

# Brian Ború

## Commemoration Concert

Featuring the DkIT *Ceol Oirghialla*

Traditional Music Ensemble

**Patrick Kavanagh Centre**

Inniskeen, Co. Monaghan

**8 April 2014**

Doors at 7.30pm



Comóradh

Dzich mBliana



**DUNDALK**

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY





## Boraimhe's Final Journey

On a bright Spring day at the beginning of March this year we stood on the gravely Clontarf shore of Dublin Bay. It was hard to believe on such a peaceful morning that at this very spot, on Good Friday 1014, one of the great battles of Irish history took place. It was here that thousands died, here that the power of the Vikings was dealt a mortal blow, here that the Irish King, Brian Mac Cinnéide Ó Lorcáin was slain with a blow of an axe, at the very moment of his victory. Brian felt before the battle that he would not emerge from it with his life. He said as much beforehand to his faithful companion, Corcoráin, and he asked him to ensure that he was buried in Armagh. "Go tonight to Swords and tell the clergy to take me to Duleek and from there to Louth and Armagh". When Brian was killed by Bruadar, the Danish leader, his son Donnchadh arranged that he be brought to Armagh.

We decided to follow the route of his funeral. His first stop was at Swords in the monastery built by Colmcille. Only the Round Tower, with its view out over Dublin Bay, remains as a reminder of those troubled days. The second resting stop for Brian's funeral was in Duleek in the monastery founded by St. Cianán. Little remains there from that time except a portion of the Round Tower and the ruins of an old church. On the third day they went to St. Mochta's abbey in Louth village. The present ruins are from a later date but was what we call "Mochta's House" there in the time of Brian?

At Louth the Archbishop of Armagh, Maolmhuire, came to meet the cortege and accompany Brian on the last stage of his final journey. He must have gone through Inniskeen because St. Deagha's monastery was there and the funeral was going from monastery to monastery. After Inniskeen the picture is less certain but, very likely, it went along the Old Road, south of Fews Mountain and into Armagh. That was the route we took, "along that road, a high bare pilgrim's path" as Séamus Heaney called.

Finally we arrived on the high hill in Armagh where the Protestant Cathedral stands today. A welcoming minister showed us the plaque on the wall where according to the story Brian was laid in a marble coffin. "Near this spot, on the north side of the Great Church, was laid to rest the body of Brian Boraimhe, slain at Clontarf, AD 1014". We stood a moment in silence to respect his life and deeds of valour. Because for a year or so before his death he had complete and sole authority in this island and nobody before, or since, has succeeded in doing that.

### Éamonn Ó hUallacháin

Bringing together undergraduate and postgraduate students, the DkIT *Ceol Oirghialla* Traditional Music Ensemble draws inspiration from a variety of Irish traditional music groups, exploring possibilities of arrangement and inspiration with respect for both tradition and possibility. The Ensemble provides numerous opportunities for students to hone their performance skills in diverse contexts. Over the past twelve months, the Ensemble has performed at Birr Castle, Stormont Assembly Buildings and at the renaming of the Mary McAleese Boyne Valley Bridge. We have also welcomed performing groups from New York and Kansas to perform with us in Dundalk and are looking forward to our forthcoming American tour, which will include a performance at the American Irish Historical Society.





*Patrick Kavanagh*

Rural & Literary Resource Centre



## *Clár*

### **An Chéad Bhliain**

John Walsh's / Maurice O'Keeffe's

Polkas

Kitty McGee / Kate Pat's

Song / Slide

### **Oscar Montague**

March and the Messenger

March / Reel

Black Moon

Air

### *Na Tonnta*

Whelan's Jig / Jim Ward's Jig

Jigs

An Ghealóg / Farewell to Erin

Air / Reels

### ***Ceol Oirghialla* Traditional Music Ensemble**

We are Bold Volunteers / The Flag of Green

March / Polka

Roslyn Castle

Air

The Man from Newry / Piper's Dance / DD Cronin's

Hornpipe / Polkas

## **Sos**

### ***Ceol Oirghialla* Traditional Music Ensemble**

The New Yorker / The New York Reel

Jig / Reel

Loch na Gar / Kansas City

Strathspey / Hornpipe

Maid on the Green / Gold Ring / Colonel Frasier

Jigs / Reel

Bridy McQuinn's / Thadelo's

Slides

Brian Boru's March

March

The Star of the East / Paddy Ryan's Dream / In

Hornpipe / Reels

Memory of Coleman

An Spealadóir

Amhrán

The American / Anne Sheehy's

Hornpipe / Polka

Piper's Dance / DD Cronin's

Polkas

# Ceol Oirghialla

## Section of Music

Dundalk Institute of Technology

Programme: Daithí Kearney and Adèle Commins

### *Cairde Ceoil Oirghialla*

If you would like to receive future invitations to our concerts and music theatre productions please forward your email address/contact details to:

[ann.coffey@dkit.ie](mailto:ann.coffey@dkit.ie)

Tel: 042-9370280

[www.dkit.ie/music](http://www.dkit.ie/music)

### **Dátaí do do Dhialann**

Choral Concert, 10 April 2014, St Patrick's Church,  
Dundalk

Guitar Ensemble Lunchtime Concert, 1 May 2014,  
MacAnna Theatre

*Some Enchanted Evening*, 25 May 2014, Birr Castle  
Music and Audio Production End of Year Showcase 28 May  
2014, The Spirit Store, Dundalk

### **Buíochas**

Deirdre and Éamonn Ó hUallacháin, Pat O'Neill, Paddy  
Martin, P. J. Russell, Joe King, Sean Walsh,  
Rosaleen Kearney and all at the Patrick Kavanagh Centre