



**For Immediate Release**

**Honorees Officially Announced for Irish Cultural and Learning Foundation  
Annual Anam Cara Gala**

**PHOENIX (Oct. 5, 2022)** – The Irish Cultural and Learning Foundation has officially announced this year’s list of impressive honorees for the annual Anam Cara (Soul Friend) Fundraising Gala. The special recognition is awarded to those community members who are deemed true friends and loyal supporters of the Arizona Irish community. The Gala will be held at the Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library on Saturday, November 5, 2022 from 7 to 10pm.

This year’s honorees are Arizona State University President Michael M. Crow, KEZ radio host, Beth McDonald, and the late K-BACH producer, announcer and musician, Jane Hilton.

Crow has led two decades of transformative change at ASU focused on enhancing comprehensive access, excellence and social impact in Arizona and beyond. Those efforts include an institutional commitment to global engagement, which led to the 2013 establishment of the Arizona State University-Dublin City University Transatlantic Higher Education Partnership, an evolving binational alliance to advance education, research and economic development. Crow also received an honorary degree from DCU earlier this year.

“Arizona State University is dedicated to fostering friendly and enduring connections with the diverse communities we serve both locally and globally,” said ASU President Michael M. Crow. “We are very proud of the alliances we have formed with Irish communities here and abroad, and I am pleased to receive this honor as an affirmation of our work.”

McDonald is a staple in Phoenix and the Irish community. From the annual St. Patrick’s Day parade to participation in the Arizona Colleen program, and general support of the AZ Irish community, McDonald is a perfect representation of what the Anam Cara stands for.

“Beth has shared so much of her Irish heritage with loyal listeners and fans for more than 38years on KEZ, said Linda Little, Region President, iHeart Media. “To have her recognized at the Anam Cara event is a true honor.”

This year, The Irish Cultural and Learning foundation is also extending a posthumous Anam Cara award to the late Jane Hilton. Many in this community knew, loved and learned from her as a violin teacher and performer. Her commitment to the Arizona Irish and Celtic community was commendable and deserves to be recognized.

“Her infectious love for music touched many. We all miss her dearly, and are honored that she has been named Anam Cara by the Phoenix Irish Community,” said Laura and Robert Hilton, Jane’s parents. “This title is so fitting for our Jane. “

“This year’s list of honorees is something we are especially proud of,” said Laddie Guy Shane, Trustee, Arizona Irish Cultural and Learning Foundation. “More than a fundraising event, this is truly an opportunity to celebrate the Irish community and those throughout the Valley who continue to support and promote us.”

The Gala evening will include an awards presentation, entertainment by Irish rock legend Liam Ó Maonlaí of the Hothouse Flowers, an Irish-inspired meal, spirits and more!

Past recipients of the prestigious honor include: U.S. Senator John McCain; U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor (Ret.); the late Norman McClelland, CEO of Shamrock Foods; Gerry Staunton, Consul General of Ireland; Ambassador Barbara Barrett, U.S. Department of State and Dr. Robert O’Neill, Burns Librarian at Boston College.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit <https://www.azirish.org/anam-cara/>

### **About The Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library**

The mission of the Irish Cultural Center is to celebrate and promote Irish and Celtic Heritage and its influence on and partnership with other cultures. The goal of the McClelland Library is to make accessible a comprehensive collection of materials on Ireland and the Irish diaspora on the role of Irish-Americans in Arizona and the Western United States. The Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library are divisions of the Irish Cultural & Learning Foundation, Inc., a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit corporation, and are owned and maintained by the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department.

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