

# JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Media Release  
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## DIRECT FROM DUBLIN COMES CHART-TOPPING BAND

Judith Wright Centre presents

### GRÁDA

*"gráda is to Irish music what Arcade Fire is to indie - informal, prodigious and full of spirit."*  
The Washington Post

*"A pacemaker with enough steam in its heels to leave most of its peers at the starting block"*  
- The Irish Times

Having supported the likes of Damien Rice, Chris Martin and Bill Whelan (composer of Riverdance) Dublin's internationally acclaimed nu-folk band **gráda** will perform at Judith Wright Centre on Thursday 11 June 2009.

Regularly touring Europe and the US and topping the Irish music charts with their latest album *Cloudy Day Navigation*, **gráda** is excited about giving Australians a taste of their new music, says guitarist Gerry Paul.

"We love Australia and we're really excited about sharing our new music; last time we were fortunate to perform at Sydney Opera House and the Woodford, Port Fairy and National Folk Festivals and we had so much fun," Gerry said.

"We think Aussies will enjoy the music as it's a good blend of traditional Irish tunes and contemporary originals, with the material of Susanne Vega, Sony Condell, Leslie Harris and Emily Smith thrown into the mix," Paul said.

Cramming nine dates into their week-long East Coast tour, **gráda** will make a one-off appearance at the National Celtic Festival as well as performing in our country's most intimate venues, including Judith Wright Centre.

**gráda** has worked with a variety of artists including ex Frames drummer Dave Hingerty (now working with Josh Ritter) and Vyviene Long (cellist with Damien Rice).

*Cloudy Day Navigation*, **gráda**'s new album, was produced by Trevor Hutchison (Lúnasa, Sharon Shannon, The Waterboys) and released through Nashville's Compass Records, the side project of American banjo luminary Alison Brown, who also guests on the album.

Based in Dublin and Galway, Ireland, **gráda** began playing together in 2001 and tour a minimum of 30 weeks per year.

**gráda** comprises Stephen Doherty (flute, whistle, melodeon, piano, bodhrán), Andrew Laking (double bass, vocals, guitar), David Doocey (fiddle, concertina, whistle) Gerry Paul (guitars, banjo, vocals) and Nicola Joyce (vocals, bodhran).

-ENDS-

<b>Date</b>	Thursday 11 June
<b>Time</b>	7.30pm
<b>Venue</b>	Performance Space, Judith Wright Centre
<b>Tickets</b>	\$27 - \$35
<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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## ABOUT GRÁDA

Dublin-based five-piece gráda have well and truly established themselves as major players in the Irish music scene, but a minimum of 30 weeks touring per year is ensuring that they don't rest on their collective laurels, just yet.

When you add their numerous individual appearances as side men for the likes of Damien Rice, Chris Martin and Bill Whelan (composer of Riverdance), it's surprising that gráda can spare the time to visit Australia. What is also clear is that this is no old-man, finger-in-the-ear folk band.

Described as nu-folk, gráda bring their unique arrangements of trad (traditional) tunes and contemporary originals to Australia in June, cramming nine dates on the East Coast into a week-long tour hinging on their special one-off appearance at the National Celtic Festival.

Though gráda's unique arrangements and delicately powerful instrumentation might distance them from your corner pub-band, one thing this cheeky outfit do have in common with their trad counterparts is a love of Whisky in the Jar, albeit the liquid, rather than the song.

In addition to traditional songs and tunes, gráda's most recent offering, Cloudy Day Navigation boasts material drawn from Susanne Vega, Sony Condell, Leslie Harris, and Emily Smith. The album is produced by Trevor Hutchison, a friend of the band and the bassist with Irish group Lúnasa, a band with whom Australia has an on-going love affair, and released through Nashville's Compass Records, the side project of American banjo luminary Alison Brown, who also guests on the album.

gráda tour Australia in June 2009, and with no end in sight to their intense touring schedules in Europe and the US, you'd be well-advised to catch them on this run – it may be some time before you have the chance to see them again.

## ABOUT GRÁDA'S MUSICIANS

**Nicola Joyce** (vocals, bodhrán)

Hailing from Galway, in the west of Ireland, Nicola learnt to sing from a young age in the Irish tradition. "Joyce is a magnificent vocalist who sings with sheer beauty and poignancy" The Wall St. Journal

**Gerry Paul** (guitar, banjo, vocals).

Over the past year Gerry has played, recorded and performed with Gerry O'Connor, Sharon Shannon and fellow NZ musician, Greg Johnson. He is also well regarded in the bluegrass scene, where he plays with bluegrass icon Tim O'Brien, among others.

**Andrew Laking** (double bass, vocals, guitar).

Born in New Zealand, Andrew comes from a varied musical background, including jazz, Latin, folk and gypsy styles. He is in big demand as a session musician, having recorded for Bill Whelan, Fionn Regan and Gerry O'Connor.

**David Doocey** (fiddle, concertina, whistle).

At the forefront of the younger generation of Irish traditional musicians, David has won several All Ireland awards on concertina and fiddle.

**Stephen Doherty** (flute, whistle, melodeon, piano, bodhrán).

Stephen is the current All Ireland senior flute champion and award winning melodeon and bodhrán player.

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