

PLAY
Summer Music Festival for all the family
from 20 July
(running until 21 August)
at The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children

now booking
www.ark.ie / 01 670 7788

This summer, The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children, is turning the spotlight onto music. If you've ever wished that you could bring young children to hear great live music, then The Ark's **PLAY** festival is for you. With five weekends of concerts for families featuring outstanding musicians, and a jam-packed programme of hands-on workshops, PLAY lets you experience all the excitement and fun of making music, even if you've never picked up an instrument before! **This special programme of concerts and workshops has been curated by Elaine Agnew and Margaret O'Sullivan, and is specifically designed to engage young audiences.**

Tickets €10 / €8 concessions (see www.ark.ie for details)

FAMILY CONCERTS will include performances from acclaimed singer songwriter **Julie Feeney**, renowned fiddle player/violinist **Zoë Conway**, the flamboyant performances of the **Tarab Ensemble**, fiddle playing trio **Fidil**, the **Argos Balkan Gypsy Band**, the outrageously entertaining **Size2shoes**, **Brian Irvine** and the **Grant/Kelly family** in concert. Adults attending the concerts must be accompanied by a child.

Alongside the wealth of concerts are **MUSIC WORKSHOPS** for ages 2 – 12, and a special workshop for parents on how to engage musically with their children. Enjoy *Rhythms of the World* with Bodhrán player and percussionist Robbie Harris, take part in Nico Brown's *Musical Mayhem*, join in *Musical Games* with Naheed Cruickshank, *Bring on the Brass* with Mary Curran, learn to *Sing A Story* with traditional vocalist Fiona Kelleher, or for parents, let Nico Brown take you through practical and fun ideas for engaging musically with your children in *Playing with your Children*. Full schedule at www.ark.ie

Adults and children can also look forward to a free foyer Summer Sound Installation. Come and play with fascinating and quirky electronic sound installations created by composer Jonathan Nangle. Discover what a tin of beans sounds like, play a drumkit without touching it or even create your own surround-sound music and lighting using iPod Touches. One not to be missed!

The Ark gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Arts Council and the support of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Temple Bar Cultural Trust, Dublin City Council, Music Network and DART.

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Keep connected with The Ark @: FACEBOOK:

<https://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/The-Ark-A-Cultural-Centre-for-Children/157044421492>

DETAILS OF CONCERTS AND WORKSHOPS

PLAY family concerts

OPENING WEEKEND: THE BIG SING

Sat 23 July, 2pm & 4pm

Open Arts Community Choir & Messengers with Julie Feeney

A celebration of the joy of singing with two very different, but equally wonderful, choral groups. Open Arts Community Choir features talented singers over the age of 16, while Messengers is made up of gifted young singers from the Irish Youth Choir. Hosted by Julie Feeney, these interactive concerts will leave you feeling uplifted and inspired. Come with your vocal chords warmed up!

Sun 24 July, 2pm & 4pm

Julie Feeney & Ensemble

The "pop genius" (*Hot Press*) behind the hit song *Impossibly Beautiful*, Julie Feeney brings her mesmerizing talent to The Ark, combining music, story and songs two specially- devised performances for children. Julie played no less than eleven *musical instruments on her debut album 13 Songs, and composed, orchestrated, sang and conducted a full orchestra on pages, her second album. Her mesmerising voice and performance style have captivated audiences all over the country in her unique sell-out shows.*

"[Julie Feeney's '3 songs' is]...surely one of the greatest debut records ever made in this country." ****
RTÉ Guide

The Big Sing is presented in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the regeneration of Temple Bar as Dublin's Cultural Quarter. www.templebar.ie

Sat 30 July, 2pm & 4pm

Zoë Conway & friends

Zoë is a dazzling solo fiddle player and violinist who has appeared as a guest soloist with world-renowned orchestras, toured with *Riverdance* and worked with Rodrigo y Gabriela, Damien Rice, Nick Cave and Lou Reed. Zoë is joined at The Ark by guitar player John McIntyre (The Revs) and dancer Siobhan Manson (*Riverdance*) to perform an exciting blend of music, from beautiful Irish folk melodies to famous classical pieces and a little bit of jazz and bluegrass thrown in. Zoë and John will also talk about their instruments, showing all the different sounds that can be produced. The audience will also be part of the performance with singing, clapping and dancing all encouraged!

"incredible... [Zoë Conway] brought the house down." *Gay Byrne, RTÉ*

Sun 31 July 2011, 2pm & 4pm

Fidil

Described as "Mind-blowing" (www.allcelticmusic.com), Fidil is a group of three outstanding young traditional fiddle players from Donegal who give high energy performances that are both intimate and exuberant. Fidil's line-up includes no less than two TG4 Young Musicians of the Year, Aidan O'Donnell and

Ciarán Ó Maonaigh, nephew of Altan's Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh, and is completed by Damien McGeehan whose unique talent enchants and wows audiences. Fídil's performances at The Ark are guaranteed to have lots of stories about the music, and maybe even the odd dance. This is a gig for the whole family to enjoy. .

"a milestone in traditional music" *The Irish Times*

Sat 6 August, 2pm & 4pm

Fiona Kelleher & friends:

Concerts for children aged 2 - 6

Fiona Kelleher is one of Ireland's finest singer-songwriters, receiving considerable acclaim for her debut solo album "My Love Lies" in 2009. In addition to her vast experience as a performer, Fiona also works in early years arts practice. Join her for this very special interactive concert, which gives very young children under the age of six a rare opportunity to get up close to musicians and play a key part in a performance packed with improvised storytelling, song, and a little bit of musical magic.

Sun 7 August, 2pm & 4pm

Grant/Kelly Family in Concert

RTÉ Lyric fm presenter Evelyn Grant met her husband Gerard Kelly (Cork Pops Orchestra) when they were teenagers on the very first day the Irish Youth Orchestra began. She played the flute and he played the cello. They married and lived happy... well, they lived in a very noisy house with their four children who played all kinds of instruments – lots of banging, plucking, scraping and blowing! They are looking forward to coming together from Cork, New York, Dublin and London to perform some of their favourite music in The Ark – and getting the audience involved too. London-based Jean Kelly, who has played on *The Lord of the Rings* soundtrack will also perform via video link. Family rehearsals can be tricky, though – too much laughter!

Sat 13 August, 2pm & 4pm

Tarab Ensemble

Tarab Ensemble's flamboyant performances feature music from right across Europe, mixing up and whirling around everything from Irish trad tunes, Moorish dance music and jazz piano to baroque harpsichord and classical. Their concerts at The Ark will transport families to far away places, as they introduce exotic instruments like the furulya (flute), daval (drum) and Sicilian frame drums, to the more recognisable saxophone, cello, accordion, flute and bodhrán. Tarab will also help everyone in the audience to join in by clapping rhythms, singing along and even getting to their feet for Irish, Italian and Balkan folk dancing.

"Some of the most enchanting music I've heard this year." *The Irish Times*

Sun 14 August, 2pm & 4pm

Brian Irvine's Melonhead

Brian Irvine's music is a wild untamed concoction of all things, and has involved commissions and collaborations with many international artists ranging from opera companies and orchestras to filmmakers, choreographers and DJs. Part jazz, punk, classical, trash, country, theatre, and circus, Brian and his Melonhead musicians swoop furiously together. Expect full audience participation and lots of laughter: everyone will be given an instrument to play – no experience necessary!

"some of the most exhilarating and imaginative music you'll ever hope to hear... exuberant, spontaneous and irresistibly alive." *The Washington Post*

Sat 20 August, 2pm & 4pm

Size2shoes: Silly Stocking Stories & Songs

Described by violin super-star Nigel Kennedy as “the best singer songwriters in Ireland”, Size2Shoes are Limerick brothers Eoin and Moley Ó Súilleabháin (sons of Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin). Silly Stocking Stories will be an entertaining and interactive concert mixing up dreamy Californian style harmonies, human beatboxing and audience participation, served with a big fresh dollop of humour. Having recently recorded on the soundtrack and performed on the set of Stephen Spielberg’s new film *War Horse*, *War Horse*’s star Russell Crowe is a big fan: “from the inspired mastery of their harmonies, to the streetwise intellect of their humours. Unique, unaffected, awesome”. Size2shoes are great for kids (of any age)... and adults!

“Size2Shoes fits all” *Stephen Spielberg*

“puts you in mind of Simon & Garfunkel or Steely Dan unplugged” *Sunday Independent*

Sun 21 August, 2pm & 4pm

Argos Balkan Gypsy Band

Argos is an ensemble of multi-instrumentalists from Lille playing gypsy jazz and dance music from all over Europe. Over two millennia, the music associated with the nomadic Roma or Gypsies has migrated along with its people, taking on the local musical flavours of many host countries. In this concert, we hear the French gypsy music made famous by Django Reinhardt, the raucous dance music played for weddings and funerals in Bulgaria, and many other hypnotic melodies and rhythms from the Balkan countries. Featuring jazz singer Sarah Catteau, her brother Oliver (accordion), Dylan Gully (clarinet) and JB Gurrier (double bass), Argos Balkan Gypsy Band’s infectiously energetic music is the perfect way to round off the summer holidays!

PLAY Workshops

Workshops for 4-12 year olds last 1 hour

Workshop for 2-3 year olds last 45 minutes

Adults accompanying children aged 6 and under are requested to be present for the duration of the workshop.

Rhythms of the World

For 7-9 year olds & 10-12 year olds

Wednesdays 20 July, 27 July & 17 August

7-9 year olds: 11am

10-12 year olds: 1:30pm & 3pm

Bodhrán player and percussionist Robbie Harris has performed with *Riverdance* on Broadway and has appeared on stage with musicians including Bob Geldof, Brian Kennedy and Clannad. His hands-on drumming workshop will introduce children to rhythms from all over the world, from Ireland to Africa, Latin America and Asia. Percussion instruments will be provided for all participants – earplugs optional!

Nico’s musical mayhem

For 2-3 year olds, 4-6 year olds and 7-9 year olds

Thursday 21 July

4-6 year olds: 11am & 1:30pm

7-9 year olds: 3pm

Fridays 22 July & 5 August

2-3 year olds: 10am & 1:30pm

4-6 year olds: 11.30am

Multi-instrumentalist Nico Brown was musician-in-residence at The Ark from 1995-2000 and is one of the country's leading specialists in music for young children and families. With his brilliant array of exciting and unconventional instruments, Nico's fun-packed sessions will give everyone a chance to participate in his fabulous songs, games and stories.

Music in the Glen

For 4-6 year olds & 7-9 year olds

Thursdays 28 July & 4 August

4-6 year olds: 11am & 1:30pm

7-9 year olds: 3pm

Music in the Glen was set up by violinist Diane Daly and accordion player Boris Hunka to bring a fresh take on quality music performance and education in Ireland. Join them for a musical storytelling adventure in this fun-filled interactive session, where you can meet the mighty bear with the electric trumpet or even become a member of the Instant Kazoo Orchestra. Expect lots of song, imagination, stories and laughter!

Musical games

For 2-3 year olds & 4-6 year olds

Friday 29 July

2-3 year olds: 10am & 1.30pm

4-6 year olds: 11:30pm

Naheed Cruickshank is an early years music specialist and has worked for the London Sinfonietta and Royal Scottish National Orchestra education departments. Her creative workshops introduce children to pitch, rhythm and pulse, through the use of songs, thymes, action games, percussion instruments, movement to music and some very special puppet friends!

Bring on the brass

Wednesdays 3 & 10 August

7-9 year olds: 11am

10-12 year olds: 1.30pm & 3pm

Mary Curran plays French horn with the WhistleBlast Quartet and regularly presents workshops and concerts in schools. Her action-packed sessions will introduce children to brass playing, rhythm, percussion and singing. There'll be an opportunity to play the various instruments involved, and a healthy dose of fun thrown in for good measure!

Sing a story

For 2-3 year olds, 4-6 year olds & 7-9 year olds

Thursdays 11 & 18 August

4-6 year olds: 11am

7-9 year olds: 1.30pm & 3pm

Fridays 12 & 19 August

2-3 year olds: 10am & 1:30pm

4-6 year olds: 11:30pm

Fiona Kelleher is one of Ireland's finest traditional vocalists, receiving considerable acclaim for her debut solo album *My Love Lies* in 2009. Her workshops will encourage even the youngest children to explore how they can use their voices and their imaginations to tell improvised stories with magical twists and unexpected endings!

**Workshop for parents:
Music with your Children**

Saturday 6 August, 10.30am-12.30pm

Nico Brown guides parents through practical and fun ideas for engaging musically with young children. This enjoyable musical workout includes games, instruments, song, movement and story, as well as opportunities to discuss ideas and ask questions. Open to parents and adult family members.

Make some Noise!

Free foyer Summer Sound Installations

Come and play with fascinating and quirky electronic sound installations created and curated by composer Jonathan Nangle. Create your own surround-sound music and lighting using iPod Touches, play a real drumkit without touching it, discover what a can of baked beans sounds like, and meet some double pendulums. Children and grown-ups will be equally addicted!

Entry free

(Touch Music and Triple/Double Pendulums originally commissioned by Contemporary Music Centre. Barcodas designed by Leo van der Veen.)

PLAY

Summer Music Festival for all the family

Schedule 20 July – 21 August 2011

Family concerts

Sat 23 July, 2pm & 4pm	Open Arts Community Choir & Messengers with Julie Feeney	ages 3+ ages 3+
Sun 24 July, 2pm & 4pm	Julie Feeney & musicians	ages 3+
Sat 30 July, 2pm & 4pm	Zoë Conway & friends	ages 3+
Sun 31 July, 2pm & 4pm	Fidil	ages 3+
Sat 6 August, 2pm & 4pm	Fiona Kelleher & friends: concerts for ages 0 - 6	ages 0-6
Sun 7 August, 2pm & 4pm	Grant/Kelly Family in Concert	ages 3+
Sat 13 August, 2pm & 4pm	Tarab Ensemble	ages 3+
Sun 14 August, 2pm & 4pm	Brian Irvine's Melonhead	ages 3+
Sat 20 August, 2pm & 4pm	Size2Shoes: Silly Stocking Stories & Songs	ages 3+
Sun 21 August, 2pm & 4pm	Argos Balkan Gypsy Band	ages 3+

Workshops

Wed 20 July, 11am, 1.30pm, 3pm	Rhythms of the World	ages 7-12
Thu 21 July, 11am, 1.30pm, 3pm	Nico's musical mayhem	ages 2-9

Fri 22 July, 10am, 11.30pm, 1.30pm	Nico's musical mayhem	ages 2-9
Wed 27 July, 11am, 1.30pm, 3pm	Rhythms of the World	ages 7-12
Thu 28 July, 11am, 1.30pm, 3pm	Music in the Glenn	ages 4-9
Fri 29 July, 10am, 11.30am, 1pm	Musical games	ages 2-6
Wed 3 August, 11am, 1.30pm, 3pm	Bring on the brass	ages 7-12
Thu 4 August, 11am, 1.30pm, 3pm	Diane Daly & Boris Hunka	ages 4-9
Fri 5 August, 10am, 1.30pm, 3pm	Nico's musical mayhem	ages 2-9
Sat 6 August, 10.30am-12.30pm adults	Playing with your Children	Parents &
Wed 10 August, 11am, 1.30pm, 3pm	Bring on the brass	ages 7-12
Thu 11 August, 11am, 1.30pm, 3pm	Sing a story	ages 4-9
Fri 12 Aug, 10am, 11.30am, 1.30pm	Sing a story	ages 2-6
Wed 17 August, 11am, 1.30pm, 3pm	Rhythms of the World	ages 7-12
Thu 18 August, 11am, 1.30pm, 3pm	Sing a story	ages 4-9
Fri 19 Aug, 10am, 11.30am, 1.30pm	Sing a story	ages 2-6