


Search 
[RSS Feed](#) [What is RSS?](#) 

## Categories

- [Articles](#) (8)
- [Concerts and Events](#) (41)
- [Course and Tour Reviews](#) (21)
- [Course Information](#) (69)
- [Diary](#) (1)
- [Funding](#) (63)
- [International Festivals](#) (11)
- [International News](#) (19)
- [Jobs and Teaching Positions](#) (28)
- [News](#) (186)
- [Notices](#) (60)
- [Opportunities](#) (18)
- [Repertoire](#) (10)
- [Training](#) (61)

## Latest Posts

- [Alumni / Outreach Officer: Royal Irish Academy of Music](#)
- [Coole Music Orchestra Festival](#)
- [Agnes OKane Award at the Forthcoming Festival of Youth Orchestras](#)
- [WYO Fest \(Wexford Youth Orchestra Festival\)](#)
- [ConCorda 2011](#)
- [Irish Youth Wind Ensemble](#)
- [Dublin Youth Orchestras Chamber Music Summer Courses 2011](#)
- [Ceol na Mara 2011](#)
- [Galway Music Residency in Search for 2011 Apprentice Ensembles!](#)
- [Cello for Sale](#)

## Ceol na Mara 2010

Posted on September 9th, 2010

The following review is from Serena Jebb, an adult student on the Ceol na Mara course.



This was my second year attending the summer course 'Ceol Na Mara' in Letterfrack, County Galway and like my first experience, it was a brilliant week. Like last year I was made to feel very welcome by all the teachers and other pupils. There was a mix of familiar faces and new students among us. It is unusual to allow adult students on these courses and I really enjoyed the week of learning. We were busy all day with chamber groups, orchestral rehearsals, individual lessons and extra rehearsals amongst ourselves.

Letterfrack woodwork college is a great venue and this year we had the luxury of the on site cafe being open for morning coffee and lunch which

gave us a better chance to spend more time together. Like last year I made great friends and left with the intention of meeting up with others during the year to play in quartets.

There were violas available to play during the course on loan from the IAYO and Lisa Grosman, the viola tutor did such a brilliant sales job on me that I played viola in the final concert and thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of learning the alto cleff in a week! Watching Sheila and Geraldine O'Grady play is always a treat but to have them teach you is an honour. We had at least one teacher for each hour long lesson and often had the benefit of two.

You couldn't come to Connemara without learning to play traditional violin and the task of teaching us went to Odrán Ó Casaide who was eternally patient and kindly repeated each section several times, SLOWLY, for those of us new to traditional playing until we got the hang of it! This is a skill I would like to improve on, the people playing in Paddy Coyne's pub in the evenings make it look just so easy, believe me, it isn't - especially if you haven't grown up with it.

The course was run like clockwork by Oonagh Keogh and her husband Eddie, who appeared like magic at the end of every lesson to usher us to the next class. As he did this for all levels - the Juniors, Intermediates, Seniors and Adults, I don't know how he was outside every class room at the same time but believe me he was! On Thursday evening we gathered in Paddy Coyne's pub in Tully Cross where there was a book launch and it developed into a music session with some of the experienced trad players on the course entertaining us.



We played from 9:30 in the morning until 3pm every day which gave time to explore the beautiful Connemara countryside (or practice of course!) On Friday morning we had our orchestral concert in the Ellis Hall in the college. This was an opportunity to listen to the other groups perform and the younger ones included drama in their performance as well as some audience participation for the parents, which was great fun!

On Friday evening we performed smaller quartet and ensemble groups in the Teach Ceoil in Renyle. This concert was the real icing on the cake for me. I heard the seniors perform the music they had worked on all week but also several traditional

pieces including sean nós. To be in the senior group you have to be over grade 7 and these girls play with such poise and so musically it was a treat to listen to them. Our grand Finale was accompanying Geraldine O'Grady in a performance of the Carolan concerto from the O'Carolan suite composed for her by TC Kelly. I only started playing the violin ten years ago and to be allowed to stand on the same stage as Geraldine O'Grady and to be accompanying her - it doesn't get any better!

I very much look forward to next year.

The Irish Association of Youth Orchestras Ltd (IAYO) is the all-Ireland resource organisation for youth orchestras.

IAYO is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Ireland, No: 296500 and a registered charity, No: CHY14198

Directors: Vincent Hunt (Chair), Bríd Cannon, Joanne Cater, Clare Daly, Cherry O'Keefe, Tomás McCarthy, Mona McMahon, Carmel Ryan, Majella Swan.

Staff: Allin Gray (Director), Bertie Buckley (Administrator).

Registered Address: Civic Trust House, 50 Pope's Quay, Cork, Ireland.

Phone: +353 21 421 5185 Fax: +353 21 421 5193

IAYO is grant aided by The Arts Council and supported by Cork City Council.

