



TRAD

DUBLIN CRANKS IT UP A NOTCH

THIS YEAR'S TRADFEST SAW WORLD-FAMOUS CLANNAD PERFORM AGAIN

Templebar Tradfest is a wonderful event – it amplifies the live music that already exists in this little creative hub of the city. You'll always find a session going on in some pub or other, but from 26-31st Jan, there were even more to choose from, as well as a series of fantastic seated concerts in the evening. The highlight of my weekend, however (apart from the people on stilts dressed as swans

that I kept bumping into on the cobbled streets, part of the fest's family fun programme), was undoubtedly County Donegal super-group Clannad's highly-anticipated 40th anniversary comeback gig at Dublin's stunning Christchurch Cathedral.

Coaxed out of retirement by the Temple Bar Tradfest organisers, Moya Brennan, Ciarán

Brennan, Noel Duggan and Pádraig Duggan were joined in one of their first Dublin concerts (they did a four-night run) for nearly half a decade, joined by musicians including choir Anuna and Belfast's Brian Kennedy.

A hauntingly beautiful concert which covered folk, rock, trad and new age, it traced the Celtic legends' career from their early songs right through to their most modern compositions, it was a powerful of just how genre-

bending and ahead of their time Clannad were. Singer and harp player Moya said, "Tradfest suggested we get back together for these concerts, and it really spurred us on to get back out there. We're so happy to be involved in this festival, in such a beautiful, atmospheric venue".

I caught up with patron, actor Stephen Rea, who had a front-row seat for the concert, which he described as "powerful stuff, what a night." Visit www.templebartrad.com for more.

