

# On the Air & On Top

## Ireland's Radio Elite Shine at IMRO Radio Awards!

*Winner's Wave: Revealing Radio's Leading Lights for 2023*



**Kilkenny, Ireland 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023** — The **IMRO Radio Awards 2023** rolled out its red carpet to welcome the finest talents in Irish radio from across the island to the gala event at the Lyrath Estate Hotel in Kilkenny. This year's event was hosted by comedian and broadcaster Oliver Callan, and with IMRO at the helm as the headline sponsor, the event was a great evening of recognition, reconnection and camaraderie.

Highlight Award winners at #IMRO23 include:

### \*\*\*Local Station of the Year\*\*\*

'Local Station of the Year' showcases the best in local broadcasting. This year, the accolade goes to... **CLARE FM**. Their genuine connection with the local listeners and consistent content made them stand out.

### \*\*\*Music Station of the Year\*\*\*

The 'Music Station of the Year' recognises a station that curates an engaging musical experience. The station that hit the right notes this year is...**SPIN1038**.

### \*\*\*National Station of the Year\*\*\*

The 'National Station of the Year' goes to... **NEWSTALK**. Their well-rounded programming and focus on listener engagement truly set them apart.

And let's not forget a few more winners that have enriched the radio landscape this year:

**\*\*Breakfast Show of the Year:** The Big Breakfast with Brendan and Rebecca, 98fm

**\*\*Documentary:** Documentary on One: Blackrock Boys, RTÉ Radio 1

**\*\*Radio Moment of the Year:** Losing my Boys to Suicide, LMFM

**\*\*News Broadcaster of the Year:** Declan Harvey, BBC Radio Ulster

Having been inducted into the **Hall of Fame** in September this year, four inductees took to the stage at the Lyrath. John Bennett MBE (BBC Radio Ulster), Joe Finnegan (Shannonside/Northern Sound), Paddy Halpenny (formerly of Communicorp) and Mary Wilson (RTÉ Radio 1) were greeted with a standing ovation for their contributions to Irish Radio.

The **Outstanding Achievement Award** this year was won by Radiocentre Ireland and was accepted by Ciaran Cunningham, CEO of Radiocentre Ireland. Radiocentre is a body established by RTE and Independent Broadcasters of Ireland to promote audio as a marketing medium. All of Ireland's radio operators have come together to promote the unbeatable reach and unique relationship enjoyed by Irish radio and its millions of listeners.

**IMRO Radio Awards Committee Chairman Chris Doyle** commented, *"It is great to have the radio sector come together and celebrate the outstanding creativity and talent producing amazing radio in Ireland. Congratulations to all the winners."*

**Chairperson of IMRO, Eleanor McEvoy, said,** *"The IMRO Radio Awards honour the dedicated professionals who have consistently pushed the boundaries of radio broadcasting, bringing innovation, inspiration and entertainment to their listeners. On behalf of IMRO, I would like to congratulate tonight's winners. You have raised the bar, and your passion for radio continues to light up the lives of listeners throughout the entire country."*

**Celene Craig, Broadcasting Commissioner, commented,** *"Coimisiún na Meán, Ireland's new media regulator and development agency, would like to congratulate all nominees and winners this evening. An Coimisiún is delighted to celebrate the talent and innovation at work across the radio sector today and recognises that both winners and nominees tonight are an example of broadcasting expertise and experience that delivers quality programming day in and day out for listeners. We are delighted to sponsor the Awards and would like to extend our congratulations to all involved."*

As the evening wrapped up, there was a clear sense of optimism for the future of radio in Ireland. Here's to another year of dynamic content and the talented individuals from both in front of and behind the mics who make it all happen.

- END -

#IMRO23

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

### **IMRO Radio Awards Committee**

The Radio Awards Committee comprises 12 members representing all sectors of licensed commercial and public radio on the island of Ireland – RTÉ, BBC NI, and the independent commercial radio sectors in both the Republic and Northern Ireland.

### **IMRO**

IMRO administers the performing right in copyright music on behalf of its members (songwriters, composers, and music publishers) and on behalf of members of the international overseas societies affiliated with it. IMRO's core function is to collect and distribute royalties from the public performance of copyright works. With a global scope, we represent creators along the chain of creation. At IMRO, we are committed to creators. We stand up for music and the people who make it and perform it. A community for creators, we listen, advocate, educate, invest, and engage to shape a culture of musical worth. We help music creators to adapt to change and receive a full and fair return for their work. See [www.imro.ie](http://www.imro.ie)

### **Coimisiún na Meán**

The media regulator Coimisiún na Meán was established on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 further to the provisions of the Online Safety and Media Regulation Act 2022, and replaces the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland. An Coimisiún will continue to deliver the functions of the former BAI, including the licensing of radio and television services, the development of codes and rules in relation to programming and advertising standards, and administration of the Broadcasting Funding Scheme. In addition Coimisiún na Meán will begin establishing a regulatory framework for on-demand audiovisual services and online safety, and will undertake a media development role. More details can be found on its interim website available at [www.cnam.ie](http://www.cnam.ie)

CATEGORY CODE:	GOLD ENTRANT	GOLD STATION	SILVER: ENTRANT	SILVER: STATION	BRONZE ENTRANT	BRONZE: STATION
A1 GENERAL MUSIC PROGRAMME	<b>Dave and Fionnuala</b>	<b>iRadio</b>	Dermot and Dave	Today FM	Weekend Mix with Nadia Sakni	Live 95
A2 SPECIALIST MUSIC PROGRAMME	<b>The Music Tree</b>	<b>Radio Kerry</b>	FM104's Freaks on Friday	FM104	Ambient Orbit	RTÉ Lyric FM
A3 BREAKFAST PROGRAMME	<b>The Big Breakfast with Rebecca and Brendan</b>	<b>98FM</b>	The Ian Dempsey Breakfast Show	Today FM	SPINS Fully Charged with Ed and Valerie	SPIN South West
A4 MUSIC SPECIAL / MUSIC EVENT	<b>The Belfast Mixtape</b>	<b>BBC Radio Ulster</b>	Barrscéalta - A Live Musical tribute to those lost Creeslough Tragedy	RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta	RnaG 50 - Cúige Uladh	RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta
A5 IMRO IRISH MUSIC PROGRAMME OR INITIATIVE	<b>iRadio's iLoveIrish</b>	<b>iRadio</b>	Irish Music Month on SPIN	SPIN1038	Sessions from Oblivion	RTÉ 2XM
B1 NEWS STORY / NEWS EVENT	<b>Creeslough - John Cooke for RTÉ Radio 1</b>	<b>RTÉ Radio 1</b>	Drug Debt and Intimidation	WLR FM	Lunchtime Live - Bullying in the HSE	Newstalk
B2 NEWS PROGRAMME - FULL SERVICE	<b>The New Prime Minister, Evening Extra</b>	<b>BBC Radio Ulster</b>	Morning Ireland - Tragedy Unfolds in Creeslough	RTÉ Radio 1	This Week - Creeslough	RTÉ Radio 1
B3 NEWS PROGRAMME - LOCAL/REGIONAL	<b>Creeslough</b>	<b>Highland Radio</b>	WLR News @ One Tricolour Special	WLR FM	Ocean FM Lunchtime News	Ocean FM
B4 CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMME - FULL SERVICE	<b>The Hard Shoulder</b>	<b>Newstalk</b>	On the Record	Newstalk	Good Morning Mr President, Good Morning Ulster	BBC Radio Ulster
B5 CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMME - LOCAL / REGIONAL	<b>Deise Today with Damien Tiernan</b>	<b>WLR FM</b>	Violent Schooldays	Galway Bay FM	The Morning Show with Declan Meehan	East Coast FM
B6 SPORTS STORY	<b>The Making of Chiedozie Ogbene</b>	<b>Newstalk</b>	Frank Greally: Running Full Circle	Midwest Radio	Cliona Darcy Wins Boxing Gold	Galway Bay FM
B7 SPORTS PROGRAMME - FULL SERVICE	<b>Off The Ball</b>	<b>Newstalk</b>	Jacqui's Christmas Sporting Selection Box	RTÉ Radio 1	Game On	RTÉ 2FM
B8 SPORTS PROGRAMME - LOCAL / REGIONAL	<b>Connacht Club Championship Special</b>	<b>Galway Bay FM</b>	Foyle Sportsound - FAI Cup Final	BBC Radio Foyle	Radio Kerry Weekend Sports	Radio Kerry
C1 DOCUMENTARY	<b>Documentary on One: Blackrock Boys</b>	<b>RTÉ Radio 1</b>	Falsely Accused	Clare FM	Documentary on One: Minding Mary	RTÉ Radio 1

C2 MUSIC, ARTS & CULTURE DOCUMENTARY	<b>The Irish Soundtrack</b>	<b>RTÉ Radio 1</b>	The Dawning of the Day (The Lyric Feature)	RTÉ Lyric FM	Whatever Happened to Gertrude Page?	LMFM
C3 SHORT FEATURE	<b>Heritage Hunters</b>	<b>Radio Kerry</b>	The Day the Box Was Seen by Jackie Browne	Radio Kerry	Park Bench	RTÉ Radio 1
C4 MAGAZINE PROGRAMME	<b>The John Toal Show</b>	<b>BBC Radio Ulster</b>	The Anton Savage Show	Newstalk	Moncrieff	Newstalk
C5 DRAMA	<b>The Listener</b>	<b>RTÉjr Radio</b>	Sniper Joe and Sister Jim	Newstalk	One Day	Galway Bay FM
C6 SPECIALIST SPEECH PROGRAMME	<b>Murmurations</b>	<b>RTÉ Radio 1</b>	Talking History	Newstalk	Tech Talk with Jess Kelly	Newstalk
C7 CRAOLTÓIREACHT LE GAEILGE	<b>Snaoisín Bán</b>	<b>RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta</b>	Dúshlán na Feirme	RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta	Abair Amach Éar WLR FM - Alzheimer's Special	WLR FM
C8 INTERACTIVE SPEECH PROGRAMME	<b>The Stephen Nolan Show</b>	<b>BBC Radio Ulster</b>	Lunchtime Live	Newstalk	Talkback	BBC Radio Ulster
D1 COMMUNITY / SOCIAL ACTION	<b>Cork's 96FM Giving For Living Radiothon</b>	<b>Cork's 96FM</b>	FM104's Get Lewis To The Gig	FM104	Coast to Coast Challenge - Paddleboard Scotland to Northern Ireland	Cool FM
D2 ON-AIR COMPETITION / PROMOTION	<b>Ireland's Greatest Accent - The Ian Dempsey Breakfast Show</b>	<b>Today FM</b>	FM104's Get Lewis To The Gig	FM104	Pass The Parcel	98FM
D3 STATION IMAGING	<b>SPIN1038</b>	<b>SPIN1038</b>	Today FM	Today FM	Cork's 96FM	Cork's 96FM
D4 ENTERTAINMENT INSERTS	<b>FM104's Strawberry Alarm Clock</b>	<b>FM104</b>	Gift Grub on The Ian Dempsey Breakfast Show	Today FM	Bonner's blessing on SPIN's Fully Charged	SPIN1038
D5 DIGITAL & SOCIAL INNOVATION	<b>Cathal's Camino - Dermot and Dave</b>	<b>Today FM</b>	FM104's #GetLewisToTheGig	FM104	Dublin Delish	98FM
D6 RADIO STATION PODCAST OF THE YEAR	<b>The Kinahans</b>	<b>Q102/Wireless/Urban Media</b>	As I Remember It: Bertie Ahern and The Good Friday Agreement	Newstalk	Inside the Crime: The Charles Self Murder	Newstalk
E1 MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTER OF THE YEAR	<b>Dara Quilty</b>	<b>Today FM</b>	Dermot Whelan	Today FM	Pamela Joyce	Today FM
E2 RADIO DJ OF THE YEAR	<b>Simon Murdoch</b>	<b>Cork's 96FM</b>	Tracy Clifford	RTÉ 2FM	Paul Bonass	98FM

E3 SPECIALIST MUSIC BROADCASTER OF THE YEAR	<b>Kieran McGuinness</b>	<b>Radio Nova</b>	J.J. O'Shea	Radio Kerry	Aedín Gormley	RTÉ Lyric FM
E4 NEWS BROADCASTER OF THE YEAR	<b>Declan Harvey</b>	<b>BBC Radio Ulster</b>	Justin McCarthy	RTÉ Radio 1	Chris Buckler	BBC Radio Ulster
E5 NEWS REPORTER OF THE YEAR	<b>John Cooke</b>	<b>RTÉ Radio 1</b>	Barry Lenihan	RTÉ Radio 1	Sean Defoe	Newstalk
E6 SPORTS BROADCASTER OF THE YEAR - FULL SERVICE	<b>Joe Molloy</b>	<b>Newstalk</b>	Aisling O'Reilly	Newstalk	Damien O'Meara	RTÉ Radio 1
E7 SPORTS BROADCASTER OF THE YEAR - LOCAL / REGIONAL	<b>Tim Moynihan</b>	<b>Radio Kerry</b>	Donal Ryan	Ocean FM	Austin O'Callaghan	Ocean FM
E8 SPEECH BROADCASTER OF THE YEAR - FULL SERVICE	<b>Stephen Nolan</b>	<b>BBC Radio Ulster</b>	Ciara Kelly	Newstalk	Sean Moncrieff	Newstalk
E9 SPEECH BROADCASTER OF THE YEAR - LOCAL / REGIONAL	<b>PJ Coogan</b>	<b>Cork's 96FM</b>	Neil Prendeville	Cork's RedFM	Alan Corcoran	South East Radio
E10 THE GAY BYRNE AWARD - NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR	<b>David Nelligan</b>	<b>Radio Kerry</b>	David Hollywood	Midlands 103	Donal Ryan	Ocean FM
F1 RADIO MOMENT OF THE YEAR	<b>Losing My Boys To Suicide</b>	<b>LMFM</b>	A Special GloryDaze - PJ Gallagher's Story as told to Jim McCabe	Radio Nova	The Neil Prendeville Show: "Shane Will Shine On"	Cork's RedFM
F2 LOCAL STATION OF THE YEAR	<b>Clare FM</b>	<b>Clare FM</b>	Radio Kerry	Radio Kerry	Ocean FM	Ocean FM
F3 MUSIC STATION OF THE YEAR	<b>SPIN1038</b>	<b>SPIN1038</b>	Cork's 96FM	Cork's 96FM	98FM	98FM
F4 NATIONAL STATION OF THE YEAR	<b>Newstalk</b>	<b>Newstalk</b>	BBC Radio Ulster	BBC Radio Ulster	Today FM	Today FM