



10th
Mayo
International
Choral Festival 2016
Córthéile Idirnáisiúnta Mhaigh Eo

Wed 25th -
Sun 29th
May 2016

**Syllabus
2016**



MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL
& Castlebar Municipal District

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Invitation from our Chairman

Nóta ónár gCathaoirleach

A welcome message



I invite choirs from all over the world to join us in 2016, at our festival where competing and non-competing choirs are equally welcome. We will be celebrating our fifth festival and we look forward to lots of events that will mark this occasion.

Mayo is a special place with a rich heritage including stunning scenery, mysterious archaeological sites and monuments, quaint and busy towns and villages, music, sport and endearing customs. As a resident, and a member of the Mayo Male Voice Choir, I know you will enjoy our county and people during your visit. Highlights for visiting choirs include tours of Mayo, interacting with local choirs, local performances, the Songway Choral Trail, the Dawn Chorus and the Saturday evening Gala Concert.

I am grateful to the dedicated committee, festival director and festival administrator all who work tirelessly behind the scenes over many months, and closer to our events, our growing network of volunteers and venue and concert coordinators. Mayo County Council and Fáilte Ireland are also strong supporters. Choirs from Mayo have embraced the festival and play a major role in it's success.

Choirs, both competing and non-competing, will receive in advance of their trip, a detailed information pack, which will include competition times, venues and location guides. Finally a reminder of our entry closing date: International choirs: December 31st, 2015 and for choirs from Ireland: January 31st 2016.

We do hope to see you at our festival.

Edward Horkan, Chairman, Mayo International Choral Festival.

Mayo International Choral Festival

Festival Office C/o Edward Horkan,
5 Cachel Park, Castlebar, Co. Mayo, Ireland.

Tel. ++353 (0)94 90 26214

info@mayochoral.com

www.mayochoral.com



Timetable Clár

Wednesday, 25th May 2016:

- Presentation on one of Mayo's heroines in song and/or music - details to be announced
- Sight-seeing opportunities

Thursday, 26th May 2016:

- Opening concert
- Sight-seeing opportunities

Friday, 27th May 2016:

- Evening concerts with local and visiting choirs in various venues throughout Mayo
- Mini-performances on the Songway Choral Trail during the day
- Sight-seeing opportunities

Saturday, 28th May 2016:

- Competing choir performances and adjudications • The Songway Choral Trail
- Mayo tours • Gala Concert and massed choir, and afterwards the afterglow at the Festival Club

Sunday, 29th May 2016:

- Dawn Chorus - all invited
- Choirs perform at church services
- Evening concert with local and visiting choirs.

All details subject to change



FAQ's - *Frequently Asked Questions* *Ceisteanna coitianta*



What's it all about?

The festival takes the form of several competing and non-competing choirs participating in a series of concerts, mini-performances and events that take place over four to five days, all over Mayo, the third largest county (region) in Ireland. All events are open to a public audience. There are many beautiful scenic locations and interesting attractions in Mayo and choirs are encouraged to visit some of these during their visit and to experience the friendliness of people from Mayo.

Where's the best place to get every bit of information?

The entry form, which the rules and regulations, is the best source of information about the festival. In order for choirs to get the best experience from the festival, we can't stress enough the benefit of the choir reading the entry form in detail, at a very early stage in the participation planning. Entry forms can be downloaded from the festival website www.mayochoral.com. Our Syllabus lists all the accommodation facilities in Mayo, and is also available for download.

Where is Mayo?

The county of Mayo is located on the west coast of Ireland. Geographically it is the third largest county (region) in Ireland, and arguably the most scenic!

How do we get to Mayo?

Mayo is serviced by Ireland West International Airport, Knock, located in east Mayo, with connections to all major UK airports (average of one hours flying-time to UK). There is good road access to Mayo from Dublin for choirs or audiences travelling by ferry.

There is a very good direct rail service to many train stations in Mayo from Dublin to Claremorris, Castlebar and Westport, and connections to Ballina.

How about transport while in Mayo?

Public transport is very limited. Choirs are advised to check in advance if they will need to hire transport during their visit. While the festival does not book or pay for transport, we will advise of reputable and good value local coach and taxi providers. Transport may be necessary for travel to evening concerts (various towns), and/or to and between competition venues (all in the one town), taking into consideration the distance between each competition venue and the times of the performances, and the unpredictable weather at this time of year.

Do we have to find our own accommodation?

Yes. However we do provide a full list of accommodation choices in our syllabus, almost a year in advance of each festival. There is a big choice of good quality and good value accommodation.

Do we have to pay for our accommodation?

Yes. We have visited all hotels and they have assured us that accommodation and meal costs will be at a very good value rate for visiting choirs – please mention that you are taking part in the choral festival to avail of this rate.

How long should we come for?

The duration of stay is the choice of each choir. We encourage choirs to stay a few days either side of the festival dates, to experience the beautiful scenic locations in Mayo and the attractions and culture and heritage of the area. The festival programme starts on Wednesday, with a presentation honoring one of Mayo's heroes or heroines in song and music. On Thursday, Friday and Sunday evenings, our community concerts take place, each featuring a visiting International or national choir, a local adult choir and a local youth choir, in venues that are most suitable to singing – from the quaint to the quirky!. Saturday is the day for competitions, starting early in the morning, and finishing Saturday night with the premier competition, featuring the winning choirs of each category. There are also mini performances throughout the towns on Saturday by the choirs. Sunday morning sees the Dawn Chorus at 8am. A full programme is announced in early March, once all entries have been processed.

How many events are choirs involved in?

Choirs are asked to participate in at least one other event, other than competitions, in addition to all choirs being asked to participate in the massed choir sing. Events vary from singing in formal concerts to mini-performances on the Songway Choral Trail - some locations in pubs!

Are there facilities available for special needs?

It is helpful if we know in advance of any requirements for members with reduced mobility or other requirements, and we request this to be noted on our entry form.

All our venues are wheelchair accessible.





FAQ's - continued

Can non-competing choirs enter the festival?

We welcome equally non-competing choirs and are involved in our festival in whatever events they wish to participate – and don't forget there is a category (and prizes!) for choirs who have never competed in any choral festival before - 'First Time Competitors'. There are two separate entry forms, one for competing and one for non-competing choirs. Entry forms are available to download www.mayochoral.com

How do the concerts work?

We ask on our entry form for choirs to indicate if they would like to participate in one of our evening concerts. At each concert, we strive to feature a visiting International or national choir, a local adult choir and a local youth choir. The duration of performance for the International or National Choir is on average 15 to 20 minutes. There are the customary complimentary light refreshments immediately after the concert and this gives a chance for choirs to meet each other and share their experiences. The box office proceeds, after expenses, go to a local charity and towards the running costs of the festival. The festival committee will advise in advance the locations and details of evening concerts. Choirs performing in the evening concert submit by email in advance a list of the songs/pieces that they will sing at the concert.

What does participation cost and how do we enter?

The Choir entry fee to participate in the festival is €75, which also includes entry to one competition category. Entry to each competition category thereafter is €75. There are two separate entry forms, one for competing choirs and one for non-competing choirs. Entry forms are available to download from our website www.mayochoral.com or email info@mayochoral.com and we will email a copy to you.

Compiled by Declan Durcan, Festival Director, 04.09.2015

Competitions Comórtas

Competition A. Premier Competition

The first prize winners of all competitions below (with the exception of competition K), automatically qualify for entry to the Premier Competition. Programme should consist of two contrasting part songs. One of the pieces must be chosen from the repertoire already performed in the qualifying competition. The second piece must not have been previously sung by your choir, in any of the other 2016 competitions as below. Please note, a choir can qualify to enter the Premier Competition in one competition category only, in each year of the festival. Should a particular choir win in two or more competitions in 2016, the competition in which that choir receives the highest mark, is the competition that the choir will represent at the Premier. The competition(s) that the winners do not represent, will be represented by the runners up of that competition(s) instead.

PRIZES Winner: Handmade Trophy and €700. Runner-up: €300.

Competition B. Four Part Choirs

Any combination of voices. (Four Part or more). Programme should consist of two contrasting part songs, and be chosen as follows:

(i) A piece composed before 1800 (ii) Any part song contrasting with (i).

PRIZES Winner: Handmade Trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.

Competition C. Choirs from Ireland, 4-part. S.A.T.B.

Programme should consist of two contrasting, 4 part songs.

PRIZES Winner: Handmade trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.

Competition D. Female Voices

Programme should consist of two contrasting 3 or 4 part songs.

PRIZES Winner: Handmade Trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.

Competition E. Male Voices

Programme should consist of two contrasting 3 or 4 part songs.

PRIZES Winner: Handmade Trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.

Competition F. Sacred Music Choirs

Programme should consist of two contrasting part songs.

PRIZES Winner: Handmade Trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.

Competition G. Gospel Choirs

Programme should consist of two contrasting part pieces from The Gospel Choral Music Repertoire.

PRIZES Winner: Handmade Trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.

Competition H. Gaelic or Celtic Language

Amhrán is Fearr i nGaeilge nó i dTeanga Ceilteach – Comórtas H.

Programme should consist of two contrasting 3 or 4 part songs in Irish or any Celtic Language.

PRIZES Winner: Handmade Trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.

Competition I. Barbershop Chorus

Programme should consist of two contrasting pieces from the Barbershop repertoire

PRIZES Winner: Handmade Trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.

Competition J. Barbershop Quartet

Programme should consist of two contrasting pieces from the Barbershop repertoire

PRIZES Winner: Handmade Trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.

Competition K. First Time Competitors

For choirs who have never entered into competition before but would love to do so with choirs of a similar standard. Programme should consist of two contrasting 3 or 4 part songs. Winning choir of this competition is not eligible to enter the Premier Competition.

PRIZES Winner: Handmade Trophy and €200. Runner-up: €100.

NEW CATEGORY:

Competition L. Songs from a Musical or Light Opera, or a Pop / Chart song.

This is also open to musical societies and associations as well as choirs - all must be formed for at least a full year or academic year (Sept to May). Age limit of members does not apply to this competition.

PRIZES Winner: Handmade Trophy and €300. Runner-up: €150.



Accommodation (PAGE 1 of 2)



ACCOMMODATION

Lóistín

BALLINA / ENNISCRONE ACCOMMODATION *Béal an Átha | Inis Crabhann*

ACCOMMODATION PROVIDER NAME	EMAIL	WEBSITE	TEL NO.	GRADING (FALTE IRELAND)	NUMBER OF ROOMS
Best Western Plus Ballina Manor Hotel Barrett St at the Moy Ridge Pool & Salmon Weir, Ballina, Co. Mayo	info@ballinamanorhotel.ie	www.ballinamanorhotel.ie	+353 (0)96 80 900	★★★★	79*
Diamond Coast Hotel Bartragh, Enniscrone, Co. Sligo	info@diamondcoast.ie	www.diamondcoast.ie	+353 (0)96 26000	★★★★	52*
The Downhill Inn Sligo Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo	info@downhillinn.ie	www.downhillinn.ie	+353 (0)96 73444	★★★	45*
Hotel Ballina N26, Dublin Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo	info@hotelballina.ie	www.hotelballina.ie	+353 (0)96 23600	★★★★	87*
Ice House Hotel The Quay, Ballina, Co. Mayo	chill@theicehouse.ie	www.theicehouse.ie	+353 (0)96 23 500	★★★★	32*
Mount Falcon Estate Foxford Rd, Ballina, Co. Mayo	reservations@mountfalcon.com	www.mountfalcon.com	+353 (0)96 74472	★★★★	122*
Downhill House Hotel & Leisure Club, Downhill Road, Ballina	info@twintreeshotel.ie	www.twintreeshotel.ie	+353 (0)96 21033	★★★	60*

BALLINROBE / CONG ACCOMMODATION *Baile an Róba | Conga*

ACCOMMODATION PROVIDER NAME	EMAIL	WEBSITE	TEL NO.	GRADING (FALTE IRELAND)	NUMBER OF ROOMS
Ashford Castle Cong, Co. Mayo Part of the Red Carnation Hotel Collection	reservations@ashfordcastle.com	www.ashfordcastle.com	+353 (0)94 9546003	★★★★★	83*

CASTLEBAR ACCOMMODATION *Caisleán an Bharraigh*

ACCOMMODATION PROVIDER NAME	EMAIL	WEBSITE	TEL NO.	GRADING (FALTE IRELAND)	NUMBER OF ROOMS
Breaffy House Hotel Breaffy, Castlebar, Co. Mayo	info@breaffyhouseressort.com	www.breaffyhouseressort.com	+353 (0)94 9022033	★★★	132*
Breaffy Woods Hotel Breaffy, Castlebar, Co. Mayo	info@breaffyhouseressort.com	www.breaffyhouseressort.com	+353 (0)94 9022033	★★★	134*
Harlequin Hotel Lannagh Rd, Castlebar, Co. Mayo	info@harlequin.ie	www.harlequinhotelcastlebar.ie	+353 (0)94 9286200	★★★★	90*
Lough Lannagh Holiday Village Lannagh Rd, Castlebar, Co. Mayo	info@loughlannagh.ie	www.loughlannagh.ie	+353 (0)94 9027111	★★★★	60*
The TF Royal Hotel Old Westport Rd, Castlebar, Co. Mayo	info@tfroyalhotel.com	www.tfroyalhotel.com	+353 (0)94 9023111	★★★	23*
Welcome Inn Hotel New Antrim St, Castlebar, Co. Mayo	welcomeinn@eircom.net	www.welcomeinnhotel.com	+353 (0)94 9022288	★★	32*

CLAREMORRIS ACCOMMODATION *Clár Chlainne Mhuiris*

ACCOMMODATION PROVIDER NAME	EMAIL	WEBSITE	TEL NO.	GRADING (FALTE IRELAND)	NUMBER OF ROOMS
McWilliam Park Hotel Claremorris, Co. Mayo	info@mcwilliamparkhotel.ie	www.mcwilliampark.ie	+353 (0)94 9378000	★★★★	103*

FOXFORD / PONTOON ACCOMMODATION *Béal Easa | Pontún*

ACCOMMODATION PROVIDER NAME	EMAIL	WEBSITE	TEL NO.	GRADING (FALTE IRELAND)	NUMBER OF ROOMS
Mayfly Hotel Main St, Foxford, Co. Mayo	info@mayflyhotel.com	www.mayflyhotel.com	+353 (0)94 925 6518	★★	10*

* Please enquire at each hotel to confirm total no. of rooms available at time of booking, which may be greater or less than indicated above.
Please note, the number of rooms in most cases signify 2 beds per room, however please enquire at each hotel to confirm bedroom layouts.

Accommodation (PAGE 2 of 2)



KILTIMAGH / KNOCK ACCOMMODATION *Coillte Mach | Cnoc Mhuire*

ACCOMMODATION PROVIDER NAME	EMAIL	WEBSITE	TEL NO.	GRADING (FAILTE IRELAND)	NUMBER OF ROOMS
Park Hotel Swinford Rd, Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo	info@parkhotelm Mayo.com	www.parkhotelm Mayo.com	+353 (0)94 937 4922	★★★	45*
Knock House Hotel Ballyhaunis Road, Knock, Co. Mayo	info@knockhousehotel.ie	www.knockhousehotel.ie	+353 (0)94 9388088	★★★	68*

MULRANNY / NEWPORT ACCOMMODATION *An Mhala Raithní | Baile Uí Fhiacháin*

ACCOMMODATION PROVIDER NAME	EMAIL	WEBSITE	TEL NO.	GRADING (FAILTE IRELAND)	NUMBER OF ROOMS
Newport House Hotel Newport, Co. Mayo	info@newporthouse.ie	www.newporthouse.ie	+353 98 41222	★★★★	16*
Mulranny Park Hotel Mulranny, Co. Mayo	info@mulrannyparkhotel.ie	www.mulrannyparkhotel.ie	+353 98 36000	★★★★	61*

SWINFORD ACCOMMODATION *Béal Átha na Muice*

ACCOMMODATION PROVIDER NAME	EMAIL	WEBSITE	TEL NO.	GRADING (FAILTE IRELAND)	NUMBER OF ROOMS
Gateway Hotel Main St, Swinford, Co. Mayo	info@gatewayswinford.com	www.gatewayswinford.com	+353 94 9252156	★★★	22*

WESTPORT ACCOMMODATION *Cathair na Mart*

ACCOMMODATION PROVIDER NAME	EMAIL	WEBSITE	TEL NO.	GRADING (FAILTE IRELAND)	NUMBER OF ROOMS
Ardmore Country House Hotel The Quay, Westport, Co. Mayo	info@ardmorecountryhouse.com	www.ardmorecountryhouse.com	+353 98 25994	★★★★	13*
Best Western Plus Westport Woods Hotel Quay Rd, Westport, Co. Mayo	info@westportwoodshotel.com	www.westportwoodshotel.com	+353 98 25811	★★★	122*
Castlecourt Hotel, Spa & Leisure Castlebar St, Westport, Co. Mayo	info@castlecourthotel.ie	www.castlecourthotel.ie	+353 98 55088	★★★★	157*
Clew Bay Hotel James St, Westport, Co. Mayo	info@clewbayhotel.com	www.clewbayhotel.com	+353 98 28088	★★★	54*
The Harbour Mill Apartments (Self Catering) Westport Quay, Westport, Co. Mayo	info@theharbourmill.com	www.theharbourmill.com	+353 98 28555	★★★★	65*
Hotel Westport Newport Rd, Westport, Co. Mayo	reservations@hotelwestport.ie	www.hotelwestport.ie	+353 98 25122	★★★★	129*
Knockranny Hotel & Spa Westport, Co. Mayo	info@khh.ie	www.knockrannyhousehotel.ie	+353 98 28600	★★★★	110*
Mill Times Hotel Westport Town Centre, Westport, Co. Mayo	info@milltimeshotel.ie	www.milltimeshotel.ie	+353 98 29200	★★★	34*
Westport Coast Hotel The Quay, Westport, Co. Mayo	info@westportcoasthotel.ie	www.westportcoasthotel.ie	+353 98 29000	★★★★	85*
Westport Country Lodge Hotel Ballinvoy, Aghagower, Westport, Co. Mayo	reception@westportcountrylodge.ie	www.westportcountrylodge.ie	+353 98 56030	★★★	21*
Westport Plaza Hotel Spa & Leisure, Castlebar St, Westport, Co. Mayo	info@westportplazahotel.ie	www.westportplazahotel.ie	+353 98 51166	★★★★	87*
Wyatt Hotel The Octagon, Westport, Co. Mayo	info@wyatthotel.com	www.wyatthotel.com	+353 98 25027	★★★	50*

* Please enquire at each hotel to confirm total no. of rooms available at time of booking, which may be greater or less than indicated above.
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BED & BREAKFAST ACCOMMODATION

Lóistín Eile

For Bed and Breakfast, Guest House and Hostel accommodation in Mayo, phone +353 98 25711 or visit www.discoverireland.ie



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