



Following three weeks of performances, activities, installations, and events, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. concluded the festival **IRELAND 100: Celebrating a Century of Irish Arts & Culture** on June 5, 2016. The centerpiece of the Irish government's 1916 centenary program in the United States, **IRELAND 100** featured more than 600 artists from Ireland and the United States in more than 60 performances, many of which were presented free of charge thanks in part to support from **The American Ireland Fund**.

THE FESTIVAL COMMENCED ON MAY 17TH WITH A WORLD-CLASS PERFORMANCE.

The concert began with poignant remarks from Kennedy Center Chairman David Rubenstein, Vice President Joe Biden, and An Taoiseach Enda Kenny T.D., reinforcing the significant relationship between the United States and Ireland, the importance of President John F. Kennedy's historic visit to Ireland during his presidency, and the prominent role of the arts in shaping society and cultivating the human spirit in global culture.

The concert featured many of the exceptional artists scheduled to perform during the three-week festival alongside the Kennedy Center's own National Symphony Orchestra, including choreographer and dancer Colin Dunne, soprano Tara Erraught, tenor Anthony Kearns and fiddler Liz Knowles, all under the direction of acclaimed Irish actor and director and festival Artist-in-Residence Fiona Shaw. Nearly 2,000 patrons attended this one-night-only performance, and 300 guests

stayed for the gala dinner on the Kennedy Center's Roof Terrace. Attendees included Ambassador Anne Anderson, Kennedy Center Chairman David Rubenstein, Kennedy Center President Deborah Rutter, festival Presenting Underwriter Helen Henderson, member of the Kennedy Center's Board of Trustees, along with special guests of The American Ireland Fund including Board Director Susan Davis.

The Kennedy Center was a flurry of activity over the course of the subsequent weeks with numerous concerts and events. From daily performances of William Close's Earth Harp—the world's largest stringed instrument—in the Hall of States to culinary tastings; visual art installations; family activities including the Red Head Day; a picnic-style Outdoor Green Space featuring food trucks and draught beer; education events including masterclasses, workshops, and performances for students; literature panels; and top theater,

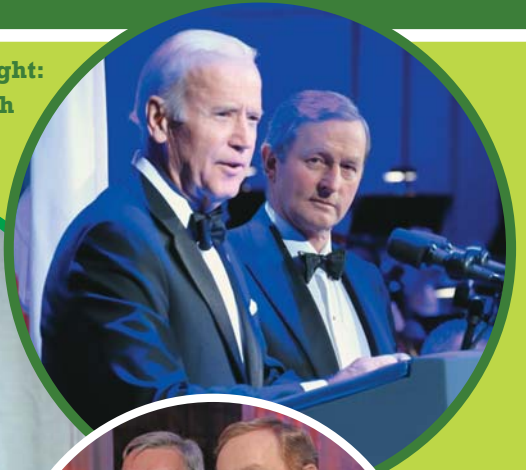
and music performances. The festival offered programming for all ages and interests, and more than 66,000 guests participating in all of the activities planned.

The Kennedy Center has hosted numerous international festivals since 1997, attracting hundreds of thousands of artists and visitors from around the world. IRELAND 100 is an important addition to this longstanding tradition, made even more special by commemorating not only a significant anniversary for the country of Ireland, but also a centennial for the Kennedy Center's namesake. As President John F. Kennedy's 100th birthday approaches on May 29, 2017, the IRELAND 100 festival featured the launch of JFKC: A Centennial Celebration of John F. Kennedy, a yearlong salute to the enduring legacy of our country's 35th President.

The Kennedy Center is honored to have the support of so many esteemed contributors, including The American Ireland Fund, Ambassador Elizabeth Frawley Bagley, The Coca-Cola Company, Embassy of Ireland, William B. Finneran, Ingersoll Rand, Loretta Brennan Glucksman, HRH Foundation, Laura Pels International Foundation for Theater, Amalia Perea Mahoney and William Mahoney, Malin Corporation plc, Marcia V. Mayo and the Mayo Charitable Foundation, Medtronic, Angela Moore, David and Alice Rubenstein, and Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan.

Opening night:

**Vice President Joe Biden with
An Taoiseach Enda Kenny**



**Opening Night:
Ireland's Ambassador
to the US Anne Anderson**



**Opening night: President & CEO
of The Worldwide Ireland Funds**

Kieran McLoughlin with An Taoiseach Enda Kenny

