

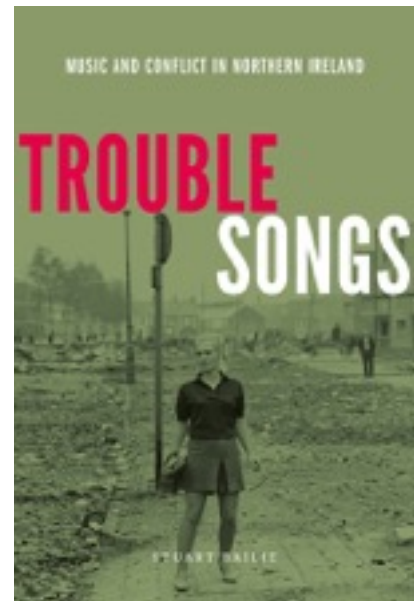
'Trouble Songs' - Peace and Conflict in Belfast

Trouble Songs is about music and stories from contemporary Belfast. This performance weaves together memory, comedy and hard-hitting prose. Three of Belfast's creative champions have joined across the divides to tell you the story of how music can challenge given histories and can provide a shared, dynamic outlet.

Stuart Bailie, Joby Fox and Ursula Burns have lived through a pivotal time in Irish history. They were born into one of the bloodiest and most protracted conflicts in contemporary Europe. They have encountered hurt and pain but also darkly funny situations. Trouble Songs examines how you can survive emotionally, how you make friends with enemies, and how you shed the labels you are born with to find your own truth.

In recent years, Belfast has provided the world with a blueprint beyond conflict. The peace agreement of 1998 has sustained with the critical support of the city's artists, writers and imaginative thinkers.

Stuart Bailie is a music journalist, BBC broadcaster and author of 'Trouble Songs: Music and Conflict in Northern Ireland'. Ursula Burns, aka 'The Dangerous Harpist', is a songwriter, performer and comedienne. Joby Fox, is a writer, performer, film-maker and humanitarian activist. Collectively, this trio summons up words, sentiments and melodies that bear witness to trouble and transcendence.



Artist endorsements:

"Trouble Songs is courageous... a social history as much as a musical one. That first-hand knowledge and genuine passion for his subject is evident." (*Freya McClements, Irish Times*)

"Burns is a perceptive writer with the ability to capture the profound and the profane with equal clarity." (*Hot Press*)

"[Joby Fox's] songs on offer are high on melody and fuelled with human emotion, resulting in each one carrying a powerful, social and political message while at the same time being beautifully wrapped up for mass consumption like an iron fist in a velvet glove." (*The Irish News*)

SHOW: Trouble Songs - music, comedy and hard-hitting truths from Northern Ireland.

Length: 1.5 hours

Content: A music and storytelling show in-the-round between two musicians and an author.

The show journeys through a conflict of identity and turmoil into peace, and reflect on this journey now 20 years after the signing of the historical peace agreement in Belfast.

Production requirements: PA, 3 vocal mics, Mic for harp, 2 DIs, 3 stools

Fee: \$1600

About the music:

Music has been key in breaking down barriers and rebuilding society throughout the Northern Irish conflict. Musicians have been some of the bravest in Northern Ireland crossing the lines before any one else dared, leading the way. For that reason it is only natural that we look towards some of these musicians to help us understand how a society falls into deep division and how it emerges back out of it.

Contemporary folk and pop, and the traditional sounds of Ireland are at the roots of the vibrant music and songs from both Burns and Fox. Multi-instrumentalists, singers and songwriters who master their craft as both performers and storytellers.

About the book:

Trouble Songs – Music and Conflict in Northern Ireland sets the scene for the musical journey. Gripping stories and first-hand interviews with Christy Moore, the Undertones, Stiff Little Fingers and a number of international acts who visited the region when only a few bands would. The book focuses on songs inspired by the Troubles, including Paul McCartney's *Give Ireland Back to the Irish* and *Zombie* by *The Cranberries*. Among the highlights is an exclusive contribution by U2 frontman Bono, who writes about the Dublin and Monaghan bombings, the lyrics to *Sunday Bloody Sunday*, the Enniskillen bomb and his work with Christy Moore.

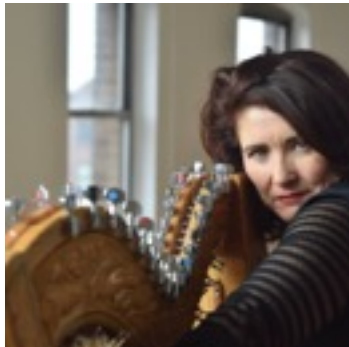


PROFILES:



Stuart Bailie is a music writer and broadcaster, based in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He has been a music industry professional for over 30 years, writing for *NME*, *Mojo*, *Uncut*, *Q*, *Vox*, *The Times*, *The Irish Times*, *Classic Rock* and *Hot Press*. He wrote the authorised story of Thin Lizzy, *The Ballad of the Thin Man*, in 1997. He has written TV and radio documentaries on U2, Elvis Costello, Glen Campbell and Thin Lizzy. He wrote and narrated a BBC TV history of music from Northern Ireland, *So Hard to Beat*, in 2007. He is a co-founder of the Oh Yeah Music Centre in Belfast and was its CEO from 2008-16. Stuart has just released his latest publication, *Trouble Songs - Music and conflict in Northern Ireland*, 2018.

<https://www.musicglue.com/trouble-songs>



Ursula Burns is a singer, songwriter and composer, but she also happens to be the MOST DANGEROUS HARPIST IN THE WORLD. The multi-instrumentalist accidentally fell into comedy when she won the Irish Musical Comedy Awards in 2012 and her first trip to Edinburgh Fringe Festival earned her a nomination for the Malcolm Hardee Award for Comic Originality. She wondered why they were laughing - she was being serious.

<http://www.ursulaburns.co.uk>



Joby Fox is a native of Belfast, Northern Ireland and a songwriter, script writer, composer and performer. Joby Fox is known as an authentic voice of post-conflict Ireland, but he also as a humanitarian activist, and immersed himself in the refugee crisis in Greece. Joby has a long history in music from the Punk era to UK chart topping with his Celtic rock band Energy Orchard, to his solo career as a crafty writer and performer. His *End of the War* music and film show opened the inaugural UN Peace Festival in Hong Kong in 2014. The show challenged labels of identity and helped create dialogue between old and young and people of diverse backgrounds in Northern Ireland.

<http://www.jobyfox.com>