



# Maureen Browne

MAUREEN hails from one of the oldest areas of Galway City – The Claddagh- and has been playing the fiddle since the age of three. She began by learning a Suzuki method of playing; however, by the age of six, she had switched to classical music and was training in the Cork School of Music under the renowned violinist and tutor Mr. Adrian Petcu. Alongside the classical music, Maureen began to learn traditional fiddle at the age of four under the instruction of Matt Cranitch from Cork. She encountered master classes with the great Martin Hayes and Tommy Peoples and while participating in Fleadh Ceoils, was under the instruction of Brendan Larrisey. Maureen won her first All Ireland at the age of seven and from then, had decided that she would pursue her musical journey alongside training to become a teacher.

She became a member of Johnny (Ringo) Mc Donagh's band Arcady and prior to that was a member of his other band Full Steam Ahead. In 2011 she toured extensively with the Alan Kelly Gang and during this period had the honour of performing many times with the fabulous Scottish songstress Eddi Reader and Trashcan Sinatras' guitarist and songwriter John Douglas. In 2016 she was delighted to be asked to perform with the Máirtín O'Connor Band and the Contempo Quartet. In August 2016, she became a founding member of BackWest and since then has co-produced two of the band's highly critically acclaimed albums - The Long Walk and Heritage Hall released on the BackWest Music label in 2017 and 2019. In July 2019 she had the privilege of directing a musical and cultural project with BackWest in conjunction with Tourism Ireland which was performed for the President of Ireland, An tUasal Michael D. Higgins as part of a Galway 2020 European Capital showcase in Frankfurt, Germany.

She has performed at many National and International Festivals such as the Milwaukee Irish Festival (USA), Boston Irish Festival (USA), Copenhagen Irish Festival (Denmark), Templebar Tradfest (Dublin), The Gathering Festival (Killarney), the Celtic Colours International Festival (Novia Scotia), the Edmonton Folk Festival (Canada) and the National Folk Festival (Canberra Australia) but to name a few. She has shared many stages with world-renowned musicians from all musical genres and has also toured the world as a performer with Michael Flatley's 'Lord of the Dance'.

Maureen is also extremely passionate about the Irish language. She holds a Diplóma sa Ghaeilge from the National University of Ireland, Galway and an MA in Ethnomusicology from the University of Limerick.