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For immediate release

**Three musicians appointed as Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Musicians-in-Residence 2024**

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and Music Network have announced the appointment of the dlr Musicians-In-Residence 2024. This year’s scheme provides two residencies for established musicians - percussionist Brian Fleming and violinist Jane Hackett - and an additional residency to support the work of an emerging musician, for keyboardist Luke Dunford.

Now in its 10th year, the scheme provides musicians with space and time to create new work, develop their skills, collaborate with others and showcase their music. This year’s residencies will run from June to November and will provide each artist with funding, a dedicated space to work in and mentoring to support their career development.

Audiences will also have an opportunity to engage with the musicians at a series of public performances and workshops in Dún Laoghaire throughout the residencies.

The Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Cllr. Denis O'Callaghan said: “Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is delighted to announce the recipients of the 2024 DLR Musicians in Residence Scheme, and we look forward to working with them over the coming months. We are very grateful to the Arts Council for funding this Scheme.”

Our first resident musician is this year’s dlr emerging artist awardee Luke Dunford. The piano and hammond organ player plans to collaborate with songwriter and composer Ciaran O’Malley to write new Funk/Soul songs which will feature on a new album for his band Chief Keegan. They will be working on some brand new ideas as well developing existing material to create new songs. Luke will perform work developed during his residency at a public performance at dlr LexIcon on 10th July.

Percussionist Brian Fleming, who grew up in the area, will develop new material alongside providing opportunities for people of all ages to experience the joys of percussion playing during his residency. On 14th July, he will present two free workshops *Bodhrán for Beginners* and *Drumming Around the World* in addition to co-hosting a workshop with master djembe player Mamady ‘Sakale’ Condé. Brian will also present an informal performance with the band Amerghin on 21st August and showcase excerpts froma new one-man show inspired by the teachers who influenced him in dlr LexIcon on 8th September.

The final 2024 Residency begins in late September. Jane Hackett, an award winning violinist and mixed genre performance artist specialising in classical and contemporary music, will be developing an interactive concert experience for Deaf audiences. Working with composer George Higgs and Deaf artist Lianne Quigley she will create an interactive sound walk performance for audience members, inspired by the sounds of Dun Laoghaire. Engaging with *Dublin Theatre of the Deaf* through a series of workshops, Jane will also present a multi-sensory concert through violin performance, vibratory elements and movement on 8th November in dlr LexIcon to mark the end of this third and final residency of 2024.

Frank Curran, Chief Executive of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council said: “Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is very pleased to continue our strong working relationship with Music Network on this important collaboration. Congratulations to the selected musicians.”

Commenting on the announcement, CEO of Music Network Sharon Rollston said: “It’s a pleasure to work with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council once again on the management of this annual scheme. These residencies will provide valuable time and resources for the appointed musicians to develop their artistic practice, advance their careers and produce exciting new work which we look forward to sharing with local audiences as the year unfolds.”

The Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Musicians-in-Residence Scheme is jointly funded by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and the Arts Council and is managed by Music Network.

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**Notes to Editor**

**About dlr Musicians-in-Residence Scheme**

The dlr Musicians-in-Residence Scheme was established in 2015 to provide performers and composers with opportunities to cultivate new artistic collaborations and develop and showcase new work. The Residencies also enrich the cultural environment of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and beyond.

**About the artists**

**Luke Dunford** began playing professionally at the age of 17, gigging regularly in Dublin’s undisputed home of jazz, JJ Smyths. In 2008 he began studying Jazz Performance at the Newpark Music Centre in Dublin, as well as continuing to play on the live circuit. Since graduating in 2013 he has fast become one of the most in-demand piano players in Dublin and beyond, with live performances to date including Dublin's 3 Arena, Vicar Street, Bord Gáis, Electric Picnic, and Cork Jazz Festival, as well as international tours of the USA, Europe and the British Isles.

Luke has performed and recorded with artists such as the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Sharon Shannon, Mary Coughlan, Frances Black, Eddie Roberts, Eddie Barbash, Derrek C. Philipps (two-time Grammy winner), Big Sam (New Orleans trombonist), Ron Holloway, Gerry Leonard, Sterling Campbell, Mark Plati, Lisa Hannigan, Susan O’Neill, Mick Pyro, Zaska, Loah and Finbar Furey, to name a few.

He is also currently writing and performing with his own group Chief Keegan who will be releasing their debut album in March 2024 with support from The Arts Council of Ireland.

**Brian Fleming** is a musician, theatre maker and festival director, and has an MA in Festive Arts, a HDip in Arts Policy and Practice and a BA in Psychology.

As a percussionist, he has played most major venues and festivals in Ireland, including Croke Park, Lansdowne Road and the National Concert Hall, and in over 30 countries at events including the opening ceremony of the 2002 FIFA World Cup in Seoul and Expo 2000 in Hanover. He has recorded on over 50 albums and performed with musicians such as Davy Spillane, Anúna, Mamady Keita, John Sheehan, Jack L, David Amram and The Chieftains.

Brian is credited in the Guinness Book of World Records 2001 as the creator of the “Millennium Drum,” the world’s largest drum. He is the writer and performer of three one-man shows, nominated for awards on both sides of the Atlantic. He has worked in theatre and dance with The Abbey Theatre, Macnas, Donal O Kelly, Barabbas, Coiscéim, Catherine Young Dance and Dance Theatre Ireland.

Brian has facilitated hundreds of workshops for schools, festivals and universities. His online bodhrán lessons have been viewed over half a million times. He is Director of the annual Big Bang Festival of Rhythm in Dublin.

**Jane Hackett** is an award-winning violinist and mixed genre performance artist specialising in classical and contemporary music. Her career spans from classical concert settings with leading orchestras and ensembles to creating multi-faceted works combining classical music with various other forms of art.

Jane has performed as soloist with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, at the Carthage International World Music Festival alongside film Director Lord David Puttnam, at the National Concert Hall in Dublin and for composer Arvo Pärt. She is a proud recipient of the *RTÉ lyric FM Bursary*, winner of the *Maura Dowdall Concerto Competition* and has received numerous funding awards from the Arts Council of Ireland, Dublin City Council, South Dublin City Council, Arts & Disability Ireland and Culture Ireland.

She is an active member of the experimental music group Kirkos Ensemble and Collaborative Projects Director of chamber ensemble Musici Ireland, developing and performing multidisciplinary productions and new Irish compositions. Recent works include *A Beginner’s Guide to Slow Travel* (Kirkos Ensemble), a co-commissioned premiere by the PRS Foundation, performed at Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, New Music Dublin and Sound Festival Scotland, *The Body that Breathes - a Silent Concert Experience* in collaboration with Dublin Theatre of the Deaf, and *A Mother’s Voice* (Musici Ireland) focusing on the mother and baby homes in Ireland during the 1900s, which will tour the US and Europe in ’24/25.

Jane was awarded the Arts Council’s *Music Project Award 2022* to devise a multi-sensory concert for Deaf audiences and after acclaimed reviews, she wishes to continue this work by restructuring concert approaches to develop more inclusive practices within classical music. Jane is a Britten Pears Young Artist 2023.

**About Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Arts Office**

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council supports the development of the arts at a local level and aspires to provide opportunities for all who live in, work in, and visit the County to engage with the arts as creators, participants and spectators.

Since the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Arts Office was established in 1994, the County Council has developed a high-quality programme including exhibitions, learning and participation initiatives, festivals, public art projects and artists’ residencies.

[More about Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Arts Office](https://www.dlrcoco.ie/arts)

### **About Music Network**

Music Network is Ireland’s national music touring and development organisation, founded by the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon in 1986.

For nearly 40 years we have been making high quality live music accessible to communities throughout Ireland and helping musicians to develop fulfilling careers. Our vision is that of a culture which increasingly values live music in our everyday lives, embracing it as an essential part of a healthy, vibrant society.

We deliver a broad range of programmes including a National Touring Programme, Musician Residencies both here and abroad, learning and participation projects, The Music Capital Funding Scheme, commissioning, training programmes and other professional development supports for musicians.

[More about Music Network](https://www.musicnetwork.ie/)

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