

## **Press Release**

### **Youth Choral Projects launched across the County by Creative Ireland Kerry at Kerry County Council**

**10<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

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Creative Ireland Kerry is co-ordinated by Kerry County Council's Arts Office. The 2017 Creative Ireland Kerry Action Plan is informed by the public meeting on Creative Ireland Kerry of March 14<sup>th</sup> where there was unanimous consensus to focus on youth arts and creative engagement for young people. Creative Ireland Kerry in collaboration with Kerry Music Education Partnership is now rolling out one of the first Creative Ireland Kerry initiatives- access for young people ages 6-18yrs to choir and youth choral music. The need for increased access to Youth Choral Projects was identified through research carried out by Kerry Music Education Partnership (KMEP). Supported by Creative Ireland Kerry and the Arts Council, 2017 sees the development of youth choral projects guided by professional artists in the four Municipal towns of Cahirciveen, Killarney, Tralee and Listowel. Choral workshops for young people will commence in July and run for a number of months to December this year.

In South Kerry, world class baritone Gavan Ring is extending his choral work beyond Cahirciveen and welcoming 6-18 year olds from across the Iveragh Peninsula. "Youth Choral is an ideal catalyst for community-creative potential & South Kerry is famed for its musical tradition. I want to channel that natural energy into something really special", Gavan stated. Anyone wanting to get involved should contact Gavan at: Gavan Ring Tel: 0851477164 or email [iveraghmusic@gmail.com](mailto:iveraghmusic@gmail.com)

Gemma Sugrue is a professional vocalist and vocal coach and the conductor with the *Sing Out Loud* initiative, staged this year in the INEC. She will be developing a choral group that will meet weekly in Killarney. "The aim is that our young people will grow in confidence as singers, musicians and performers through the process", Gemma stated. Killarney: Gemma Sugrue; Sessions take place every Wednesday at Holy Cross Mercy Killarney Tel: 0864137930 or email [gemmasugrue@gmail.com](mailto:gemmasugrue@gmail.com)

In Tralee Aidan O'Carroll, Director at the Kerry School of Music has organised a taster session at the school on High Street on Culture Night September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6.00pm. He is calling for young people who have never set foot in the school to come on down and give it a go. 'We want young people of all ages to give singing a go, boys and girls. Singing is a great mood lifter and the louder the better!' stated Aidan. Tralee: Aidan O'Carroll 0874103220 or email [aidanocarroll6850@gmail.com](mailto:aidanocarroll6850@gmail.com)

Music examiner, teacher, conductor and performer Anna Connolly will lead a North Kerry group in Listowel. Anna has worked with the Cor Na nÓg Choir for RTE and is a Local Centre Examiner for the Royal Irish Academy of Music. The listowel group will be further supported by Joe Murphy, Director at St. John's Theatre and Arts Centre who has offered a performance environment

for the choral project. Anyone from the North Kerry area interested in getting involved can contact Anna Connelly directly at [annaconnolly\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:annaconnolly_2000@yahoo.com) or Call 087 2071412

‘These projects are offered for free and young people across Kerry are encouraged to participate,’ stated Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council, Cllr. John Sheahan. ‘We are delighted to see Creative Ireland Kerry reaching into communities’.

‘The project is informed by research undertaken by Kerry Music Education Partnership, reaffirmed by direct feedback at our first Creative Ireland public meeting in March’ stated Moira Murrell, CE Kerry County Council, ‘Being in a position to extend the reach and experience of creativity further into communities is core to Creative Ireland’s vision’.

The development of the Creative Ireland Kerry is a cornerstone of Pillar 2 of the Creative Ireland Programme – *Enabling Creativity in Every County*. The programme will provide enhanced opportunities for artists and communities to engage and participate in a range of arts practices and events over the coming weeks and months. ‘We are excited to bring four high calibre professionals together to lead our youth choral projects. Creative Ireland Kerry offers unprecedented access to the arts for our young people.’, stated Kate Kennelly, Arts Officer; Creative Ireland Coordinator, “We look forward to sharing more about our youth choral projects in the weeks ahead”. The programme is funded by Creative Ireland Kerry and the Arts Council, supported by Kerry Music Education Partnership.

## **ENDS**

**Pictures:** Available from Arts Office on 066 7183536 or by email to [arts@kerrycoco.ie](mailto:arts@kerrycoco.ie)

### **Media Queries:**

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**Note to Editors:**

**Creative Ireland** is an all of Government five-year initiative, from 2017 to 2022, which places creativity at the centre of public policy. It is built around five pillars: *Enabling the Creative Potential of Every Child; Enabling Creativity in Every Community; Investing in our Creative and Cultural Infrastructure; Ireland as a Centre of Excellence in Media Production; Unifying our Global Reputation.* Each of the 31 Local Authority Culture and Creativity Plans are available to download at [creativeireland.ie](https://creativeireland.ie)