



# TEMPLE BAR TRAD FEST

**WHERE AND WHEN:** Various venues, Dublin, from Wednesday 26 to Sunday 30  
**HOW MUCH:** Prices vary  
**WHAT TO EXPECT:** The return of icons Clannad and other giants of folk and trad

**PALS:** Altan and (inset) Clannad and (below) Eddi Reader

# FESTIVAL'S IN TRAD SHAPE

**N**OW the annual celebration of all things trad and folk is well-established — it's celebrating its sixth birthday this year — the organisers of the Temple Bar Trad Fest have achieved quite the coup.

This year will be remembered for bringing together the legendary Clannad once again.

The Grammy-winning group will play their first Irish show in two decades at the festival, playing in the perfect setting of Christchurch Cathedral, in a run that forms the jewel in the crown of the five-day fest, which begins on Wednesday.

Clannad will now play next Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Such is the popularity of the Donegal group that they were forced to extend their return from one night to a residency of three — and all of the concerts predictably sold out in quick smart time.

While Maire, Ciaran, Noel and Padraig will be reuniting with Pol returning to the fold after 21 years out of the group, Brennan sister Enya won't be.

She continues with her solo career, leaving the core group to perform favourites like The Theme From Harry's Game and In a Lifetime.

## Folk heroes unite for five-day party

Fans of the group, who've sold over 15 million records in their 40-year career, may also be treated to compositions from an upcoming album.

Pol recently revealed that they've written five compositions for a new album, the first since Landmarks in 1997, which won the Grammy Award for Best New Age Album.

So it's no exaggeration to say it's one of the most anticipated trad albums of recent times.

It means the Clannad shows are certainly the headline of the Dublin festival — but as ever, there will be plenty more besides.

Dublin's cultural capital will be inundated with events, workshops, sessions, storytelling and gigs, all to highlight the country's rich musical heritage.

Other concerts taking place include Celtic favourites Altan, who celebrate their 25th anniversary with a unique musical bash.

They'll have a slew of famous musician pals helping the celebrations along, like Eddi Reader of Fairground Attraction fame.

Note that Tim O'Brien, who was advertised to appear, will not be performing though he'll be ably replaced by a mystery guest.

Other artists set to play over the course of the five days include Jackie Daly, Matt Cranitch, Dessie O'Halloran, Cunningham, Sean Nos Dancers and Mary Bergin.

Furthermore, the Pub Trail will see 15 of the area's pubs like The Foggy Dew and

Farrington's turned into havens for storytellers from the



Leprechaun Museum, and all types of trad musicians play sessions for free inside their cosy walls.

Meanwhile, at the Temple Bar Hotel, budding and professional singers can take part in the Singers Club, hosted by Sean O'Se.

It allows fans to hear traditional singers in an informal setting, as well as to share songs and learn new ones at the same time.

At the New Theatre, music body IMRO will showcase emerging talent on Thursday and Friday, and organising masterclasses with Brendan Power and Tim Edey on Saturday.

Families will have plenty to do too — the Temple Bar hotel hosts a kids' club next weekend, with face-painting, balloon modelling and crafts.

Meanwhile, the urban farm of Airfield will move to the aptly named Cow's Lane where kids can make a St Brigid's Cross, or a wool angel to take home after the festivities.

For all the information about the festival, just log on to [www.templebartrad.com](http://www.templebartrad.com)