RORY GALLAGHER MUSIC LIBRARY

1978 - 2018

40 YEARS

Rory Gallagher

40 Years of Music & Memories
Exhibition | The City Library | October 2018
In the beginning...

Cork's Magnificent New Library

40 Years of Music & Memories

In 1978, the Cork Arts Council was established to promote the arts and culture in Cork City and County. The Arts Council is a statutory body that supports and promotes the arts in Cork through various grants, residencies, and cultural initiatives.

Music tradition in Cork has a long history, dating back to the sixteenth century. Cork has been home to many famous musicians, including Elizabeth Wallis, who is known as the Cork Mother of Music. The city has a vibrant music scene, with a variety of music genres and styles being performed in different venues throughout the year.

The Arts Council in Cork has played a significant role in supporting and promoting the arts in the city. They have provided funding for various music projects, including the Cork City Orchestra and the Cork Symphony Orchestra. The Arts Council has also supported local musicians and artists, providing them with the opportunity to perform and showcase their talents.

Over the years, the Arts Council has collaborated with various organizations and institutions to promote the arts in Cork. They have organized events such as the Cork International Comedy Festival, the Cork International Film Festival, and the Cork Midsummer Festival. These events have helped to attract visitors and tourists to Cork, boosting the local economy.

In conclusion, the Arts Council in Cork has been instrumental in promoting the arts and culture in the city. Their support and funding have helped to sustain many local musicians and artists, and have encouraged the growth of the music scene in Cork. The Arts Council is a vital part of the Cork community, and their contributions to the city's cultural landscape cannot be overstated.

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Graumophone Circles

Graumophone Circles have contributed considerably to the musical life of Cork city since the 1950s. Music lovers meet regularly to share their favourite music with each other. Tadhg O’Driscoll (RIP) held the first Graumophone Circle in September 1978 in the School of Commerce as part of the Adult Education Exhibition, and he went on to present many recitals in the music library over the years.

Jerry O’Callaghan was a great friend and benefactor of the music library since it opened. At 4:45pm on a Friday evening Jerry would check in to see if we needed anything from his vast store of wisdom and recordings. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of music and an enquiring mind. He wanted to share his love of music with all. He promoted neglected Cork singers, set up graumophone circles, and believed in the power of music to transform people’s lives. He was an avid collector, a travelled and courteous man and he always tried to perfect transcribers’ work to enhance the true power of the human voice.

The first Country Circle, featuring mainly American Country Music in its varied forms, took place on Friday May 3rd 2013 and was initiated by Maureen Murphy who mentioned to Kitty Buckley that she should feature country music as it was so popular. And so Maureen presented the first recital called “Her Favourite Country Music.”

Contrary to popular belief, the world of country music consists of a myriad of styles and sounds and most are covered at some point during these monthly presentations.

One of the best titles used throughout the series was no doubt the one used by Pat Horgan, “Jerry Lee Lewis owes me a Fiver.”

In its 6th year the circle has grown in popularity and is now a fixture at the Rory Gallagher Library. Over the years it has been presented by some well-known music aficionados including Roger Ryan, Buckie Gerry and many, many more.

Happy 40th Birthday to the Rory Gallagher Music Library from the Country Music Circle.

Compiled by Peter Harrington & Roger Ryan

In 1980, the music library was relocated to its current position at the back of Grand Parade Library and officially opened on 17 December that year. Membership was £100. 3,600 records and 16,500 tapes were issued that year, with 1,253 registered members.

When the music library was first established, vinyl and the cassette tape were king. Kitty saw her first CD at a futures exhibition in England in 1982 and so was ready to begin the collection when CDs became commercially available. Cork City Music Library was the first in Ireland to begin a CD collection.

MP3s and USB sticks were not even on the horizon at that point. The first CD was added to stock on 30 October 1986, with 1,655 being issued by the end of 1987.

I have been a lover of music from a very young age and 30 years ago joined a graumophone circle. Around the same time I joined the Music Library in Grand Parade and am still a member. I have visited music departments in libraries in Britain, but they are very limited in choice compared to the Rory Gallagher Music Library, whose vast collection caters for lovers of all choices of music. I am privileged to have presented my choice of music here on many occasions, long may it continue to provide for all music lovers.

Eddie Horgan

I suppose the main thing that sticks out in my mind was Saturday afternoons when the queue of customers waiting to return and borrow items was constantly snaking out into Lending. Despite this we worked away very happily but the amount of returned CDs and cassette tapes was so large that we didn’t usually get them back in the correct place until well into Tuesday afternoon. Exhausting but very rewarding and great fun. My musical education was greatly expanded and I learned to appreciate many types of music that I didn’t before my years in the Music Library. Great times!

Deirdre O’Callaghan

40 Years of Music & Memories
A City of Music

I worked with Cork for a few years, and as I was mainly on music, my late father (who was a frequent visitor to the Music library at the time) I knew very well.

My time holds the best memories of UCf music students and I lecturers coming to source well-known and obscure pieces for their studies, or taking from the Grand Pianos borrowing on the double for his meetings at Dicoll House calling twice a week at the height of his writing career, of the pleasure from selected music, a occasional of finding something new or re-discovering to their old favourites, and of the excitement of borrowers when their reserved pieces came in. And of course, my own excitement at taking delivery of new stock, the smell of the new stock, and the appeal of CDs. I vividly recall a visit from Dorney to Tottlebrink, to Mary Black to L2, to the Houseman's, Parsnips, Glanf and Ten-hance - with George Michael and Michael Jackson throwing their good measure assisting the care of some other stringing classical music. We had to ensure visits came in time much for the chord as for the music, but I felt so proud at that young age to see some tracks produce a variety of treasures from the magic that is a sailor, Amanda Lloyd Webber's monstrosities performed in tandem to British and Irish harmonies, and Landed in Mistakes until I knew every word - often to the annoyance of Kitty who gently reminded me that all genres should get an airing.

This was the most special time at work for me - I was young and happy going into work, because it didn't feel like work at all. My Dad used to collect us in the bus, and rather than sit in the bus all the time, for to hear what was going on that day and see what new stock had arrived - although I wouldn't have been to my head to Pat Egan or Germaine O'Sullivan to buy and add to his collection which we are now lucky to have and with which we have had for all the best reasons.

I just loved that job, will always be grateful for my time there, and credit it and my upbringing with making my love of music sustain me through my life.

Undale O'Sulliva

The first Jazz Festival began on Friday 21 October 1978, and has been held every year since. The festival is Ireland’s biggest jazz event and attracts hundreds of musicians and thousands of music fans to the city each year.

Over the years, some world renowned jazz musicians have performed in the Music Library, including classical guitarist John Williams.

Founded in 1954 to be a dynamic force in developing celtic music in Ireland, the Cork International Choral Festival is held annually over five days, preceding the first Monday in May at venues across the city. It is one of Europe’s premier international choral festivals.

Since its birth in 1979 Cork Folk Festival has earned a reputation for bringing together some of the biggest names on the traditional and folk scene. De Dannann, Seamus Creagh, Jack J Daly and others have performed in the Music Library over the years.

At the risk of sounding a bit like Mary Hopkin, those were the days! Those were indeed the days or, rather, the evenings when boredom brought home of the library staff out to play...

The Music Library was still in its infancy back then, part of the Eighties, nestled in the corner of the Lending Department that is now the non-fiction area where the public computer room meets the emergency exit. The computer room (old Thomas Davis Room) was a newspaper reading room at that time. It wasn’t the computer room then because we just didn’t have computers. Those kind of things were on Starr Trek.

The Music Library was yet to be named for Roy Gallagher was stocked with LPs and cassette tapes - CDs hadn’t been dreamed of. There was a book illustrated together on the desk, with which staff had to scan every returned LP for scratches, and mark same on a little card. The other great joy was unrolling the boxed cassette tapes with aids.

But my happiest memories of the Music Library from that time were the quiet evenings when I worked in Lending. Late opening was in vogue, probably had been since the library first opened its doors decades before. The public could wander in until eight clock and avail of the facilities. The public, however, never seemed in much of a mind to actually wander in, not too many of them anyway. More often than not, there was more staff on the premises than patrons. This inevitably led to a degree of boredom for staff between six and closing time, after all there were no movies and the shelves you can’t beat before losing your mind completely. But the Music Library — still novel, eventful — was a low level temptation.

Boredom was alleviated by taking a quick trot from the Lending Desk — then the other side of the public computer room — to Music to play something that you were into. For me that was Monty Python (everything, all great). Bob Newhart’s how I cut out Introducing Tobacco to Civilization or, really, anything by Newhart. Not many others seemed to share this particular brand of humour for some strange reason, except for Elaine and, one or two more. Elaine also shared my passion for punk, and we’d play whatever we could and on our hands in the (then) limited punk collection. Falling that, you could always manage in your own staff...

So you’d throw up the LP on the desk, lift the volume and, with just a flick of your finger between Music and Lending, well, pretty soon any little old lady wandering through the Annie Smiths were unconscious foot-tapping away to Joe Strummer bellowing about Britpop riots or being so bored with the ISA. I never got caught or even reprimanded over this. Elaine didn’t either, to the best of my knowledge.

Years later, a decision was made to open lunchtimes. This involved no special training of any sort whatsoever — it was simply sticking bodies from desks. Soon enough, I was called upon for lunchtime in Music. There was my own blanking away until a kindly old couple approached the desk with a classical LP, requesting headphones and I would play the figure for them. The figure: Like what? No, nothing on the LP I was, monitoring a Super 8. No internet to check what a figure might be. I guessed it was some kind of intro put on the first piece. Turned out, it wasn’t that and the kindly old lady approached the desk to inform me. So I kept putting the needle between the little gaps on the LP and the kindly old lady kept returning with the same failed message. In the end, I must have played the whole LP. I never saw if I finally put it, or if she just gave up in total despair. Thirty-years later, I still don’t know what a figure is.

Gerry Compass

40 Years of Music & Memories
The Fließmann Archive and Typesetting Project

The Cork City Library and Music Library played a pivotal role during the year of the Aloys Fleischmann centenary celebrations in 2010. Indeed the very idea came at the Seamus Murphy exhibition opened by Dr Majella Quill in the Mayfield Library in 2007.

We were astonished at the range of events devised and organised by the Music Library; they went from a performance of Aloys Fleischmann Sinfonia’s 1905 novelty play The Night of Wonders, to the launch of the Library’s centenary book The Fleischmann, to the exhibition Aloys Fleischmann Family and Friends, then a reception for the Lord Mayor of Cork with a performance by the visiting Dachaui Liederelaf Choir, and three lecture-recitals on Fleischmann music and a carillon performance.

Perhaps the most significant outcome was the setting up of a Fleischmann website to host the composer’s works. The aim of making the Fleischmann musical legacy widely available came from the director of Cork City Libraries, Liam Rorwayne and the director of the Music Library, Kitty Buckley. Kitty initiated a digitisation project, in cooperation with Aidan O’Carroll of Tracte and the Fleischmann family, inviting musicians familiar with the relevant software to consider offering their services to typeset the works. The success has been extraordinary. Kitty herself personally scanned every single one of Fleischmann’s manuscript scores and placed them on the website before he retirement from the Music Library. 30 musicians have volunteered their services; the entire oeuvre is now available, with all the scores newly typeset and the digital files downloadble free of charge. Aloys Fleischmann may well be the only 19th composer of the 20th century whose complete works have been published in this manner.

The family is deeply grateful to the Library for its continuing work to preserve the Fleischmann legacy; we have the fondest and most entertaining memories of our association with the staff past and present.

Aloys Fleischmann

Cork Archive

Cork Music Archive

Cork Music Archive was established in 2002 to give a permanent home to the wealth of music produced by Cork people. The collections held in the archive cover all forms of music – classical, choral, traditional and contemporary. The archive currently has 2,658 items, including around 2,000 sound recordings, the remainder books and scores.

The Rita Lynch Archive

The Rita Lynch Archive is a family archive detailing the life of the Macroom soprano. It consists of programmes, press clippings, correspondence, photographs and business contacts.

Rita Lynch in Chicago, March 1949

The Joan Denise Moriarty Collection

The Cork City Library and Music Library played a pivotal role in the preservation of the Joan Denise Moriarty legacy, her papers were donated to the Library in 2009 by her executors.

174 archive boxes reside there packed with the evidence of a lifetime’s work to enhance the artistic life of the city and bring ballet to as many people as possible there and beyond.

Without the interest of Cork City Library – in the person of Liam Rorwayne – there would have been no suitable home for this fascinating archive, the largest of its kind in Ireland, which might have been dispersed, or completely forgotten. In time to come it is hoped to digitise much of this, and make it available to a wide audience.

Along with providing a safe repository for her material legacy the CCL has also created a website to perpetuate her memory. This vast amount of source material will clearly depict the development of ballet in Ireland over 50 years.

The Music Library is indeed a treasure trove – the Moriarty Archive is just one of its many resources.

Cork International Choral Festival Online Archive

Launched in May 2014, the Cork International Choral Festival online archive was created by Cork City Libraries following the digitization of unique material on the Festival. The material includes the programmes of the Festival since its inception in 1954, and the brochures and commissioned scores since the seminar on contemporary choral music began and up to the present day.

40 Years of Music & Memories
Remembering Rory

What’s Going On?

On October 28 2004, the music library was dedicated to Rory Gallagher and renamed the Rory Gallagher Music Library.

From his time with Taste in the late 1960s until his untimely death in 1995, Rory Gallagher forged and maintained a reputation as one of the world’s great bluesmen. His influence as a musician was widely acknowledged ever since Taste’s legendary Isle of Wight performance in 1970, leading Rory to be recognised as one of the world’s greatest guitarists. His integrity and his loyalty to the blues and to the music business, as well as his sense of a selfless and unselfish nature, earned him the love of fans all over the world. He has given us a legacy of wonderful recordings, and for those lucky enough to have heard him live, a wealth of wonderful memories.

I was working in the music library only a short while when a girl asked me for two-pack CDs. Assuming there was a double CD, I asked her what type of music? She answered Rory two-pack CDs. I started to say we had classical, folk, Irish, but noticing the look of incredulity on her face, I knew I was on the wrong track. Then, I knew that my young male colleague had moved away from the desk in tears of laughter. I excused myself and walked towards him. They composed themselves just enough to tell me she was looking for Tupac Shakur.

Mary Flood

I joined the staff of Cork City Libraries in the summer of 2003, based a fair bit early on in the Music Department as well as many more times since. A great resource for everyone, where common interests are shared and new ones discovered. The interaction between staff and members of the Music Library has broadened the horizons of each and led to increased friendships.

As the Music Library this year celebrates its 40th anniversary I recall the occasion of the 30th as well as the dedication leading to it becoming the Rory Gallagher Music Library in 2004. There have been many events and exhibitions over the years, bringing alive the contributions of those involved in music, both past and present.

Dave Burke

Going to my home town

The Music Library in Rory’s home town caters for a wide variety of musical interests, classical, traditional, jazz & Blues, rock, Latin, African, Rory’s tastes know no bounds, although his love of the blues was central to his life and art. Rory’s interest in literature, for instance, the writers such as Dashiell Hammett, is well known, and the Rory Gallagher Music Library is a happy neighbour to these literary works.

The Gallagher family kindly presented one of Rory’s guitars and there is also a permanent display of material relating to Rory’s musical interests.

Dave Burke

Of the nearly ten years I spent with Cork City Libraries, the time spent in the Rory Gallagher Music Library was the most precious to me. As a musician myself, it was great to be immersed in all things musical during the course of my working day. I loved the type of patrons that frequent the music library and it took great pleasure in advising them on different artists and styles of music that they might enjoy. Conversely, I learned a lot about music from talking to the customers and found myself listening to genres of music I never imagined would hit my eardrums...

The Rory Gallagher Music Library represents everything a library can be, in my opinion — a place of learning, entertainment, enjoyment and a real cultural hub within the central library itself. It’s a safe space open to all and no matter what your musical tastes may be, there’s something there for you.

Ike O’Sullivan

Below: Millennium Grant Parade, Cork, 2013

40 Years of Music & Memories

Cork City Libraries celebrate 40 years of the Music Library!"
Looking to the Future

Whether we like it or not we are living in an increasingly digital world, yet seeing increased sales of vinyl. What does this seemingly contradictory picture mean for the Rory Gallagher Music Library? What is the future, for music creation, record production, music libraries, and the consumption of music product? Is it best summed up in that phrase from the Hollywood mogul William Goldman: “no one knows anything”? One thing is for sure, not for a moment can the Rory Gallagher Music Library sit on its laurels. We have completed 40 years of service to the music-loving people of Cork. Our future, like the future of public libraries generally, depends on trying to figure out what is around the corner, and being clear on what has to be done so that we can stick to our core principles.

It is impossible to be absolutely certain what form the Rory Gallagher Music Library will take when we celebrate 50 years or 60 years, because of the changing nature of recorded music and how the public access to it. Flexibility will thus be key for this section of the Library.

What can be said is that space will always be required for:
- continually growing music collections in all genres and in all relevant formats: CDs, Vinyl, DVDs, scores, books,
- the informational and reference role of the Rory Gallagher Music Library for all aspects of musical culture in the city, and its support for the music curriculum.

We will need space for classes in music appreciation and instrument tuition, and rehearsal, and a regular calendar of live music performances and gramophone recitals.

We will need space for enhanced permanent display of music heritage items, e.g. Rory Gallagher, Aloys Fleischmann, Cork Choral Festival, and material relating to Cork musicians, composers, bands. Cork needs a larger, fit-for-purpose City Library, and the Rory Gallagher Music Library will be at the heart of that longed-for building.

Liam Ryan

As two of the longest-serving music staff members, we have many fond memories of our years working here with other staff and our very special music library borrowers. We have seen many changes over the years, going from vinyl and tapes to CDs and DVDs, as well as the introduction of computerisation and self-service.

Working in the music library is like being part of a very special club with enthusiastic music lovers of every genre and we built up a great rapport with our borrowers over the years.

We worked great together and enjoyed many wonderful exhibitions and events over the years. Long live the Music Library!

Eilis MacGuill and Paddy Mckenna

For us the RGML was always a special place and appreciated by people with a love for all genre of music. Not only a place to borrow but also a place to listen to music, attend gramophone recitals and live performances. Many an impromptu sing song took place among us. I remember one in particular, a lady asked for the words of ‘One More’ from the ‘The Desert Song’, on bringing the request one of our regular users quickly said "I’ll sing it for you if you'll stand in the middle of the room cleared his throat and sang. I have heard all that you have been saying – other people joined in and sang the complete song.

Mary Fitzmaurice

The RGML currently has 30,763 CDs, 3,106 DVDs and 11,159 books for lending

Right: 20104M award won by the Rory Gallagher Music Library