and creative excellence and reflects changes in fashion, technology and society across 80 years of local broadcasting.

Much has been achieved since 2BE's first faltering (and scarcely heard) musical broadcast in 1924. Innovation has been a defining feature of every decade from early radio concerts in regional towns and country halls to the pioneering work of Sean O'Boyle in recording traditional music and Sam Hanna Bell's 1950s programmes of Belfast's street songs. The broadcasts of the BBC Wireless Orchestra and its successors find their contemporary echo in the world-class performances of the Ulster Orchestra and BBC NI's radio and television schedules continue to reverberate to the diverse sounds of local jazz, traditional and country music, religious services, brass bands, choirs, contemporary rock, pop and dance music.

This exhibition is a musical journey across time. It reminds us of music's ability to define experiences and generations, the accomplishments of established and still emerging talents, and the role which music plays as a soundtrack or accompaniment to all our lives.

Broadcasting at its best has an ability to “set the darkness echoing”. The programme-makers and musicians featured in this display have worked hard to make that ambition an everyday reality. Let's celebrate their achievements and look to ways of extending and enriching BBC NI's unique role as community concert hall, rock venue, entertainment provider, “music-maker and dreamer of dreams”.

Fabian Monds
BBC National Governor for Northern Ireland



Walking on Air - David Hammond

I came to broadcasting a bit late in life. I was already nearly fourteen in 1942 when a wireless set arrived in our house on the edge of Belfast. My mother and father were country people who placed little value on such a machine and hardly listened to it. Nevertheless, the new wireless did cause a stir in the house - the kind of stir that Brian Friel's "Marconi" provoked as it belted out the ceildh bands from Athlone in *Dancing at Lughnasa*.

Our wireless was mainly tuned into Athlone as well, not out of any political or national preferences but just because the voices there were more familiar; more homely than the precise, icy, aloof voices of the BBC Home Service in those days. And the themes were closer to the soil, as were the songs and the music.

Strange words percolated into the daily business of the kitchen - valves, aerial, earth, dry battery, wet battery, licence. Immediately our world had become wider. Across the front of the wireless was a dark brown panel etched with white lettering. When you twirled the knob the white line traversed the exotic stations - Stockholm, Oslo, Berlin, Luxembourg, Paris, Stuttgart, Vienna, Rome - and you heard, amid all the squeaks and rumblings, the babel of many tongues and, sometimes, the neurotic cheep-cheep of Morse code.

The wireless did not play all day. For one thing, you'd waste the batteries. For another, not everyone liked the same programme; there was already a generation gap. In addition, there was the risk that the frivolity of the wireless set might have interfered with the serious business of school homeworks.


However, there was one agreed time of the week when everybody wanted to listen together. That was Sunday afternoon. When the dinner was over and the table 'redd', we always switched on a programme called *Country Magazine* and sat down to listen. It came from England and it was an anthology of bits and pieces of rural life, introduced by a man with the rolling burr of the West Country. Then, out of the blue, one Sunday it came from Northern Ireland and this man, Ralph Wightman, introduced a singer who made our kitchen throb with the story of "*The Rocks of Bawn*".

*"Come all you loyal heroes wherever that you be,
Don't hire with any farmer till you know what your work will be,
For you must rise up early by the clear daylight of dawn
And you never will be able for to plough the Rocks of Bawn."*

The singer meant every word of it, he believed in what he was singing, describing a way of life that, though distant, was related to our own lives, the place where we lived. It was a new experience on the wireless, a joyous and memorable moment because it was authentic. Years later I discovered that the singer had been Jerry Hicks from Armagh, then singing under the name of Dermot Barry, and he became my friend.

It was strange in those far-off days of the late 1940s and 1950s to see or read anything that dwelled on the lives of people in this part of Ireland. Certainly the schoolbooks contained nothing that savoured of life here, not a short story, not a poem nor a novel, nor a song. If Belfast were mentioned in the geography books there was only a reference to the biggest linen industry in the world, the biggest shipyard, the biggest ropeworks. Nobody ever put it into words but there was a widespread belief that Belfast was a cultural dump.

I know now that that belief was wrong. There was indeed a cultural life in Belfast. There were painters and poets and musicians, playwrights and short story writers in a subterranean stratum. And they were beginning to make their presence felt, encroaching on the BBC where John Boyd and Sam Hanna Bell, both writers themselves, held literary sway and two men from the south of Ireland, both formidable music scholars and avuncular, Edgar (Billy) Boucher and Havelock Nelson, produced great work and began to invigorate the musical life of the north. But the sectarian nature of the city was stifling, cramping creativity and making public expression difficult.



The BBC Northern Ireland Wireless Orchestra progressed into the BBC Light Orchestra and soon began to play a regular programme called *Irish Rhythms*, dance tunes with a traditional source. They sounded as if they came from Disneyland but it was a start: and side by side with that, the BBC began a radio series called *As I Roved Out*, with Seán O Boyle, Seamus Ennis and Peter Kennedy making forays into the Ulster townlands and returning to broadcast the songs and instrumental music they had recorded there.

In those early days of the 1950s that series was sensational, the revelation of a musical grapevine that, at its best, was beautiful, moving, stretching far into history, an oral transmission that passed the music from generation to generation. In times past that music and song meant everything to our ancestors, an oral literature of a people who were cut off from commerce, the professions and education. And in a strange way, even in our altered world, they still mean much to us, telling us and the world who we are.

Ordinary people heard themselves on the wireless for the first time. It was a voice from the small town of Keady in Co. Armagh that launched that programme week by week for fifteen years. Sarah Makem sang the title-song and wakened a million households over all these islands with her effortless, dramatic, storytelling performance. I think that in listening to those programmes I learned something of the joy of walking on air: I started to dabble in such things myself and become like many another.....

*He dabbles in something and does
Not realise that it is his life.*

The series was a sign of the times, a loosening of the sutures, an expression of a more democratic society. Soon afterwards the poet W. R. Rodgers wrote an evocation of his Belfast childhood. Coaxed out of him by Sam Hanna Bell, it opened up a world of the hug-me-tight-holiness of Belfast, the city of clashes and contraries.

The music of that wonderful radio programme *The Return Room* came from the flip of a skipping rope and a symphony of street cries and rhymes, jingles, songs, jokes and vulgar verses, gospel quatrains, sectarian taunts and big drums, excelling in spontaneity and offering a sense of independence and freedom, a Belfast that was simmering with creativity if you only knew where to look behind the "*red-brick face, a city that appeared to have only two sides.*" This city that was home was a tiny vest pocket of society, hemmed in by a crazy mixture of politics and religion. But programmes like that put me in touch with the dancing cadences of the speech and the music around me: the vernacular that had always been there was becoming a "newfoundland". There was a kind of weightlessness in that, the discovery of a lyrical heart.

When I read the names in the pages that follow I recognise the litany of men and women who have made our lives richer with an infinite variety of music on BBC Northern Ireland. They belong to that special band of spirits who enlarge our imaginations and minds and sympathies. The poet Yeats called them "*hearers and hearkners of the work*" I know most of them, I have worked with many and I salute each one for making better this place we live in.

© Iona Bateman



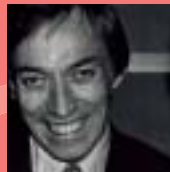
Across The Line

Now in its 18th year, BBC Radio Ulster's *Across The Line*, with its current team of Donna Legge, David O'Reilly, Stuart Bailie and Paul McClean, continues to champion the best in new music through interviews, sessions and concerts. Over the years it has encouraged artists such as Ash, The Thrills, David Holmes and Snow Patrol. In 2004, BBC Northern Ireland created a television version of the programme, *ATL-TV*.

Harry Adair - Musician/radio and television producer.

A talented trumpeter, Harry was a member of the Cousins Showband when he was in his teens and still at school. After university in England, he joined the BBC. Throughout his career as a producer, he was passionate about music and new talent. He worked first in radio and then alongside BBC NI's accomplished television entertainment producer, George Hewardine. He produced the talent show *Go For It*, discovering Peter Corry and Ronan Tynan, and produced a number of TV specials for BBC Northern Ireland featuring Phil Coulter, Johnny Logan and Rory Gallagher. He produced the inaugural gala concert from the BBC's Blackstaff Studios, and was responsible along with George Hewardine for *A Grand Night Out*, a celebration of musical and broadcasting talent from the Grand Opera House, Belfast.

© BBC



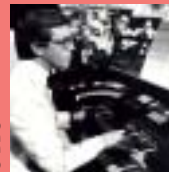
© Aiken PR



Jim Aiken (1931-) - Promoter.

He trained to be a teacher but he has been involved in the music business since the 1960s when he ran dances at the Orpheus Ballroom in York Street, Belfast. Since then he has brought many of the world's major artists, from Garth Brooks to Pavarotti, to Irish audiences at venues ranging from Croke Park to Stormont. BBC Radio Ulster has also enjoyed many partnerships with him and his promotion company.

© BBC



John Anderson - Musician/composer/broadcaster.

Creator of the Ulster Scots musical *On Eagle's Wing*, he was a music teacher before becoming a producer with BBC NI and then UTV. For many years he has led the John Anderson Big Band, performing at venues throughout Northern Ireland. The band came to wider prominence in the 1980s when their sound was used on the *Jive Bunny* party albums. He records and produces music from his own studios, has a weekly programme on BBC Radio Ulster and conducts and presents the annual *BBC Sing Carols* concert at the Ulster Hall in Belfast.

© Dennis Lewis



Roger Armstrong (1948-) Record company executive.

Born in Belfast, he is the founder of the leading re-issue label, Ace, and is one of a number of influential music figures with Northern Ireland connections who have been the subject of BBC Radio Ulster documentaries. Others have included the Derry-born writer Nik Cohn and Peter Lloyd at whose Cromac Street studios in Belfast many of the city's rock groups made their first records during the 1960s.



© Iona Baleman



Ash - Musicians.

The punk-pop guitar band, formed in Downpatrick in the early Nineties by Tim Wheeler, Mark Hamilton and Rick McMurray, are now established among the UK's rock elite. They made their first broadcast on BBC Radio Ulster's *Across the Line* and recorded their first studio sessions with the programme. They have featured regularly ever since, most recently in the programme's 2004 Christmas television special. Ash have produced a string of highly-successful albums and hit singles and are a sell-out at live venues around the world. In 1997 the trio became a quartet with the addition of guitarist Charlotte Hatherly. Their most recent album *Meltdown* further cemented their reputation and popularity.

© BBC



BBC Northern Ireland Orchestra

The BBC formed the Wireless Symphony Orchestra in Belfast in 1924 under the stewardship of Godfrey Brown. Later it was re-named the BBC Northern Ireland Symphony Orchestra. Visiting conductors included Harty, Wood, Elgar, Barbirolli, Boult, Vaughan Williams and Bliss. The orchestra was disbanded at the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. The BBC Northern Ireland Light Orchestra was founded in 1949 and performed until 1981 when many of its players joined the newly-enlarged Ulster Orchestra of which BBC Northern Ireland has been a major broadcast and financial partner ever since.

© BBC



George Beggs (1900-1964) - Singer.

Gifted with an excellent baritone voice and immaculate diction, in his thirty-year career he became well-known on BBC radio and in halls throughout Northern Ireland for his interpretation of the songs of Percy French and Herbert Hughes. He was a favourite at Saturday night concerts in the Assembly Hall and Wellington Hall in Belfast where his accompanist was Havelock Nelson.

© BBC



Philomena Begley (1954-) - Singer.

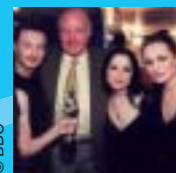
From Pomeroy, Co. Tyrone, she has been dubbed the queen of Irish country music and has been touring and recording for more than thirty years, fronting a number of bands including Her Rambling Men and Country Flavour. She has appeared in many BBC NI programmes including *Hugo And Friends*, *Mike Mine Country* and *Country Afternoon*.



© BBC

Derek Bell (1935-2002) - Musician.

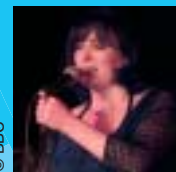
The harpist with the Chieftains could play at least ten other instruments, including the oboe, cor anglais, horn, hammered dulcimer, and keyboards. He did not take up the harp until he was in his thirties. Born in Belfast, he received an Honours degree from the Royal College of Music in London in 1957 and a Bachelor of Music degree from Trinity College Dublin in 1959. He was for a time a member of the City of Belfast and BBC Northern Ireland Orchestras. Five years after he joined the Faculty of the Belfast Academy of Music and Dramatic Art as a harp teacher, he began to tour internationally as a soloist. In 1972 he became a member of the Chieftains with whom he toured and recorded until he died suddenly in Phoenix, Arizona at the age of 67.



© BBC

John Bennett (1942-) - Broadcaster.

Music plays an important part in his programmes. A guitarist and singer in the 1960s he was part of the Glen Folk Four, another member of which was the late Vincent Hanna who also enjoyed a successful broadcasting career. Bennett has always had a sharp ear for emerging talent and was the first broadcaster to interview the Corrs. He has presented a wide range of sessions and live recordings, including a memorable on-stage appearance at the Ulster Hall with his namesake, Tony Bennett. His *Sunday Club*, with its diverse musical mix, remains a popular BBC Radio Ulster programme.



© BBC

Mary Black (1955-) - Singer.

Her style blends her Irish folk roots with blues, country and soul. Born in Dublin, she spent her early career singing in clubs with her brother before joining the renowned traditional band De Danaan with whom she was to remain for three years. As a solo artist, a series of albums, including *Without the Fanfare* and *No Frontiers*, established her international stature. She has recorded and toured throughout the world and has performed live with artists such as Emmylou Harris, Van Morrison and Joan Baez.



Photograph courtesy of Terry Black

Terry Black (1940-) - Producer.

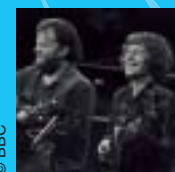
He joined the BBC in 1968 as librarian to the BBC Northern Ireland Orchestra and later became a music producer, ultimately becoming responsible for all broadcasts by the Ulster Orchestra. From 1985-1988 he worked for BBC Radio 2 in London producing *Friday Night Is Music Night*. He also produced jazz programmes, some with the BBC Big Band. He retired from the full-time staff of the BBC in 1997 but continues to work as a freelance producer.



© BBC

Edgar 'Billy' Boucher (1918-2003) - Broadcaster.

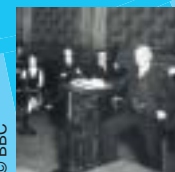
Appointed to the post of BBC Northern Ireland musical organiser in 1947 when regional broadcasting resumed after the Second World War, he later held the title of Head of Music. He devoted himself to bringing local musicians and singers to the microphone in programmes like *Ulster Serenade* and, most notably, *Irish Rhythms*. But he was to be propelled into the public arena himself when he became the presenter of *Songs of Praise* on BBC One. His understated, comforting style and his rich knowledge of hymns and their origins engaged audiences all over the UK. In a long career, one of his greatest professional challenges was the creation of a new orchestra, combining the talents of the BBC Northern Ireland and Ulster Orchestras. In later years, he was an examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and was much in demand as an adjudicator at music festivals around the world.



© BBC

Paul Brady (1947-) - Singer/songwriter.

Strabane-born Brady began his musical career in the early 1960s by playing in local beat groups. His love of traditional music came to the fore in 1967 when he joined The Johnstons with whom he made several albums and toured extensively until the group split up in 1973. The following year he joined Planxty. When they eventually disbanded, he and another member, Andy Irvine, made two acclaimed albums. In the 1980s, Brady became a solo artist, singing his own folk-tinged rock songs and fronting his own band. His first television appearance was on BBC NI. More recently he collaborated with Ronan Keating in a live BBC broadcast of a Brady song, *The Long Goodbye*, which was later re-recorded and issued as a single. He remains a highly-successful singer and writer whose songs have been recorded by numerous artists, including Santana, Tina Turner, Cher and Bonnie Raitt.



© BBC

Godfrey Brown (1874-1955) - Producer/musician.

E. Godfrey Brown, head of music at Methodist College, took a pay cut to become the first member of staff to be appointed by the BBC in Belfast, joining in 1924 as Director of Music. He formed the BBC Wireless Orchestra and an ensemble of singers for the first live transmission from the new Belfast studio of 2BE on September 15, 1924. He was also the conductor of the Belfast Philharmonic Society from 1912 until 1950.



Photograph courtesy
of Charles Burrowes



Norma Burrowes (1944-) - Singer.

The lyrical soprano, born in Bangor, studied at the Royal Academy of Music. She received a Gulbenkian Foundation Award in 1970 and subsequently sang at many of the major opera venues, including Glyndebourne, Covent Garden, Salzburg and the Met in New York. Over the years she made several broadcasts for BBC Northern Ireland. She retired from singing in 1982.

David Byers (1947-) - Musician/composer/broadcaster.

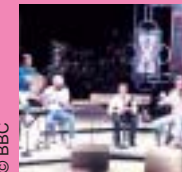
Born in Belfast, he studied at the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal Conservatoire of Liege. On returning to Northern Ireland, he worked as a music teacher, composer, organist and choirmaster and founded the New Belmont Consort (1972-1985) which featured in BBC Radio Ulster's first stereo broadcast. He joined the BBC as a music producer in 1977, was appointed a Senior producer in 1981 and in 1997 Chief Producer Music and Arts, responsible for a wide range of music programmes both locally and on network. In this role he championed the development of the BBC Invitation Concerts given by the Ulster Orchestra and he encouraged a new awareness of neglected 19th century British composers, as well as commissioning a series of works by modern Irish composers. He left the BBC in 2002 to concentrate on composing and writing and later that year was appointed Chief Executive of the Ulster Orchestra.

Henrietta Byrne (1925-2000) - Singer.

The voice of this accomplished soprano was well-known to local radio listeners through the 1940s and 1950s. Born in Moneymore, she was a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin where Havelock Nelson, who was later to accompany her on countless broadcasts, was a contemporary. She also performed with the BBC Northern Ireland Light Orchestra, under the baton of David Curry. She featured regularly in the weekly *Ulster magazine*, which was broadcast on the BBC's General Overseas Service and this brought her much fan mail from nostalgic Irish exiles.

Ronnie Carroll (1935-) - Singer.

Born Ronald Cleghorn, the husky-voiced crooner from Belfast was a British hit parade star of the 1950s but was to find international renown through the *Eurovision Song Contest*. In 1962 and 1963 he represented the UK with *Ring A Ding Girl* and *Say Wonderful Things*. He came fourth each time but had greater success by releasing records of the songs in the countries which had given him the most points. Married for a time to Millicent Martin, then a star of the BBC's *That Was the Week That Was*, he retired from singing in the 1970s in order to pursue various business ventures connected with entertainment.



The Chieftains - Musicians.

They have been filling concert halls for more than forty years and have recorded forty albums. Their career began in Dublin in 1962 when piper Paddy Maloney put together a traditional music band as an antidote to the more commercial Irish music sounds of the day. Since then, they have toured everywhere from Belfast to Beijing. In 1975 they won an Oscar for their music for Stanley Kubrick's film *Barry Lyndon* and they have won six Grammy awards, including one for an album of country music with artists including Willie Nelson and Emmylou Harris. Other musical collaborators have been Sir James Galway, Elvis Costello, Sting, the Rolling Stones and Van Morrison with whom they performed for the first time in a memorable BBC Northern Ireland television programme. In 2003 Paddy Maloney played to a huge crowd in front of Belfast City Hall and to UK-wide BBC television audiences in the *Proms In The Park* concert.

Clannad - Singers/musicians.

Formed in 1970 in Gweedore, Co. Donegal, by three members of the Ó Braonáin family, Máire, Pól, and Ciarán, who were later joined by their uncles Pádraig and Noel Duggan. Eithne Ní Braonáin became a member in 1979 but left in 1982 to enjoy solo success as Enya. Their haunting sound is a fusion of new age, world and traditional music. They are best-known for the theme to the TV series *Harry's Game* and for the soundtrack to *Robin of Sherwood*.

Brian Coll (1942-) - Singer.

Omagh-born Coll has been a popular figure on the Irish country scene for more than forty years. He is a veteran of the showband era and two Omagh bands of the day, the Polka Dots and the Plattermen. He was later to form his own band, the Buckaroos, and he continues to perform at venues throughout the country. BBC NI appearances have included the series *Make Mine Country*.

Peter Corry - Singer.

Belfast-born Corry came to prominence in 1992 when he won the BBC NI/RTE talent show *Go For It*. Since then he has been entertaining audiences on television, radio and in the theatre, including recent performances as the narrator of *On Eagle's Wing*, the musical story of the Ulster-Scots in America.

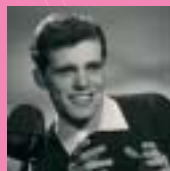
© BBC



© BBC



© BBC



© BBC



© BBC



© Stanley Matchett

© BBC





© BBC

Phil Coulter (1942-) - Musician/songwriter/producer.

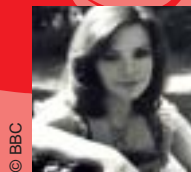
A leading figure in popular music for more than 40 years. Educated in St. Columbs' in Derry, and later at Queen's University, Belfast, he worked for a music publisher before teaming up with the Scottish songwriter Bill Martin. In 1967, they wrote *Puppet On A String* with which Sandie Shaw won the *Eurovision Song Contest*. The following year Cliff Richard came second with their song *Congratulations*. Coulter continued to write prolifically and in the 1970s became associated with the Bay City Rollers, writing such hits as *Shang-a-Lang*. In the 1980s, he began a series of tours, performing at international venues with his own orchestra and playing some of his most familiar songs, such as *The Town I Love So Well* and other selections from the popular *Tranquillity* series of mood music albums. He continues to record, appears at concert venues all over the world and has performed several times at the White House. In 2002, BBC NI celebrated his 60th birthday with a concert at the Millennium Forum in Derry which featured Sir Cliff Richard, Maire Brennan and Liam Neeson, among others.



© BBC

David Curry (1899-1971) - Musician.

An outstanding violinist, he was only seventeen when he joined the orchestra of the Hippodrome Theatre in 1916, moving to the Imperial Cinema in 1920 and to the Royal Avenue cinema the following year. He joined the BBC in 1932 and played violin with the BBC Wireless Orchestra. But it was the formation of the BBC Northern Ireland Light Orchestra in 1949, with Curry at its helm, which was to bring him popular acclaim. Programmes such as *Irish Rhythms* delighted listeners to the Home Service as well as those abroad listening to the BBC's Overseas Service.



© BBC

Dana (1951-) - Singer.

Born Rosemary Brown, now Dana Rosemary Scallan, she won the *Eurovision Song Contest* in 1970 with *All Kinds of Everything*. In 1990, after her marriage to hotelier Damien Scallan, she moved to Alabama and in 1992 began a broadcasting career with the religious television channel EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network). On her return to Ireland, she was elected a member of the European Parliament for Connacht-Ulster in 1999.



© BBC

Cara Dillon (1975-) - Singer.

Born in Dungiven, Co. Londonderry, she won a major singing competition at the age of fourteen. Later she was to travel around Europe with the traditional band Oige. Her 2001 debut solo album for Rough Trade, the label which introduced The Smiths and The Strokes, won two BBC Radio Two Folk Awards. In 2003, BBC NI television and BBC Radio Ulster brought her together with Brian Kennedy for a concert to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Belfast Festival at Queen's.



© BBC

Barry Douglas (1960-) - Musician.

The renowned pianist was educated at Methodist College, Belfast and the Royal College of Music. He has won many international prizes, including silver in the 1983 Arthur Rubenstein Competition (Israel) and first prize in the Moscow Tchaikovsky Competition in 1986. He enjoys a busy international career, touring extensively and appearing as soloist with many of the world's great orchestras. Recordings include the complete works of Tchaikovsky for piano and orchestra. In 2002 he was awarded the OBE. Recently he returned to Northern Ireland from his home in Paris to appear on *Music Asides*, a BBC NI documentary on his life.



© BBC

The Dubliners - Singers/musicians.

Along with the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem, they were responsible for the Irish ballad boom of the 1960s, progressing from sessions in a Dublin pub to concert halls throughout the world. But it was their hard-living reputation as well as their music which drew audiences, fascinated by the raw-voiced Ronnie Drew and his singing partner, the late Luke Kelly.



© BBC

Hugo Duncan (1950-) - Singer/broadcaster.

The Strabane-born country artist has been performing throughout Ireland since 1971. He began broadcasting fifteen years ago as a holiday relief stint on BBC Radio Foyle but became a regular presenter soon after. In 1998 he moved to BBC Radio Ulster where he has a daily afternoon music programme. He has also appeared on television in music programmes such as *Hugo And Friends* and *Country Cool*.



© BBC

Mike Edgar (1962-) - Musician/broadcaster/producer.

Head of Programme Production for BBC Northern Ireland, he is recognised for his promotion of new music talent. He has brought many artists to radio and television audiences, including Ash, Snow Patrol, Divine Comedy, Hot House Flowers and Sinead O'Connor, on programmes including BBC Radio Ulster's *Across the Line*. He has produced a range of music programmes for BBC Northern Ireland and for BBC network television. In 2004 he was the executive producer of the *BBC Music Live* network concert staged in Belfast city centre.



© BBC

Enya (1961-) - Singer/songwriter.

Born in Gweedore, County Donegal, she was a member of the family band *Clannad* before striking out on her own. She wrote the music for several films, then for the BBC network television documentary series, *The Celts*, encouraged by its producer, the late Tony McAuley. Her distinctive celtic-new age blend led to a soundtrack record which was to be the beginning of her commercial success. Her second album, *Watermark*, for WEA, and including the song *Orinoco Flow*, sold more than ten million copies. She has won a number of Grammy awards and in 2002 received a Golden Globe and an Oscar nomination for the song *May It Be* from *Lord Of The Rings*.



© Crispin Eurlach

Howard Ferguson (1908-1999) - Composer/musician.

A gifted pianist from childhood, Belfast-born Ferguson attended the Royal College of Music and later studied composition, achieving success with *Octet* (1933), regarded by many as his finest work. During the war he assisted the pianist Dame Myra Hess in organising the famous daily chamber concerts at the National Gallery in London, in which Joan and Valerie Trimble also took part. In 1948, he was appointed to the Royal Academy of Music where he taught composition to Richard Rodney Bennett, among others. In later years he devoted himself to musicology, producing editions of early keyboard music and the complete piano works of Schubert.



© BBC

The Freshmen - Musicians.

Formed in Ballymena in 1962, they are regarded as one of the most musically accomplished of all the bands of the showband era. Under the guidance of Billy Brown, who played tenor saxophone and keyboards and arranged their material, they were known for their complex vocal harmonies. Brown moved to Dublin and later formed the Billy Brown Band. Until his death in 1999, he continued to write songs and was an occasional broadcaster with RTE.



© BBC

Eamon Friel (1949-) - Singer/songwriter/broadcaster.

His programme, *Friel's Fancy*, won the 1993 Sony Award for best music programme. He broadcasts regularly and continues to write and perform his own material. His most recent album is *The Waltz of the Years* (2003).



Courtesy of Donal Gallagher

Rory Gallagher (1948-1995) - Musician.

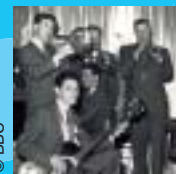
The revered blues guitarist was born in Ballyshannon but grew up in Cork. He came to prominence when he formed the power trio Taste in 1967. Along with Belfast musicians John Wilson (drums) and Charlie McCracken (bass) he went to London where the band made a major impact on the club and concert circuit. In 1970, Taste disbanded but Gallagher continued to tour and record. His health deteriorated over time and he died at the age of 47 after becoming ill in Holland. In 1999 Ballyshannon Council unveiled a plaque marking his birthplace and in 2002 his image appeared on a stamp released by An Post to commemorate Irish rock legends. He is celebrated annually at memorial concerts and festivals in various parts of the world.



© BBC

Sir James Galway (1939-) - Musician.

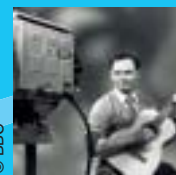
Born in Carnalea Street, Belfast, he played tin whistle before taking up the flute. He later studied at the Royal College of Music, the Guildhall School and the Paris Conservatoire. He spent fifteen years in British orchestras before joining the Berlin Philharmonic in 1969 and establishing the international solo career which he enjoys today. His repertoire ranges from Bach, Vivaldi, and Mozart to jazz and contemporary pieces, some commissioned for him. He had a hit single with his version of *Annie's Song* and he can be heard on the music soundtrack for *The Return Of The King*, part of the *Lord Of The Rings* trilogy. He lives in Switzerland with his wife Jeanne, Lady Galway, who is also an accomplished flautist. He has appeared in many BBC NI programmes and recently gave a memorable performance with the Ulster Orchestra for *Proms In The Park*.



© BBC

Dave Glover (1925-) - Musician/bandleader.

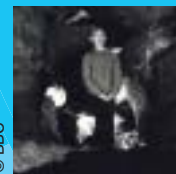
Originally a Dixieland-style trumpeter, he led one of the best known of the Northern Ireland bands during the showband era of the 1950s and 1960s and in particular entertained thousands of people during the band's annual performances at the Arcadia ballroom, Portrush. Now retired, he still performs in public occasionally with some of the original band members, including Gerry Rice and Tony Morelli.



© BBC

David Hammond (1928-) - Singer and broadcaster.

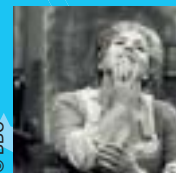
Born in Belfast, he has been an important figure in the world of Irish traditional music for more than five decades. He is known for his publications, collections, documentaries and albums of songs. He worked for BBC Northern Ireland Schools' Broadcasting for almost 20 years and now has an independent production company, *Flying Fox Films*. He is a director of *Field Day*, the theatre company, and was a founder member of the *Irish Traditional Music Archive*. In 2003 he was conferred with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, *Honoris Causa*, by Dublin City University.



© BBC

Neil Hannon (1970-) - Singer/songwriter.

The Divine Comedy was the name given to the band he formed with two fellow pupils at Portora Royal School, Enniskillen. Now a solo artist, he still performs under that name. Albums including *Fanfare for the Common Muse* (1990), *Casanova* (1996), *A Short Album About Love* (1997), and *Fin de Siècle* (1998) showcased him as a craftsman of sophisticated and witty songs. Hannon has made many appearances on *ATL* for BBC NI. The album *Secret History* (2000) includes the hymn *Dear Lord* and *Father Of Mankind*, produced at the BBC by John Lunn and Mike Edgar. In 2004 Hannon released the album *Absent Friends* and that year he was a headline act during the Belfast Festival at Queens.



© BBC

Heather Harper (1930-) - Singer.

The distinguished soprano was born in Belfast and studied at Trinity College of Music, London. She made her stage debut in 1954 as *Lady Macbeth* with Oxford University Opera Club. Principal roles followed at Glyndebourne, Covent Garden, Bayreuth and Sadler's Wells. In a long career, she has been associated in particular with the music of Britten and Tippett. She has been professor of singing at the Royal College of Music since 1985 and director of vocal studies at the Britten-Pears school since 1986. She was awarded the CBE in 1965.



© U.F.T.M.

Sir (Herbert) Hamilton Harty (1879-1941) - Musician/composer/conductor.

Born in Hillsborough, Co.Down, he was organist at Magheragall Parish Church, Co.Antrim, at the age of twelve and St Barnabas' Church, Belfast, at sixteen. Later he took up a post at Christ Church, Bray, and then All Saints' at Norfolk Square in London. He gained a reputation as a brilliant accompanist and eventually as a conductor. He conducted the London Symphony Orchestra and the Hallé between 1920 and 1930, introducing works by Sibelius, Berlioz, Strauss and Shostakovich and giving the first English performance of Mahler's 4th Symphony (1927). Knighted in 1925, he was awarded honorary doctorates in Dublin, Manchester and Belfast and the Gold Medal of the Royal Philharmonic Society in 1934. His orchestral works include *Comedy Overture* (1907), *Violin Concerto* (1909) and *Irish Symphony* (1910). Chamber works include *Trio* (1901) and *Piano Quintet* (1904). His best-known composition is the tone poem *With the Wild Geese* (1910).



© Radio Times

Sir Edward Norman Hay (1889-1943) - Composer/critic.

Born in Coleraine, he began studying violin at the age of eight but after contracting polio he took up the piano instead. Later he worked for the BBC in Belfast where he was encouraged as a composer by the music director Godfrey Brown. One of his most notable compositions is *The Wind Among The Reeds*, written in 1921. In 1936, he was appointed editor of the *Ulster Airs* scheme created by the BBC Northern Ireland Home Service to preserve the region's wealth of folk and traditional music. By the end of the project in 1940 there were more than 150 arrangements. As 'Rathcol' of the Belfast Telegraph he contributed reviews and articles on all aspects of music from 1925 until his death.



© Chris Bailis

Gemma Hayes (1977-) - Singer/songwriter.

From Ballyporeen in Tipperary, she was at university in Dublin when she became more interested in playing guitar and singing. She dropped out of education and worked in a laundrette while singing in clubs and developing her songwriting. In 2001 she signed to Source Records and the following year released the album *Night On My Side* which was nominated for a Mercury Music Prize.



© Michael Taylor

David Holmes (1969-) - Producer/DJ.

He began performing in Belfast pubs and clubs at 15 but worked as a chef and a hairdresser before turning to music full time. In the 1990s he was the premier exponent of acid house and techno and his album *Let's Get Killed* received world-wide acclaim. Early in his career he was the subject of a BBC NI documentary, *Gritty Shaker*. With Mike Edgar and Stuart Bailie, he has hosted several music programmes on BBC Radio Ulster. Much in demand in Hollywood, he has compiled the music for several major films including *Ocean's 11* and *Out Of Sight* and he has completed the soundtrack music for three new films, including *Ocean's 12*. He recently formed his own hip-hop soul group, *Free Association*.



© Stuart Bailie

Terri Hooley (1948-) - Producer.

Described as the 'godfather' of the Northern Ireland punk scene, he boosted the careers of several bands, most notably The Undertones, and recorded them on his Good Vibrations label. For years his Good Vibrations record shop, in its various locations, has been an attraction for visitors digging into Belfast's pop music history but the shop was destroyed in a blaze at North Street Arcade in 2004. Several of Hooley's former bands, including Ruefrefx, The Moondogs and The Undertones, held a benefit concert and he is now installed in new premises.



© BBC

The Hot Press Awards

BBC Northern Ireland has broadcast and produced *The Hot Press Awards* on radio and television over the last 15 years. Broadcast on both the BBC One and BBC Three Networks, the programme has brought some of the biggest names in music to BBC Northern Ireland. They have included U2, Ash, Radiohead, Morrissey, Nina Simone, The Corrs, The Undertones, David Bowie and Westlife.



© BBC

Stephanie Hughes (1961-) - Musician/broadcaster.

For many years Hughes, a gifted pianist, ran parallel careers in music and broadcasting. Eventually she decided to concentrate on broadcasting and has gone on to present a number of high-profile concerts for both radio and television, not least *Last Night of the Proms*. She is also the regular anchor for the *BBC Young Musician* television programmes. She is now recognised as the 'voice of opera' for BBC Radio 3, introducing live relays and recordings in the *Opera on 3* programme strand.



© BBC

James Johnston (1903-1991) - Singer.

Born in Belfast, he had no formal musical education and was a butcher in his father's shop when he began entering music festivals and winning prizes. Later he sang the role of the Duke of Mantua in a production of *Rigoletto* which led to four years touring Ireland. Approached by Sir Tyrone Guthrie, he became principal tenor at Sadler's Wells. Between 1945 and 1960 he enjoyed international success, performing with Maria Callas and Dame Joan Sutherland, among others. He was still at a professional peak when he retired, returning to Belfast and his shop in Sandy Row.



© BBC

Brian Kennedy (1966-) - Singer/songwriter.

Born and brought up on Belfast's Falls Road, he began his career as part of Energy Orchard, the band formed by his brother Bap. In the mid 1980s he moved to London to try a solo career and eventually came to prominence through his association with Van Morrison, appearing as a guest at his concerts and on several albums. He is now a successful international artist in his own right. He interrupted his touring career in 2000 to take part in the Broadway run of *Riverdance* and he has hosted his own television series for BBC NI, *Brian Kennedy on Song*, exploring the origins of famous compositions with a local connection. In 2004, he published his first novel, *The Arrival Of Fergal Flynn*, and that year he appeared on BBC One Northern Ireland, at a sell-out concert in the Waterfront Hall to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.



© BBC

Jimmy Kennedy (1902-1984) - Songwriter.

Born in Omagh, he was educated at Trinity College, Dublin and was a teacher and civil servant before concentrating on full-time songwriting. For more than twenty-five years he wrote or co-wrote some of the most enduring popular songs, including *The Teddy Bears' Picnic* (1933), *Isle of Capri* (1934) and *Red Sails in the Sunset* (1935), which was inspired by an evening looking out from Portstewart strand and featured in the BBC NI series *Brian Kennedy On Song*. Honours included two American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers Awards and two Ivor Novello Awards. He received the OBE in 1983 and in 1997 was elected posthumously to the American Songwriters' Hall of Fame.

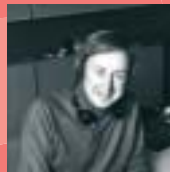


© U.F.T.M.

Josef Locke (1917-1999) - Singer.

Born Joe McLoughlin in Londonderry, he was a member of the Irish Guards and later the RUC when he first began singing. His exuberant tenor voice led to his becoming one of the most popular performers in the British Isles in the 1940s and 1950s with records including *Hear My Song* and *I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen*. He returned to popularity briefly in the 1990s when the film comedy, *Hear My Song*, in which he was played by the American actor Ned Beatty, was released.

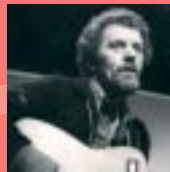
© Wilfred Green



Walter Love (1935-) - Broadcaster.

His first radio broadcast was on *Children's Hour* in 1946. He joined the BBC in 1958, working as a studio manager in London, and was later appointed a staff announcer and newsreader in Belfast. In 1978 he became a presenter on BBC Radio Ulster with a daily magazine show. He currently presents the weekly *Love Forty* and his own jazz programme and he is one of the organisers of the annual Holywood Jazz Festival. He was awarded an MBE in 1988.

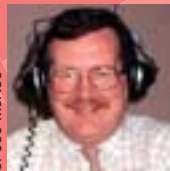
© BBC



Tony McAuley - Musician/broadcaster.

Born in Tyrone but devoted to the Glens of Antrim where he lived until the end of his life, McAuley was a gifted traditional singer and musician and a talented producer and broadcaster. He enjoyed a long career with BBC Northern Ireland, working first in the Schools' department before branching out to produce the programmes which were to make his reputation. For many years he was the producer of the long-running television series *As I Roved Out* on which artists such as Planxty and De Danaan made regular appearances and it was for a special edition of the programme that he brought Van Morrison and the Chieftains together for the first time. He is also widely credited with giving Paul Brady and Enya their television breaks. He presented a weekly folk programme on BBC Radio Ulster and was still broadcasting and performing until shortly before his death in 2003. A series of lectures in his honour has been instituted at the annual Bluegrass Festival which takes place at the Ulster American Folk Park near Omagh.

Photograph courtesy of Joe McKee



Joe McKee (1951-) - Musician/broadcaster.

A specialist in the fields of choral and keyboard music, he joined BBC NI in 1985, having previously been Head of Music at the Royal School Armagh and sub-organist at Armagh Cathedral. He became involved in a wide range of programming but worked very closely with amateur musicians, recording local soloists, choirs and bands, and took responsibility for *Ulster Band*, one of the longest-running radio series in the region. He left the BBC in 1991 to become Director of Music at Methodist College, Belfast, and in 2002 was appointed Head of the City of Belfast School of Music. He continues to act as an independent producer and broadcaster, presenting programmes such as *Strike Up The Band* and *Touch Of Tartan* for BBC Radio Ulster.

© BBC



Ralph McLean (1969-) Broadcaster.

After leaving the University of Ulster with a media degree, he worked as a radio producer for Downtown and wrote for the Irish News and Belfast Telegraph before joining BBC Northern Ireland. With Christine Bleakley, he presents the television entertainment guide *First Stop*, which has featured many star music names, from Snow Patrol to Donny Osmond. He presents his own programme *McLean's Country* on BBC Radio Ulster and has been associated with a range of music programmes including *Burns And Beyond*, which was televised on Burns Night 2004.

© Brian McEvoy



Linda Martin - Singer.

From Belfast, she began her career in 1969 singing with the Belfast pop band Chips and later its off-shoot, Lyttle People. By then living in Dublin, she soon embarked on the successful solo career which she continues to enjoy today. In 1992, she won the Eurovision Song Contest with the Irish entry *Why Me?* and in 2003 she was a judge, along with Louis Walsh and Phil Coulter, of the RTE talent series *You're A Star*. Recently she shared management responsibilities for the Northern Ireland pop act Six.

© BBC



Christy Moore (1945-) - Singer/musician/songwriter.

He was a solo folksinger until 1972 when he formed Planxty along with Dónal Lunny, Andy Irvine and Liam O'Flynn. After their break-up, he was a founder member of Moving Hearts in 1981. Since then he has largely performed solo, mixing traditional, contemporary and comic songs, some with strong political comment. His many albums include several live performances. He published his memoirs, *One Voice: My Life in Song* in 2000 and continues to tour and record. He was a frequent guest on the long-running BBC Northern Ireland series *As I Roved Out*.

© Gered Mankowitz



Gary Moore (1952-) - Musician.

Born in Belfast, the blues guitarist came to prominence in the late 1960s with the rock trio Skid Row. He was to have a long performing and recording association with its singer and bassist Phil Lynott until Lynott's death. By 1979 he had become a solo artist and in that year, the single *Parisienne Walkways* was released. It became a major hit and is a perennial favourite to this day. He has recorded and performed with many great blues artists, including Albert Collins, Jack Bruce and Ginger Baker, and he continues to be a major attraction at 'monsters of rock' concerts. He has featured on several BBC NI programmes, including a televised King's Hall concert. He was recently a guest on BBC Radio Ulster's *Beechy Meets...* series and he featured in the *History Of Ulster Rock* on BBC Radio 2.



Morning Service

Services of worship have been broadcast by the BBC since it began in 1924 and they have been broadcast for local audiences every Sunday morning since BBC Radio Ulster came on air in 1975. Morning Service reflects the musical richness of Christian worship – from Gregorian chant to unaccompanied metrical psalms, from the hymns of Wesley to free-flowing songs. Each year, about 10,000 people take part in these broadcasts.



George (Ivan) Van Morrison (1945-) - Singer/musician/songwriter.

From Hyndford Street in East Belfast, he is one of the true giants of popular music. Songs like *Moondance* have become standards and his album *Astral Weeks* (1968) features regularly on lists of the greatest recordings of all time. His musical journey took him from the Monarchs, a Belfast showband, through the R and B group Them, with whom he made several classic recordings including *Baby Please Don't Go* and *Gloria*, to the United States where he embarked on a solo career with the hit single *Brown-Eyed Girl*. He continues to perform at major venues throughout the world and has recorded more than 35 albums. He has appeared on many BBC Northern Ireland programmes, including a memorable *As I Roved Out* with the Chieftains. He regularly uses a nucleus of talented Northern Ireland musicians, including the bassist Nicky Scott and the guitarists Arty McGlynn and, until his death, Foggy Lyttle. Since the 1990s he has had a fruitful working association with Georgie Fame and in recent years his albums and live performances have seen guest appearances by some of the artists who were part of his musical upbringing, including John Lee Hooker, Jimmy Witherspoon, Chris Barber, Lonnie Donegan and Acker Bilk who appears on his most recent album. He was awarded the OBE in 1996.



Ruby Murray (1935-1996) - Singer.

The girl with the wistful voice came from the Donegall Road in Belfast. In her teens she took part in a touring revue in London which led to a spot in the BBC television series *Quite Contrary*. Signed by Columbia Records in 1955 at the age of nineteen, she had a UK hit with the song *Softly, Softly* and went on that year to have five simultaneous singles in the charts. As with many stars of that era, success faded with the arrival of the music of the 1960s but she continued to appear in nostalgic cabaret shows until her later years. Her last broadcast was with BBC Radio Ulster's John Bennett. Her life is the subject of the play, *Ruby*, written by Marie Jones.



© BBC

Music Live

Music Live is the BBC's celebration of the best in live music. It has previously visited Birmingham, Glasgow and Yorkshire and, for the Millennium the festival visited the entire UK. In 2004 it came to Northern Ireland. For 11 days in April and May, live events took place throughout the region and on BBC programmes. The highlight was the *Beautiful Night* concert in Belfast, attended by 16,000 people and broadcast on BBC One and BBC Radio Ulster. Presented by Patrick Kielty, it featured a host of top names, including Bob Geldof, The Divine Comedy, Brian Kennedy and Katie Melua.



© BBC

(John) Havelock Nelson (1917-1996) - Conductor/composer/pianist/broadcaster.

Born in Cork and educated at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, he was to become one of the most influential figures in music in Northern Ireland. It was in Dublin that he first made his mark, founding the Dublin Orchestral Players. He joined the BBC in Belfast as accompanist and broadcaster in 1947, founded the Studio Symphony Orchestra and Studio Opera Group in 1950, from which Castleward Opera was to develop, and became Director of the Ulster Singers in 1974. He contributed greatly to the Belfast Festival at Queen's, conducting at many of its events, and was known for his choral and vocal arrangements of Irish folk music. He also adjudicated at festivals throughout the world and in 1976 founded the Trinidad and Tobago Opera Company. He held nine doctorates, four of which were in recognition of his services to the arts in the West Indies, and was awarded the OBE in 1966.



© BBC

Seán O'Boyle (1908-1979) - Musicologist/broadcaster.

Born in Belfast and educated at Queen's University, he collected songs from Aodh Ó Duibheannaigh in Rannafast, Co. Donegal, 1937-45, which were published with notation in *Cnuasacht de Cheoltaibh Uladh* (1944). He collected a hundred items of Ulster folk music for the BBC Northern Ireland Home Service from 1952-4, many of them broadcast in the series *As I Roved Out*. His publications include *The Irish Song Tradition* (1976) and the posthumous *Ogham: The Poet's Secret* (1980).



© Pacemaker

Sinead O'Connor (1966-) - Singer.

Born in Dublin, she has always been controversial in both her music and her personal life. Her debut album, *The Lion and the Cobra* (1988) was followed by *I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got* (1990), from which a version of Prince's *Nothing Compares 2 U* was a hit single. Her first live music session for BBC Northern Ireland was in 1988 when she performed *Jerusalem*. In 2000 she released her fifth studio album, *Faith and Courage*, material from which she performed on *BBC Music Live 2000*. That year, at the request of BBC Northern Ireland, she presented a lifetime achievement award to Nina Simone.



© BBC

Daniel O'Donnell (1961-) - Singer.

From Kincaslough, Co. Donegal, he began his career in the 1980s as a backing vocalist for his sister, Margo. Today he has legions of fans all over the world and performs at venues from Carnegie Hall to the Sydney Opera House. In 2002 he was awarded an honorary OBE for his services to the music industry. He has appeared on a range of BBC programmes and recently had his own series on BBC Northern Ireland television, in which he performed his own material and interviewed guests.



© BBC

Paddy O'Flaherty (1943-) - Broadcaster.

A life-long devotee of country music, he built up a huge following for his radio programmes, first on *Downtown Radio* and then on BBC Radio Ulster with the long-running *Country Club* in which many stars appeared, including Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash and Loretta Lynn. He is renowned for his encyclopaedic knowledge of country music and he is an accomplished country fiddler.



© Pacemaker



© Chris Hill Photographic



© BBC

Proms In The Park

This event began in 1996 when the BBC staged a concert in Hyde Park to coincide with the *Last Night Of The Proms* at the Royal Albert Hall. Since then it has spread throughout the UK. In Belfast, 5,000 people fill the grounds of the City Hall each year to hear the Ulster Orchestra and a range of famous artists. Whilst part of the Belfast event features in the network television programme it is broadcast live in its entirety on BBC Radio Ulster and a highlights programme is shown later in the year on local television. Artists who have taken part include Sir James and Lady Galway, Paddy Moloney of the Chieftains and Fionnuala Hunt.

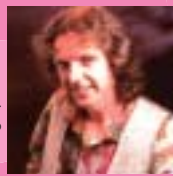
Sean Rafferty (1946-) - Broadcaster.

Born in Belfast, he was brought up in Newcastle, Co. Down, and has been a BBC broadcaster since leaving Queen's University. For many years he was associated with news and current affairs. He had his own BBC Radio Ulster programme and on television he was presenter of *Scene Around Six* and later *Inside Ulster*. His life-long enthusiasm for music and the arts came to the fore when he moved to London and BBC Radio 3 where he is the presenter of the nightly music programme *In Tune*. He is a keen amateur musician and has sung with a renaissance chamber group. He is a former chairman of Opera Theatre Company, Dublin. In 2004 he was named Radio Broadcaster of the Year at the Broadcasting Press Guild Awards. He returns to Northern Ireland regularly to host programmes for BBC Radio Ulster and BBC Radio 3.

Clodagh Rodgers (1947-) - Singer/actress.

The Ballymena-born artist is best remembered for two hit singles, *Come Back And Shake Me* (1969) and *Jack In The Box* (1971) which was the UK's Eurovision entry that year and got to fourth place. As an actress, she has appeared in several television productions, including *The Bill*. She has also been the subject of a BBC Northern Ireland *Music Asides* documentary tracing her life and career.

© Chris Hill
Photographic



Colum Sands (1951-) - Musician/broadcaster.

A member of the musical Sands family from County Down, he established his reputation as a gifted songwriter with the release in 1981 of the album *Unapproved Road*. Songs such as *Whatever You Say, Say Nothing* were soon being covered by the likes of Billy Connolly and June Tabor. His next album *The March Ditch* was the subject of a BBC television documentary. He is the long-established presenter of BBC Radio Ulster's *Folk Club* and has hosted programmes for BBC Radio 2.

© Kelvin Boyes



Sing Carols

The programme began on BBC Radio Ulster in 1986 and has become an annual institution with people seeking tickets six months in advance. Broadcast from the Ulster Hall at Christmas-time each year, it is an opportunity for members of the public to sing their favourite carols along with top choirs and soloists. Since 1987, the programme has also been broadcast on BBC NI television. Two people have taken part in every *Sing Carols* - Stephen Hamill, playing the Mulholland organ, and John Anderson who is the programme's musical director and master of ceremonies.

© Fiction Records



Snow Patrol - Musicians.

They were formed in 1994 at Dundee University by Northern Ireland students Mark McClelland and Gary Lightbody. With drummer Jonny Quinn, they signed to Jeepster records and went on to release two albums, *Songs For Polarbears* (1997) and *When It's All Over We Still Have To Clear Up* (2001), which were acclaimed critically but did not have commercial success. With new recruit guitarist Nathan Connolly, they signed to Fiction Records and in 2004 released *Final Straw* which brought them wide recognition and led to three 2005 Brit nominations. They have appeared several times on BBC Radio Ulster's *Across The Line* and recently featured on an ATL television special. At the end of 2004 they sold out the Ulster Hall for a record four nights. The shows were broadcast on BBC Radio Ulster and BBC Radio 2.

© Iona Bateman



Therapy? - Musicians.

Formed in the late 1980s, the Larne-based power trio were introduced to Northern Ireland audiences through BBC Radio Ulster's *Across the Line*. Recording their first session for the programme, they were so loud that they interrupted a network radio play being recorded in a nearby studio. They cite Stiff Little Fingers and The Undertones as influences on their music. Despite changes in line-up, the band, fronted by Andy Cairns, have released a string of albums over the years and continue to play to enthusiastic audiences at major venues.

© Andrew
Macpherson



The Thrills - Musicians.

Formed in Dublin in 1994, their first album, *So Much For the City*, released in 2003, was a hit with critics and record-buyers. They are frequent performers in Belfast and preceded one of their most recent appearances with a live session at Broadcasting House in Belfast. It was broadcast on BBC Radio Ulster's *Across The Line*, a programme which has encouraged their career.

© Raymond
Humphreys



Joan Trimble (1915-2001) - Musician/composer.

For thirty years she enjoyed success in a piano duo with her sister Valerie until the latter's death in 1980. Born in Enniskillen, she trained at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and TCD. She studied piano with Arthur Benjamin and composition with Ralph Vaughn Williams at the Royal College of Music. An honorary fellow of the RIAM, she also received an honorary degree from Queen's University, Belfast. As a composer, she rose to prominence in 1938 with the publication of *Buttermilk Point*, *Humours of Carrick* and *The Bard of Lisgoole* for two pianos. Other works included *Phantasy Trio*, winner of the Cobbett Prize in 1940, and *Blind Raftery*, a television opera commissioned by the BBC. She was married to Dr. John Gant, who predeceased her, and she spent many years involved with life in Fermanagh as managing director of the Trimble family newspaper, the *Impartial Reporter*. In 2003, BBC Radio Ulster celebrated her life and work with an Ulster Orchestra invitation concert at the Ulster Hall.

Courtesy of Berube
Communications



Juliet Turner (1974-) - Singer/songwriter.

The young woman with the distinctive Tyrone accent made an emotional impact when she sang at the memorial service for the victims of the Omagh bombing but she had already been making a name for herself as a performer. Since then, sell-out concerts and albums such as *Burn the Black Suit* (2000), including the popular track *Dr. Fell*, have cemented her reputation. She appears regularly in local programmes, including recently being part of BBC Northern Ireland's contribution to the Belfast Festival at Queen's.



© BBC



© Pennie Smith

The Ulster Orchestra

Formed in 1966 by the Arts Council, it became an independent company and was enlarged in 1981 when the BBC Northern Ireland Orchestra was disbanded. Its chief conductors have included Bryden Thomson, Vernon Handley, Yan Pascal Tortelier, Dmitri Sitkovetsky and, from 2001, Thierry Fischer. Its main concert season runs from September to May but it also appears at events such as the Belfast Proms and the Belfast Festival at Queen's. It broadcasts a twelve-week schedule each year for BBC Radio 3 and BBC Radio Ulster, tours internationally and has made more than 60 commercial recordings. High profile events have included a broadcast concert to mark the opening of Belfast's Waterfront Hall in 1997 and a performance with Pavarotti in the grounds of Stormont in 1999 during a visit by President Clinton.

The Undertones - Musicians/songwriters.

Formed in Derry in 1974, the pop-punk band consisted of Feargal Sharkey, Mickey Bradley, Billy Doherty and brothers Sean and Damien O'Neill. Their 1978 hit *Teenage Kicks* is regarded as a classic of its genre, not least because the late BBC presenter John Peel named it as his favourite record of all time. Others hits followed, including *My Perfect Cousin* and *Here Comes The Summer*, but the band split up in 1983. The O'Neill brothers formed That Petrol Emotion and Feargal Sharkey embarked on a solo career. He had success with the single *A Good Heart* but subsequently become involved with the business side of the music industry. Bass-player Mickey Bradley is a producer with BBC Radio Foyle and has made a series of programmes including *My Life As An Undertone*. In 2000, the band, minus Sharkey, reformed. They performed live on the BBC Northern Ireland network production of the *Hot Press Rock and Pop Awards*.



Acknowledgements

Design: Genesis Advertising Ltd
Prints: Chris Hill Photographic
Framing: Townhouse Gallery
Text: Keith Baker
Research: Francis Jones
Producers: Mark Adair and Keith Baker

BBC NI wishes to thank all those who have assisted in the development of this exhibition, including: David Hammond, Roy Johnston, Iona Bateman, Wilfred Green, Stanley Matchett, Michael Taylor, Charles Burrowes, Dónal Gallagher, Raymond Humphreys, Derek Nally, Mike Edgar, David Byers, Declan McGovern, Rev Robert Tosh, the Across The Line team and colleagues at The Museums and Galleries of Northern Ireland.

This exhibition is illustrative rather than definitive and reflects work in progress at BBC Northern Ireland's Community Archive in Cultra to document the programmes, personalities and social impact of local broadcasting. Archive staff would welcome any suggested additions to this profile of BBC NI's contribution to music-making and will make all reasonable efforts to include such material in any future exhibitions.



informing... educating... entertaining... connecting...