

## Birr Young Voices

MONDAY 4 MAY

### Songs of Enchantment

St. Brendan's Church of Ireland,  
Oxmantown Mall - 3pm  
(€10/€5) (under 12s free)

A choral performance by children, age 8-12 years, who love to sing! Following 12 weeks of classes with choral director **Triona Walsh**, in partnership with Music Generation Offaly/Westmeath. Generously supported by the Trench Trust, over 100 children have participated in the Birr Young Voices project to date. They will be joined by gifted soloists from Ireland's music academies. **Keith Stears** - Accompanist

### Masterclasses

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre - 11am-2.30pm  
Free Admission

**Bruno Caproni & Julian Evans** give vocal and piano masterclasses to the Trench finalists. Open and free to all singers, musicians, teachers and the public, providing a unique opportunity to observe and learn from renowned artists at close quarters. Further details & schedule, call 087 2836675

### The Audrey Chisholm Award

In memory of the late Audrey Chisholm, concert pianist and hugely popular teacher for many years at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin. Audrey grew up on Oxmantown Mall, Birr, her father William was head forester at Birr Castle, her mother Ciss taught piano and gave Audrey her first lessons. Birr Festival of Music is honoured to host this Award.



## Become a Festival Patron

Become a Festival Patron/Sponsor.  
Enjoy Priority Booking, Music in Birr Castle & more.  
For further details contact: 057 9122911  
birrfestivalofmusic@gmail.com

## Birr Festival of Music

MAY BANK  
HOLIDAY  
WEEKEND 2020

Incorporating **The Trench Award**, now in its seventh year, the aim of Birr Festival of Music is to expand the profile and enjoyment of classical music for all; to support emerging professional musicians in their training and development, with bursaries, masterclasses and performance opportunities.

**Julia and Patrick Trench** had an abiding love of music.

Both sang, played piano, organ, flute and harp and were noted for their musical evenings at their home at Sopwell Hall, North Tipperary. Julia was one of the many generous benefactors of the establishment of Birr Theatre & Arts Centre.

Birr Festival of Music is immensely grateful to The Trench Trust for its generous support.

Buy Tickets: 057 9122911  
[www.birrtheatre.com](http://www.birrtheatre.com)

*Festival Team:* Maureen de Forge, Tommy Lyndon, Emma Nee Haslam, Enda O'Connor, Rebecca Kelly, Michelle de Forge, Pascal Kennedy, Anne O'Callaghan Rowan.



# Birr Festival of Music

FRI 1 – MON 4  
MAY 2020

Incorporating

## The Trench Award



Birr, Co. Offaly  
057 9122911 [www.birrtheatre.com](http://www.birrtheatre.com)



FRIDAY 1 MAY

## Bruno Caproni & Julian Evans

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre - 8pm €18/16

Internationally acclaimed baritone **Bruno Caproni** & pianist **Julian Evans** perform opera arias, musical classics and great piano solos in a wonderful opening Festival Concert.

Appearing in the world's leading opera houses and concert venues, Bruno & Julian return to Birr with a programme to include the music Verdi, Wagner, Liszt, Chopin and Rogers & Hammerstein.



## Music In School

St. Brendans Community School - 11.30am

An insight into the lives of international opera and concert artists, with **Bruno Caproni** & **Julian Evans**, meeting and performing for music students.

## Audrey Chisholm Masterclasses

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre - 12-3pm Free Admission

As part of the inaugural Audrey Chisholm Award, students of piano and voice in the midlands take masterclasses with **Dearbhla Collins**. One of Ireland's most successful pianists, Dearbhla is vocal coach at the RIAM, assistant head of music at London's National Opera Studio and an artistic administrator of the Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition.

SATURDAY 2 MAY

## Alena Beava & Katia Skanavi

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre - 8pm €16/€14

Winner of many major international violin competitions, **Alena Beava's** performances have thrilled audiences all over the world. With pianist and fellow Russian **Katia Skanavi**, this exceptional duo include in their programme works by Beethoven, Brahms, Schumann, Stravinsky and a special Music Network commission by Irish composer, Finola Merivale. The Festival is thrilled to bring these extraordinary and charismatic artists to Birr. 'Poetic and captivating' (The Strad) 'Utterly compelling' (The Australian)



## An American Songbook

St. Brendan's Church of Ireland - 3pm €14/€12

**Ann Hogan** mezzo-soprano with **Dearbhla Collins** piano, in a captivating performance of songs from the pens of great American composers. A rare opportunity to hear Aaron Copland's settings of twelve poems by Emily Dickinson.

A graduate of RNCM Manchester, Ann is noted for her dramatic and often humorous interpretation of diverse music genres, ranging from classical to jazz to contemporary.

**MN**  
Music  
Network

SUNDAY 3 MAY

## Trench Award 2020 Gala Concert

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre - 7.30pm €14/12

Six selected singers/musicians (under 27 years) all pursuing professional careers in the classical field, perform a 15 minute programme of their choice. The recipients of the Trench Award, the Birr Lions Club Bursary, the Canto Al Serchio Prize (for voice) and the inaugural Audrey Chisholm Award (for instrument) will be selected by an international panel. An Audience Choice and Musical Futures bursary are also presented. Total value of bursaries €8,000.

**Keith Stears** - Accompanist

### 2019 AWARDS

Aidan Chan piano  
Leah Redmond soprano  
Dylan Rooney baritone  
with the selection panel.



## Music In Birr Castle

For Festival Patrons & Sponsors.

Recital in the historic music room in Birr Castle - 3pm

**Rachel Goode** soprano - was a finalist in the Trench Award 2016; is an Honours graduate from DIT with a masters from the Royal Welsh College of Music. She made her solo debut with Irish National Opera, Wexford Festival Opera, Opera Collective and Welsh National Opera in the past two years.

**Triona Marshal** harp - principal harpist with the RTE Concert Orchestra before travelling the world performing with The Chieftains, continues to collaborate with Irish and International artists. **Dearbhla Collins** piano.