

An incredible night of entertainment in Breaffy House Resort, Mayo

JOYOUS night as Breaffy House Resort launched Mayo Manchester Tradfest.

There was a night of song, music and celebration as a VIP concert at Breaffy House launched this year's Mayo Manchester Tradfest.

The award-winning festival is now in its sixth year and features over 500 performers from Mayo and Manchester performing in over 100 events all over Mayo. The festival kicked off on Thursday, August 2 and continues until Wednesday, August 8.

"Every year it is getting bigger and better. This year it has absolutely skyrocketed," said organiser Tony Hennigan, who has strong Attymass links.

Mr Hennigan said he was delighted to be launching the event at Breaffy House.

"It is a fantastic venue and already has a great tradition of showcasing some great Traditional Irish Music, Song and Dance events," he said.

Wilson Bird, General Manager of Breaffy House Resort said the hotel was overjoyed to play host to the launch of the event and a host of stellar performers.

"We are honoured to host such a prestigious event to kick-start the week-long festival," said Mr Bird.

Maggie Ruane, head of sales and marketing and Breaffy House Resort said the hotel takes great pride in being involved in events like the Mayo



Manchester Trafest.

"Breaffy House Resort is proud to host events that promote Irish culture and heritage and supports the diaspora," she said.

It was an action-packed evening of entertainment in Breaffy on Thursday.

The Manchester-based Fianna Phadraig Pipe Band who are celebrating their 70th Anniversary as the UK's longest running Pipe Band led a parade through the grounds

of the resort before staging an outdoor VIP concert on the Terrace of the Hotel with a galaxy of performers.

Manchester United's Voice of Old Trafford, Mr Alan Keegan and the newly appointed Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council, Cllr Blackie Gavin and Cathaoirleach of Castlebar Municipal District, Cllr Michael Kilcoyne were VIPs attending the party in the award-winning Healy Mac's Bar. The councillors welcomed the performers and attendees to Breaffy.

Also performing from Manchester on the night was Joe Keegan from the hit BBC TV show The Voice. The singer, songwriter and dancer who shot to fame on the show with his song 'Pick Myself Up', has over 30,000 followers on Twitter and has just released his debut album.

The Manchester-based Country singer Marion Waldron showcased her new single 'When New York was Irish' which was filmed in New York at the Hunger memorial which features the famine cottage from Attymass.

Special guests on the night include Irish Country singer Sina Theil who is on a mission to put the 'Rock into Country Music' and with two million radio plays for her new album 'Stripes' she is fast becoming Ireland's most requested Country star.

Mayo singer-songwriter Con Murphy also joined the line-up, fresh from his tour of Iceland and Liverpool promoting his new album 'The Fjord'.

Local singer Denis McAlmont was as entertaining as ever and the crowds were also treated to the Emer Mulvey Sean Nos Dancers who performed some Brush and Barrell Dancing; Shauna O'Boyle, the winner of the 2018 Crosmmolina Festival; The Light Staves; plus Peter Mylett.

It was an incredible night of entertainment with Breaffy House Resort acting as impeccable hosts.



Cllr Blackie Gavin Cathaoirleach Mayo Co Co and Cllr Michael Kilcoyne Cathaoirleach Castlebar Municipal District at the launch of Mayo Manchester Tradfest at Breaffy House Castlebar. Photo © Michael Donnelly

