

## THE LIVING TRADITION

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### **COMHALTAS – CORONAVIRUS**

#### **Communication No. 18**

So many of our Irish seanfhocail (proverbs) are a source of great wisdom. This one for instance ‘Is mór iad na beaganna i dteannta a chéile’ – All the little things add up. How true this is as we in Comhaltas have discovered during this challenging crisis. The movement nationwide and worldwide is awash with on-line activity. Initiative, innovation, positivity, co-operation, creativity and so many more qualities and skills are at the core of this virtual cultural revolution. Maith sibh!

- An tUachtarán Vince Jordan and our new Cathaoirleach na Breataine Theresa Gallagher Murphy have alerted us to some exciting news from Britain. As Comhaltas in Britain is unable to host Fleadh na Breataine this year, they are going online with FÉILE 2020 – Comhaltas in Britain’s BIG VIRTUAL Weekend.



‘Full weekend of online activity including a series of Masterclasses, Concerts, Recitals, Open Stages, a Trad Disco and much much more. We are encouraging branches and members of the organisation to be creative in submitting video content for broadcast over the weekend which showcases the wonderful work of Comhaltas across Britain and further afield.

‘We will be broadcasting almost 30 hours of content live via our social media platforms over the weekend as well as having supplementary content including 12 hours of exclusive masterclasses on our website.

‘Of course, this event is open to the wider Comhaltas family and we would encourage as many people as possible to join us for a fantastic weekend of ceol agus craic. Please visit [www.comhaltas.co.uk](http://www.comhaltas.co.uk) and subscribe to [www.facebook.com/comhaltasinbritain](https://www.facebook.com/comhaltasinbritain) to keep up to date with the latest developments for the FÉILE.’

- Our good friend Mick Foster, of the famous Foster and Allen duo, has sent us a lovely CD 'The Rathronrath Céilí Band and Guests'. This was produced by the Frank Gavigan CCÉ Branch. I know that Mick greatly admired Frank who was one of the foremost iconic traditional musicians of his time and who was a great inspiration to Mick on his youthful music journey. I had the privilege of unveiling and impressive monument to Frank on his native soil which was erected by Mick and friends.

Incidentally, Mick Foster has a number of Fleadh Cheoil achievements on his very impressive CV.

- Our Ardchlárathoir Majella Bartley has good news from Japan for us. She lifts our spirits as follows: 'As a result of our online video tutorials that myself, Oisín and Kathryn have been doing, CCÉ Japan have made a video of one of the tunes with a number of their members. It can be seen on their facebook page CCÉ Japan.' I have seen it. It is wonderful. Well done to Rieko Yamashita and Comhaltas Japan. Rieko sends us best wishes: 'We are going to produce another seisiún video soon. Thank you so much for providing us an opportunity to learn music despite such a difficult situation. Hope everything is going well with you and we will be able to see each other soon.'
- Mary McBride, President of Comhaltas Melbourne, sends warm fraternal greetings to all in the Comhaltas family. 'Keep well, keep safe', Mary says, 'and hope we will be able to get back to our music, singing, dancing, our social gatherings, Fleadhs and Festivals soon.' Yes, Mary, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your members.
- The genial Sligo-based musician Tim Mulcahy had exciting news for us. It seems that during a Spring clean operation a treasure trove of tapes featuring top class performers was discovered. There is now a plan to have an on-line concert sharing some of this valuable material with the broader music world. Watch this space.

Tim, incidentally, is son of the famous Frank Mulcahy whose rendering of the song 'The Road between Newport and Rea' will never be forgotten.

- We have received updates from Karen Trench, Kerry, and Seamus Ó hAirtnéide, Limerick, on the success of their online projects. Very impressive indeed. Here we see not only the local and national reach but also the worldwide engagement. Comhgháirdeas agus Bail ó Dhia oraibh. Tá éacht déanta agaibh.
- Nach iontach an dea-obair atá á dhéanamh ag TG4 ag saothrú an chultúir Ghaeligh. They now have TG4 TRAD: A TREASURE TROVE OF IRISH MUSIC AND DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMMING AVAILABLE FREE WORLDWIDE. See the details attached.

# TG4 Trad: A treasure trove of Irish music and documentary programming available free worldwide

Are you looking for a session? You can enjoy a wealth of content, on the TG4 Player, including a large collection of Irish music and documentary content, from the comfort of your own home via the TG4 player which is FREE of charge to access around the world.

The player is available at: [www.TG4.ie](http://www.TG4.ie) or to download by searching the TG4 Player App, available on Android or iTunes. All TG4's content carries English language optional subtitles.

## 10 Musical Gems to Watch on the TG4 Player



### #1 FLEADHTV

FleadhTV is the summer's music extravaganza on TG4 – showcasing the annual gathering and musical celebration that is Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. Savour the best of Fleadh Ceoil's musicians and participants in this Live broadcast recording. Featuring international artists as well as the cream of talent from the Fleadh competitions. **Watch here:** <https://nasc.tg4.tv/FleadhCeoil>

### #2 Sí na mBeaglaoich:

Father and son, musicians Cormac and Breannán Ó Beaglaoich journey up the West coast of Ireland, from Kerry to Donegal in their 40 year old campervan, Beauty! They celebrate each county's music, meeting with friends, artists and local musicians along the way. **Watch here:** [https://nasc.tg4.tv/Si\\_na\\_mBeaglaoich](https://nasc.tg4.tv/Si_na_mBeaglaoich)

### #3 Gradam Ceoil TG4

Gradam Ceoil the only awards in Ireland that recognises the significant contribution Irish music has made not only in Ireland but around the world. The awards and gale concert is a live broadcast each year recognising six musicians across a range of disciplines with live performances on the night. The Gradam is in existence for 23 years and each concert is available on the TG4 player free of charge for everyone to enjoy and share. **Watch here:** <https://nasc.tg4.tv/GradamCeoilTG42020>

### #4 Ceol ón Chlann

This documentary series offers an insight into the heritage of various Irish musical families, their legacy and their continuing significance in Ireland's musical tapestry. The families include the Black family (Mary & Frances Black), the Gavin family (Frankie Gavin); the McLaughlins (The Henry Girls), the Walls (The Stunning) and the Shannon Family (Sharon Shannon) – all famous Irish music families who have brought their music to the 4 corners of the world. **Watch here:** [https://nasc.tg4.tv/Ceol\\_on\\_Chlan](https://nasc.tg4.tv/Ceol_on_Chlan)

### #5 Port

Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh and Julie Fowlis present this series. Part documentary, part travelogue, part spellbinding music performances, we accompany the presenters to towns and villages across Ireland and Scotland where they meet a cast of musicians, raconteurs and characters. **Watch here:** <https://nasc.tg4.tv/Port2>

### #6 Sé Mo Laoch

Sé Mo Laoch celebrates the musicianship and creativity of some of the most well known and respected performers and tell their own stories in their own words. This is a long running series on TG4, with over 20 episodes available on the Player. The most recent musicians profiled include Australian born guitarist Steve Cooney, Roscommon flute player Patsy Hanly; accordion maestro Máirtín O'Connor and Dublin fiddler Paddy Glackin. **Watch here:** <https://nasc.tg4.tv/SéMoLaoch>

### #7 Hup!

The Hup! Series captures the very best of our traditional musicians – in the most unlikely settings, as they play a tune with friends and family in their own home environment. **Watch here:** <https://nasc.tg4.tv/Hup>

### #8 Geanntraí

One of TG4's longest running music series. Presenter Breannán Ó Beaglaoich hosts a session from a different pub each week. The intimate and informal sessions feature musicians and characters from the locality, as Breannán chats, plays a tune, and enjoys their company. **Watch here:** <https://nasc.tg4.tv/Geanntraí>

### #9 Liam Ó Fioinn, Píobaire

This feature length documentary tells the story of master piper, Liam O'Flynn. From his membership with iconic Irish supergroup Planxty, through to his ground-breaking orchestral work in The Brendan Voyage. Liam was Honorary President of Na Píobairí Uilleann at the time of his passing in 2018. **Watch here:** <https://nasc.tg4.tv/LiamOFlynn>

### #10 TG4 SeanNós Archive:

The TG4 SeanNós archive is a collection of Sean Nós Songs, which can be searched by singer, song title and region. Learn a new song from the SeanNós tradition from the masters. **Watch here:** <https://nasc.tg4.tv/SeanNos>

For monthly updates on TG4 new releases, register for the monthly newsletter: <https://www.tg4.ie/en/information/newsletter/newsletter-register/>

Or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at @TG4TV and @GradamCeoil

TG4: Súl Eile

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[www.tg4.ie/trad](http://www.tg4.ie/trad)

- Séamus Ó hAirtneáide, PRO of Comhaltas in Limerick sends the following message: The June Bank Holiday weekend is synonymous with Fleadh Cheoil Luimnigh for many years now and this was the first time ever where we had to cancel proceedings due to the ongoing global pandemic. But as many other branches and counties have done throughout the country, we in Limerick Comhaltas decided to bring our expressions of Irish culture into the online world. A few weeks ago the county PRO extended an invitation to branches throughout Limerick to submit videos of members singing, dancing or playing music to be shared with our ever-growing online Comhaltas community in a project called 'Ceol Luimnigh'.

On Friday 29th May, we started proceedings by sharing a video of Limerick Comhaltas President, Tomás Ó Maoldomhnaigh singing 'Mo Ghile Mear' which really set the tone for the fantastic weekend that followed. In total, over 60 videos were shared showcasing the wealth of talent that Limerick has to offer from performers both young and old. The response to 'Ceol Luimnigh' was hugely positive with many people commenting on and sharing the videos online. While we could not gather together physically in Athea where the Fleadh was scheduled to take place, we all came together online to share in the joy that our traditions bring.

To see the videos shared during 'Ceol Luimnigh', check out our Facebook page - Limerick Comhaltas ([www.facebook.com/LimerickCCE](http://www.facebook.com/LimerickCCE))

Bhuel, sin é go fóillín ach beimid ag teagmháil libh arís go luath. Idir an dá linn, ar aghaidh leis an gceol agus labhair Gaeilge linn!

Mise, le mór-mheas,



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Labhrás Ó Murchú  
Ardstiúrthóir CCÉ