



COMHALTAS

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FLEADH CHEOIL NA MUMHAN 2007 GUINNESS LAUNCH – 8 p.m. FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE COURTENAY LODGE HOTEL, NEWCASTLE WEST**

Coiste Fleadh Cheoil na Mumhan is delighted to officially launch the Fleadh which will take place in Newcastle West from July 17<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Fleadh Cheoil na Mumhan which is under the auspices of the Munster Council of Comhaltas rotates each year to a new venue. Qualifiers from each of the six counties in the province compete in Fleadh na Mumhan for the honour to represent Munster at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in Tullamore

After 2 successful County Fleadhanna, Killeedy Comhaltas in partnership with Newcastle West and District Chamber of Commerce have been entrusted by Comhaltas na Mumhain to host this prestigious event.

This partnership is instrumental in promoting and developing music, song and dance in Newcastle West and the greater West Limerick area.

It has been 42 years since the last Munster Fleadh Cheoil was held in Newcastle West and, even though, the landscape has changed drastically, the appetite and enthusiasm for our traditional culture has not diminished.

A lot of hard work has gone into preparations to make the Fleadh a success and a host of important events are planned for the 6-day festival.

The Fleadh commences on Tuesday July the 17<sup>th</sup> with Street entertainment at 8pm. where prizes will be awarded to the best groups in three age categories.

On Wednesday night a gala concert will take place at the Courtenay Lodge Hotel featuring West Limerick Artists from the 50's, 60's and 70's. This concert which is sponsored by the Comhaltas Meitheal Development Programme will portray the rich tradition of West Limerick music. Some of the performers will be travelling from overseas for the occasion.

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> there will be a night of Traditional Singing and Storytelling at the Courtenay Lodge Hotel and this will be a nightly event on Friday and Saturday as well.

The Scoil Fonn agus Amhrán workshops on Slow Air playing and Singing will take place throughout the day on Friday. These classes are confined to qualifiers from the counties. It is expected that there will be big demand for the Polka and Slide playing workshop which also takes place on Friday at the Desmond College and will be conducted by Domhnall De Barra.

**Friday night** will see the official opening of the Fleadh at 8.00pm followed by an open air concert in the Square featuring one of Ireland's top Trad Groups – **At The Racket**.

Friday night will also see the Munster Senior Set Dancing Finals take place at the Community Centre. This will be the venue also on Saturday for the under 15 and under 18 age groups and on Sunday for the under 12s. The qualifiers will go forward to the All Ireland Finals at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann.

Céilí and set dancers will be catered for at the Ballintemple Inn on Friday night with Taylor's Cross Ceilí Band supplying the music.

Music and singing Competitions will take place all day Saturday and Sunday at 18 venues in the Desmond College and Gaelscoil Ó Doghair.

Open Air Platform dancing in the Square will take place on Saturday night to the sounds of the **Allow Céilí Band**. The **Allow** is one of the most sought after bands currently in the set dancing world.

Sunday will have live music in the Square from local Comhaltas Group **Ardagh/Carrickerry CCÉ** followed by well known trad group, Ceoltóirí Na Sionainne with a Historical walk of the town planned for 3pm from the Castle.

Our Festival will conclude with a Gala Performance in the Square on Sunday night from world renowned group **Brú Ború** from Cashel.

There will be plenty of Sessions throughout the weekend in all the pubs.

Chairman of the Fleadh Coiste, Cllr. Michael Collins is delighted that this major Cultural Event is being held in Newcastle West, our County Town.

Councillor Collins said we are very lucky to have a huge hinterland rich in our national culture of music, song, dance and our native language.

I have no doubt that the Fleadh will be a huge success and is there to be enjoyed by all.

I welcome everyone to the town for the Fleadh week he added.

President of the Newcastle West and District Chamber of Commerce and PRO of the Fleadh Coiste, Declan O'Grady is proud to be associated with Killeedy Comhaltas in hosting Fleadh na Mumhan 2007.

"This is an event of major economic and cultural benefit for Newcastle West and West Limerick in general.

I sincerely encourage everyone from far and wide to support the Fleadh and we want everyone to enjoy our hospitality and culture"

A special mention to our sponsors, Limerick County Council, Shannon Development, Comhaltas Meitheal Programme and the Local Business Community.

**We are very grateful to our Main Sponsors, Diageo Ireland for their financial Commitment and support.**

**New Munster Fleadh Web Site**

**<http://www.munsterfleadh.com>**

Check Up to Date details and information on Fleadh