



PRESS RELEASE {UPDATED}

For Immediate Release - 26/07/23

Photos & Videos Of Summit Available [Here](#)

Interviews Requests Welcome

Irish Harpist Performs Concert On The Summit of Mount Kilimanjaro In A Bid To Break Guinness World Record.

In the early hours of yesterday morning (Tuesday 25th July), the welcome news began to slowly filter through that 24 year old Siobhan Brady from Castletroy in County Limerick, Ireland had successfully completed her quest to reach the 5,895 metre summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

Siobhan's ambitious and imaginative challenge is part of a Guinness World Record attempt to host a unique concert on Africa's highest peak titled, the 'Highest Harp Concert'. The current Guinness World Record for the highest altitude harp performance was set by her in 2018 in the Himalayan region of India, at more than 16,000ft.

The concert of 20 minutes consisted of an array of traditional and more recent compositions from Ireland and also included a Tanzanian jig which means 'Thank You Tanzania' in Swahili.

Also part of the high-altitude concert was a rendition of Ed Sheeran's 'Little Bird'. The song has a special place in the hearts of the Cystic Fibrosis community, and the poem, 'The Prophets Are Weeping', by Irish President, Michael D. Higgins, was read by well-known CF Advocate, Caroline Heffernan.

Departing Ireland last week, the core team of 19 flew to Tanzania following over two years of meticulous planning and numerous training events on Irish peaks and more recently, Mount Teide located on the Canary Island of Tenerife.

Leading them up Mount Kilimanjaro - the world's largest free-standing mountain rise – is renowned Irish mountaineer and adventurer, Pat Falvey, who oversaw the complex and expansive logistics involved which included an African-based team made up of around 60 people.

Before departing to Mount Kilimanjaro National Park, the team were given a send-off from Irish Ambassador for Tanzania, Mary O'Neill, who presented Siobhan with an Irish flag to take to the summit. At Machame Gate, an official reception was also hosted by Dr. Hassan Abbasi, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, who had made the journey to personally see the team off on their adventure.

Following a quick descent to the lower Barufa Camp afterwards, Miss Brady managed to share a quick message:

"We are elated beyond words and immensely proud of the incredible team and support that made this ambition dreamt up a few years ago, somehow become a reality. The final hours before reaching the summit were a real test of resilience, however we somehow made it through and found the perfect moment for the concert with only the clouds below us".

“It’s been an unforgettable experience, rewarding and challenging in equal measure and I know I speak from all of the team when I thank everyone who sent in messages from far and wide. The constant encouragement and support made some of the steps forward all that bit easier”.

One of the first to offer their congratulations to the entire team, was CEO of Cystic Fibrosis Ireland, Philip Watt, who along with his colleagues and many members of the Cystic Fibrosis community in Ireland and further afield, have been closely following their progress.

“We are proud that the Highest Harp Challenge team has had a successful ascent and reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa’.

“We know this has been a supreme effort for all the team and with many months of planning, including for our colleague Caroline Heffernan who has cystic fibrosis. We are very respectful of the fact that Kilimanjaro is not only the highest mountain in Africa but is also a sacred mountain for many in Tanzania and we pay tribute to the many who assisted the team in reaching the summit and pray for their safe return’.

“Many congratulations to Siobhan Brady and her team for this fundraising initiative and for topping her own world record in playing the ‘highest harp’ at such a high altitude and many thanks to the leader of the climb, Pat Falvey the renowned Irish climber’

“We do not underestimate how difficult this challenge is and we wish all the team a safe descent and we are looking forward to welcoming them back to Dublin. With much respect and gratitude to the Highest Harp Concert Challenge for organising this initiative. Funding from this challenge will support the key work of Cystic Fibrosis Ireland”.

The team has now safely completed their descent to the Mweka Gate, and are en route to the nearby town of Moshi for a well-deserved rest, with most members expected back on Irish shores over the next week. Siobhan is performing at a special reception at the residence of the Irish Ambassador to Tanzania in Dar es Salaam before making the return journey.

The Highest Harp Concert has also been supported by the online fundraising platform, Just Giving: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Highest-Harp

ENDS

FOR MORE PRESS INFORMATION:

Conor Hipwell,

Communications Officer,

E: media@highestharpconcert.com

E communications.highestharp@gmail.com

P: +353 87 2288373

NOTES TO THE EDITOR:

Requests for Interviews, photographs and filmed interviews are most welcome

PHOTOS AND VIDEO FILES ARE AVAILABLE:

[Link To Press Resources](#)

THE HIGHEST HARP CONCERT

In 2018, Siobhan Brady achieved a Guinness World Record, by performing the Highest Harp concert at 16,000ft in the Himalayas, as part of a fundraising project for Cystic Fibrosis UK. On their descent, the project leader, Desmond Gentle, was excited about the prospect of repeating the harp performance on Mount Kilimanjaro at 19,340ft to raise more funds for Cystic Fibrosis, however Desmond died suddenly, from thrombosis, 10 days after his return to London.

The Highest Harp Concert Team has now been set up in his memory to break their Guinness World Record, carrying the harp to perform at 5,895m/ 19,340ft on Mount Kilimanjaro in July 2023.

The Challenge is raising vital funds and awareness for Cystic Fibrosis Ireland with all costs for the project being covered by sponsorship.

For more information, please visit highestharpconcert.com

Proud Sponsors of the Highest Harp Concert:



... WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM:



ABOUT CYSTIC FIBROSIS IRELAND

Cystic Fibrosis Ireland (CFI) is the body responsible for the provision of a wide range of services to the cystic fibrosis community in Ireland. Cystic Fibrosis Ireland, established by parents in 1963, is a leading national organisation dedicated to improving the quality of life of people with CF and their families across Ireland. It does this through providing information and education, advice and advocacy to people and their families, offering grant assistance, undertaking research, funding state-of-the-art dedicated CF health facilities and CF clinical staff, and advancing the development of lung transplantation in Ireland. Cystic Fibrosis Ireland comprises 17 branches and one regional branch and is overseen by a national executive committee, which includes representation from people with CF and their families.

For more information on the work of Cystic Fibrosis Ireland, visit www.cfireland.ie or follow on Twitter and Instagram @cf_ireland, and on Facebook @facebook.com/CysticFibrosisIreland. #65Roses

Cystic Fibrosis - Key Facts

- Cystic fibrosis is an inherited condition that primarily affects the lungs and digestive system.
- Ireland has the highest rate of cystic fibrosis per capita in the world, with some of the most severe types.
- About 34 new cases of cystic fibrosis in Ireland are diagnosed each year (that's 1 in every 2,300 babies).
- The predicted median age of survival for a person with CF in Ireland is 45.
- There are more than 1,400 people living with CF in Ireland and the number is increasing each year as a result of improvements in treatment and care.

The impact of CF can vary from one person to another. There are some people with CF who live until their teens and there are others that live in to their 50's. Ireland has among some of the most severe strains of CF and has the highest incidence (per head of population) of CF in the world, with three times the rate of the United States and the rest of the European Union.

Cystic Fibrosis Ireland (CFI) is one of Ireland's first and most well-known patient advocate and lobby groups. It was set up by parents in 1963 to improve the treatment and facilities for people with Cystic Fibrosis in Ireland. CFI also co-operates with medical professionals to give maximum assistance to both parents and children/adults with Cystic Fibrosis.