

# Friary Nights

Artist Profiles

## Seamus Fogarty



Seamus Fogarty grew up in Swinford, Co Mayo and spent his early years writing songs about mountains that steal t-shirts, women who look like dinosaurs and various other unfortunate incidents.

He released his debut album *God Damn You Mountain* on revered Scottish indie label Fence Records on 2012. Hailed by the Irish Times as 'one of the best Irish albums of recent years', it was

critically acclaimed on its release, leading to a slot on the main stage of The Green Man festival in Wales and extensive UK tours with the likes of James Yorkston, Pictish Trail and Malcolm Middleton (Arab Strap) and a massive solo tour around Europe. Closer to home, he has played with King Creosote & Jon Hopkins in Dublin's Vicar Street, performed at The Electric Picnic, Castlepolooza and Kilkenny Arts festivals and recorded live sessions for Dave Fanning and RTE 1's The Works. In 2018 he '[stole the show](#)' with his performance at Other Voices in Ballina.

More recently his unique approach to storytelling and sound design found an unlikely home in The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York as part of a collaboration with experimental opera company Erratica on the installation opera 'La Celestina' ( in fact his role was to take a 70 page written score and turn it into a virtual feast for the ears, which he did over the course of 8 months) .

IN 2020 Seamus released hi third album, *A Bag Of Eyes*. A wholly different sonic prospect to 2017's much-lauded *The Curious Hand*. Weary of the guitar, and seeking something darker than its predecessor, he chose to lean more heavily on synths and drum machines, and additionally, to self-produce.

The album was recorded across London, Kent and East Sussex and features Fogarty's partner Emma Smith, Meilyr Jones, long-time collaborators Leo Abrahams, Aram Zarkian & John Fogarty, as well as someone slightly more unexpected, an audience member recorded live at one of Seamus' gigs in Dublin.

## Brian Flanagan (U.M.A.N)



Brian Flanagan's creative urges have taken him to write songs about diverse themes, from the 1916 Rising to the charity single *Maybe This Christmas*, which was performed by a host of Irish music stars including Mary Black, Brian Kennedy, Jack L and The High Kings and reached No. 6 on the Official Irish Charts.

The Ballyhaunis-born singer songwriter has worked with artists from diverse musical backgrounds such as Michael Flatley, Nadine Coyle, Eric Bibb, Nathan Carter, Finbar Furey, Brian Kennedy and Sharon Shannon.

Brian is renowned for his ability to write to order, emotionally charged pieces that are immediately engaging. He is regarded as one of the most talented writers in Ireland which has been verified by those he has worked with. As a singer songwriter he has 2 critically acclaimed albums, *Going Back & Dreaming Road* to his name.

*"Brian has got a truly wonderful voice; he can really grab hold of a song and take it to the top."* Eric Bibb- Gospel/Folk/Blues Legend

*"Flanagan's grasp of structure and internal rhyme is head and shoulders above most of his contemporaries."* Irish Times

## Train Room



Train Room is the brainchild of Balla songwriter, musician and producer Joe Monaghan. Train Room's debut EP *Delicate Bones* brought the band's distinctive sound to general attention and significant interest. Joe, who has been honing his musical skills recording demos for the past seven or eight years cites musical influences as broad as Wilco, Whipping Boy, Stereo Mcs, and Neil Young. His song 'Horizons' was featured on Mayo.ie international campaign in 2018 and has been viewed over 2 million times worldwide via you tube.

Train Rooms debut Album, *Hurricane of Love* will be released in August 2021.

*"Train Room is full of variety, beautiful musicianship and sublime vocals... Delicate Bones is a quality debut."* - Ceol Caint

*"Train Room has a quiet poignancy that immediately brings to mind a great Hemingway novel. Irish singer-songwriter Joe Monaghan has the ability to paint haunting vivid stories with his crafted lyrics and compelling voice. It's always gratifying when I stumble upon an artist like Train Room and equally gratifying sharing the discovery with others. Listen to the songs "Horizon" and "The Lives of Others " ... I think you'll agree".* Sheryl Zelikson ( Former senior music producer for David Letterman's The Late Show )

*"It's early days yet for Monaghan but one to keep an eye on."*- Niall Byrne, Irish Times

## Keith Plunkett



Keith Plunkett has been an aspiring musician since childhood, picking up the guitar at a young age and playing his first gig at the age of just fourteen. Keith started out as a member of a cover band and played with fellow young musicians in his local area, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo. Throughout his youth Keith experimented with various styles of music however he found he was always most comfortable writing and performing his own material. As he has matured, he has developed his own writing style while incorporating his favourite musical styles such as the loop pedal which adds percussion from the guitar and vocal harmonies, giving his gigs another depth.

In 2014, he recorded a demo entitled “Long Way Down” in a home recording studio. While working on a second demo song that Keith and some of his friends were producing, Keith garnered the attention of Mike Gleeson, Founder of Downda Road Productions, who invited Keith down to the Golden Egg Studios to record some acoustic covers and demo tracks. Following this recording session, Mike was quick to offer Keith a recording contract as he witnessed firsthand his talent and potential. Keith signed with the label in early 2015 and with the tutelage of the Downda Road team has been developing his sound and profile.

Over the last years Keith has seen his profile grow, through his stellar performances he has been invited to play at a number of festivals and events including the Hardly Strictly Acoustic Festival, The Free Fringe Festival, Le Cheile Festival, Solas Festival, The Secret Village Festival, Battle for the Bay & Lake, Vantastival and many more! He has played gigs in music venues, pubs and cafes throughout the country including some well know places such as The Spirit Store, The Globe, The Crowbar (Button Factory) and The Old Dara Cinema in Naas, etc. promoting two EP's and various singles. A chance encounter with Paddy Casey led to him supporting this musical supremo on various occasions, whilst having also supported MTV nominated “Hogan”, Declan O'Rourke, Hudson Taylor & Hermitage Green. He has also seen his public profile grow through various live radio appearances on stations such as CCR, Flirt FM, Dundalk FM and Shannon Side while growing his fan base exponentially. Keith has also appeared on Charity projects such as the “A Song For Jack and Jill” Charity Album and the Touch Ireland "The Positive Touch" Album which also included artists to the likes of Paddy Casey, Mundy, The Devlins, The Blades, The Four of Us and fellow label artist Sina Theil.

After completing his studies in Music and Audio Production at DKIT, he is currently based and working out of Dublin.