



THE LIVING TRADITION

CEARNÓG BELGRAVE, BAILE NA MANACH, CO. ÁTHA CLIATH

Phone: 01-2800295. Fax: 01-2803759

Email: eolas@comhaltas.ie

Website: <http://www.comhaltas.ie>

COMHALTAS – CORONAVIRUS

Communication No. 20

Firstly, a word of thanks to those County Boards who have shared our Communications with the branches and to the branches who have shared them with the members. Míle buíochas. The Buanchoiste thank you for your co-operation.

[An rud is annamh is iontaí](#). The thing that is rare is wonderful. In the midst of this rare and challenging crisis, we in Comhaltas have experienced many wonderful things nationwide and worldwide. Our units and members rallied in a manner that was truly inspiring. Comhgháirdeas to all concerned.

- More good news from Millie Fitzpatrick, Rúnaí of Comhairle Laighean:

Leinster Comhaltas Virtual Celebration

The second weekend of July has always been a time of ceol, amhrán, rince agus craic for the people of Leinster. Over the years our Provincial Fleadh has grown and developed to a high standard. As we are unable to host Fleadh Laighean in 2020 we are going viral with a “ceiliúradh” of talent on that weekend. There is great excitement and activity in our Province.

There will be a full weekend of exclusive online digital content for those missing out on both competitions and catching up with friends across the Province and further. Each County is preparing a show which will be aired, featuring contributions from across their County.

We are also going to kick start our 60th celebration. There will be interviews from Joe Connaire Chairperson of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann FEC and a report from Swords who will host Fleadh Laighean in 2021. There will be live interviews and special guests playing over the weekend. Comhairle Laighean are delighted to report a very positive input from Youth Officers of County Boards with the material for viral shows.

We hope that all our Comhaltas families both within Ireland and abroad will join our virtual celebration. Full details will be available in the near future.

- Ceol an Gheimhridh is an ideal event to compensate for lost opportunities due to the crisis and will give young members an outlet to fine tune their skills in preparation for the Fleadh season. It is also a break in the winter monotony. Fortunately, a true and proven model is available as Comhairle na Mumhan has hosted Ceol an Gheimhridh for many years and with great success. [Ina dhiaidh a chéile a tógadh na caisleáin](#). One after the other the castles were built.

- It was with great sadness that we learned of the death in Boston of Mary Bulger, wife of the influential politician Bill Bulger who was President of the State Senate, whom I had the privilege of meeting on several occasions. The Bulgers were always welcoming and hospitable to the Comhaltas Tour groups from Ireland. Ar dheis Dé go raibh anam Mary. The renowned fiddle player Seamus Connolly was a very close friend of the Bulger family. Their son fiddle player Brendan won at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann under Seamus Connolly's tutelage. Thanks to Paul Keating for sharing the news with us.
- Paul also informs us of the death of Kevin Henry in Chicago. Kevin was from Sligo and was brother of the well known traditional musician Verona Ryan (Henry). Kevin, who was 91, during his 60 years in Chicago established himself as one of the greatest of the Irish immigrant musicians and storytellers in America. Le cúnamh Dé, we will pay tribute to him in the next issue of TREOIR. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam ceolmhar.
- An alert from our Ardrúnaí Tomás Ó Maoldomhnaigh:
We have been apprised of the existence of a Facebook page titled "FLEADH CHEOIL" which posts inappropriate as well as distasteful political content which Comhaltas does not wish to be associated with. There are many legitimate Fleadh Cheoil Facebook pages promoting legitimate Fleadhanna including Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. However the person promoting this particular FB page provides no profile details apart from stating he is male and born on September 30th 1977. The page artwork and CCÉ logo was obviously copied from Fleadh Cheoil na Mumhan 2019, Ennis FB page excluding any reference to "Fleadh Cheoil na Mumhan Inis 2019". In fact no posts or content on this page provide any reference to Fleadhanna nor indeed to Irish traditional music and steer the visitor to the page in a very different direction. It is noted that of the 4900+ "friends" of the page, many are Comhaltas members both from Ireland and overseas. If you or persons known to you are listed as "friends" on the page we ask you to block your name. Comhaltas is currently addressing the issue through our legal advisers.
- Dea-scéal eile ó Karen Trench i gCiarraí. That fine traditional singer Karen Trench, who is Rúnaí of CCÉ Co. Chiarraí, has more uplifting news for us. She also references John Stack, Jackie Hennessy, Orla and Saidbh who have played a significant role in the good news story from Kerry and we would like to share it with you:

Fleadh Cheoil Chiarraí 2020 ar líne

19ú -21ú Meitheamh

Friday 19th June 2020

4pm – 7pm Upload of (14) Videos from Fleadh Cheoil Chiarraí 2019 prize winners

8.30pm Family Fun Trad quiz- Tráth na gCeist ar líne

Saturday 20th June 2020

11am – 5pm Upload of (30) Videos from Fleadh Cheoil Chiarraí 2019 prize winners

7pm Special Guests- Aoinna Speisialta

Mike Jack Cronin Fossa CCÉ

Réaltaí an Toghcháin: ceoltóirí ó CCÉ Kilcummin, Lixnaw, Glenflesk, and Ballydonoghue come together virtually to perform for this year's Kerry CCE virtual Fleadh Cheoil

Neville Sisters Ballylongford (Singers) social media sensations with over 10,000 hits

Neart na hÓige: ceoltóirí ó CCÉ Glenflesk, Kilcummin, Ballydonoghue and Lixnaw perform a special piece for this weekend

Sharon Shannon performs a special tune for this year's Kerry CCÉ Virtual Fleadh Cheoil

Sunday 21st June 2020

11am – 5pm Upload of (30) Videos from Fleadh Cheoil Chiarraí 2019 prize winners

7pm Special Guests- Aoinna Speisialta

Mike Jack Cronin Fossa CCÉ

Senior Group: Ceoltóirí ó CCÉ Ballydonoghue unite virtually to play a selection

Evans Family: Street entertainment competition winners Fleadh 2019

Sonny Egan: All-Ireland winning storyteller 2019

Strings and Things: Ceoltóirí ó CCÉ Lixnaw agus Ballydonoghue ag seinm le chéile ar líne

Ann and Nickie McAuliffe

Karen Trench

Uí Bhriain Céilí Band play some tunes, so get your dancing shoes on.

<https://www.facebook.com/fleadhcheoil.chiarrai>

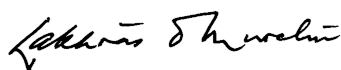
- RTÉ's Céilí House tribute to the late and much-loved Nora Butler was special in so many ways. The programme captured the essence of Nora's stature and quality in such a professional and sensitive manner. We know that for Kieran Hanrahan and Aidan Butler it was a labour of love. It touched many hearts in Ireland and abroad and ensured that Nora will never be forgotten while the heart of the Gael beats strongly.
- A new issue of TREOIR has just been published and will be available to branches in the near future.

As I was compiling this issue of TREOIR, I could not avoid reflecting on how surreal life, society and the world had become. It is also true that the coronavirus crisis, for all its terrible tragedy, grief and devastation, has revealed the goodness, kindness, selflessness, charity and courage of so many people. This has inspired communities and countries to even greater and exceptional effort in the battle to combat the common enemy.

This issue of TREOIR will reflect and highlight many of the fine qualities I have mentioned and hopefully, in some small way, will make a contribution to ATHNUACHAN (Renewal) AR AN RÓD SEO ROMHAINN.

Táimid i lár an tSamhraidh anois agus tá an Buanchoiste ag pleanáil don toadhchá. Tá bunchloch láidir ag ár ngluaiseacht mar a bhí soiléir in am an ghátair. Tá ATHNUACHAN in ann dúinn ar AN RÓD SEO ROMHAINN. Beidh deis ag gach duine a bheith páirteach agus gníomhach in aiseirí na nGael. Bí linn, bí dílis, bí diograiseach, bí flaithiúil. Go raibh Rath Dé ar ár saothar.

Mise, le mór-mheas,



Labhrás Ó Murchú
Ardstiúrthóir CCÉ