

# Music Brings Communities Together: PEACEPLUS Programme Launch



Launching the 'Exploration of Our Cultural Roots Through Music' Programme at the Strule Arts Centre on Thursday evening, pictured l-r: Vice Chairman of the Fermanagh and Omagh PEACEPLUS Partnership, Ryan Tracey, Arlene Ennis, PEACEPLUS Project Officer, Cllr Glenn Campbell, Anne-Marie Devine, Dun Uladh PEACEPLUS Project Officer, Mollie Gallagher, Dun Uladh Manager and Tony McGartland, St Eugene's Band.

The launch of the PEACEPLUS Project 'Exploration of Our Cultural Roots through Music' took part in the Strule Arts Centre on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March.

An evening organised to talk about the project and what it will deliver across the district over the months ahead. The event was attended by people who shared an interest in culture, music, and community.

The project will deliver a range of exciting events across the Fermanagh and Omagh District, as well as in Cavan, Leitrim, and Monaghan, with the aim of bringing people together to explore and celebrate shared cultural roots through music.

Through workshops, performances, and community events, there will be opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to come together, learn from one another, and celebrate the rich musical traditions that form part of our heritage.

The project is broken into 4 main themes: Irish Country Music, Songs from Home, The Dancehalls & Showband Era and Irish & Ulster Scots.

Delivery will begin in just over a months time on the 30<sup>th</sup> April.

The Irish Country Music theme will be delivered first; FREE 6 week dance classes (refreshments served). Running from April – June with a series of social dancing classes in 3 areas: Glenpark Estate Omagh (Starting Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May – 9<sup>th</sup> June 8-10pm), Cashel Community Centre Fermanagh (Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April – 4<sup>th</sup> June 8-10pm) & St Josephs Pastoral Centre Monaghan (Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May- 5<sup>th</sup> June).

The dancing will conclude with a finale event bringing all 3 classes together in Mahon's Hotel Irvinestown on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June, with dancing to one of Irelands finest accordionist & social dancing entertainer; Declan Aungier. 8-11pm refreshments served, free to all who attend the dance classes. To register for FREE dance classes email: [peaceplus@dunuladh.ie](mailto:peaceplus@dunuladh.ie) or call 028 8224 2777. All ages & abilities welcome, no partner required.

Songs from Home and Irish and Ulster Scots themes will be delivered September to November, followed by the Showband Era to be delivered in January 2027.

Dun Uladh are seeking community groups, individuals, choirs, musicians and anyone with an interest in music and dance from across the Fermanagh & Omagh District Council area to avail of the opportunity to join others celebrating our cultural roots at these free events.

The launch evening set the scene for the programme with the wonderful musicians of St. Eugenes Brass & Reed Band, adding to the atmosphere and giving a real sense of what the project will bring. Anne-Marie Devine, Dun Uladh PEACEPLUS Project Officer expressed her thanks to all those who attended the Launch and spoke about the exciting journey ahead with all the opportunities the Programme will provide for working in collaboration with musicians, tutors and facilitators sharing their expertise and enthusiasm to benefit people from across the district.

Speaking after the event, Chairman of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Barry McElduff said: "I would like to congratulate Dún Uladh, whose passion and commitment have been vital in shaping this exciting initiative. I wish them every success as the programme now moves into delivery. Cllr Glenn Campbell thoroughly enjoyed the evening which was a chance to learn more about what lies ahead. I look forward to seeing the benefits this project will bring to our local communities. Guided by community consultation, Exploration of Our Cultural Roots Through Music celebrates

the Showband Era, Irish Country Music, Irish and Ulster Scots traditions, and Songs from Home, offering something for everyone. Through workshops, performances and shared learning, this programme will revive traditions, celebrate heritage, and strengthen connections across our communities. I encourage everyone to become involved and help make it a success.”

Cllr Errol Thomsson, as Chair of the PEACEPLUS Partnership commented: “We look forward to Dun Uladh’s delivery of this initiative that will celebrate our district’s rich musical heritage where everyone can connect through shared experience and creative expression.”