



COMHALTAS

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. 29

- **FleadhFest** is the big news for 2021. One venue on the island of Ireland will be selected to host this national Fleadh extravaganza next August. It will be a virtual/factual celebration of 70 years of the Fleadh story. It will link with millions of Fleadh fans worldwide. It will be preceded by a **FleadhFest** in Counties and Provinces. The Fleadh lives on! Bí linn. Ceol, amhránaíocht, rince, scéalta den scoth.



BE IN TUNE WITH FLEADHFEST!

- **FleadhFest** in 2021 promises to be one of the most interesting and comprehensive cultural responses to COVID-19 nationwide and among the Irish diaspora. It is organised by the Irish cultural movement Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann which operates in each County in Ireland and in 18 countries worldwide.
- **FleadhFest** will link the Irish fireside with the world stage. Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in 2019 had an attendance of 750,000 people. **FleadhFest** will build a bridge of renewal with millions of Fleadh fans worldwide.
- **FleadhFest** will give each County, Province and Comhaltas worldwide the opportunity of telling it's story, introducing their favourite musicians, singers, dancers, poets, storytellers, sports heroes, An Ghaeilge, Cultural Centres and archive footage to our world neighbours,. It places Comhaltas at the heart of the community.
- The format is a two-hour planned, researched, scripted, presented and pre-recorded presentation to be transmitted on the appropriate social media platform.
- At the conclusion of **FleadhFest** all the County presentations will, in years to come, when assembled for Cultúrlann na hÉireann, form a historical record of the Comhaltas resilience and response to COVID-19.
- **TREOIR GAN DEOR!** There is a seanfhocal which tells us **Tamall gan treoir – tamall na ndeor**. (Time without direction is a time of tears). Have you received your copy of the Comhaltas TREOIR? There are 88 pages of music, song, news, views, reminiscences, celebrations and call to action. **Ní bhíonn bua gan dua**. There isn't any victory without effort.

- **BRANCHES** Congratulations to the Provincial Councils at home and abroad who have come to the aid of 'struggling' branches' in these challenging times. The Branch Subvention Scheme is helping such branches over the line to ensure their future in brighter times. It has also been agreed to extend the registration date for Branches. [Ina dhiaidh a chéile a tógadh na caisleáin](#). One after the other the castles were built.
- **MOL AN ÓIGE**. How often we have heard [Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí](#). Praise youth and it will prosper. Throughout the present crisis we have been inspired again and again by so many creative and diligent young members of Comhaltas. They have responded generously to the challenges of the 'new normal' in skilled, imaginative and talented ways. [Tá siad molta gan aon amhras](#). They certainly have left their mark on the history of these times.
- Our COVID-19 contact Ronan O' Brien, based at Brú Ború in Cashel, reminds us that as of midnight Wednesday 21st October all counties in the Republic of Ireland have moved to Level 5 of the Medium-Term Plan for Living with COVID-19.

As an organisation we have consistently acted with what has been in the best interest of all concerned, with particular consideration given to the safety of all our members and the wider general public.

We are asking all units to continue the suspension of all indoor activities while under Level 5 restrictions.

While disappointing for everyone across our membership we hope that by these measures being taken we will return to better days post Level 5 restrictions. Ní neart go cur le chéile!

Furthermore Comhaltas Guidelines and Communications distributed to Comhaltas units are based on Government Guidelines in the Republic of Ireland. All units should first and foremost adhere to the guidelines issued by the jurisdiction they are governed by.

- **MEITHEAL**

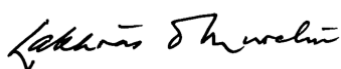
This innovative concept, which was introduced by Comhaltas some years ago, as part of our Development Plan, has proved to be another milestone on the Comhaltas journey. There are seven MEITHEAL Teams, mirroring the seven Regional Resource Centres, covering the whole island. Each Team includes people with specialist knowledge and experience. It is project-driven. The MEITHEAL term conjures up harvest day in former years when neighbours gathered in to help lighten the work load. The focus for the [MEITHEAL](#) Team of the future will be [ATHNUACHAN](#) – Renewal ar [AN RÓD SEO ROMHAINN](#).

Last March, the Buainchoiste were mandated by the Ardchomhairle to monitor and respond to the challenges of COVID-19. Yes, it has been a strange and, at times, difficult task. But the magnanimous, co-operative and uplifting response of units and members has been ample reward for our efforts. Míle buíochas.

Nuair a bheidh deireadh leis an galar uafásach seo, beidh An Comhaltas láidir, dílis, díograiseach agus réidh don todhcháí.

Go raibh Rath Dé ar bhúr saothar.

Le mór-mheas,



Labhrás Ó Murchú
Ardstiúrthóir CCÉ