

OPEN EAR

2016

GREETINGS AND WELCOME TO OPEN EAR,

WE'D LIKE TO EXTEND A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO BOUGHT TICKETS. SHERKIN IS MORE REMOTE THAN A LOT OF OTHER SITES ON THE IRISH FESTIVAL CALENDAR BUT WE THINK IT'S A WORTHWHILE TRIP. WE HOPE, LIKE US, THAT YOU'LL FIND ISLAND LIVING A DEEPLY RERWARDING EXPERIENCE.

IT WAS A TRIP TO SHERKIN AND A LEG OF LAMB (ASK CHRIS THE STORY) ONE WEEKEND LAST YEAR THAT FIRST GAVE US THE IMPETUS TO PUT OPEN EAR TOGETHER. WHEN UNSEASONABLE CONDITIONS FORCED OUR GROUP TO FIND SHELTER IN THE NORTH SHORE GUESTHOUSE, A MORE PROPITIOUS MEETING YOU COULDN'T IMAGINE, AS THE GERM OF AN IDEA WAS FORMED WHEN WE MET KATHY AND MIKE, OUR WONDERFUL HOSTS FOR THE WEEKEND.

OF COURSE A GREAT LOCATION IS ONLY SO MUCH OF WHAT MAKES A FESTIVAL. A SOLID LINEUP IS ALSO A MUST AND WE FEEL THAT WE'VE GOT THE BEST IRISH EXPERIMENTAL ELECTRONIC ARTISTS, AS WELL AS SOME UNSUNG HEROES OF THE IRISH SCENE. FROM SEASONED VETERANS TO YOUNG PRODUCERS MAKING THEIR LIVE DEBUTS AND TOP SELECTORS. WE HOPE THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

ONE OF THE THINGS YOU MAY NOTICE ABOUT THE WEEKEND IS THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE AREA OF MUSIC OPEN AT ANY ONE TIME (NORTH SHORE GUESTHOUSE: FRI/SAT, JOLLY ROGER: SUN). OUR GOAL WITH THIS IS THAT EVERYONE CAN SEE ALL THE MUSIC AVAILABLE. WE ALSO THINK THAT IT WILL LEAD TO SOME LIVELY DEBATE, WITH DIFFERENT PEOPLE HAVING DIFFERENT HIGHLIGHTS OVER THE WEEKEND.

FINALLY AND PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE KEY INGREDIENT TO THE SUCCESS OF AN EVENT IS THE SOUNDNESS OF THE PUNTERS. TO THIS END WE WOULD KINDLY ASK THAT YOU RESPECT KATHY AND MIKE'S LAND, THE LOCAL NEIGHBOURS, VOLUNTEERS, STAFF AND EACH OTHER FOR THE DURATION OF YOUR STAY ON THE ISLAND. WE HAVE INCLUDED RUBBISH BAGS IN EACH OF YOUR REGISTRATION PACKS. PLEASE, PLEASE USE THESE FOR ALL OF YOUR WASTE, AS IT'S ONE OF THE ONLY REQUESTS MIKE HAS MADE OF US AND SOMETHING WE FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT OURSELVES. ALSO PLEASE BE AWARE OF PRIVATE PROPERTY WHEN EXPLORING THE ISLAND.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEEDS OVER THE COURSE OF THE WEEKEND, DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK US OR ANY VOLUNTEER.

LET'S DO THIS!

TEAM OPEN EAR

A TIMELINE OF EVENTS THAT HAVE INSPIRED OPEN EAR

1994 ULTRAMACK BEGIN PUTTING ON EVENTS. 22 YEARS LATER THEY'RE STILL RUNNING SOME OF THE MOST RISK-TAKING GIGS IN THE COUNTRY.

1995 D1 RECORDS IS FOUNDED. THE LABEL WILL GO ON TO RELEASE THE MOST SUBSTANTIAL BODY OF IRISH TECHNO, FORGING LINKS WITH DETROIT IN THE PROCESS.

1995 THE MUSIC & MEDIA TECHNOLOGY POST-GRAD COURSE COMMENCES IN TCD. FOCUSED ON EXPERIMENTAL COMPOSITION AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, THE COURSE BECOMES A BREEDING GROUND FOR IRISH ELECTRONIC MUSICIANS.

1996 BASSBIN START THROWING PARTIES. 4 YEARS LATER THEY WILL START A LABEL FOCUSING ON INTRICATE, RHYTHMICALLY COMPLEX DRUM N BASS.

1998 FORCE 10 BEGIN OPERATIONS. THEY WILL GO ON TO RUN THE **JIGS N RIGS FESTIVAL** ON RATHLIN ISLAND OFTEN IN VERY TRYING WEATHER CONDITIONS. RESPECT!

2000 PSYCHONAVIGATION AND **FRONTEND SYNTHETICS** BEGIN RELEASING RECORDS, FOCUSING ON MELODIC ELECTRONICA AND IDM.

2002 THE FIRST **DEAF** TAKES PLACE, BRINGING A WORLD CLASS MUSIC FESTIVAL DEDICATED TO EXPERIMENTAL SOUNDS TO DUBLIN.

2002 THE **ALPHABET SET COLLECTIVE** IS FOUNDED, THEY WILL GO ON TO THROW PARTIES AND RELEASE RECORDS FROM A CORE CREW OF TALENTED IRISH PRODUCERS.

2003 MOR FEST (WHICH RAN FOR TWO EDITIONS) BEGINS A TRADITION OF EXCITING ELECTRONIC MUSIC FESTIVALS IN THE IRISH MIDLANDS, WHICH CONTINUES TO THIS DAY.

2003 IRELAND'S BEST EVER CLUB NIGHT, **ELECTRIC CITY** PUTS ON IT'S FIRST PARTY WITH THE HACKER & PERCY X. IT'S RUN OF PARTIES IN THE METROPOLITAN INTRODUCE A NEW LEVEL OF QUALITY ON A WEEKLY BASIS TO DUBLIN.

2003 ALL CITY'S FIRST RECORD, THE ANTHEMIC 25 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING BY RIRA, HITS THE SHOPS.

2004 THE FIRST **LEECHRUM** FESTIVAL TAKES PLACE. OVER THE NEXT 4 YEARS A MIND-BOGGLING ARRAY OF TALENT, INCLUDING ELECTROMECA, DJ/RUPTURE AND KRAFTWERK'S WOLFGANG FLUR WILL PLAY THE ANARCHIC FESTIVAL.

2005 FOLLOWING HOT ON ITS HEELS THE FOLLOWING YEAR IS **MANTUA**, WHICH FEATURED AMAZING MUSIC FROM THE LIKES OF SHACKLETON, THE EGYPTIAN LOVER AND DIGITAL MYSTIKZ.

2005 LUNAR DISKO THROW THEIR FIRST PARTY WITH DJ TLR, 3 YEARS LATER THEY LAUNCH A LABEL, WHICH IS STILL GOING STRONG.

2006 A BUNCH OF SCRATCH OBSESSIVES COME TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST EVER **COMMUNITY SKRATCH GAMES**. THEIR AIM: TO FURTHER THE CAUSE OF ESTABLISHING MUSIC MADE WITH TURNTABLES AS AN ARTFORM.

2006 ACROPLANE BEGINS RELEASING MUSIC FROM THE LIKES OF HERV, LAKKER AND AUTOMATIC TASTY. THE LABEL IS AHEAD OF THE CURVE ON DIGITAL RELEASES.

2011 APARTMENT RECORDS DROPS ITS FIRST RECORD, THE ACE PANTHER VEIL EP BY NCW.

2012 STRANGER BEGINS PUTTING ON EVENTS IN CORK, IN THE COMING YEARS THEY WILL BRING CHRIS & COSEY, POWELL AND RAIME TO CORK.



PROGRAMME NOTES

FRIDAY

THE FESTIVAL KICKS OFF FRIDAY EVENING WITH A DJ SET FROM **MELLY**, WHO'S HAD TWO RELEASES ON ACE BRIGHTON LABEL WHERE TO NOW? THE TITLE TRACK OFF HIS FLYING DUCKS EP BEING A PARTICULAR FAVOURITE OF OURS.

THE FIRST LIVE SET OF THE WEEKEND COMES FROM THE INIMITABLE GER DUFFY AKA **SCHOOL TOUR**. EQUAL PARTS TROPIC OF CANCER, BRIAN ENO AND JOHN MAUS, A SET OF HIS 'COLD CASIO WAVE FROM MT. ERRIGAL' IS ALWAYS A TREAT.

SPACES EASES US INTO THE LATTER PART OF THE NIGHT WITH A SET OF HIS INTRICATE ELECTRONICS, FRESH FROM CONTRIBUTING TO VULNICIURA, BJORK'S LATEST ALBUM, JOHN FLYNN'S WORK AS A MASTERING ENGINEER SHINES THROUGH HIS INTRICATELY DESIGNED SOUNDS WHILE RETAINING A PROPULSIVE GROOVE FOR THE MORE ADVENTUROUS DANCERS.

NEXT IS A DJ SET FROM **MARIAH BLACK**. A KILLER SELECTOR, BLACK SHOULD THROW IN PLENTY OF CURVEBALLS, WHILE MAINTAINING THE BUZZ.

ELLLL IS UP NEXT WITH A SET OF HER OTHERWORLDLY, HYPNOTIC TECHNO, WHERE ABSTRACT RHYTHMS COLLIDE WITH ONE ANOTHER WHILE SWIRLING CACOPHONOUS SOUNDESIGN HYPNOTISES THE LISTENER.

A DUO COMPRISED OF JP HARTNETT AND JOHN FLYNN (SPACES), **ORDINATE** MAKES SLIPPERY, WORMHOLE BURROWING TECHNO, WHICH IS PROBABLY BEST EXPERIENCED WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED.

CLOSING OUT FRIDAY NIGHT WILL BE A SET FROM APARTMENT RECORDS BOSS-MAN **KENNY HANLON**. HIS SET AT BLOC THIS YEAR WAS ONE OF THE FESTIVAL'S HIGHLIGHTS AND HE'S PROMISED US HE'S GONNA BANG IT OUT TO CLOSE OUT THE FIRST NIGHT OF THE FESTIVAL.

SATURDAY

SATURDAY KICKS OFF WITH A DJ SET FROM OPEN EAR HEAD HONCHO **CHRIS CHAPMAN**, WHO PROMISES A SET FROM THE FURTHER REACHES OF HIS MIGHTILY IMPRESSIVE AND RARELY AIRED RECORD COLLECTION. A PERFECT WAY TO EASE YOURSELF INTO THE DAY.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON ALSO SEES A SHOWCASE FROM THE **WHERE THE TIME GOES** COLLECTIVE. A GROUP OF YOUNG MUSICIANS WHO RELEASE A DIFFERENT DIGITAL MIXTAPE OF ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS FROM A MEMBER OF THE COLLECTIVE ON A MONTHLY BASIS. **LASTMINUTEMAN'S** BEAT COMPOSITIONS MANAGE TO BE BOTH SOOTHING AND UNHINGED SIMULTANEOUSLY, WHILE THE TITLE OF **SAGE'S** WITCHCRAFT EROTICA GIVES A CLUE TO THE SPOOKY THROBBING BEATS CONTAINED THEREIN. **MINOS** ROUNDS OUT THE SHOWCASE WITH A SET OF BEAT-INFLUENCED HOUSE NUMBERS, UTILISING THE INFO GLEANED FROM HIS RECENT PARTICIPATION IN TCD'S MUSIC AND MEDIA TECHNOLOGY POSTGRAD.

THIS IS FOLLOWED UP BY THE FIRST OF TWO SETS FROM THE FORMER MEMBERS OF AMBULANCE. **DAVE NUREMBURG'S** MUSIC MARRIES CLATTERING BEATS TOO DELICATE, COMPLEX SYNTHESIS TO GET HEADS NODDING.

T-WOC'S RECENT SET AT COMMUNITY SKRATCH GAMES X WAS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THAT AUSPICIOUS WEEKEND FOR US. A MAJOR FIGURE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRONIC MUSIC IN THIS COUNTRY BOTH AS A PRODUCER AND CO-FOUNDER OF THE ALPHABET SET, HE HAS ONE OF THE DEEPEST DISCOGRAPHIES OF ANY IRISH BEAT-HEAD.

RETURNING FROM HER NEW LIFE OVER BEYOND IN ENGLAND IS **MELJOANN**, TO FAVOUR US WITH A SET OF HER LEFTFIELD RNB INFLUENCED VOCAL STYLINGS. WITH A NEW ALBUM ON THE WAY, HER SET'S GONNA BE FULL OF FRESH, CATCHY TRACKS AND HOPEFULLY A FEW OLD FAVOURITES.

CHOLERA HOUSE IS THE NEW PROJECT FROM GEORGE BRENNAN (EX-MELODICA DEATHSHIP). WE'RE NOT SURE WHAT TO EXPECT WITH THIS ONE TO BE HONEST, AS IT MARKS A NEW DEPARTURE FOR THE ARTIST BUT THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF LOUD PROCESSED GUITARS AND GONGS.

NIAMH DE BARRA, HAVING DECIDED TO LEAVE THE CELLO WITH WHICH SHE IS MOST ASSOCIATED BEHIND FOR THE TIME BEING, HAS TAKEN HER SOUND IN A MORE DANCEFLOOR DIRECTION RECENTLY, UTILISING VARIOUS ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENTS TO MAKE A HEADY BREW.

DUNK MURPHY AKA **SUNKEN FOAL** NEEDS LITTLE INTRODUCTION, FORMERLY ONE HALF OF AMBULANCE, HIS ELECTRO-ACOUSTIC COMPOSITIONS ARE AN ENGAGING MIXTURE OF DARKNESS AND LIGHT. HIS RECENT WORK AS ONE HALF OF THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM HAS SEEN HIS MUSIC MOVE IN NEW DIRECTIONS IN COLLABORATION WITH SINGER-SONGWRITER CAROL KEOGH.

AFTER SUNKEN FOAL WE TAKE A BREAK FROM THE LIVE SETS TO ENJOY A BASS HEAVY DJ SET FROM **SINEAD MEANEY**. SINEAD HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM BERLIN WHERE SHE WAS WORKING WITH RASTER-NOTON'S FRANK BRETSCHNEIDER DEVELOPING AUDIO-VISUAL PROJECTS.

RETURNING ON SATURDAY ARE MARIAH BLACK AND ELLLL, THIS TIME PRESENTING THE DEBUT PERFORMANCE OF THEIR LIVE/DJ COLLABORATIVE PROJECT **DOUBLE GLAZE**.

SATURDAY'S FINAL LIVE SET COMES FROM **LUMIGRAPH**, WHO'S BEEN KILLING IT OF LATE WITH HIS 'BULLETPROOF HOLIDAY' EP ON MAJOR PROBLEMS BEING ONE OF THE IRISH RELEASES OF THE YEAR. HIS LIVE SETS ARE A BUMPING AFFAIRS WITH GROOVES FOR DAYS.

CLOSING OUT SATURDAY WILL BE **NOID THE DROID**. PLAYING A HYPERACTIVE DJ SET COMPRISING OF TECHNO MADE WITH SYNTHS.

SUNDAY

SUNDAY KICKS OFF WITH A DJ SET FROM THE 4-HEADED MUSICAL HYDRA THAT IS **LA BEAUTE**. A DJ CREW WHO DECIDED TO GET TOGETHER TO PLAY THE UNDANCEABLE SECTIONS OF THEIR RECORD COLLECTIONS IN A PUB OF A SUNDAY. WE THOUGHT TO OURSELVES WE'VE GOT A PUB AND A SUNDAY, SO WHY NOT?

AFTER THIS **DONAL DINEEN** TAKES TO THE DECKS. FROM HIS TIME BROADCASTING THE MUCH MISSED HERE COMES THE NIGHT, TO HIS RECENT FORAYS INTO PROGRAMMING EVENTS WITH BACKSTORY, DINEEN'S LOVE OF MUSIC SHINES THROUGH ALL OF HIS ENDEAVOURS.

FOLLOWING THIS IS THE LIVE PORTION OF THE DAY. **CHRIS POWER** IS AN EXCITING YOUNG BEATMAKER WITH CORK'S CUTTIN' HEADS COLLECTIVE, WHOSE HIP HOP CREATIONS HAVE THAT CLASSIC BOOM BAP FLEX WITH A NICE MODERN PRODUCTION SHEEN.

HAVING JUST RELEASED HIS DEBUT EP ON MUSIC IS FOR LOSERS, **TOBY KAAR** WILL BE PLAYING A SET OF HIS INIMITABLE BEAT CREATIONS. AN INFECTIOUSLY ENTHUSIASTIC PERFORMER WHO DEFTLY MANIPULATES SOUNDS VIA HIS MONOME, THIS SET IS GONNA GET THE PARTY STARTED.

IT'S DJ SETS FROM THEN ON. FIRST WE WELCOME **JIMMY HORGAN** OF PLUGD FAME FOR A DEEP SELECTION OF RECORDS TO START US INTO THE NIGHT.

AFTER JIMMY THERE'S A DJ SET FROM BAP TO THE FUTURE'S **LOLZ**. EXPECT ITALO, EBM AND WAVE MUSIC. POSSIBLY SOME BEYONCE.

SIAS IS A WELL KNOWN HEAD WHOSE DEBUT TAPE CAME OUT IN 2014 ON FARBWECHEL AND WHO HAS BEEN MAKING MUSIC FOR THEATRE RECENTLY. HE HAS A BUNCH OF MATERIAL FORTHCOMING, INCLUDING AN EP ON JHERI TRACKS, WHICH WE'LL HOPEFULLY GET A SNEAK PEAK OF TONIGHT.

PLATINUM RAY IS ONE OF OUR FAVOURITE IRISH DJS. CURRENTLY CAUGHT UP IN A LEGAL DISPUTE WITH DETROIT'S DJ STINGRAY OVER RIGHTS TO THE NAME 'THE RAY', THIS SHOULDN'T STOP HIM FROM DECIMATING THE MAKESHIFT DANCEFLOOR OF THE JOLLY ROGER.