

# JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

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## GRAMMY AWARD NOMINATED IRISH BAND TO PLAY AT THE JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE

The Judith Wright Centre Presents  
**BEOGA**

What do you get when you put five madcap Irish musicians in a recording studio? A Grammy nominated album.

The Judith Wright Centre is thrilled to present 2010 Grammy nominated 5-piece Irish band **Beoga**, direct from sell-out performances at major festival throughout Europe and the USA.

Dubbed by the Wall Street Journal as “the most exciting band to emerge from Ireland this century”, **Beoga** arrives at the Judith Wright Centre for one night only Saturday 19 June as part of the Brisbane Cabaret Festival.

**Beoga's** debut Australian tour sees them perform self-penned tunes and inspired arrangements from their Grammy nominated new album *The Incident*, plus hits from the critically acclaimed albums *A Lovely Madness* and *Mischief*.

“We were delighted to make the Grammy shortlist,” bodhrán percussionist Eamon Murray said of the band’s recent nomination for Best Contemporary World Music Album. “It’s fantastic to be in the running for something so prestigious. Hopefully our Grammy award won’t be too far away, we’ll see.”

Formed in 2002, **Beoga** quickly became one of the most popular and influential ensembles in modern Irish music, receiving high praise at home and internationally in Boston, Denmark, Germany, and New York.

Murray is joined by the duelling accordions of Damian McKee and Seán Óg Graham, with fine support from Liam Bradley’s piano and vocals from Niamh Dunne, one of Ireland’s brightest young talents.

The resulting sound is an inimitable sonic fusion of traditional Irish music, Astor Piazzola-style jazz and raunchy New Orleans jamboree.

“Irish music and song have a great history embedded in them, which is why I think they’ve survived,” Murray said.

“It’s one of only a few traditional music forms that you’re likely to hear and recognise nearly anywhere you go around the globe. Plus it’s great drinking music!

“We hope there is something for everyone. There’s a mixture of upbeat instrumentals, some great lively songs and a few slow airs thrown in for good measure.”

This Brisbane concert will conclude **Beoga's** 10-day Australian tour following performances in Melbourne, Sydney and Tasmania, and a four-day stint headlining the Portarlington National Celtic Festival.

“...simply thrilling, an auditory high-wire act without a net.” - **Irish Philadelphia**

“...super vocals, a terrific staccato beat to the rhythm, with a real sense of style and wit.” - **Chicago American Times**

“...Beoga are at the forefront of the Irish new wave.” - **Irish Music Magazine**

- ENDS -

<b>Date</b>	Saturday 19 June
<b>Time</b>	7.30pm
<b>Venue</b>	Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
<b>Tickets</b>	Cabaret \$35, Theatre Full \$30 Concession \$26
<b>Bookings</b>	07 3872 9000 or <a href="http://judithwrightcentre.com">judithwrightcentre.com</a>

For further information, images and interview opportunities please contact  
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## **BEOGA – BIOGRAPHY**

Beoga (Irish word for 'lively') are a five-piece band based in County Antrim in the North of Ireland. Formed in 2002, they have become one of the most popular and influential ensembles in modern Irish music. Their unique sound features the twin duelling accordians of Seán Óg Graham and Damian McKee, four times All-Ireland bodhrán champion Eamon Murray and pianist Liam Bradley. In 2005, the line-up was complete with the addition of one of Ireland's premier young talents, singer/fiddler Niamh Dunne.

The bedrock of Beoga's sound lies firmly within the Irish tradition. However, they are not afraid to incorporate other genres' nuances into their music. From bluesy riffs to Astor Piazzola-style jazz, to a raunchy New Orleans jamboree vibe, their music always returns to a wonderfully bouncy traditional sound. The result is traditional, with a huge sense of fun and adventure and it all works - wonderfully well. Irish Music Magazine writes "Madcap genius, master craftsmen". The Irish Times concludes, "Individually talented and collectively inspired, Beoga speak a language called music with a fluency beloved of the best multi-linguists".

The group's first two albums, *A Lovely Madness* (2005) and *Mischief* (2007), were met with universal critical acclaim. Containing a repertoire of fresh self-penned tunes and inventive arrangements, they received a phenomenal 9.5/10 from Ireland's Hot Press, and numerous honours from the music media, notably the German Music Awards, Boston Globe's 'Best of 2007', New York's Irish Echo and the Live Ireland Music Awards.

Beoga's latest album *The Incident* (2009) continues to blaze a pioneering trail, earning a fresh string of superlatives; The Irish Echo describes "a heady, virtually head-spinning sonic blend, perhaps the most audacious Irish band rooted in trad today". The Irish American News lauds the "energy, intelligent creativity, wit and real musicianship" declaring, "this is the freshest take on the tradition", and the Wall Street Journal, describe Beoga as "the most exciting band to emerge from Ireland this century". Irish Music Magazine concludes, "Beoga are at the forefront of the Irish new wave". In October 2009 *The Incident* was selected for inclusion in the official 2010 Grammy nomination ballot for Best Contemporary World Music album.

Beoga's are delighting audiences at major festivals throughout Europe and the USA with their award winning live show. Highlights have included the Milwaukee Irish fest, the BBC's Last Night at the Proms concert, Denmark's Tonder festival, Cambridge Folk festival and Glasgow's Celtic Connections. With their unique blend of inventive arrangements, virtuosi instrumental talents and beautiful vocals, Beoga's popularity continues to flourish as they captivate audiences on a global scale.

## **LIAM BRADLEY – PIANO / KEYBOARD**

On piano/keyboard, Liam Bradley from Tobermore, Co. Derry is known throughout the world for his music for Irish dancing. He has produced recordings and provided accompaniment for major Irish Dancing events, including the All Ireland, American and Australian National Championships and the World Championships. His music has been used for many shows and performances, from the Royal Albert Hall, Áras an Uachtaráin and the White House, to a "Barney the Dinosaur" DVD. He also arranged the music for the RTE television series "Rising Steps".

## **SEÁN ÓG GRAHAM – BUTTON ACCORDION / GUITAR**

From Portglenone, Co. Antrim, Seán Óg Graham is one of Ireland's most dynamic young button accordion players. He has achieved numerous All-Ireland titles and is also a gifted, self-taught guitarist. He has several television appearances to his credit, and has appeared as guest soloist with the Irish Harp Orchestra, the Canadian Youth Orchestra and Alan Kelly's 'Celtic Legends' show. He has recorded with various Irish musicians and recently he has been accompanying Solas members Winifred Horan and Mick McAuley at their 'Serenade' concerts in Ireland and Europe. He is also a talented composer and a wide range of influences is evident in his music writing. Seán Óg is a graduate of the Limerick based Irish World Academy of Music.

## **DAMIAN MCKEE – BUTTON ACCORDION**

Damian McKee, from Dunloy, Co. Antrim, is a top exponent on button accordion. In the 90s he toured Ireland, Britain and America with Comhaltas Ceolteoirí Éireann and over the last few years he has continued to travel worldwide as his music became popular within Irish dance circles. He is a prolific composer and many of his works feature in the Beoga repertoire. Through his teaching, Damian's influence on traditional accordion playing in the North of Ireland is far-reaching. He is in frequent demand for workshops throughout Ireland, as well as the USA and Canada.

For further information, images and interview opportunities please contact  
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## **EAMON MURRAY – BODHRAN PERCUSSION**

Eamon Murray from Randalstown, Co. Antrim is one of the most respected young bodhrán players in Irish music. Described by Johnny McDonagh (De Dannan/Arcady) as “the future of bodhrán playing”, and by the Irish Echo’s Earle Hitchner as “one of the most captivating bodhrán players I’ve heard in years”, Eamon has held the All-Ireland Bodhrán title on four occasions.

## **NIAMH DUNNE – VOCALS / FIDDLE**

Niamh Dunne is a highly accomplished singer, songwriter, fiddler and composer from Co. Limerick. Daughter of well-known piper Mickey Dunne, Niamh has made guest appearances on several CDs. Her 2004 album *Legacy*, recorded with her father and sister Bríd, featured among the Irish Echo top traditional albums of 2004. Niamh is a well-respected classical violinist, twice receiving the high achievers award from the London Associated Board of Western Art Music, with whom she is a qualified teacher. She is also a graduate of the Irish World Academy of Music in Limerick University. Prior to joining Beoga in 2005, Niamh had toured extensively with the Dunne family, and also played on the world stage with the acclaimed music and dance show "Ragús".

[Source: [www.beogamusic.com](http://www.beogamusic.com)]