



Niamh O'Brien

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Irish Harp + Song // Composition + Arrangement // Radio + Sound Art

RECENT PROJECTS & PERFORMANCES

2024

January	Old Road Radio Created and performed a live online broadcast which brought together sounds and stories gathered in my local area.	Online
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2023

November	Music Network Resonate Residency Residency concluded with a performance at the Ionad Culturtha Ballyvourney	Co.Cork
August	The Annie Jane Project Tour of the Outer Hebrides with a band of Scottish and Irish Musicians	Scotland
January	Old Road Radio Created and performed a live radio and online broadcast which brought together sounds and stories gathered in my local area.	Online

2022

September	Lumen – The Music of Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin Performed as part of the Eklego Ensemble with Mel Mercier and the National Symphony Orchestra at the National Concert Hall and the University of Limerick Concert Hall	Dublin, Limerick
August	Quiet Lights Festival Performed a solo slot at the festival event held at the Aula Maxima in UCC	Cork
April-May	German Tour Performed 10 shows with Scottish singer Alyth McCormack	Germany
January	Arts in Schools Represented HearSay Festival as part of Limerick Arts Council's Arts in Schools Project. Created audio dramas and documentaries with two schools in Co.Limerick	Co. Limerick

2021

September	Ecotone Audio installation as part of PhD research using an FM transmitter to broadcast music, sound and story gathered in the locality	Ringmoylan Pier Co.Limerick
May	HearSay International Creative Audio Festival Virtual performance of live music and pre-recorded interviews in collaboration with BBC producer Phil Smith.	Online

Other notable performances 2016- 2019

Other Voices (2016)	Electric Picnic (2016,2018)	Kaustinen Folk Festival (2017)
St.Patricks Cathedral (2018)	Fleadh TV (2018)	Folkest Festival Spilembargo, Italy (2019)
The Chieftains American Tour (2019)		

RECORDINGS

<i>Hoodman Blind</i> (Debut album with Raelach Records)	2023
<i>Niamh O'Brien and Amanda Cavanaugh</i>	2018
<i>Niamh O'Brien Harp & Song</i> (Solo EP)	2018
<i>Hoodman Blind</i> (Hoodman Blind Debut EP)	2017
<i>The Space Between</i> (AnTara)	2014
<i>FBB</i> (Sibelius Academy Folk Big Band)	2013

AWARDS & GRANTS

RESONATE 2023

Awarded a residency at the Ionad Culturtha, Baile Mhúirne, with fellow harpist Aisling Urwin and visual artist Colm O' Neill as part of Music Network's Resonate Residencies.

Music Network

Agility Award 2021-22

For the development of six audio works which involve audio interviews and original composition.

Arts Council of Ireland

Rising Award 2021

Encouraging audio creativity for those in full time education and/or under 21yrs

HearSay International
Audio Arts Festival

Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship 2021-23

Individual, prestigious award for excellence in research.

Irish Research Council

OVERVIEW OF SELECTED WORKS

Passing Notes

This piece won a "Rising" Award at HearSay International Audio Arts Festival. It was inspired by themes of loss and memory, and incorporates archive recording's from my grandmother's kitchen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-JBnooTa8o>

ECOTONE: A Sonic Journey Through Kildimo-Pallaskenry

This work was first broadcast from Ringmoylan Pier in Co.Limerick in September 2021. It brought together voices from Kildimo-Pallaskenry, sounds from the Shannon Estuary, and an original musical score. It was shared with the public using a short-range FM transmitter:<https://bit.ly/3Mh8mPL>

EDUCATION

PhD Arts Practice

University of Limerick (2019-2023)

My PhD explored the practice of "deep mapping" and how it can be applied to creative practice to produce new representations of place. The research is funded by the Irish Research Council and supervised by Prof. Mel Mercier.

MA Irish Studies

National University of Ireland, Galway (2015-2016)

Modules examined various aspects of Irish culture, literature and history. My thesis explored the early years of the Gael Linn record label.

BA Irish Music and Dance

University of Limerick (2010-2014)

As part of this degree I completed an Erasmus study at the Sibelius Academy for the Arts, Helsinki. My dissertation was supervised by Prof. Micheal O Suilleabhair and explored the co-performance of traditional music and poetry.