



AENGUS FINNAN

Born in Dublin, Ireland, and raised in rural Canada, Aengus Finnan moved from Toronto, Canada, (where he served as the Touring and Audience Development Officer for the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) - an agency of the Ministry of Culture) to take on the role of Executive Director of Folk Alliance International as of September 2014.

He has a diverse background in arts administration, education, and community outreach. As an artist and musician he has released three recordings and toured extensively throughout North America, Japan and Australia before founding the Shelter Valley Folk Festival in 2003 where he served as Artistic Director until 2010. He taught art and music in several northern communities including Moosonee, and the arctic community of Inuvik (in the NorthWest Territories). Aengus served as Board President for the Ontario Council of Folk Festivals (now Folk Music Ontario) and was a co-founder of Canada's annual Gordon Lightfoot tribute concert series.

He is a visual arts graduate of Lester B. Pearson United World College and holds both a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre and Bachelor of Education degrees.

He was twice nominated for the Premier's Award for Excellence in the Arts, and is a recipient of a Canadian National decoration with the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal for his cultural and humanitarian work.

He currently serves on the Kansas City Arts Industry Sector Council.