

# JOAN TRIMBLE AWARDS 2002 – 2012

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*“Supporting youth projects in County Fermanagh, to get involved in creative arts, from drama and poetry, to crafts, music, visual arts and beyond.”*

## JOAN TRIMBLE AWARDS 2007 – 2012 (financial years 2007/8 to 2012/13)

The Joan Trimble Awards were established in memory of the Enniskillen-born musician and composer, Joan Trimble.

Much of Joan's life was spent in London, where she studied, performed, composed, and for many years taught as a Professor at the Royal College of Music. Her links with Fermanagh remained central to her, however, and following the death of her father she became Chairman & Managing Director of the Trimble family newspaper *The Impartial Reporter*. She returned to live permanently in Enniskillen in 1978 where she remained until her death in 2000, aged 85.

Whilst celebrated widely for her musical gifts, Joan was passionate about all the creative arts – from literature to the visual arts, crafts, dance and drama – and she was a tireless champion of Irish culture.

The Awards were launched by Joan's family in 2002 to recognize her lifelong commitment to County Fermanagh, to creativity and Irish culture. Through the encouragement of young people to participate in, be inspired by and enjoy a rich diversity of cultural activities, Joan's vision of wider opportunity and access to the arts for new generations is being perpetuated.

## CHAIR'S REPORT & 5-YEAR REVIEW

It's instructive to review at regular intervals the progress and achievements of any organization. In summer 2007 we reported on the first 5 years of the Joan Trimble Awards; these paragraphs aim to summarise the following five period from 2007-2012 and to consider our current position.

During our first five years, grant giving was focused on schools and youth groups. For this second phase, we selected two groups for support. Firstly, in the field of dance, the gifted choreographer Dylan Quinn created two distinctive projects which brought young people aged 13-17 together for workshops and public performances. Secondly, in areas of performance, ranging from poetry and drama to jazz, drumming, classical music and Scottish dance, extra funding was provided to the Fermanagh Feis for Workshops and Master classes - a new and popular initiative for this distinguished event. Hundreds of young people participated in these between 2007 and 2012.

Separately, support was awarded to individual events: a music project led by Jeanne Munroe at the Erne School for children with special needs; Photographic Workshops for young people which explored the architectural heritage of Enniskillen and culminated in an exceptional exhibition at Fermanagh County Museum; and special funding for the 'Elastic Band' – a scheme designed to nurture and encourage young brass musicians within the broader-based Fermanagh Concert Band.

Attempts were made to find ways to encourage drama within the County but these proved difficult to progress. Nonetheless, for the future it remains an area of interest to us.

In concluding my last report, I said it was hoped we would welcome new members to our Advisory Group. I'm delighted to report that Bronagh Cleary (Museum Development Officer at Fermanagh County Museum), Noelle McAlindon (Arts Advisor to the WELB), and Liz McVey (grand-daughter of Joan Trimble, and with her own family a lifelong resident of Enniskillen) joined us to work alongside founding advisors Toni Johnson, Barbara Johnston and Helen Lanigan Wood; together, they have all made a tremendous contribution. Joanna McVey has continued as Secretary and Lauri McCusker, Director of The Fermanagh Trust, has been a constant support with administration and the management of our financial affairs.

With investment income constrained in the immediate future, our challenge within the Fund's Terms of Reference (in essence, to support young people in County Fermanagh develop interest and have opportunity for involvement in the creative arts) is to identify and encourage those people who will get most value from our limited resources. Fermanagh is rich in history, in its creative leaders – artists, writers, musicians, teachers, youth leaders - and not least in its young people. We are optimistic that with the continued support of our Advisory Group, the guidance of The Fermanagh Trust, and with the collaboration of the people of the Fermanagh community, the next five years will be equally productive.

Caroline Gant, Chair, Joan Trimble Awards, June 2013

## FINANCE

An additional family capital contribution of £25,000 was made to the Fund in 2007-08, bringing the total value of the fund at April 2008 to £110,000. The value of the fund at 30 June 2013 is £105,750.

The financial markets during these five years had a negative impact on investors, not least ourselves, and this was (and continues to be) reflected in the cash available for grant aid.

Total amount distributed 2007-2008 to 2012-13 £15,500

Total Sum distributed since foundation of Trust £22,626

## PROJECTS AWARDED GRANTS 2007/08 TO 2012/13

Major awards were made by the Joan Trimble Awards to two specific projects: to Fermanagh-based choreographer Dylan Quinn and to the Fermanagh Feis. The awards formed part of a three-year commitment to support the development of both projects.

### Dylan Quinn Dance

2007-2008: £2,322

2008-2009: £1,375

2009-2010: £1,375

Ardhowen Theatre (associated hire costs) £400

The 3-year grant programme awarded to Dylan Quinn Dance supported three key programmes:

- The development and public performance of 'The Silver Secret' dance theatre project at the Ardhowen Theatre (2007/2008)
- Workshops in post-primary schools to encourage recruitment of new participants to work with Dylan on a new piece of dance theatre for the Enniskillen Arts Festival in October 2008.
- A dance/drama project working with boys from a number of schools, including Lisnaskea High, St. Joseph's and Portora Royal School. The boys participated in a series of workshops which culminated in a public performance at the Lakeland Forum.



Dance tutor Dylan Quinn with the members of the Lisnaskea High School Dance group who performed at the Lakeland Forum in April 2009.

## **Fermanagh Feis**

2007-2008: £1,000

2008-2009: £1,070

2009-2010: £1,000

2010-2011: £1,284

2011-2012: £1,092

Fermanagh Feis provides a unique annual platform for children of all ages from across County Fermanagh to stretch their talents in a wide range of creative disciplines. The Awards hoped that, by providing access to high quality post-competition tuition and master classes, participants would be further encouraged to pursue and appreciate their chosen discipline in the year ahead.

During this six year period, the Scheme funded workshops and master classes in Classical Music, Drama, Poetry, Scottish Highland Dance, Jazz, and Drumming.

Following the great success of the first three years, support was extended to the Fermanagh Feis for a further three years, concluding in February 2012.



Students taking part in the Fermanagh Feis Jazz Piano Workshop funded by the Joan Trimble Awards. *(Images courtesy of Impartial Reporter Fermanagh Feis Supplement 2010)*



## OTHER AWARDS

### **Fermanagh County Museum**

2010-2011: £1,098

The Young Friends of Fermanagh County Museum were loaned cameras and supported by the Awards to work with experienced photographer Stephen Hetherington. They explored Enniskillen and its architecture, producing some remarkable images about the town's changing history that were displayed in the exhibition 'Shooting the Past' at Fermanagh County Museum from February 2011.



Young Friends of Fermanagh County Museum at the launch of 'Enniskillen: a Model Town' with Catherine Scott of Fermanagh County Museum and High Sheriff Terry McCartney, who opened the exhibition.

### **Erne Special School**

2010-2011: £1890

A music project organised and led by Jeanne Munroe, for children with special needs focused on developing the pupils' communication and expressive skills. The project helped increase the children's confidence, self esteem and creative skills.

## **Fermanagh Concert Band**

2011/2012: £2,000

An award was given to the Fermanagh Concert Band to support the establishment of an innovative venture. The project, entitled 'The Elastic Band' was designed to target aspiring young wind and brass musicians in Fermanagh and the award met the costs of rehearsal rooms and tutors for one year.

Fermanagh Concert Band is the only Concert Band in County Fermanagh. Entirely voluntary, it is a cross-community group with a very wide age range which meets weekly in Enniskillen. The newly formed 'Elastic Band' gives younger, less experienced players the opportunity to improve their skills in a purposeful and supportive environment, and ultimately to form part of a 'feeder' band for the main Concert Band.



Helen Lanigan Wood (left), member of the Advisory Group, with members of 'the Elastic Band'.  
*(Photograph courtesy of the Fermanagh Herald)*



## **LOOKING AHEAD**

Following a review of the Awards the Trust decided to have an open call seeking applications for appropriate projects from across Fermanagh. The Awards will continue to support young people (up to 25 years of age) resident in County Fermanagh to undertake activities in the fields of the creative/performing arts and Irish culture.

It is anticipated that funds will allow us to award grants of up to £4,000 in each coming financial year (subject to financial investments). The Terms of Reference for the Awards is outlined below

## Terms of Reference for the Fund in 2013

### **What the Fund Supports**

Young people (up to 25 years of age) resident in County Fermanagh to undertake activities in the fields of the creative/performing arts and Irish culture.

Individuals AND organisations may apply

### **How the Awards are Managed**

The Awards are administered by The Fermanagh Trust.

An Advisory Group meets twice a year. It is formed of 3 family members, the Director of the Fermanagh Trust, and members of the Fermanagh community with wide-ranging specialist knowledge.

Grants range from £500 to £1,500 (for exceptional projects a maximum of £3,000 may be awarded).

The Advisory Group's decision is final.

### **Application Process**

An application form is available directly from the Fermanagh Trust on 02866 320210.

Applications for awards should be made by completing the application form and returning to The Joan Trimble Awards c/o The Fermanagh Trust (see below).

Closing Dates for applications are;

31<sup>st</sup> July 2013 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014

Applications should be sent to:

The Joan Trimble Awards  
c/o Director  
The Fermanagh Trust  
Fermanagh House  
Broadmeadow Place  
Enniskillen, BT74 7HR

E-MAIL ADDRESS: [info@fermanaghtrust.org](mailto:info@fermanaghtrust.org)

WEBSITE DETAILS: [www.fermanaghtrust.org](http://www.fermanaghtrust.org)

Telephone: 028 66 320210 If you are not sure whether your project fits within the guidelines, please contact The Fermanagh Trust offices for advice.

## APPENDIX 1

### Summary of grants given in first 5 years

YEAR	ORGANISATION	PROJECT	GRANT
2003 / 2004	Jones Memorial Primary School and Holy Trinity School (Enniskillen)	'Enniskillen, Past, Present & Future'	£500
	St Aiden's High School	Traditional Skills Workshops	£500
	Brookeborough Primary School	'History of Brookeborough' Grant	£400
	Erne Special School	'Down in Fermanagh' Grant	£500
2004 / 2005	Model Primary School Enniskillen	Health Awareness Music Project Grant	£300
	Florencecourt Primary School	'Native Irish Willows'	£500
2005 / 2006	Aghadrumsee Primary School	'Mural' Grant	£500
	Kesh Primary School	'Mural 1865 – 2006' Grant	£500
	St Eugene's Primary School (Knocks)	'Wall Hanging' Grant	£500
2006 / 2007	Dylan Quinn Dance	'The Silver Secret'	£1,922
	Fermanagh Feis	Workshops & Master classes	£1000

## APPENDIX 2

### OTHER EVENTS

Joan Trimble's life and work have been celebrated through a variety of events over the years. Most recently these included:

#### **Buttermilk Point: The Musical Life of Joan Trimble (1915-2000) Exhibition**

The Exhibition was displayed in Fermanagh County Museum at Enniskillen Castle from 8 July to 27 August 2012.

This exhibition was seen by over 9000 visitors during its run. The exhibition showcased part of Joan's remarkable musical career through music manuscripts and photographs from Fermanagh County Museum's archives.

#### **Green Rain**

**Green Rain**, a music theatre piece by Miriam Gallagher, celebrated the life and music of **Joan Trimble**. Green Rain was performed at the Ardhoven Theatre as part of Enniskillen Arts Festival from **Thursday 30th September – Sunday 3rd October 2010**.

This evocative and nostalgic insight into Joan's early life and influences conjured up her colourful background; her progress from precocious musical childhood to her famed two-piano partnership with her sister, Valerie, and her success as a composer, and later as proprietor of the family-owned Impartial Reporter newspaper.

Family, friends and key influencers were vividly recalled in award-winning playwright Miriam Gallagher's lively script and woven throughout with some of Joan's best loved two-piano music, performed by **Una Hunt** and **Danusia Oslizlok**. As one of Ireland's leading pianists, Una Hunt has toured extensively in Europe and the USA and has been a champion of Joan Trimble's music, playing a leading role in returning it to prominence in the Irish music scene.

The dramatic roles were played by two family members: Kenneth Saunderson and Sarah Saunderson.

The theatre piece was complemented at the Ardhoven Theatre with an exhibition of the work of the Joan Trimble Awards.