

“THREE FESTIVALS THEME” – A GIFT TO DUBLIN AND BORDEAUX: PRESS RELEASE

A new song - *Three Festival's Theme* - has been commissioned from artist Rory Moore of *Strength N.I.A.* A gift from *Liverpool Irish Festival* - and the City - to Dublin and Bordeaux it celebrates the *Three Festivals Tall Ships Regatta*.

Having been commissioned to produce work by *Liverpool City Council* for this momentous occasion, the *Liverpool Irish Festival (LIF)* decided it wanted to devise and offer a gift to its partner cities. Using arts and culture as a gateway, *LIF* commissioned a song from artist Rory Moore and his band *Strength N.I.A.*

Strength NIA appeared at #LIF2017, releasing their album *Northern Island Yes* the same year. Famed for their thematic songs – such as *Brendan Bradley* – *LIF* quickly realised they were just the group to go to in order to tie together a complex brief, based on the core themes of the *Three Festivals Tall Ships Regatta*.

The sea and song have long been connected; just think about Irish shanties, port life and the songs of the Siren. These mercantile creations continue today, inspiring our approach to creating a gift that transcends time, space and material possession.

Planned as a digital gift initially, it is hoped that physical performances of the piece will be possible and that Rory and his band can play it at all three stages of the Regatta. Both *Strength N.I.A* and *LIF* welcome as much air play as it can receive on all continental plates!

Rory says:

“From the get go I wanted this piece to be fun, informative and playful. I knew I was going to be tackling some subjects that were politically charged and could lead me into sensitive and dark parts of history, so I didn't want to come across as self-righteous! Music - after all - is a celebration and that was key to the foundation of this piece. My friend said I should write a *Eurotrash* anthem when I was in France earlier in the year; [then *Liverpool Irish Festival* called me] in the airport on my way back from France! I knew the time was right to indulge this fancy! The brief was interesting: somehow I had to tie Bordeaux, Dublin and Liverpool together in a 3 min song that could involve ships, wine, immigration, the ice age and the Moon. Brilliant I thought!”.

The *Three Festivals Theme* has benefitted from funding from the *Liverpool Irish Festival* via its support from

- Liverpool City Council
- Arts Council England
- The Irish Government's *Department for Foreign Affairs*.

To hear the Radio Edit and the Extended Feature of *Three Festivals Theme* visit <http://www.liverpoolirishfestival.com/dublin-bordeaux-liverpool-song/>.

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Notes to Editors

The most diverse celebration of Irish culture in the UK, *Liverpool Irish Festival* began in 2003. #LIF2018 will take place 18-28 October 2018, including key performances from *Kíla*, *The Guilty Feminist*, Eamonn Hughes and many more besides. Established to celebrate cultural connections between Liverpool and Ireland, bringing the two communities closer together through arts and culture, the festival has grown into a ten day festival of music, art, performance, culture, food, drink and film. Key artists to have performed at the festival include: Roisin O, Ciaran Lavery, Fearghus O'Conchuir, Terri Hooley, Ailís Ni Rhian, Lisa Hannigan and Dennis Connolly and Anne Cleary (2015's *Meta Perceptual Helmets*). *Liverpool Irish Festival* works with partners across the city and Ireland including the *Liverpool Irish Centre*, *Irish in Britain*, *Connected Irish*, *NML*, *IndieCork*, *The Institute of Irish Studies at University of Liverpool* and the *Irish Embassy* along with other social spaces such as *The Caledonia*, *Kelly's Dispensary* and *The Edinburgh*.

Rory Moore is songwriter with *Strength N.I.A.* Described as 'werewolf pop', the band describe their sound as "woolly and deliberate". They write tracks using bass, organ, words and beats. From Derry, the band have recently released celebrated album *Northern Ireland Yes* and featured on Steve Lamacq's and Gideon Coe's BBC Radio 6 shows and Frank Skinner's *Absolute Radio* music show.

The Three Festivals Tall Ships Regatta links a trio of vibrant port cities – Liverpool, Dublin and Bordeaux – with some nail-biting racing across the Irish Sea and Bay of Biscay, beginning in Liverpool over the late May Bank Holiday weekend. The magnificent masted ships will create a stunning sight as they make their way up river to start the hotly-contested Regatta from Liverpool's world-famous, *UNESCO World Heritage* waterfront. This is the fifth time Liverpool has hosted these evocative historic craft in the past three decades, and during Capital of Culture year an estimated million people packed the banks of the river to catch a glimpse of the parade of sail. Between May 25-28, the city will be transformed in to three cultural festivals – *Liverpool Festival* in the city centre, *Irish Festival* at the Albert Dock and *French Festival* on the Pier Head, each with their own unique atmosphere and cultural experience.

FOR MORE INFO

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