



[High Fidelity: A century of recorded song with Jack L and Julie Feeney](#)



**RTÉ lyric fm, starts 7pm May 16th for 26 weeks.
An Athena Media production for RTÉ.**

Two of Ireland's most talented stage performers, Jack L and Julie Feeney, have joined forces to present a ground-breaking new radio series, *High Fidelity, a century of recorded song*, which starts May 16th on RTÉ lyric fm. The series, produced by former RTÉ head of radio, Helen Shaw, who now heads her own independent production company, Athena Media, runs for 26 weeks and promises a sound-map of recorded song from Thomas Edison to the iPod, from Tin Pan Alley to X-Factor.

The series opens with the first recordings from singers like Enrico Caruso and John McCormack, at the turn of the last century, and explores the songs which have become the soundtrack of our lives and the singers who have defined them for us. Hear the voices of Caruso, McCormack, Hoagey Carmichael, Al Jolson, Maria Callas, Bing Crosby, Paul Robeson, Frank Sinatra, Sophie Tucker, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Darin, Jacques Brel, Edith Piaf, Judy Garland, Johnny Cash, Elvis Presley, Sam Cooke, Nina Simone, Woody Guthrie and trace the river of sound and song to Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, Joni Mitchell and contemporary artists like Moby, Bono, Nick Cave, Bruce Springsteen, Hayley Westenra, Robbie Williams, Elvis Costello, Madonna and Beyonce. The music will cross all genres, reflecting the way in which sound recording transformed music and our ability to hear it across the world and how unforgettable songs like

'*Swing Low, Sweet Chariots*', '*Stardust*' and '*Avalon*' from the early years of sound recording are still being released today.

The series will weave the story of capturing sound from competing inventors Thomas Edison and Emile Berliner; the journey from early cylinders, gramophones, 78s, vinyl, tape, CDs and finally digital files, MP3s and iTunes today. The focus will be on vocal performance, and the legacy of a century of recorded song, from singers who have come to define moments in our shared history and songs like '*Somewhere over the Rainbow*' and '*Stardust*' which have been recorded by artists across the decades. We'll explore how an African-American spiritual like '*No More Auction Block*', performed by Robeson, inspired Bob Dylan to write '*Blowin' in the Wind*' which became the anthem for a generation.

The ability to record and release music to mass audiences created a global songbook, bringing music from the grassroots into the mainstream, whether ragtime, folk, jazz, blues or gospel, and creating celebrity singers who have influenced the generations who followed.

Both Jack L and Julie Feeney are established song-writers, singers and performers and the series will be driven by their personal take on a century of song and singing. It will include some unique performances of the classic songbook by Jack and Julie, both individually and together, drawing on their influences and heroes.

Jack L (Jack Lukeman), a native of Athy Co.Kildare, has been described as 'a mixture of all the great voices of the 20th century'. He recently performed a sell-out concert at the National Concert Hall and few can match Jack's award winning vocals and dynamic stage performance. Jack has worked with U2, Nick Cave, Jimmy Page, Robert Plant and Craig Armstrong. He has recorded the songs of Jaques Brel, Randy Newman, Paul Robeson, Frank Sinatra and John McCormack. He is a regular on both US and European touring circuits from Glastonbury to L.A, has won awards at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, performed in Paris singing in French, German and Czech and has toured the world with the writer Pat McCabe in a unique one man show. Very much his own man, Jack pursues a maverick and instinctive approach to his craft as singer, songwriter and performance artist.

Jack L; "If I wasn't presenting this programme with Julie, I would definitely be listening to it. I have always been fascinated by the history of songs and recording techniques. It is truly amazing how we have come from singing songs around a camp fire to a digital sound cloud in the sky."

Julie Feeney, originally from Galway, is a classical trained composer and performer whose individual style defies definition. She has been described as "the Emerald Isle's Original" and has performed with orchestras both in Ireland and internationally. Her influences stretch from traditional, choral, religious to opera and contemporary classical. Julie has spent much of 2011 criss-crossing the US in a performance tour which has so far brought her to New York, Boston, San Francisco, LA, San Diego, Washington and Las Vegas as part of 'Imagine Ireland' culminating in the U.S. release of her second album 'pages' in May on her own 'mittens' label. She performed on St Patrick's Day live in New York and in RTÉ Radio 1's John Murray show from Central Park. An award-winning composer and song-writer, her first album '13 Songs' won the Choice Music Award and she has orchestrated for the Ulster Orchestra and the RTÉ Concert

Orchestra among others. Julie's music is widely broadcast on TV and radio and she has sold out numerous Irish shows to rave reviews including a recent sold-out performance at The National Concert Hall. Her song 'Impossibly Beautiful' was recently selected for a major Irish advertising campaign.

She is currently composing her first opera.

Both Jack and Julie share a passion for the human voice and are profoundly interested in the cross over between technology and voice and how that has changed across the past one hundred years, shaping our experience of song and singers, and deeply influencing their own work as independent artists. Jack and Julie recently performed a duet in the NCH, 'Rooftop Lullaby', and are looking forward to working together again.

'High Fidelity is a rich audio and song experience led by two of the most talented forces in Irish music. Both Jack and Julie have a deep personal commitment to the story behind the songs we love and know and to the fascinating back story of recording from Edison's phonograph to today's web based music stores. We want it to be fun and want the listeners to get involved via social media, particularly facebook, by sharing their beloved songs of the century. We want the final episode to be shaped by the listeners and their top ten songs of the century as a playlist of the most influential and memorable recordings of the past century', series producer Helen Shaw.

For further details, press interviews and publicity call Lisa 01 4885851

**High resolution photos of Jack L and Julie Feeney at the Vintage Radio Museum, Howth.
Photography by Joe Conway:**

[Jack and Julie holding Pathé records](#)



www.athenamedia.ie

Join Us  Join Us 



RTE lyric fm