

BOARD MEMBERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. Mary Kelly

Mary has worked in both the private and public sectors in Ireland. She is a former Director General of the Environmental Protection Agency and former Chair of An Bord Pleanála, following a career in the pharmaceutical industry and with the Irish Business and Employers Confederation. She has extensive experience in corporate governance, strategy development and change management. She is a member of the Royal Irish Academy and a Fellow of the Irish Academy of Engineers. Her interest in and love of opera developed when she was based in Johnstown Castle in Co Wexford as Director General of the EPA, and she has been a friend and supporter of the Festival for many years. She joined the board of Wexford Festival Trust in March 2017 and took on the role of Chairwoman in January 2019.

Paul Cleary

Paul Cleary is a native of Wexford and graduated from UCD with a Degree in Science. Over the past 30 years Paul has held various national and international positions in a multi-national company, and has extensive experience in Sales, Marketing, Business Development and Logistics. Paul travels extensively to attend opera, ranging from student performances to the major opera houses and festivals. Paul has served on the Board of The Wexford Festival Trust since September 2014.

Dr Karina Daly

Karina currently works as Director of Organisation Support and Development with the Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB) where she manages the Finance, Corporate Services and Human Resources functions. She has previously worked at University College Dublin, as a project manager within the Office of the Vice-President for Research and subsequently as the Director of Assessment for UCD. Karina holds a Masters and a PhD in Modern Cultural History from University College Dublin. Her PhD thesis was based on Britain's influence on Irish musical development after Independence and detailed the establishment of the Glyndebourne Opera Festival, the Wexford Opera Festival, the establishment of the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the Radio Éireann Symphony Orchestra. Based on her PhD research, in 2004 she published a history of the Wexford Opera Festival – Tom Walsh's Opera – A History of the Wexford Festival 1951-2004. She is also a contributor to the Royal Irish Academy's Dictionary of Irish Biography. Karina was appointed to the board of Wexford Festival Trust in 2018 and is the current Chair of the Community and Local Stakeholder sub-committee of the Board.

Jim Donnelly

Jim is Chairman and majority shareholder of CCG Group which controls some of Ireland's foremost marketing agencies. CCG is made up of four companies, JWT Folk, The Reputations Agency, Goosebump, and MindShare Media. Jim is a past board member of The Institute of Advertising Practitioners in Ireland and served for a number of years on a disciplinary committee of Chartered Accountants Regulatory Board. Jim serves on the National Development Council of the Wexford Festival Trust and joined the Board in 2017. He is the Chair of the Marketing sub-committee of the Board.

Dara Lynott

Dara is the current Chief Executive of the Electricity Association of Ireland following a distinguished career in the engineering and environmental areas in Ireland and the US. He served as Deputy Director General of the Environmental Protection Agency and as a Director there from 2004 to 2017. He has extensive experience in the management, governance and leadership of organisations and is a qualified Executive Coach. Dara lives in Wexford and has been a member of several choirs locally. He serves on the boards of a number of other organisations locally and nationally. He is a Chartered Engineer and a Fellow of Engineers Ireland. Dara joined the Board of Wexford Festival Trust in 2019.

Yvonne Mays

Yvonne has been a Friend and supporter of WFO for many years and is currently a member of the National Development Council of Wexford Festival Opera. She is a solicitor by profession training originally in Enniscorthy where she grew up. She subsequently practised for over 30 years in Dublin. She has a deep love of music, plays piano and is a member of the Goethe Choir. She is a member of the board of the Dublin International Piano Competition. Yvonne joined the board of Wexford Festival Trust in 2020.

Robert McGlynn

Robert is co-founder and managing director of Cadence Capital Advisors Ltd and is a former director of Davy Stockbrokers. He is a recognised authority on wealth management and investment in Ireland. Robert pursued musical studies from an early age and is classically trained at bassoon and piano. He has played with many orchestras starting with the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland, and currently plays with the City of Dublin Chamber Orchestra. Robert joined the board of Wexford Festival Trust in 2017.

Kevin Mitchell

Kevin Mitchell is a Company Director with many years of experience in financial services and print media. A qualified Management Accountant and MBA, Kevin has particular expertise in working with companies in challenging situations. Kevin joined the Board of Wexford Festival Trust in 2017 and is the current chairman of its Finance Committee.

Terry Neill

Terry is a long-term friend and benefactor of Wexford Festival Opera. He has had a distinguished career in business working at Arthur Andersen and its successors Andersen Worldwide and Accenture in Dublin, London, and Chicago. He has served on the Boards of several high-profile companies, including Accenture, Bank of Ireland plc, CRH plc and in the arts area served as Chair of Camerata Ireland. He is currently on the board of the IIEA and a member of the Provosts Council in Trinity College Dublin. Terry is the current Chair of the National Development Council of Wexford Festival Opera.