

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Clifden Traditional Music Festival will take place this year from the 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> of April in Clifden, Connemara, Co. Galway. The Festival will begin on Thursday 11th April with a Seisiun na nOg in the Atlantic Hotel . Friday will start early with Scoil Mhuire Marching Band performing on the town square at 11.00am. Also on the Friday, the Official Opening and Concert will take place in the Clifden Station House Theatre at 7pm. The event will feature a host of artists from all over Ireland as well as lots of local talent. At this concert, a special cup will be presented in memory of Trad Fest Committee member and accordion player – John G. Walsh.

Saturday starts with music workshops in Fiddle, Button Accordion and Concertina and learning workshops from 10am until 12.30pm in Scoil Mhuire National School with top class tutors including: Michael Curran and John Carroll(Accordion), Caoimhe Kearins (Fiddle), Maura Walsh and Niamh O Sullivan (Concertina).

Music Sessions are a very big part of the festival and again this year feature a host of champion musicians from all over Ireland. Musicians will include:, Liz Gaughan(Fiddle) and Brendan Quinn(Flute) from Tipperary, Anthony Kavanagh(Banjo), John Carroll(Accordion) and George McAdam (Banjo) from Monaghan, Michael Curran(Tyrone) on accordion, John Bass and Rory Healy on Accordion and Fiddle from Wexford, Kevin Brehony on Piano, Liz and Yvonne Kane(Fiddles), Cian Kearins(Flute), Niamh O Sullivan on Concertina , Seamus Flaherty on Harp and Dancing , Nathan Piltazke (Dancer), Caoimhe Kearins from Sligo and a whole host of musicians. All are most welcome to take part in the sessions over the weekend.

The pub sessions will take place as follows: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 10pm in Lowrys Bar, Tom Kings Bar and Guys Bar. Saturday afternoon in 1.30pm in Macdaras , 3pm in Mannions Bar and 4.30pm in Griffins. Saturday night: 10pm: Lowrys Bar, Central Bar and O Malley's Bar. The "Farewell Session" will be in Foyles Hotel at 12.30 on Sunday 14th April after a special music mass at 11.30am in Clifden Church.

A big highlight of the festival this year will be again the outdoor gig on the street on Saturday night at 7.30pm. This year it will feature 'The Dartry Ceili Band as the headline act. All Ireland Champions - They make their return to Clifden for our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. They will be joined by a host of dancers and guest artists.

On the Saturday of the festival, don't miss the Clifden Trad Fest 5K Run which will leave from the town centre at 2.00pm on the Saturday of the festival. Street Entertainment and music and song on the Gig Rig from 2.30pm with Peter Carey Jnr and a busking competition will also take place on the Saturday of the Trad Fest from 1.30pm all around the town.

As always at the Trad Fest, we encourage everyone to come along and experience what should be a great weekend of music, song and dance – I think there is something to suit everyone!

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