

## Presentations/ Speakers/Schedule

9:00 am – Registration/ Breakfast (Coffee/Tea/Juice/ Soda Bread)

10:00 am – Opening Remarks

11:15 a.m. --“Songs and Poems of Ireland’s Great Famine”

Mick Moloney and Vincent Woods will give a joint presentation related to *Across the Western Ocean: Songs of Leaving and Arriving*, (including CD) and *Leaves of Hungry Grass: Poetry and Ireland’s Great Famine*, respectively, books included in Quinnipiac University’s 2016 Famine Folio Series. Mick Moloney will discuss and illustrate songs that convey such horrors of the Irish famine as starvation and death, disease, evictions, emigration, shipwrecks and coffin ships as well as arriving and adjusting to life in North America. Vincent Woods will talk about the role and power of poetry as an act of witness and window into history. He will read contemporary poetry that considers aspects of Ireland’s potato famine of the 1840s in the context of modern famines and the continuing displacement of people around the world.

10:15 a.m. -- “NYC Rising”

Susan McKeown will give an illustrated talk about *New York Rising*, a graphic novel that tells the story of New York’s role in Ireland’s 1916 Rising and will be launched in December 2016. Produced by Cuala Productions and The Nerve Centre in Derry, the novel inspires readers to think about youth and civic engagement and how, according to NY Times journalist Jon Grinspan, “there was a time when young people were the most coveted demographic in politics”. Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, James Connolly, Padraig Pearse, Marcus Garvey, Mike Quill, and Martin Luther King are among the many important historical figures that appear in this dramatically illustrated book.

12:30 p.m. – Lunch

2:30 p.m. “The Bodhran in the Boogie Down Bronx”

Spanning his research conducted in two schools, MS 224 in Mott Haven and KAPPA HS on Fordham Road, Colin Harte will explore the nature of tradition and transformation in relation to the bodhran drum within an urban public school setting. His presentation will include special guest musicians and will demonstrate the different instructional uses of the bodhran in relation to world music. The school percussion ensemble he organized led to the creation of a new instrumental repertoire that sought to address educational needs and communal interests.

3:00 p.m. on – John Garvey then Raffle and Reception

COLIN HARTE earned a PhD. in ethnomusicology at the University of Florida's School of Music where he founded and performed with the UF Irish Traditional Music Ensemble. He received his Master's in Ethnomusicology from the University of Limerick. As a NYC Teaching Fellow, he received a Master's in Education from CUNY Lehman College while teaching band, general music and percussive ensemble at a Bronx public middle school. He currently teaches a world music curriculum for the NYC Department of Education at KAPPA High School in the north Bronx where he directs a world percussion ensemble, keyboard lab, and a World Music course. As a pianist and bodhran percussionist, he is also active in the New York jazz and Irish traditional music communities.

SUSAN McKEOWN, a graduate of University College Dublin and Dublin City University Business School, is a singer, songwriter, and producer who resides in Dublin and New York. In April of 2016, her brainchild, Cuala (named after one of the five ancient roads that lead to Tara) NYC, was launched with an aim to promote Irish culture throughout the city and foster connections with Ireland. Her impressive musical career over the years includes recordings with The Chanting House (and John Doyle), Johnny Cunningham, and The Klezmatics. In 2006 she won a Grammy Award for Best Contemporary World Music album for "Wonder Wheel". Susan devised and produced "Songs from the East Village", a world music album of songs from the students parents and staff of the East Village Community School in 2010. Her graphic novel *NYC Rising* will be launched in December of this year.

VINCENT WOODS, a native of County Leitrim, is a poet, playwright, songwriter and member of Aosdana, Ireland's Art Council who currently hosts *The Arts Show* on RTE Radio 1. His playwriting credits include *A Cry from Heaven*, *John Hughdy and Tom John* (restaged as *On the Way Out*), *Song of the Yellow Bittern*, *Fontamara* (adapted from the novel by Ignazio Silone) and *At the Black Pig's Dyke* which won the Stewart Parker Prize for Drama. His play *The Leitrim Hotel* received the P.J. O'Connor Award for Radio Drama. He is a recipient of the McManus Award for Poetry and his collections include *The Color of Language* and *Lives and Miracles*. He is co-editor of *The Turning Wave* an anthology of Irish -Australian poetry and songs. His writing credits also include the songs "Sanctuary", "Kiss the Moon", "Petticoat Loose" as well as numerous reviews and essays for *The Irish Times*. His book *Leaves of Hungry Grass: Poems of Ireland's Great Famine* is included in Quinncipiatic University's 2016 Famine Folio series.

Bio for MICK MOLONEY is on the following page --

MICK MOLONEY combines the careers of folklorist, musicologist, arts presenter and advocate, professional musician, and professor. He was born in County Limerick and is a graduate of University College Dublin and the University of Pennsylvania where he received a Ph.D. in Folklore and Folklife. He has taught at University of Pennsylvania, Georgetown, and Villanova Universities and is currently Global Distinguished Professor of Music and Irish Studies at New York University. He has recorded and produced over 50 albums, participated in a number of nationally syndicated documentaries, and served as the artistic director for several major arts tours including The Green Fields of America. He is the author of *Far From the Shamrock Shore: The Story of Irish-American Immigration Through Song* and numerous essays and book chapters. He is a recipient of the National Heritage Award from the National Endowment of the Arts, Ireland's Presidential Distinguished Service Award, TG4's Gradam Ceoil Award for Outstanding Contributions to Traditional Music, and this year's inaugural Mike Flanagan Banjo Award for Outstanding Achievement. His most recent publication, *Across the Western Ocean: Songs of Leaving and Arriving* (with CD) is included in Quinnipiac University's 2016 Famine Folio series.