

Westport Festival of Chamber Music Company Limited No.617064

Board of Directors

Gary Leahy (chair) is a bow maker living in Newport, Westport, Co.Mayo. Gary trained in violin repair and restoration in New Zealand for six years while working in a violin shop there (Antonio Strings in Christchurch) He returned to Ireland in 2002 to train as a bowmaker with Noel Burke, and set up his own workshop in 2005. Aside from a year spent working in Paris (at L'Atelier d'Arthur), he has been based in Co.Mayo since. His violin, viola and cello bows are inspired largely by French bowmaking of the late 1700s, and early to mid 1800s. Prizes include gold medals for violin, viola, and cello bows at the 2010 VSA Competition, gold medals for violin and viola at the 2012 VSA competition, and Grand Prix de la Ville de Paris for viola bow in 2011. He has participated in music instrument exhibitions including at West Cork Music.

Cuala McGann (Company secretary) Architect MRIAI is a Certified European Passive House Designer and a Conservation Grade 3 Architect. She has been a board member of Westport Arts Festival. She is an amateur violinist and member of the Westport Octagon Ensemble.

Jacinta Dwyer is a retired Bank of Ireland official. She has been vice-chair of Galway Arts Festival and chair of Music for Galway.

Ger Reidy is a civil engineer, retired from Mayo County Council. He is a published poet and short story writer. He was a board member of Westport Arts Festival and is currently chair of the Linenhall Arts Centre in Castlebar, Co.Mayo.

Paul Sullivan is a retired businessman with expertise in Strategy and fund-raising and has been a board member of charity bodies.

Oliver Whyte is a GP in Westport and member of the Classical Covies group.