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LIMERICK JAZZ FESTIVAL

23 – 27 SEPTEMBER 2026
FIVE DAYS OF OUTSTANDING JAZZ

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STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS



Welcome to the 2026 Limerick Jazz Festival; another celebration of the richness and depth of the current jazz scene, both here at home; and further afield. This year's festival starts on the 100th anniversary of the birth of John Coltrane, a towering giant of jazz, whose work continues to reverberate across the generations. In celebration of Coltrane, we are privileged to start the festival with a unique performance of Coltrane's A Love Supreme Suite. This music was released in 1965, and to

this day is lionised as a profound statement of not only Coltrane's compositional and improvisational talents in the context of an incredible band; but a deeply personal statement of Coltrane's spiritual transformation over the previous years. This is a once in a lifetime chance to experience this seminal piece of music performed live, by a great quartet featuring Michael Buckley on tenor and Ronan Guilfoyle on bass.

Following this auspicious start to the festival we have 4 more days of great live music. Headlining the first of our double bills on Thursday 24th September in Dolans, is a quartet led by the great Swiss drummer Florian Arbenz. Joined by US saxophone legend Greg Osby; the amazing Portuguese accordionist João Barradas and French bass-legend François Moutin, Arbenz's new quartet brings together fellow musicians whose rhythmic concept, harmonic vision and open-minded playing take the listener on a journey which ranges from hard-swinging solos and free improvisations to dreamy soundscapes. Opening for them is guitarist Matthew O'Connell, a finalist in the Limerick Jazz Society's 2022 Young Irish Jazz Musician of the Year Competition, makes a welcome return to the Treaty City with piano player Tom Maxwell as part of a double bill.

Friday night kicks off at the Belltable Theatre, where the Tom Ollendorff Trio will be joined by alto sax man Will Vinson. Ollendorff is establishing himself as one of the top contemporary jazz guitarists, and this gig with the great Will Vinson promises to be a highlight of the Festival. Meanwhile that night, Dolan's hosts festival regular John Donegan and his quintet. John's music and playing is carving out its own space in the festival, as he returns to perform with Irish players including Richie Buckley (sax) and

our own John Daly (drums) both of whom featured on Donegan's 2024 album *We Will Meet Again Sometime*. This gig marks the Irish launch of John's new album *Interfuse*. Opening for the quintet, with their first appearance at the festival is *ReRoute*. Kildare based musicians Rusfina Tishina (vocals) and Emily O'Rourke (guitar) bringing their intimate, lyrical song writing and playing which draws on a rich seam of musical styles and influences.

The penultimate day of the festival kicks off around lunchtime, with free gigs around the City Centre featuring players drawn from Limerick's jazz scene and the Society's Jazz Workshops; a great chance to hear jazz in against the backdrop of the city's hustle. That evening, the deep trio of saxophonist Robin Fincker, pianist Elliot Galvin and vocalist Lauren Kinsella don the collective cowl of *Shadowlands*, through the blending of traditional Irish song with contemporary improvisation and original compositions shaped by folk and European jazz; bring their 2026 album *Two Minds* to the festival.

The final day of the festival features another great double bill in our now traditional Sunday afternoon closer. We kick off with Tommy Halferty's *Whirlpool*, a quartet formed to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Miles Davis, whose sacking of Coltrane because of his drug problems in 1957 was instrumental in setting him on the path that would lead to *A Love Supreme*. This group performs Davis' 1969 album *In A Silent Way*, another landmark recording which marked the start of Davis' electric period and was foundational for the emerging fusion scene. Again, a rare chance to hear this album performed in the moment.

We close off the festival with UK based vocalist Zoe Gilby and her band. Zoe, winner of the 2019 Parliamentary Jazz Vocalist of the Year award; is a storied artist - a singer and composer who covers the gamut of great songs from Pink Floyd and Kate Bush to jazz standards. Her album *Aurora* was a bravura performance of songs inspired by the great American trumpeter Tom Harrell; and we know that Zoe will bring a great show to close out the festival.

Now a fixture in Limerick's culture calendar, we are looking forward to welcoming these great musicians to the City and look forward to seeing!

John Daly, Director

Limerick Jazz Festival



WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

A Love Supreme — A Unique Performance of John Coltrane's Iconic Suite

Michael Buckley, Leopoldo Osio, Ronan Guilfoyle & Darren Beckett

Upstairs at Dolans Doors | 8pm | Performance 8.30pm

Admission €20

THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

Arbenz X Osby / Barradas / Moutin – Conversation_LAB

Support: **Matthew O'Connell & Tom Maxwell Duo**

Upstairs at Dolans Doors 8pm | Double bill from 8.30pm Admission €20

FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

Tom Ollendorff Trio with special guest Will Vinson

Belltable Theatre | Doors 7:30pm | Performance 8.00pm Admission €27.50

John Donegan Quintet, support ReRoute

Upstairs at Dolans Double bill | Performance 9.15pm Admission €20

SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

Jazz Trail

Free live jazz around Limerick city centre, featuring musicians from Limerick's jazz scene and the Society's Jazz Workshops.

The George | **Peter Hanagan Improv Group** | 2:00pm

The Savoy Hotel | **Jayne Fraser** | 2:00pm

Mother Macs | **Paul O'Driscoll Duo** | 2:00pm

The Terrace Dolans | **Limerick School of Music Big Band & Joe O'Callaghan Group** | 2:00pm

That evening:

Shadowlands

Upstairs at Dolans Doors 8.30pm | Performance 9pm Admission €20

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

Zoe Gilby Quartet / Tommy Halferty Quartet

Dolans Double bill | 3pm and 4.30pm | Admission €25





A unique performance of John Coltrane's iconic suite

Michael Buckley — tenor saxophone

Leopoldo Osio — piano

Ronan Guilfoyle — bass

Darren Beckett — drums

Upstairs at Dolans | Doors 8pm |

Performance 8.30pm | €20

Widely regarded as one of the most important jazz recordings of all time, John Coltrane's *A Love Supreme* will be performed in its entirety at the Limerick Jazz Festival on 23 September, marking the 100th anniversary of the legendary saxophonist's birth.

This special performance brings together four of Ireland's finest jazz musicians: Michael Buckley, Leopoldo Osio, Ronan Guilfoyle and Darren Beckett. Each has built a distinguished international reputation, yet they reunite specifically to perform this extraordinary work.

Released in 1965, *A Love Supreme* remains one of Coltrane's defining masterpieces — a profound statement of his compositional and improvisational brilliance and a deeply personal expression of his spiritual journey.

The concert will also feature selections from *Giant Steps* before culminating in a complete performance of *A Love Supreme*.

A rare opportunity to hear this landmark work performed live, on the centenary of Coltrane's birth.

**"If you want to know who John Coltrane was,
you have to know *A Love Supreme*."**

Elvin Jones



ARBENZ X OSBY / BARRADAS /
MOUTIN

CONVERSATION_LAB

Florian Arbenz — drums

Greg Osby — saxophone

João Barradas — accordion

François Moutin — bass

THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

Upstairs at Dolans | Double bill | €20

An exciting cross-continental collaboration brings together four internationally acclaimed musicians: Swiss drummer Florian Arbenz, American saxophonist Greg Osby, Portuguese accordion virtuoso João Barradas and French bassist François Moutin.

Arbenz first collaborated with Osby in 1998, and their musical partnership has continued across almost three decades. Conversation_LAB expands that dialogue, bringing together four distinctive voices for a new exploration of rhythm, harmony, improvisation and musical interaction.

The quartet's unusual combination of accordion, saxophone, bass and drums creates a distinctive sonic identity. Their music moves freely from hard-swinging grooves and adventurous solos to richly textured and atmospheric soundscapes.

With decades of international experience, awards, recordings and collaborations between them, these musicians are leading figures in contemporary jazz. The result is dynamic, unpredictable and deeply engaging: a genuine musical conversation at the highest level.

"Arguably one of the best drummers in Europe."

– John Fordham, The Guardian, on Florian Arbenz



MATTHEW O'CONNELL & TOM MAXWELL

Matthew O'Connell — guitar

Tom Maxwell — piano

Upstairs at Dolans | Doors 8pm | Performance
8.30pm | Double bill | €20

Dublin-based musicians Matthew O'Connell and Tom Maxwell share a passion for jazz and improvisation that lies at the heart of their musical partnership.

O'Connell has established himself as one of the emerging voices in Irish jazz, performing as both a bandleader and sideman alongside artists including Ronan Guilfoyle. He was a finalist in the Limerick Jazz Society's Young Irish Jazz Musician of the Year competition in 2022.

Pianist, organist, composer and musical director Tom Maxwell draws on a wide range of influences, from Oscar Peterson and Red Garland to the rich harmonic worlds of J.S. Bach and Louis Vierne. He leads several acclaimed projects, including the Tom Maxwell Organ Trio and Tom Maxwell Quartet.

Together, O'Connell and Maxwell bring a contemporary perspective to jazz standards alongside music from their latest album, combining a deep respect for tradition with an adventurous approach to improvisation.



Tom Ollendorff Trio with special guest Will Vinson

Tom Ollendorff – guitar

Conor Chaplin - Double Bass

David Ingamells - Drums

Will Vinson – alto saxophone

Belltable Theatre

Doors 7:30pm | Performance 8.00pm

Admission €27.50

2026 has seen Tom Ollendorff embark on a world tour celebrating the release of his critically acclaimed third album, *Where in the World*. Best known for his singular guitar voice, melodic imagination, and emotional clarity, Ollendorff has quickly established himself as one of the most compelling young artists of his generation.

Described by Jazz Views as “an album that hits the sweet spot of being both readily accessible and offering depths that reveal something new with each listen,” the music has resonated strongly with audiences and critics alike. Tom will be performing with two of the world’s most sought-after musicians Conor Chaplin on double bass and David Ingamells on drums.

Widely recognised for his highly distinctive sound, Tom blends virtuosic technique with a sophisticated harmonic language, nuance, and sensitivity. In 2022, he published *Etudes*, his first collection of works for solo guitar, with Faber Music. The book has since sold internationally across Europe, Asia, Australasia, and North America, further cementing his reputation within the global guitar community.

Joining Tom is Alto Saxophonist/Composer Will Vinson. Originally from London, Will moved to New York City in 1999 and has spent most of his adult life there, performing, touring and/or recording with Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Ari Hoenig, Linda May Han Oh, Chris Potter, Kurt Elling, Lage Lund, Aaron Parks, and many others.

Will has an international reputation as a leader and sideman. All About Jazz New York describes Will as playing “with a relentless force”. Thomas Michelsen of Denmark’s Politiken, hails this “very exciting saxophonist” with a “beautiful, softly modulating tone” Will’s saxophone playing is executed with incredible power and dramatic sensitivity and is characterized by his imposing sound and technique; influenced by saxophonists from Cannonball to Chris Potter, he nevertheless brings his own unique approach to every performance.



JOHN DONEGAN QUINTET

John Donegan — piano

Richie Buckley — saxophone

Bernard O'Neill — double bass

John Daly — drums

Upstairs at Dolans | Double bill | €20

Originally from Cork and now based in the UK, pianist and composer John Donegan is a highly regarded figure on the Irish and UK jazz scenes. John and the quintet return to Limerick, for the

Irish launch of his most recent album *Interfuse*, which features new arrangements of John's earlier compositions drawing from his stored back catalogue.

His career has included performances with leading international artists including Art Farmer, Barney Kessel, Greg Abate, Arnie Lawrence, Louis Stewart, Jeff Clyne, Clark Tracey, Steve Waterman, Alec Dankworth and Alex Hitchcock, among many others.

Donegan's musical influences range from Bill Evans, Kenny Barron and Wynton Kelly to Bud Powell, Chick Corea and Keith Jarrett. His work draws together jazz, classical and traditional Irish influences, with original compositions at its heart.

His latest large-scale project, *Aontacht* — the Irish word for Unity — continues the spirit of his *Siamsa* suites, bringing together jazz, classical and traditional Irish music. Written for jazz sextet, solo violin, double string quartet and voices, the work is scheduled for performance and recording in 2027. Joining Donegan for this festival performance are four musicians with whom he has a long-standing musical relationship.

Richie Buckley is one of Ireland's most distinguished saxophonists. His extensive career includes collaborations with Van Morrison, Freddie Hubbard, Dave McKenna, Jiggs Whigham, Bob Dylan, Georgie Fame and Elvis Costello. He has also recorded and performed with artists including The Cranberries, Christy Moore, Paul Brady, Sharon Shannon and Bill Whelan, as well as contributing music to film and television.

Steve Waterman is one of the top British jazz trumpet players both at home and on the international scene. He began his career while studying at Trinity College Of Music, and since then has worked regularly on the British, European and International jazz scene. Steve has recorded many critically acclaimed CDs under his own name and other performers. Other performers that Steve has regularly worked and recorded with include Andy Shepherd, Mal Waldron, Alan Barnes, Graham Collier, Mike Garrick and Lee Gibson.

2026 Limerick Jazz Festival



Bernard O'Neill, a professional double bassist since 1986, has performed on more than 3,000 album tracks with artists including Rufus Wainwright, Jeff Buckley, Natacha Atlas, Víctor Manuel, Donovan and Sinéad O'Connor. His work in jazz includes extensive collaborations with Donegan, John Etheridge, Neil Stacey, Clark Tracey and Don Rendell. He has also worked extensively as a performer and producer with Peter Gabriel's Real World Records.

John Daly, Chairperson of the Limerick Jazz Society and Director of the Limerick Jazz Festival, has been at the forefront of Irish music for more than four decades. His career spans jazz ensembles, big bands, orchestras and major theatrical productions, as well as collaborations with many of Ireland's leading jazz musicians.

Daly has recorded three albums with the John Donegan Irish Sextet since 2022: *Shadows Linger*, *Light Streams* and *We Will Meet Again, Sometime*. His continuing work with Irish and international musicians reflects his commitment to developing and championing jazz in Limerick and beyond.



REROUTE

Rufina Tishina — vocals

Emily O'Rourke — guitar

Kildare-based duo ReRoute brings together vocalist Rufina Tishina and guitarist Emily O'Rourke, both graduates of DCU's BA in Jazz and Contemporary Music Performance.

Their music combines jazz-inspired improvisation with deeply personal songwriting, drawing on a broad range of musical influences while retaining a distinctive and intimate sound.

Their debut EP, *Can You Speak to Me?* showcases their ability to connect with audiences through lyrical honesty and emotional depth. Working within the intimate setting of voice and guitar, ReRoute leaves room for spontaneous interaction and improvisation, inviting the audience into the music.

At the Limerick Jazz Festival, the duo will perform material from their debut release alongside brand-new original compositions.



JAZZ TRAIL

SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

Free live jazz around Limerick city centre

The Saturday afternoon Jazz Trail brings live music into the heart of the city, with free performances featuring musicians from Limerick's jazz scene and the Limerick Jazz Society's workshops.

Enjoy great live jazz against the backdrop of the city centre — a chance to encounter familiar musicians, discover new sounds and experience jazz as part of the city's everyday life.

The George | **Peter Hanagan Improv Group** | 2:00pm

The Savoy Hotel | **Jayne Fraser** | 2:00pm

Mother Macs | **Paul O'Driscoll Duo** | 2:00pm

The Terrace Dolans | **Limerick School of Music Big Band & Joe O'Callaghan Group** | 2:00pm



SHADOWLANDS

Robin Fincker — saxophone / clarinet

Lauren Kinsella — voice

Elliot Galvin — piano

Upstairs at Dolans | Doors 8.30pm | Performance 9pm | €20

Irish singer Lauren Kinsella is joined by Robin Fincker (sax & clarinet) and pianist Elliot Galvin for a night of music which brings traditional Irish song into dialogue with contemporary

improvisation and original composition. Traditional Irish sean-nós songs sit alongside contemporary improvisation and original compositions.

Drawing on the work captured on the albums *Ombres*, and 2026's *Two Minds*, this performance features a shared musical language through traditional song, contemporary poetry and improvisation which honours and re-charges traditional music, not as something fixed in the past, but music that can breathe, change and evolve through improvisation, atmosphere and collective interplay.

The result is music that can feel ancient and startlingly contemporary at once: sometimes magically beautiful, sometimes strikingly raw, and always alive to the possibilities of the moment.

Together, these three established European jazz musicians create a musical language that feels both timeless and completely new.



TOMMY HALFERTY QUARTET – WHIRLPOOL

Tommy Halferty — guitar

Darragh O’Kelly — keyboards

Derek Whyte — electric bass

Brendan Doherty — drums

Dolans | 3pm | Double bill | €25

Limerick Jazz Festival favourite Tommy Halferty brings Whirlpool to the festival for a celebration of the music of Miles Davis and the landmark album *In a Silent Way*.

Born in Derry, Halferty began his musical career in the late 1970s studying jazz guitar with the great Irish jazz musician Louis Stewart. His musical journey has since taken him across jazz, fusion, folk and international traditions, including collaborations with musicians from Ireland, India and beyond.

He has performed with jazz vocalist Norma Winstone, appeared at international guitar festivals and was invited to perform for President Bill Clinton during his visit to Ireland in 1996.

For Whirlpool, Halferty turns his attention to Miles Davis’s groundbreaking 1969 album *In a Silent Way*, a landmark recording that marked the beginning of Davis’s electric period and helped lay the foundations for jazz fusion.

Halferty’s fascination with the album centres on the extraordinary way Davis transformed simple musical ideas, creating space, atmosphere and something transcendent.

Featuring Darragh O’Kelly on keyboards, Derek Whyte on electric bass, Brendan Doherty on drums and Halferty on guitar, Whirlpool promises a rare opportunity to experience this landmark music performed live.



ZOE GILBY QUARTET

Zoe Gilby — vocals

Mark Williams — guitar

Andy Champion — double bass

John Bradford — drums

Dolans | 4.30pm | Double bill | €25

We close the 2026 Limerick Jazz Festival with UK-based vocalist and songwriter Zoe Gilby, whose music combines jazz sophistication, storytelling and a distinctive contemporary voice.

Winner of the 2019 Parliamentary Jazz Awards Jazz Vocalist of the Year, Gilby has built an impressive reputation through her original compositions and imaginative interpretations of music from across the jazz and popular traditions.

Her album *Aurora* draws inspiration from the instrumental compositions of award-winning, Grammy-nominated American trumpeter Tom Harrell. Gilby adds her own lyrics to Harrell's music, creating a fresh and compelling collection of songs.

Her repertoire also embraces contemporary composers and songwriters, from Kate Bush to Pink Floyd, alongside sensitive interpretations of jazz standards.

Gilby's original songs are written with her husband, double bassist Andy Champion, and performed with guitarist Mark Williams and drummer John Bradford. Together they create a compelling blend of musical sophistication, atmosphere and dramatic storytelling.

As she continues to tour throughout the UK and internationally, we are delighted to welcome Zoe Gilby and her quartet to Limerick to bring this year's festival to a close.

"It's the quality of the original songs that make this jazz vocal album stand out from the pack."

– The Jazz Mann, on Twelve Stories



JOIN US IN LIMERICK

From Coltrane and Miles Davis to new voices in Irish jazz and exciting international collaborations, the 2026 Limerick Jazz Festival celebrates the music's extraordinary capacity to connect past and present, tradition and innovation.

Five days. Nine acts. One city.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Limerick Jazz Society

FIND OUT MORE

Festival website: Limerick Jazz Festival <https://www.limerickjazz.com/jazz-festival-limerick/>

Tickets:

Dolans - <https://www.dolans.ie/whats-on-limerick>

Belltable - <https://limetreebelltable.ie/events/tom-ollendorf-quartet-with-special-guest-will-vinson/>

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