



Brigid Sings Final Report 2024

Brigid Sings

2024



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Kildare County Council



Music Generation
Kildare
Chill Dara



**WE ARE
MUSIC
GENERATION**



BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA
CHILL DARA AGUS CHILL MHANTÁIN
KILDARE AND WICKLOW
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD



**Music
Generation**

Music Generation is Ireland's National Music Education Programme. A Music Network Initiative, co-funded by U2, The Ireland Funds, The Department of Education and Local Music Education Partnerships



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

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Communities*



Rialtas Áitiúil Éireann
Local Government Ireland



Clár Éire Ildánach
*Creative Ireland
Programme*



Brigid Sings 2024: Project Summary

Kildare County Council Arts Service, Music Generation Kildare and Sing Ireland, with support from Creative Ireland Kildare, joined forces to develop a group singing project for primary school children and young people throughout the county to celebrate Brigid in 2024.

The project consisted of five newly commissioned songs by Kildare Singer Songwriters - Inni-K, Lea Heart, Megan O'Neill, Sal and Sive. The commissioned songs and overall musical production was overseen by David Hayes, who worked with each song writer to support their learning and development across the project. Each song was shared with all the primary schools in the county along with padlets of resources, which included games, activities, the lyrics and practice videos for the songs, along with a suite of illustrations and colouring pages to accompany each song, by Kildare illustrator, Laura Dempsey. Each set of resources also included the Irish translations of the songs. The commissioning began in December 2023 and the songs and illustrations were completed in March 2024, when they were shared with the schools through the Kildare Education Centre, Social Media, and by email.

Throughout April and May 2024, musicians from Music Generation Kildare and Sing Ireland travelled the length and breadth of the county, working with children and young people to learn, perform, and explore Brigid's story through music. The project concluded in June 2024 with a Gala performance in St Brigid's Cathedral, in Kildare Town, with 121 young singers performing the songs with the songwriters for an audience of family and friends.

Brigid Sings 2024 *at a glance!*



757 Children
received weekly
sessions for 5
weeks with MG
Kildare MEs



Worked with
**5 Singer
Songwriters
An Illustrator
6 musicians**
from across
County Kildare



2427 children,
from junior
infants to Sixth
class,
**participated in
Workshops**



**3184
children
participated
in the
project.**



The Gala
Performance
featured
121 children





Project Outcomes: June 2024

- 5 commissioned songs.
- A suite of illustrations for each song.
- Six padlets of Resources.
- Engagement with the Resources by 37 schools.
- An Introductory zoom call with 868 students online from across the county, along with the singer songwriters, musical directory David Hayes and Alan, Elaine, Jenny and Dermot from the Brigid Sings partnership.
- Weekly sessions for 5 weeks in six schools by Music Generation Musicians Educators (MEs) reaching 757 children on a weekly basis.
- Workshops in 16 schools across the county with the MG Kildare MEs and Sing Ireland Facilitators reaching 2,427 children and Young people from Junior Infants to sixth class, including the SEN units in 4 schools and two schools for children with additional needs.
- A gala performance with 121 children and young people from around Kildare, the five singer songwriters, the musical director, 3 MG Kildare MEs and 11 singers from the Irish Youth Choirs performing to a packed audience of approximately 330 people in St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare Town.





Participating Schools

Weekly sessions with MG Kildare MEs

- St Peter's N.S, Monasterevin
- St. Conleth's N.S, Carbury
- Scoil Mhuire Junior, Ballymany
- Brannoxtown CNS, Grangemore
- St. Patrick's Primary School, Celbridge
- Presentation Girl's School, Maynooth

Workshops with MG kildare and Sing Ireland

- Rathangan Boys N.S, Rathangan
- St Laurence's N.S, Sallins
- Scoil Bride, Lexilip
- Gaelscoil Mhic Aodha, Kildare Town
- Scoil na Mainistreach, Celbridge
- Gaelscoil Chill Dara, The Curragh
- St Laurence's N.S, Athy
- Suncroft N.S, The Curragh
- St Mark's Special School, Newbridge
- Scoil Mhuire, Ballymore Eustace
- Scoil Naomh Mhuire, Donadea
- Monasterevan Convent N.S., Monasterevin
- Kildangan NS, Monasterevin
- Tiermohan NS, Donadea
- St. Brigid's Primary School, Naas
- St Raphael's Special School, Celbridge



Brigid Sings

2024





Artistic & Production Team

Artistic Design & Project Management

Project Management

Jenny O'Connor-Madsen, *Sing Ireland*
Eláine Donnelly, *Kildare Arts Services*
Alan Costello, *Music Generation Kildare*

Project Support

Colleen Werle, *Creative Ireland Kildare*
Dermot O'Callaghan, *Sing Ireland*

Cecelia Molumby, *Sing Ireland*
Daniel Clements, *Sing Ireland*

Kate Daly, *Sing Ireland*

Aoife Kavanagh, *Music Generation Kildare*

Musical Director

David Hayes

Illustrator

Laura Dempsey, *Pickled Pom Pom*

Resources Development

Helen Ella

Translator

Deirdre Ní Chaomhánaigh

Photographer

Ruth Connolly

Workshop Facilitators & Musicians

Music Generation Kildare

Alan Costello
Diramuid Lally
Luke Tai

Veronica Craughwell

Emily Cox

Sing Ireland

Patrick Barrett

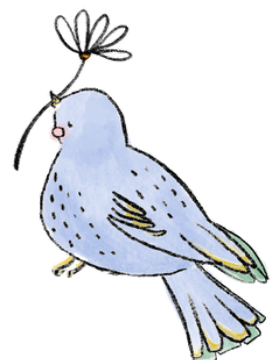
Caitríona Fitzmaurice

Aodhán Gavigan

Niall Kelly

Anne-Marie O'Brien

Ciara Murphy





Musicians & Performers

Musical Director/Keyboard
Conductor
Kit/Percussion
Bass
Guitars
Violin
Accordion

David Hayes
Anne Marie O'Brien
Luke Tai
Diarmuid Lally
Keelan Kenny
Selena McCarthy
Vera Craughwell

Backing Vocalists/Stewards

Representatives from the Irish Youth Choirs:
Sirin Farina
Alison Foley
Rhea Kennedy
Jane Sone Lenou
Charlene Sone Lenou
Aoife Murphy
Roisin O'Neill
Naomi Ryan
Ellen Ryan
Holly Trainor
Scarlet Wilmot.

Production

Technical Production Manager
Stage Management

Alannah Hayes
Ken Giles
Karina Hayes

Sound/Visuals
Lighting
Power

One Louder Sound - Jody Trehy
Stage Lighting Centre - Tomás Fitzgerald
PureCore Event Power



Project Feedback from Schools, Teachers and Parents



Congratulations on all you have achieved and thank you for giving us the opportunity to be part of this project. We loved every minute- it was a huge success. Go raibh mile maith agat! - Niamh, Gaelscoil Chill Dara



We did not get to participate this year because of other commitments, but we learned the Lighthouse Song and performed it at our end of year mass. We hope you will do the project again.
- Scoil on Linbh Iosa, Naas.

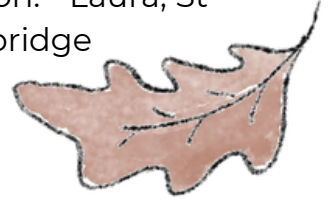
Thank you for giving my daughter the chance to sing! I have never seen her look so happy or confident as she did last Saturday. We were so proud! Thank you to everyone involved.
-Michelle, Parent



Thank you to Kildare Arts Service, Music Generation Kildare and Sing Ireland for bringing Lea Heart, a past pupil of our school, back to our school. Every single student got the opportunity to sing with her and to experience the Brigid Sings project and it was inspiring for them and the staff to see a past pupil shine and to sing together. We had a loss in the school the week before the workshops and the day brought us all together.
-Ms. Scott, St Laurence's N.S



Lighthouse and Army of the Young are the soundtrack to our school for the last three months. We love being a part of Brigid Sings and especially our musician Diarmuid. We have performed the songs as part of this year's 6th class graduation. - Laura, St Patrick's N.S, Celbridge



Where do I begin to thank you for Brigid Sings? You have all made a beautiful thing happen! All the moving parts and it was amazing. We have gotten so much from it- the games, the art work and the songs. Thank you to all involved, our girls will never forget it.
-Kate and everyone in Monasterevin

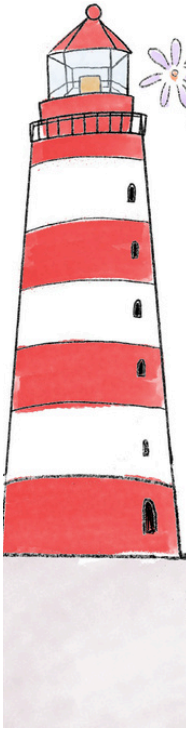
Our boys have never been a part of anything like this. It was wonderful for them to do something other than sports and to be superstars for one night. Thank you.
-Bhavika, Parent



This was the best thing our school has done in a while! More please!!
-Grainne, Donadea



About the Songs:



Lighthouse by Sive

Sive is a songwriter and musician from Kildare who was named 'one of the most inspiring and exciting artists of our time' by Female First Magazine.

She loves to explore a wide variety of themes in her songwriting, drawing inspiration from personal experiences, nature and mythology. She also enjoys experimenting with different guitar tunings, writing vocal harmonies, and trying out new instruments

When she's not working on her own songs, Sive is busy getting involved with community projects such as choirs and creative workshops. To date Sive has published three albums of original material, and this year she released a song cycle inspired by the stories of Brigid the saint and the goddess.

For more information about Sive and to download the free resources click here: [Lighthouse Resources and Song](#)



Lighthouse by Sive

If you ever lose your voice, love,
I will bear your cry,
I will carry all your stories,
Far across the skies.
I will be, will be the wind that guides your sail.
I will be, I will be, I will be your Lighthouse.

If you lose yourself in darkness, I will speak your name,
When nobody sees your glimmer, I will tend your flame.
Wrap you warm inside my cloak 'til you feel safe,
I will be, I will be, I will be your Lighthouse.

You are woven into the rushes of my open arms
'Cos we've all grown out of the same deep roots,
Whoever you are
And even when the hand of Winter grips your heart
You carry the spark of Spring,
No matter who you are.

I would give away my own sword just to bring you peace.
I would never turn my back on you, not until you're free.
Won't you come and dream under the rowan tree?
I'll dream you into shelter from the raging sea
I will be, I will be, I will be your Lighthouse.

You are woven into the rushes of my open arms
'Cos we've all grown out of the same deep roots,
Whoever you are
And even when the hand of Winter grips your heart
You carry the spark of Spring,
No matter who you are.

I will be, I will be, I will be your Lighthouse.



Burn The Flame by SAL

SAL is an Irish singer-songwriter with a difference. Her music explores the many colours in the spectrum of folk music, always showcasing her own versatility as an artist, whilst maintaining her pop sensibilities.

Originally hailing from County Kildare, SAL has spent her recent years in Cork, creating and performing all the time. After signing a management deal with London based Charlie B Management, SAL was unveiled at Liverpool Irish Festival 2021, where she showcased a set of brand new material with her band. SAL has undertaken international touring since 2019 all across Europe, from the UK to Germany to Switzerland. Her music maintains obscure and vibrant pop sensibilities, with organic indie folk at the foundation of her writing.

In the world of live music, SAL has covered a huge amount of ground, from gracing stages in some of Ireland's most prestigious venues and festivals, to regular shows in the UK and Germany.

For more information about SAL and to download the free resources click here: [Burn The Flame Resources and Song](#).



Burn The Flame by SAL

When the world said 'stay small'
When the world said 'Be Quiet',
She ignites a fire,
Woh, Oh, Woh, Woh.

They said 'Run and hide'
They said 'don't shine too bright'
So Brigid burned the fire
Woh, Oh, Woh, Woh.

A cloak so bright,
Spread so far and so wide,
No one thought that she could go farther than the
land would. So we say

Sing and burn the flame
Light up in Brigid's name
Just release the pain,
What more can you gain?
Sing in Brigid's name
Light it up and burn the flame!

Peace is what we need,
Peace is what can set you free,
Woh, Oh, Woh, Woh.

It's how we learn to breathe
The only way to lead, we don't need a battlefield
Woh, Woh, Oh,

Women thought Brigid could use her power for
good.
As her legacy grows
Our voices grow louder when we know.

Sing and burn the flame
Light up in Brigid's name
Just release the pain,
What more can you gain?
Sing in Brigid's name
Light it up and burn the flame!

Burn the flame!
Light it up in Brigid's name



Don Nádúr Timpeall Orainn agus Ionainn Araon by Innie-K

Inni-K comes from Kilcock in Co. Kildare. Innie-K's musical journey began at the tender age of four when she first picked up the fiddle, taught by her grandfather. Today, Innie-K is a versatile multi-instrumentalist, proficient in piano, fiddle, and guitar. She captivates audiences with her enchanting vocals, performing songs in both English and Gaelic.

Inni-K has performed for audiences all over the world - in big theatre venues and small cozy rooms too. She just loves singing! She writes new songs and sings old songs too.

Fun fact: Innie-K's niece Ellie who is nearly 10 helped compose the introduction of her song Don Nádúr Timpeall Orainn agus Ionainn Araon - the ooo ah ooh ah ooh ah ooh ah ooooh bit! That's Ellie's bit!

For more information about Innie-K and to download the free resources click here: [Don Nádúr Resources and Song](#)



Don Nádúr Timpeall Orainn agus Ionainn Araon

by Innie-K

Oo-a Oo-a Oo-a Oo-a Ooh...

Buíochas do na crainn,
's buíochas don ithir fúinn,
do gach uile bhláth is éan,
don nádúr timpeall orainn
's ionainn araon.

Buíochas do na hainmhithe,
don mbia ag fás is na luibheanna,
don aer a anáilimid,
don nádúr timpeall orainn
's ionainn araon.

*Fite fuaite le chéile,
ag fás, ag fás, ag fás,
ar nós chrosóg Bhríde,
nascaithe le chéile,
tá a fhios againne,
tá a fhios againne,
gurb í sláinte an dúrla ár sláinte fhéin,
's í sláinte an dúlra ár sláinte fhéin.*

Meas dár nádúr féin
'S dár nasc leis an gcomhshaol,
Tugaimid grá ar nós Bhríd na nGael
don nádúr timpeall orainn
's ionainn araon.

Fite fuaite le chéile,
ag fás, ag fás, ag fás,
ar nós chrosóg Bhríde,
nascaithe le chéile,
tá a fhios againne,
tá a fhios againne,

gurb í sláinte an dúrla ár sláinte fhéin,
's í sláinte an dúlra ár sláinte fhéin.

Buíochas dos na crainn,
Buíochas don ithir fúinn,
do gach uile bhláth is éan,
don nádúr timpeall orainn
's ionainn araon.

don nádúr timpeall orainn
's ionainn araon.



All Of Us by Megan O'Neill

Named one of the Irish Examiner's Ones to Watch, Irish Singer-Songwriter Megan O'Neill is currently working on a new collection of songs with single releases scheduled throughout 2024. To date, she has released 3 EPs and 2 full-length albums with songs playlisted across Irish national radio and international stations such as the BBC.

Megan's cover version of Jim Croce's Time in a Bottle featured in the opening scene of hit Netflix TV Show Firefly Lane and one week later, O'Neill performed the song live on the RTE Late Late Show - charting that same weekend in Ireland across all genres. Megan's subsequent Late Late Show appearance saw her perform Brian Byrne's 'Lay Your Head Down', originally released with Sinéad O'Connor on vocals.

Deemed a "rising star" by uDiscover and Timeout Magazine London, Megan has toured globally and has opened for the likes of Sir Tom Jones, Lighthouse Family, Jamie Cullum, and the late Olivia Newton-John,

For more information about Megan O'Neill and to download the free resources click here: [All Of Us Resources and Song](#)

All Of Us

by Megan O'Neill

The Goddess of poetry and light,
She brings Spring to life on the first of February
With inclusion and foresight
And a fire deep inside that makes her legendary

Oh, she paved the way
so women could make their own choices.
She wanted to break the rules that were made to
drown out their voices.

Brigid of the sky and earth,
Shinin' over all of us, all of us.
Her cloak over the Curragh plains,
The Ancient East still holds her name, holds her name.

She brought peace and harmony,
She saw what the world could be
If ev'ryone was equal,
If we spread Love, not evil!

So Brigid of the sky and earth,
Keep shinin' over all of us, all of us, all of us.

The Goddess of healing and of peace,
She gave to those in need,
With kindness, we remember,
She built a monast'ry of hope,
A place where all could go and educate together.

Oh, she paved the way,
she wasn't afraid to be diff'rent.

Brigid of the sky and earth,
Shinin' over all of us, all of us, all of us
Her cloak over the Curragh plains,
The Ancient East still holds her name, holds her name.

She brought peace and harmony,
She saw what the world could be
If ev'ryone was equal,
If we spread Love, not evil!

So Brigid of the sky and earth,
Keep shinin' over all of us, all of us, all of us.





Army of The Young by Lea Heart

Hailing from Kildare, Lea's grandparents gifted her an old grand piano when the first lockdown commenced and it was during this time Lea honed her craft and song-writing skills. After setting herself up on socials, Lea began to share her isolation creations to an increasingly engaging audience garnering her a substantial TikTok following in a short space of time. It was on here Lea shared a snippet of her soon to be first single 'Older' to her 40,000 fans.

With her star on the rise, Lea continued to dazzle audiences with her soul-stirring performances, captivating crowds at sold-out venues and major festivals alike. From supporting renowned acts like Lewis Capaldi and Sigrid to gracing the stages of iconic venues such as the 3Arena and Malahide Castle, Lea's talent knew no bounds.

Her self-titled EP, released in 2021, further solidified her status as an emerging force in the music industry, claiming the number one spot on the iTunes chart and earning her accolades such as the IMRO award for Biggest Homegrown Single 2021 with her track "IDK Why."

For more information about Lea Heart and to download the free resources click here: [Army of the Young Resources and Song](#)



Army of The Young

by Lea Heart

We've got a lot to say
This is our time to make a difference,
We've got a part to play
We're gonna carry on the footprint.

We try even when we fall down,
We still never hit the ground,
Singin' 'we're gonna keep the flame alive'

Can you hear us now?
Can you hear us sing with our voices loud?
Are you listening?
Oh we may be young,
But we're here to stay!

'Cos there's a fire in our hearts and it's burning like the sun,
We're the thunder in the dark, And we've only just begun,
We'll be standing' hand in hand 'cos together we are strong:

Can you hear the sound of marching to the beat of our own drum?

We're an Army, an Army of the young, an Army of the young.

We're gonna take a stand,
Now is our moment! Make it happen!
Power in all of our hands.
Take the risk, take some action!

It's our life and we're livin' it now.
It's our time and we gotta be proud,
Singin' 'we're gonna keep the flame alive'

'Cos there's a fire in our hearts and it's burning like the sun,
We're the thunder in the dark, And we've only just begun,
We'll be standin' hand in hand 'cos together we belong.
Can you hear the sound of marching to the beat of our own drum?
Were an Army, an Army of the young, an Army of the young.

(Oh.... Oh... Oh.... etc)
Can you hear us now?
Can you hear us sing with our voices loud?
Are you listening?
Oh we may be young, But we're here to stay!

'Cos there's a fire in our hearts and it's burning like the sun,
We're the thunder in the dark, And we've only just begun,
We'll be standing' hand in hand 'cos together we are strong:
Can you hear the sound of marching to the beat of our own drum?
Were an Army, an Army of the young, an Army of the young.
(Oh.... Oh... Oh.... etc).
An Army of The Young.



Illustrations by Laura Dempsey



Laura Dempsey lives in Rathangan, Co.Kildare with her husband, 3 children and dog Bo.

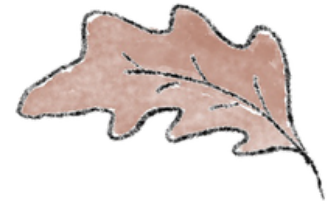
After school, Laura attended Dublin's NCAD to study textile design and went on to work as a designer for High Street retailers (you might have seen her designs on t-shirts, dresses and pjs!)

Drawing is one of Laura's favourite things to do to relax - she gets her best ideas when she's brushing her teeth or trying to get to sleep (She keeps a notebook under her pillow!) Laura draws in sketchbooks, using a mix of watercolours, markers and pencils and often finishes her designs on her iPad with her apple pencil.

Colour makes her so happy, but surprisingly, her favourite colour is white!



Project Feedback from Musicians



This was the most magical day and project. Thank you for choosing me to be a part of it. I learned so much from David Hayes and I am in awe of the other musicians.

Thank you x
-Sal

I am so proud to have been a part of the project. Thank you to everyone who believed in me and my song. I will never forget Saturday night!

-Sive

Thank you so much for such a GORGEOUS day/evening. What an incredible project you all managed to pull off. Saturday was pure magic and will stay with me for a long time to come. I hope we get to do it all again!

-Megan

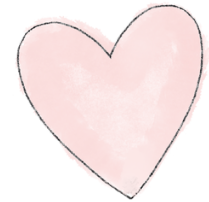


Thank you for having me involved in this ambitious, gorgeous project. It was a special event on Saturday and a real joy to be part of it.

-Inni-K

Thank you for having me as part of this project. I loved working with Dave - he taught me so much and the children were brilliant. Thank you for giving me the chance to go back to my old school- it was scary bit brilliant. I loved it all.

-Lea Heart



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The Brigid Sings Project Partnership June 2024



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