

Music World Mourns as Oscar Winner Glen Hansard Dies in Motorbike Crash

Oscar winner Glen Hansard has died at 56 after a motorbike crash in Dublin. Tributes celebrate his music, generosity, and indelible mark on countless lives.



Dublin, Ireland Jul 29, 2026 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - The global music community is mourning the loss of acclaimed Irish singer-songwriter Glen Hansard, who has died following a motorbike crash in Dublin. He was 56.

Hansard's career spanned more than three decades and was widely celebrated for his heartfelt performances and lasting impact on Irish music. He first rose to prominence after appearing in the 1991 musical comedy film *The Commitments*. He later became the longtime frontman of the acclaimed rock band *The Frames*, earning a devoted following with his emotionally rich music and captivating live shows.

One of the defining moments of Hansard's career came in 2008 when he won the Academy Award for

Best Original Song alongside Marketa Irglova. Their song featured in the critically acclaimed independent musical romance film 'Once', which went on to become a global success. The pair continued their creative partnership as The Swell Season and released three albums together. Hansard also established himself as a respected solo artist, with his 2016 album 'Didn't He Ramble' receiving a Grammy nomination.

According to reports, the single vehicle crash happened on Lower Road in Lucan, west of Dublin, and was reported to emergency services shortly before 04:30 local time. His management company, ATC Management, confirmed the tragic news in a statement, saying his family was "deeply shocked and heartbroken".

"The family is grateful for the support they have received and wishes to thank the emergency services who attended the scene". The heartbreaking news also prompted an outpouring of tributes from across the music industry. Ed Sheeran and Bruce Springsteen were among the artists who paid their respects.

Hansard was equally admired for his dedication to helping those in need. The father of a three-year-old son became well-known for his charitable work supporting people experiencing homelessness. In 2010, he launched an annual Christmas Eve busk in Dublin City Centre. The event attracted celebrated musicians including Bono, Sinéad O'Connor, and Shane McGowan while raising vital funds for charity.

Artist Colin Davidson also reflected on the remarkable impact of Hansard's annual Christmas Eve tradition, describing it as "an international Irish institution in its own right". He said it was "Glen's way of getting him and his friends to, not just shine a light on the problem of homelessness, but to actually do something about it financially". Davidson told the BBC's Evening Extra programme that he is "quite broken" by the news of his death and is finding "pretty difficult to find the words" for how he feels. "He was unique... he was such an incredibly kind, loyal, warm human being who I am proud to call a friend", Davidson said.

Hansard leaves behind a remarkable musical legacy that stretches much more than awards and chart success. Through his timeless songs, unforgettable performances, and an unwavering commitment to social causes, he touched countless lives and earned the admiration of fans and fellow artists around the world.

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