

The Oldest Town – The Longest Music Festival

2700 BC	First settlers in Ireland at Inis Saimer island
1178 AD	Abbey Assaroe built (completed 1184)
1423	O'Donnell Castle erected in Ballyshannon
1590	Micheal O'Cleirigh – Chief writer of the Annals of the Four Masters born
1597	Red Hugh O'Donnell's victory in Battle at Ballyshannon
1607	Rory O'Donnell departs from Ballyshannon in Flight of the Earls
1613	Ballyshannon created a Borough by English Administration
1662	William Connolly, Speaker of Irish Parliament, born
1700	Military Barracks built in the town (beside bridge)
1748	Patrick Haly, Gentleman Piper of Ballyshannon, born
1824	William Allingham, the Poet, born in Ballyshannon
1842	Famine Workhouse opened
1899	Ballyshannon Brass & Reid Band formed
1945	Erne Hydro-Electric Scheme commenced (completed 1951)
1948	Rory Gallagher born in Ballyshannon
1952	Ballyshannon Music Society founded
1952	Ballyshannon Drama Festival commenced
1954	Fr. Tierney Park opened
1977	Opportunity Knocks (De La Salle Parents Association, ceased 1999)
1978	The first Ballyshannon Folk Festival

(Donegal Historical Society – Anthony Begley)