

Karan Casey to headline Gealach Gorm Singer / Songwriter Festival



Karan Casey

The 4th Gealach Gorm Singer Songwriter Festival to be held on 18th and 19th April 2015 in The Gealach Gorm Theatre Kill, will continue to build on the outstanding success of previous years events. The Festival took its first tentative steps with the 2012 event and a rural audience were amazed at the entertainment provided by exponents of original music. Since then it has gone from strength to strength attracting top Irish and International original music artists.

Karan Casey will perform at the festival on Sunday April 19th just days before heading on a US tour. She has long been one of the most innovative provocative and imitated voices in Irish traditional and folk music. Her career has spanned twenty five years and she has sold over half a million albums. She has won awards for "Best Folk Album" and "Best Folk Female" from Irish Music Magazine and been nominated for the BBC Folk Awards and the Danish Grammys and was a key member of Paul Winter's Grammy-award winning "Celtic Solstice". She has appeared at festivals in Europe and the US as well as appearing at many prestigious venues including the Kennedy Centre (Washington DC), New York's Symphony Space, Nashville's Grand Ole Opry, the Hollywood Bowl, Dublin's National Concert Hall, and many others.

Kelley McRae will perform on Saturday April 18th. She grew up in Mississippi but called Brooklyn home for years before teaming up with guitarist Matt Castelein in 2011, when the duo traded in their NYC apartment for a VW camper van and hit the road full time. Thousands of miles and hundreds of shows later, they have toured coast to coast in the US and played to packed rooms across Europe. Kelley's music has been featured in numerous independent films, Lifetime's *Army Wives*, MTV and commercials for American Airlines and Unicef. She has also taken the stage at major festivals such as the Riverbend Festival, Forecastle Music Festival, CMJ, and NXNE. Kelley performed at last year's festival and was a big hit with our audience. We are delighted to have her perform again this year.

Support acts include:

Peter Doran – a singer songwriter from Mullingar. Peter has just released his fourth album 'Outlines' to critical acclaim. He has played headline shows in Ireland, Holland and New York, and has opened up for artists like Mick Flannery, Declan O'Rourke, Duke Special and Mark Geary. Peter performs on Saturday April 18th.

Patrick Freeman is a guitarist and singer-songwriter currently based in Ireland. Having spent a number of years as a session musician and performer, Freeman released his debut EP "Perfect Fit" in February 2014. "Perfect Fit" was recorded in Big Skin HQ, Cork with members of O Emperor and completed in New York at Soundtronics Studios. He has toured extensively in the US and Canada as well as performing in many Irish venues in 2014. Patrick takes to the stage on Sunday April 19th.

Rebecca Collins (Tramore & Copenhagen) is best known as lead vocalist with quirky Danish alt.rockers The Unusual History of Ether. She has been receiving rave reviews as a live performer and we are delighted to be able to showcase this young talent at this year's festival. Rebecca performs on Sunday April 19th.

Those Sensible Shoes - Anthony Mulcahy & Rachel Stern (New York). Co-Founder of the GealachGorm Singer/Songwriter Festival Anthony Mulcahy is a New York based singer/songwriter, originally from Waterford, Ireland. Performances in New York City's prime listening rooms as well as festival slots in both the US and Ireland have opened many doors for him, He has shared the stage with the likes of Mundy and Mark Geary in many New York venues including The Irish Arts Center. He has recently formed a duo, 'Those Sensible Shoes' with Rachel Stern (New York). They have been playing the many listening rooms in New York's vibrant music scene. Their unique blend of voices and their superbly crafted songs are garnering them excellent reviews. They are currently recording an album which should be available at the end of the Summer. Those Sensible Shoes perform on Saturday April 18th.

The success of the festival is due to the continuous liaison between festival Co-Director Anthony Mulcahy (originally from the area, now living in New York and an exponent of original music) and various performers on the original music scene both at home and in the US. For the past three festivals Anthony has been able to source some of the finest talent from both home and abroad and he has once again secured internationally renowned songwriters from both Ireland and the US for the 2015 event. All previous performers which included Mundy, John Spillane, and Mark Geary loved the intimate atmosphere of the Gealach Gorm Theatre and we in Kill are immensely proud of this venue. Having this festival in a little rural village has been an outstanding success and we are delighted that more and more local people are now availing of the opportunity of experiencing the artform of original music.

All shows are at 8pm. Tickets can be prebooked at 086-8569358. A 2 day ticket costs €25. Single day ticket costs €15.

The festival would not be possible without the support of Waterford Council. We are extremely grateful for their support.