

The Rory Gallagher Festival 2015

By **Alexander Baron** - Mar 17, 2015



June 14 this year will be the twentieth anniversary of the death of the legendary Irish blues-rock guitarist Rory Gallagher. Born at Ballyshannon on March 2, 1948, he was taken ill in the Netherlands, forcing the cancellation of his final tour. Transferred to Kings College Hospital London, he died from complications of a liver infection aged just 47.

Doubly tragic is that the unmarried Gallagher died without issue, but the good news for music fans is that he toured incessantly leaving some fine footage of many hours of his dynamic stage presence, much of which can be found on YouTube.



Rory Gallagher performing Sessions in Hamburg, 1971/1973

Author: Heinrich Klaffs

His biggest fan was and remains his brother. Dónal Gallagher runs the [Official Rory Gallagher Website](#), which is worth a visit by all music fans, especially the younger generation who may not have heard of the Father of Irish Blues. At the time of writing there is a fundraising effort for a Rory Gallagher statue, and for dedicated fans there is the annual Rory Gallagher International Festival which will run from May 28-31. Details of the acts, booking and accommodation can be found on the [dedicated website](#).



Rory Gallagher does not have much of a presence on Songfacts, but to date **six of his compositions** can be found on the site, and undoubtedly there will be more to come. One of his most enigmatic songs is *Philby*, a man with whom clearly he had no affinity, although in one respect they were remarkably similar.



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