

EMBARGOED – 2200HRS Friday 1st October 2021



**CELEBRATING
21 YEARS**

Winners revealed for IMRO Radio Awards, celebrating their 21st birthday this year #IMRO21

Earlier this evening, the IMRO Radio Awards ceremony was held virtually and hosted by comedian and broadcaster Dermot Whelan, where the winners for the 2021 event were revealed.

The 2021 Awards saw the largest ever number of entries, demonstrating the wide range of the broadcasting sector covering news, music, current affairs and entertainment.

Over 2,000 people in the radio industry across the whole island of Ireland logged on to watch the ceremony of which an Award is a prized accolade to take home. At the start of the evening the **Hall of Fame inductees** for this year – **Declan Meehan, George Hamilton, Patricia Messinger and Stephen Clements RIP** were recognised.

The special award for **Outstanding Achievement** was presented to **Learning Waves**, the training provider for the independent commercial radio sector in Ireland.

The **big three awards** for the evening were won by:

Local Station of the Year – WLR FM – Third year in a row
Music Station of the Year – Spin 1038
Full Service Station of the Year – BBC Radio Ulster

Chair of the IMRO Radio Awards committee, Chris Doyle, who spoke at the Awards said "2021 is the biggest year on record for entries, so thank you very much to everyone who entered, it is great to see such enthusiasm and passion for the content being produced across the island.

Radio continues to show its power, flexibility and importance to the Irish people this year and while we continue to keep listeners informed and educated, it is brilliant coming out of the pandemic to hear how we entertain and lift listeners lives"

Eleanor McEvoy, Chair of sponsors IMRO Ireland said *"On behalf of IMRO, I would like to give my heartfelt congratulations to the winners of this year's IMRO Radio Awards. We saw over the course of the pandemic how much we relied on radio to bring us immediately up to speed with what was happening in a world that to many felt frightening and isolating. As we were told to separate from family and friends, radio served to connect us. The winners of these awards have been chosen because of their excellence in broadcasting, and I would like to say a profound thanks to them for their service to radio in Ireland."*

BAI Deputy Chief Executive, Celene Craig, commented *"The BAI is delighted to support the IMRO Radio Awards again this year. The annual Awards illustrate the range of talent working in the radio sector, and I would like to congratulate all the nominees and winners tonight. This event also serves to highlight and acknowledge the dedication of those working in radio to deliver, on a daily basis, diverse and high quality programming for audiences, especially in such a difficult year. Our thanks and congratulations to all involved in the delivery of the awards tonight."*

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

About the Radio Awards Committee

The Radio Awards Committee comprises of 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.

About 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 that are affiliated to it. IMRO's core function is to collect and distribute royalties arising 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 full and fair return for their work. See www.imro.ie

About BAI

The Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) was established in October 2009 as the single content regulator of broadcasting in Ireland.

The functions of the BAI include the licensing of radio and television services on a variety of transmission platforms; the licensing of digital multiplex operators; the development of codes and rules in relation to programming and advertising standards; the monitoring of services to ensure that broadcasters comply with their statutory obligations and contract terms; and the consideration of complaints. The BAI is also responsible for the operation of Broadcasting Funding Schemes which are financed by the television licence fee.

For more information, see <http://www.bai.ie/>

B1	News Story / News Event	Trouble at the Interface	BBC Radio Ulster	Double Blow for Cork Traders	Cork's 96FM	Section 252 - An Unspeakable Pain	Newstalk
B2	News Programme - Full Service	Morning Ireland - Cyber attack	RTÉ Radio 1	The Resignation of Arlene Foster - Evening Extra	BBC Radio Ulster	This Week	RTÉ Radio 1
B3	News Programme - Local/Regional	WLR News at 1	WLR FM	Extended News Bulletin	Cork's 96FM	The Breakfast Show	BBC Radio Foyle
B4	Current Affairs Programme - Full Service	The Pat Kenny Show	Newstalk	On the Record	Newstalk	Newstalk Breakfast	Newstalk
B5	Current Affairs Programme - Local / Regional	Tipp Today	Tipp FM	Deise Today	WLR FM	Let's Talk - 'In the Line of Duty'	Shannonside FM
B6	Sports Story	The Gordon Elliott Scandal	Newstalk	Jack Charlton - Player, Manager and Grandad	RTÉ Radio 1	Carrick to the Champs-Élysées	WLR FM
B7	Sports Programme - Full Service	Joey Dunlop - King of the Road	RTÉ Radio 1	Rachael's Day	RTÉ Radio 1	Off The Ball	Newstalk
B8	Sports Programme - Local / Regional	The Passing of Jerry Kiernan	Radio Kerry	Dublin's Talking Sport	Sunshine 106.8	The Covid Cup 2020 Championship	Shannonside Northern Sound

C1	Documentary	Documentary on One: A Very Irish Coup	RTÉ Radio 1	Documentary on One: The Grief of a Nation	RTÉ Radio 1	Assume Nothing: Did the Right Man Hang?	BBC Radio Ulster
C2	Music, Arts and Culture Documentary	The Music Biz	RTÉ 2FM	By the Lakes of Ponchartrain	RTÉ Radio 1	COW	Red Hare Media for RTÉ Radio 1 Extra
C3	Short Feature	Big Breakfast Little Stories	WLR FM	The Midlands 103 Vault	Midlands 103	CountryWide - Farm Diary from Hannah Quinn Mulligan	RTÉ Radio 1
C4	Magazine Programme	The Ray D'Arcy Show	RTÉ Radio 1	Moncrieff	Newstalk	iRadio's The Hub	iRadio
C5	Drama	Belong by Daithí McMahon and Fred O'Connor	Newstalk	Drama On One: Quicksand by Elizabeth Moynihan	RTÉ Radio 1	The Emperor's New Duds	RTÉjr Radio
C6	Specialist Speech Programme	The Long and the Short of it	BBC Radio Ulster	The History Fix	KCLR	SPIN Ar Scoil	SPIN South West
C7	Craoltóireacht le Gaeilge	Pop Raidió	SPIN1038	Barrscéalta RTÉ Raidió Na Gaeltachta	RTÉ Raidió Na Gaeltachta	Splanc	Newstalk
C8	Interactive Speech Programme	Liveline - Breaking the Menopause Taboo	RTÉ Radio 1	Stephen Nolan Show	BBC Radio Ulster	My Son Jason - Ireland's Mental Health	Cork's RedFM

D1	Community / Social Action	Moyross - The Forgotten Part of Limerick	Newstalk	Stand Up Awareness Week	RTÉ 2FM	Brian Maher's 24-Hour Runathon	98FM
D2	On-Air Competition / Promotion	Gotta Get It Wrong with Graham and Nathan	SPIN1038	Waffle - The Ian Dempsey Breakfast Show	Today FM	SPIN's €5k Phone Call	SPIN1038
D3	Station Imaging	98FM	98FM	iRadio	iRadio	FM104	FM104
D4	Entertainment Inserts	Gift Grub - The Ian Dempsey Breakfast Show	Today FM	Dermot and Dave	Today FM	Fully Charged - Challenge Graham	SPIN1038
D5	Digital and Social Innovation	Shine Festival 2021	Media Central	iRadio's TikTok Mic Drop	iRadio	#StopTheShame Campaign	Newstalk
D6	Podcast of the Year	GunPlot	RTÉ	Ecolution	RTÉ	Show me the Science	Newstalk

E1	Music & Entertainment Presenter of the Year	Dermot Whelan	Today FM	Jim-Jim Nugent	FM104	Ray Foley	Cork's Red FM
E2	Radio DJ of the Year	Lorraine Murphy	Cork's 96FM	Brian McEvoy	iRadio	Tracy Clifford	RTÉ 2FM
E3	Specialist Music Broadcaster of the Year	Ralph McLean	BBC Radio Ulster	Claire Beck	Today FM	Stuart Banford	Downtown Country
E4	News Broadcaster of the Year	Justin McCarthy	RTÉ Radio 1	Fionnuala Corbett	iRadio	Niall Colbert	Today FM
E5	News Reporter of the Year	John Cooke Drivetime	RTÉ Radio 1	Brian O'Connell	RTÉ Radio 1	Sasha Wylie	Downtown Radio/Cool FM
E6	Sports Broadcaster of the Year - Full Service	Joe Molloy	Newstalk	Michael McNamee	BBC Radio Ulster	Eoin Sheahan	Newstalk
E7	Sports Broadcaster of the Year - Local / Regional	Eric White	BBC Radio Foyle	Sean Mc Caffrey	Shannonside Northern Sound	Dave Hooper	Shannonside Northern Sound
E8	Speech Broadcaster of the Year - Full Service	Ciara Kelly	Newstalk	Pat Kenny	Newstalk	Matt Cooper	Today FM
E9	Speech Broadcaster of the Year - Local / Regional	Damien Tiernan	WLR FM	Mark Patterson	BBC Radio Foyle	Sheila Naughton	Shannonside Northern Sound

E10	Gay Byrne - Newcomer of the Year	Tara McCormack	Midlands 103	Sarah Madden	Newstalk	Jordan Humphries	Q Radio

F1	Radio Moment of the Year	Saved by an Angel	LMFM	Lynsey Bennett on The Hard Shoulder	Newstalk	Drivetime - Sarah McInerney and Eoghan Harris interview	RTÉ Radio 1
F2	Local Station of the Year	WLR FM	WLR FM	Radio Kerry	Radio Kerry	Clare FM	Clare FM
F3	Music Station of the Year	SPIN1038	SPIN1038	iRadio	iRadio	98FM	98FM
F4	National Station of the year	BBC Radio Ulster	BBC Radio Ulster	Today FM	Today FM	Newstalk	Newstalk