



## North Atlantic Fiddle Convention 2021

### Call for Participants

The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance is delighted to announce that the North Atlantic Fiddle Convention 2021 will be held **online** from June 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021 from the University of Limerick. NAFCo features traditions of fiddle music and dance from countries and communities around the North Atlantic, combining performances and workshops with an academic conference. This event is a partnership between NAFCo, the University of Limerick and Limerick City and County Council Culture and Arts Office.

As with all NAFCo Conferences, we invite contributions on current/new musical research into fiddle and related traditions across the world and welcome presentations on any aspect of current research into traditional music, fiddle music, dance, and closely associated traditions.

The 2021 NAFCo theme is **Traditional Music, Dance and Frontiers: Transforming Practices and Rethinking Questions.**

Traditional music and dance, with their concomitant practices and their scholarship, change throughout the many different contexts of history, the arts, culture, environment, and the social life within which they appear. We hope to prompt new research into the processes at work in such transformations and suggest here several areas of investigation. (These are not meant to limit the possibilities.)

**Rural-Urban performance practices:** In the context of increasing urbanization around the North Atlantic, and the many historical migrations of musicians and dancers from the countryside to the town and city, what can we discover today about how these shifts changed performance and the social life of music and dance? How might traditional music and dance in rural areas be supported in an era of increasing rural depopulation?

**The Virtual and the Real:** Traditional music and dance has moved decisively into the digital sphere. New possibilities for performance, composition, publication, teaching, and learning contribute to a further breaking away from place-bound geographies and national traditions.

How have musicians and dancers of all stripes been responding to new opportunities that cross this boundary?

**Performance as Research:** New modes of knowledge production, variously named Practice Research, Practice as Research, Practice Based Research and so on are increasingly being legitimized and pursued in academia. Crossing this boundary (in either direction) is not new in the context of traditional music and its folkloristic and ethnomusicological investigation. What possibilities does this approach open up? What challenges does it pose?

**COVID Fiddling:** How has the current COVID crisis affected these and other issues around traditional music and dance practices and more widely? The economic impact of COVID on the professional communities of musicians in the western world is well documented but what is the impact on the participatory communities that surround traditional practices and how will this shape traditions into the future, if at all?

**These themes are suggestions only and we welcome proposals on a broad range of topics related to the fiddle, traditional music and dance.**

Please submit proposals of **up to 300 words** along with a 100-word biography and contact information by email to [Barbara.christie@ul.ie](mailto:Barbara.christie@ul.ie) by **Friday March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021**.

All proposals will be anonymously peer reviewed.

Conference committee: Dr Niall Keegan, Dr Colin Quigley, Dr Ian Russell, Dr Helen Lawlor, Dr Sandra Joyce, Dr Orfhlaith Ní Bhriain, Colm Kelly, Avril McLoughlin, Kelsey Schuhle.

**Dr Niall Keegan,  
Director, NAFCo 2021**



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