

Press Release
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St. Patrick's Festival Announces A Specially Commissioned Evening of Inspiring Collaboration

With Leading Irish producer, DJ and composer Kormac, The Irish Chamber Orchestra and His Special Guests

St. Patrick's Festival, March 15th to 19th 2018, announces a specially commissioned evening with leading Irish producer, DJ and composer Kormac. *Kormac: Equivalent Exchange* at Vicar Street on Sunday March 18th will feature Kormac alongside the Irish Chamber Orchestra, Kormac's Big Band and an array of guests featuring over 30 musicians and artists including ArtSoul singer songwriter Loah and famed composer and conductor Eimear Noone performing a brand new collection of songs, with more guests to be announced in the coming months.

As the national festival, St. Patrick's Festival works to bring artists from across Ireland together to produce work and celebrate our national holiday. Well-known for his live performances and championed by everyone from Annie Mac to DJ Yoda, Dubliner Kormac has matured into an artist who brings a totally novel approach to what might be called hip hop by twisting and morphing his meticulous recordings of acoustic instruments into something entirely unique. In 2017 he decamped to Bulgaria to study under Europe's leading composers, conductors and orchestrators to learn new writing and production methods. The result, *Kormac: Equivalent Exchange*, with the Limerick based Irish Chamber Orchestra is an inspiring evening of unique collaborations which may never happen again.

Kormac: Equivalent Exchange's creative concept is a new departure for Kormac. He has relinquished the writing and creative processes he has practiced over the last few years to try a completely new approach, embracing his new orchestral training to discover a whole new way of working, with a chamber orchestra at his fingertips and a new sonic palette to explore.

Speaking about *Kormac: Equivalent Exchange*, Kormac said: "The principle of Equivalent Exchange states that in order to gain something new you must first sacrifice something of equal value. I've applied this to my own writing process, forgoing my usual way of working but also in how I'm working with the artists I'm collaborating with for the show, bringing them songs and ideas at an earlier stage than I normally would. In this way, I'm giving up my usual level of control over the songwriting, allowing the collaboration to develop something completely new. It has also been a dream of mine for years to write an album's worth of material for an orchestra and I'm so delighted I've been given the opportunity to actually do it. I've been working on this for the last 18 months and can't wait to perform the full show with the Irish Chamber Orchestra, my big band and so many of the country's leading vocalists, musicians and artists at St. Patrick's Festival 2018."

Artistic Director of St. Patrick's Festival Karen Walshe said, "We are delighted to have commissioned Kormac to produce this truly unique event for St. Patrick's Festival 2018. He is one of contemporary Ireland's most exciting producers and composers and *Kormac: Equivalent Exchange* is sure to be a highly anticipated event on the 2018 music calendar. Make sure to get your tickets early!"

All aspects of the show involve deep collaboration and celebrated urban artist Maser has worked with Kormac to create the *Kormac: Equivalent Exchange* artwork and will also produce the show visuals.

Already confirmed to collaborate with Kormac is Irish / Sierra Leonean artist Loah and award winning composer and conductor Eimear Noone. Loah is known for her unique blend of genre-bending Afro-soul which she calls ArtSoul. She has sold out numerous headline shows in Dublin and abroad, and appeared at festivals including Electric Picnic, Body&Soul and Longitude, to name but a few; while Eimear Noone has been called the "Irish Queen of Games Music" and has created music for World of Warcraft, Zelda, Metal Gear Solid and many more.

St. Patrick's Festival is funded by Fáilte Ireland, Dublin City Council and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and will run from March 15th to 19th 2018. The full programme which promises to celebrate Ireland's contemporary arts and culture will be released in February 2018.

Tickets for *Kormac: Equivalent Exchange* costing €24.90 (incl. booking fee) go on sale this Friday December 8th, available from www.ticketmaster.ie/event/18005371D3F3F0FF

- Ends -

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NOTES TO EDITOR

St. Patrick's Festival's principal funders are Fáilte Ireland, Dublin City Council and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The principal aim of St. Patrick's Festival is to develop a major annual international festival around the national holiday over which the Irish people can stand proud. It reflects the talents and achievements of Irish people on national and world stages, showcasing the skills of every age and social background.

There were over 105,000 out-of-state visitors at the Festival in 2016, spending an average of 8.8 days in Ireland, and 6.5 days in Dublin. During the 2015 Festival, out-of-state visitors generated an estimated total expenditure of €73m while in Ireland, including expenditure of €1.3m while in Dublin, and circa €2m which was spent in the rest of Ireland. (Independent research conducted in 2015 & 2016 by Behaviour and Attitudes on behalf of Fáilte Ireland.)

The first St. Patrick's Festival was held over one day, and night, on March 17th 1996. Preparation for the St. Patrick's Festival used to take 5 months, but with its subsequent growth, it now takes 18 months to plan for Ireland's biggest annual celebration.

Why was it started?

- To offer a national festival that ranks as one of the greatest celebrations in the world

- To create energy and excitement throughout Ireland via innovation, creativity and grassroots involvement, and marketing activity
- To provide the opportunity and motivation for people of Irish descent (and those who sometimes wish they were Irish) to attend and join in the imaginative and expressive celebrations
- To project, internationally, an accurate image of Ireland as a creative, professional and sophisticated country with wide appeal.