



THE LIVING TRADITION

CÉARNÓG BELGRAVE, BAILE NA MANACH, CO. ÁTHA CLIATH

Phone: 01-2800295. Fax: 01-2803759

Email: eolas@comhaltas.ie

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

COMHALTAS - CORONAVIRUS

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[A mbailímd chú'inn a chaillfidh a shnó, ach a dtugaimid uainn – a bheidh linne go deo.](#) What we keep will lose its lustre, but what we share will shine forever. In the story of our culture, sharing is of the essence. Sharing is at the heart of the class, session, Fleadh and all Comhaltas activities. [Is é croí na féile fáilte chaoin.](#) The heart of generosity is a kind welcome.

BRANCHES

The Branch Subvention Scheme has been well received. In the midst of challenge, no Branch should be left behind. The small help in time of need can have big results in time of resurgence. It is working together that we will ensure a successful outcome. [Is maol gualainn gan bhráthar.](#) It's a bare shoulder without a friend.

TREOIR

TREOIR is now available ahead of schedule. It is an 88 page publication full of news, views, reminiscences and morale boosters. In a message, An tUachtarán Vince Jordan says: "I thank all our members and volunteers for the work they undertake and the wonderful reaction during these difficult times. My sincere thanks and congratulations to all members of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann for their tenacity, courage and spirit during this tough time'.

We ask all County Boards and Branches to ensure the speedy distribution of TREOIR to members. Yes, it requires an extra effort but it is another link in the chain. [Ní briathar a dhearbhaíos ach gníomh.](#) It is not a word that proves but action.

EDUCATION

Students explore the realms of expression and imagination in performance and creativity. The mission of Comhaltas is therefore to continue to enhance music education and to provide a pathway for further lifelong learning while harvesting a sense of preservation and promoting cultural identity.

The vast educational system that Comhaltas has built over the past 70 years both in Ireland and overseas is exceptional and is unequalled in the world. To gain the recognition, the presence and perception of Comhaltas as an organisation that produces students, teachers, adjudicators, examiners, performers, producers, academics, is extremely important. We are currently developing our educational programmes and expanding these structures and creating a comprehensive syllabus that will map a person's journey through the system and build pathways towards accreditation. (See TREOIR). [Ní ualach an t-oideachas ach is ualach mór an t-aineolas.](#) Education is not a burden but lack of it can be a heavy one.



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.

The Fleadh Cheoil is a unique Irish institution which for 70 years has been embraced by generations of Irish people. It has, down the years, marked the resurgence of Irish traditional music and other cultural traditions. The Fleadh story has for the first time since 1951 been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Fleadh Cheoil as we know it will not in 2021 be possible in each county, province and at national level. It will be replaced by **FleadhFest**. This is a factual-virtual celebration of the Fleadh at all levels which will depict the vitality and universal appeal of Irish culture.

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. Communities at home and abroad will have the opportunity to introduce their favourite musicians, dancers, singers, poets and storytellers to our world neighbours.

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. 32 Belgrave Square, Monkstown, Co. Dublin A94XV02,
Ireland

Tel: (+353 1) 280 0295.
Email: eolas@comhaltas.ie

Fax: (+353 1) 280 3759
Website: <https://comhaltas.ie/>

A NATIONAL TREASURE

The national treasure which is Ireland's music, song, dance and language is no mere seven-day wonder, no latter-day commercial innovation – it is a rich, varied and complex fabric which has been woven through the centuries by talented artists and composers. It has not only survived into modern times but has prospered and been enhanced in times of challenge. It is the legacy of all age groups and classes. It has attracted the attention of scholars throughout the world.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Following on from our previous guidelines issued on 6th October we realise as an organisation how challenging the current situation is for all our members and units. At all times we make decisions with the safety of our members and public as paramount. The Government announcement on Wednesday 14th October further highlights the worrying trajectory of the virus nationally. We ask all members and units to stay the course and to ensure the safety of all. Ní neart go cur le chéile!

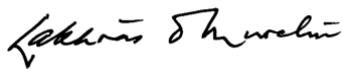
BUANCHOISTE

The Buanchóiste, who have been steering the ship during these very difficult times, send their best wishes to colleagues and friends at home and abroad. They deem it a privilege to work with such dedicated and generous people.

Is mór an inspioráid agus spreagadh dúinn go léir an obair iontach atá ag tárlú na laetha seo sa bhaile agus ar fud na cruinne ag saothrú an chultúir Ghaelaigh. Tugann sé seo dóchas agus misneach dúinn in am seo an ghátair. Is cinnte go mbeidh lá eile ag an bPaorach! Nuair a bheidh deireadh leis an galar uafásach seo, beidh An Comhaltas láidir, dílis agus díograiseach agus réidh don todhcháí. Bí linn ar AN RÓD SEO ROMHAINN.

Go raibh Rath Dé ar bhúr saothar.

Le mór-mheas,



Labhrás Ó Murchú
Ardstiúrthóir CCÉ