



COMHALTAS

THE LIVING TRADITION

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COMHALTAS CONGRESS SALUTES ITS ARDSTIÚRTHÓIR

The Annual Congress of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, meeting on the 2nd May, 2008, with delegates from all over Ireland, Britain and North America in attendance, unanimously adopted the following statement and gave the Ardstiúrthóir a prolonged standing ovation:

That this Congress salutes and acknowledges the outstanding leadership which Senator Labhrás Ó Murchú, Ardstiúrthóir of Comhaltas, has given to our cultural movement over the last 40 years.

Through his dedication, idealism and integrity, coupled with his vision and professionalism, he has guided Comhaltas to its present world status.

Comhaltas and the Irish nation owe him a huge debt of gratitude. His standing in the movement at home and abroad and his record in Seanad Éireann are testimony to the appreciation, admiration and affection which he enjoys nationally and internationally.

We deplore the recent personal abuse to which Labhrás was subjected. We deplore the vicious anonymous letters sent to his wife Úna. Neither Labhrás nor the Ardchomhairle were prepared to preside over matters which would harm the good standing and credibility of Comhaltas and bring it into disrepute. As was required of us by the Bunreacht, the Ardchomhairle unanimously took the appropriate action and dissolved the Clontarf branch of Comhaltas.

Labhrás enjoys the full support and confidence of the Ardchomhairle and of the general membership with 400 branches in 15 countries on 4 continents. His legacy to Comhaltas and Irish Ireland has guaranteed him an honoured place in our history. May he be with us for many years to come.

Thank you, Labhrás, for your friendship, leadership and inspiration and may God Bless you and Úna always.