



THE LIVING TRADITION

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COMHALTAS – CORONAVIRUS

Communication No. 45

When we initiated these Communications back in April 2020 things looked very bleak indeed. The following months were devastating and we understood that it would take a herculean effort on the part of the thousands of Comhaltas volunteers at home and abroad to steady the ship. However, Is fada an bóthar nach mbíonn casadh ann. It is a long road that has no turning.

The good news is that the ship is well and truly steadied. It is full steam ahead!. We have now encountered the pinnacle of volunteerism and achievements beyond our most optimistic expectations. Dóchas agus Dúchas coalesced into a powerful, all-embracing tsunami of activity, vision and dedication. Faigheannn rún daingean an chraobh. The steadfast purpose wins the laurels! Maith sibh. Well done.

COMMUNITY EN FÊTE

One of the most significant achievements post-covid in 2022 was that all 32 County Fleadhanna, 4 Provincial Fleadhanna in Ireland and the Fleadhanna in Britain and America were accomplished. All of which led to Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann.

FLEADH SUPREME Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in Mullingar exceeded all expectations. Superlatives are in short supply to do justice to this magnificent extravaganza. 500,000 Fleadh fans in festive mood, 15,000 performers and over €50 million generated for the local economy.

BACK TO MULLINGAR

Fleadh 2023 will return to Mullingar. The other two applicants – Wexford and Belfast – withdrew their applications in solidarity with Mullingar. However, they vowed to be back in 2024! The dates for 2023 are the 6th to the 14th August.

BRING BACK THE 'WREN'

The 'Wren' will be truly back in 2022! Over 30 Comhaltas branches – and many more expected – including St. Louis - this year will bring the 'Wren' back in style. 'Hunting the Wren' on St. Stephen's Day has long been a tradition in Ireland. It has provided a platform for our Irish music, song, dance and language. It promotes community interaction and celebration. And, of course, the wren is quite safe!

AMERICA CELEBRATES '50'

CCÉ O' Neill-Malcom Branch will host the 50th Anniversary CCÉ North American Provincial Convention. The dates are June 29th to July 2nd, 2023. It will be at the beautiful Bethesda North Marriott Hotel, Bethesda, Maryland! It will be packed with workshops, céilithe, music sessions, Gaeilge, trips, banquet, etc. And yes a visit to the White House. An opportunity not to be missed.

GARDAÍ IN TUNE

One of the constant topics of discussion at Fleadh 2022 was the service provided by An Garda Síochána in ensuring such an outstanding success for this national festival. The Gardaí were very much in tune with the 500,000 Fleadh fans. Several Gardaí have held national office in Comhaltas.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

During their one-hour visit to the Comhaltas Cultural Centre Brú Ború, in the shadow of the ancient Rock of Cashel, last March the future King Charles and Queen Consort were entertained by the world renowned Brú Ború group. They have represented Ireland at five World Expos and performed on the Great Wall of China. The Royal couple requested and were taught some Irish dancing and proved themselves to be quite adept at mastering the intricacies involved.

PASSING ON THE TRADITION

Education was always at the heart of the Comhaltas mission since it was founded in 1951. To-day, over 1,500 classes pass on this tradition to the new generation. Also there are the SCT examinations, the TTCT Teachers' Diploma and the Scoil Éigse, etc.

A LINK WITH OUR DIASPORA

Comhaltas now operates in 18 countries worldwide which is reflected at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann – 25% of those attending are from out-of-State.

**TREOIR IS ON
THE WAY**

TREOIR is now winging its way to Comhaltas branches nationwide and worldwide. It is a 96-page bumper edition packed with news, views, songs, tunes, anecdotes, puzzles, etc. It has news on funding possibilities. It is full of seasonal material to enjoy during the holiday season.

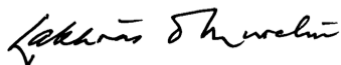
Branches in Ireland should contact their County Boards (who have now received their supply) for their quota of TREOIR so that they can be distributed to members at an early date.

**DOES YOUR
BRANCH NEED
FUNDS?**

You still have some weeks left to avail of the cost-free benefits of the Comhaltas National Draw. Hundreds of Euros can be made with little effort and no financial outlay by the Branch. Contact Head Office with your requirements . An turas is faide sa saol tosaíonn sé le cosiceím bheag amháin. The longest journey in life starts with one small step!

Slán go fóill agus go raibh Rath De ar bhúr saothar

Mise, le mór-mheas,



Labhrás Ó Murchú
Ardstiúrthóir CCÉ