

Carlow College of Music 2020

Looking back on 2020

30 years Anniversary

January 2020

What a strange year it has been but we got through it.

After a busy Christmas with preparations for the annual carol service in Carlow Cathedral, the Carlow Youth Orchestra were well on the way rehearsing for the IAYO 25th Festival of Youth Orchestras.

February

CYO and members of The Staves Orchestra travelled to the National Concert Hall on Saturday 8th Feb to perform in the Festival of Youth Orchestras. What a privilege to be selected to play in this and to celebrate not only 25 years of the Irish Association of Youth Orchestras (IAYO) but Carlow College of Music' 30th Anniversary. Congrats to Emma and Daniel Picovici who also played in the Festival Orchestra that evening.

On 29th Feb we had our 8th Music Festival held in Gaelscoil Eoghain Uí Thuairisc. It was a great success with over 100 performers on the day. Our adjudicator Dorothy Conaghan was suitably impressed yet again of the very high standard of performance. Well done to all and to the overall winners.

Our prize winners' concert scheduled for March had to be cancelled unfortunately.

March - May

Due to Covid-19, we moved to online lessons from 14th March. It was a very challenging and uncertain time for all. We managed to keep most lessons going but unfortunately had to stop all our performing groups and group classes. However, we did keep our choirs and CYO going as much as possible via Zoom.

June

Carlow Youth Orchestra, The Staves Orchestra, SingAloud and Sing joined forces to pay tribute to all our frontline workers on European Music Day. This was a national event that took place at 6pm on Sunday 21st June. See #OdeToJoyIE. James Nelson from the Celtic Tenors who teaches with us sang with the choirs. We performed the anthem 'Ode to Joy' on the green in Beechwood Drive, Rathnapish. It was great to perform together and all precautions were put in place. The neighbours were thrilled with the event and enjoyed extra performances by CYO. They have asked for all to come back in the Summer for another outdoor concert.

Many congrats to Clare Healy who won the Irish Association of Youth Orchestras (IAYO) national drawing day with her wonderful interpretation of a socially distanced orchestra.

Clare's artwork was used as the logo for the above 'Ode to Joy' event. A fantastic achievement.

September - December

We were delighted to return to 'face to face' solo lessons on the 8th September in a very controlled environment with all the Covid -19 protocol in place. Our building had to undergo many adaptations to enable us to teach safely. Thank you to Stephen Harland who took on the role of Lead Worker Representative. Online lessons were still offered to students when needed.

Well done to 'The Staves' Orchestra who all rehearsed in quartets meeting up every fortnight. Thanks to Delphine Picovici for organising this and producing lovely memories of their music making throughout the few months. Thanks Dorel Picovici for your input also.

December

Congrats to all students who did RIAM online exams and CCM in-house exams as an alternative to the normal 'live' exams which were cancelled. All achieved very commendable results.

CYO recorded a Christmas medley "Happy White Christmas" in the capable hands of Brian Kehoe and Stephen added some photos to it. Treasured memories for all.

Some members of CYO did a promotional video of the much loved 'O Holy Night' for singer Derek Ryan in Carlow Cathedral. See Derek Ryan Music. Again it was a great opportunity to be able to work in a 'live' setting but in a socially distanced way.

Congrats to Emma & Daniel Picovici who participated in an online IAYO course 'Concorda'. What a musical Christmas!

We all missed our participation in the annual Cathedral Carol Service but tuned in to hear some of our pieces from 2019 being used.

See www.carlowcollegeofmusic.ie for further details of all the above events. Keep up to date on our facebook pages also. Carlow College of Music and Carlow Youth Orchestra.

Thank you for your co-operation in helping us continue our music lessons in this Covid time. Here's hoping that 2021 will be a better year and look forward to making music in a normal way again.