



THE LIVING TRADITION

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COMHALTAS – CORONAVIRUS

Communication No. 44

Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann is often described as the largest cultural festival in the world. It is the Olympics of Irish Culture. It is a family festival where young and old together revere, practise and enjoy our distinctive cultural heritage. It is multi-faceted with hundreds of elements: truly something for everyone. Seo mór-cheiliúradh na nGael i Muileann gCearr. Beidh ceol in ár groíthe agus teanga na nGael á labhairt go forleathan.

OSCAILT OIFIGIÚIL Uachtarán na hÉireann Michael D. Higgins will again- as he has done for years – grace the Official Opening with his presence on Sunday, 31st July. This will be on the Gig-Rig which for the rest of the week will be a hive of musical activity and surprises. The time is 12.30pm.

BOOK EARLY **Remember to make your bookings early for the events of your choice.**

SCOIL ÉIGSE **The Scoil Éigse, through which thousands of musicians, singers and dancers have passed and honed their skills with the guidance of the masters, is the week-long curtain-raiser for the Fleadh. This is the jewel in the education crown of Comhaltas. The Director of this much-acclaimed Summer School is Kieran Hanrahan of Céilí House fame. Look out for Thursday, 4th August, when there will be a SEISIÚN MÓR outside Christ the King Cathedral at 3pm.**

FOLK ORCESTRA At the much-awaited performance by the National Folk Orchestra of Ireland at the Fleadh Cheoil, Ireland's cultural story will be acknowledged in a very special way. It will be evocative of a new dawn for Ireland – her hopes and aspirations. This is another Comhaltas chapter in the story of our nation. That renowned virtuoso Tom Doorley delivers another tour de force with exceptionally talented performers. Tom will ably assisted by an accomplished production team of Kieran Hanrahan, Jim McAllister and Eddie Murphy.

The venue is St. Paul's Church on Friday, 5th August, at 8.00pm.

ARD-OLLAMH

Comhaltas avails of the opportunity at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann to acknowledge a number of people who have distinguished themselves in the field of Irish Culture. This year's Ard-Ollamh will be the renowned Peadar Ó Riada. He follows in the footsteps of other luminaries such as Micheál Ó Suilleabháin (the first Ard-Ollamh), Tomás Ó Canainn, Charlie Lennon, Antóin MacGabhann, Micheál Ó hEidhin, Daithí Ó hÓgáin, Séamus Mac Gabhann, Seán Ó Sé, Tadhg Ó Maolcahta, Attracta Ní Bhrádaigh, Marcas Ó Murchú, Micheál Ó Ruanaidh, Séamus MacMathúna, Micheál Ó hAlmhain, Pádraig Donlon, Máirtín de Paor, Fr. Pat Ahern and Seán Ó Muimhneacháin.

The award-ceremony will be on Wednesday, 3rd August, at 7.30pm. in Bloomfield House Hotel.

BARDIC AWARDS

Bardic Awards will be presented to world-acclaimed Mick Foster; Noel Battle, mouthorgan champion; Helena Rowsome of the famous musical dynasty; Pádraig Sinnott renowned uilleann piper; and Sarah Ghriallais, amhránaí den scoth.

The Bardic Awards ceremony will be on Tuesday, 2nd August, at 7.30pm. in Bloomfield House Hotel.

THE DIASPORA

The Overseas Concert and Reception at the Fleadh is a reminder of our faithful Irish Diaspora and their support and loyalty for the homeland. It is also gratifying to note all those people who, with no Irish connection, have generously embraced the cultural traditions of Ireland.

This event is on Saturday, 6th August, at 5.30pm., in St. Paul's Church.

BÓITHRÍN NA SMAOINTE

Those who made it all possible back in 1951 will not be forgotten. The Pipers Club in Dublin will, at the Fleadh, relive the memories and the music of those heady days which gave us the cultural renaissance which is celebrated at the Fleadh.

Clare Walsh of the Pipers' Club – the founding branch of Comhaltas – will have an impressive array of talent for the special commemorative concert.

This is in St. Paul's Church on Thursday, 4th August, at 5.30pm.

AIFREANN NA FLEIDHE

As usual, Aifreann na Fleidhe in the Cathedral will underline the spirituality long-associated with the Irish cultural movement.

This will be in the Cathedral on Sunday, 7th August.

FLEADH LAURELS

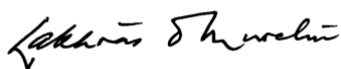
There are 160+ competitions for over 10,000 qualifiers from the 6 qualifying Fleadhanna – 4 in Ireland, All-Britain, 2 in North America and also qualifiers from Japan, Australia and others over three days (Aug 5, 6 & 7), at which these performers will vie for All-Ireland laurels.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

There is something for everyone at the Fleadh. The list of concerts reads like “a whose who” of the traditional music world. These will prove to be very popular with Fleadh followers. The advice from those in the know is “book early”.

Is i dteannta a chéile is fearr sinn. Bí linn ar an ród seo romhainn. Bí linn ag an bhFleadh. Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann is a powerful manifestation of the cultural revolution which was delivered by Comhaltas and underpins the cultural renaissance which is beyond compare. See you there, le cúnamh Dé.

Mise, le mór-mheas,



Dr. Labhrás Ó Murchú
Ardstiúrthóir CCÉ

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