

## Entertainment

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by Eric FitzGerald  
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CITY OF CULTURE

# The Pigtown Fling

## More than a one night stand



Recording sessions for The Pigtown Fling (clockwise from left): producer Noel Hogan and Kenneth Rice, Jane Fraser, Munyaradzi Jonas (aka GodKnows), Tony Roche, Conor J Ryan and Denise Chaila

Pics: Darren Ryan

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### The largest music project of Limerick's City of Culture year comes to fruition this weekend and promises to leave the city's music industry with a lasting legacy

all these different people from different bands never having worked together before, coming into the studio to work on these songs."

The Pigtown Fling was a mammoth production involving 47 performers contributing to 17 original songs. It took the equivalent of three months of seven days a week recording time to complete the process.

"It was amazing to see so many artists with no attitude and no tantrums, everybody was just totally open to the process." Noel has been producing for over 20 years but had never worked with so many on one project and simply remembering who was doing what every day was a challenge. "It was a great experience and I made a pile of new friends because of it as well."

Musician/filmmaker Shane Serrano has been documenting the Pigtown Fling sessions along with other Limerick filmmakers Stephen Hall and Brian Cross based in LA. The recording of Pigtown Fling will form part of an extensive documentary of Limerick's music makers to be completed in the coming months. The Pigtown Fling sessions brought together generations of Limerick musicians who had not worked together before.

Shane says, "There were some cool

scenarios. James Hanley had a piano piece he had written in the early '80s and he finally got to finish it with singer Conor J Ryan - who wasn't even born when the piece was first composed. Brian Mulcahy of the O'Malleys got to write and record a tune with his son Paddy Mulcahy AKA electronic music producer Nubus. They had never worked together before."

In a week when Apple gave away U2's new album for free to 500 million iTunes users, Noel Hogan was in complete agreement with Pigtown Fling originator John Greenwood that the Pigtown Fling record would be devalued if it didn't have a cover price.

"If you gave it away for free, it kind of devalues the thing. If there is money made from this, it will be going to local charities," says Noel. "The rule book is really gone when it comes to releasing music these days. To record an album costs a lot of money. If you are a young band and you have invested everything into your album, you should be hoping for some return. For a band like U2 it makes sense, but you can't put them in the same category as a band starting out. It's a great gesture for their fans who have stuck with them."

Noel Hogan is confident that The Pig Town Fling will not be just a one night stand next Saturday .20 but will have a legacy for the music business in the city.

"The hope is that we can do Pigtown Fling every year, using all the facilities that we have used this time in Limerick while bringing in bands from outside Limerick as well. The infrastructure is here to be able to do this. We know what we need to do it. We know how much time we need to do it."

At the recent launch Hogan stated, "The challenges - and ultimately the strengths - of making this record involved bringing together a very diverse range of musicians, performers and songwriters. Many of whom, while they might have been on nodding terms on the streets of Limerick, had not played together before. The end result is an incredible fusion of genres, sounds and talents."

The Pigtown Fling featuring over 40 musicians happens this Saturday September 20 at Crescent Hall on O'Connell Avenue. Tickets are available from Lime Tree Theatre box office. Pat Shortt and Today FM DJ and Undertones lead singer Paul McAloon will comper the event. Tickets for the event are €12 which includes a copy of the limited edition CD.

The CD can be collected on the night of the gig on production of the ticket. Proceeds of the project go to Corbett Suicide Prevention Patrol and The Learning Hub.

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### MGLC Teaching Hubs

Music Generation Limerick City runs programmes for young people both in and out of schools settings. One of our core activities is group lessons to get young people who haven't had an opportunity to learn an instrument onto the first stage of their musical journey. These lessons are free to the participant, and take place at the Limerick Learning Hub (Kileely), CBS Secondary School (Sexton Street) and the Southill Area Centre. We currently offer guitar, keyboard, ukulele, production/hip-hop and drum lessons, as well as teen singing groups in a number of locations.

Places are limited, but we seek to accommodate any young person who is keen to learn.

**Weekday afternoons**

### Micro Musos & Kids Choir

Music Generation's Micro Muso programme (for infants) and Children's Choir (1st up to 4th class) are now underway, at 2.30pm on Saturdays at the ICO Studio and the Tower theatre at the Irish World Academy building. Both sessions combine skills building with fun, learning new ways to express and work together.

The Choir in the Tower had great numbers for the first session last week, so is splitting again into piccolos (1st and 2nd class) and the older group. As well as singing, the young people get a chance at movement and tasters of instruments such as kazoos and ukes.

The first performance of the choir will be a special themed event on Saturday 24th October.

**Saturday's 2.30-3.15 at the ICO Studio, UL**

### Band Explosion (teens)

Following a hectic summer of songwriting, MGLC's flagship 'Band Explosion' project will resume shortly. This ground-breaking mentoring programme for teenage musicians provides a chance to form bands, which are then tutored, promoted and given gig and recording opportunities. Sessions take place 12-3pm on Saturdays at the Limerick Learning Hub. We are inviting musicians of any style and experience level to join the second wave of bands

**Saturday's 12-3pm at the Limerick Learning Hub Studios.**

**To find out more about any of the above programmes contact noreen.hogan@lctb.ie or send a message to Music Generation Limerick City's Facebook page**

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