**Craobh Na Mara newsletter May 2019**

**End of year concert**

We are looking for to our end of year garden party in the Séamus Ennis centre in the Naul. Please note a mistake published in the brochure. Doors will open at 7pm and the show begins at 7.30pm. Tickets cost €10 per adult and €5 for non-participating children. Participating children need to arrive by 7.15pm at the latest. The concert will conclude with performances from the Branch teachers.

**TICKET SALES WILL CLOSE ON THE EVENING OF MONDAY 1OTH JUNE. IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO PURCHASE A SEATED TICKET AFTER THIS TIME AS THE SÉAMUS ENNIS CENTRE NEED TO HIRE THE OUTDOOR SEATING.**

There will be a raffle on the night and strawberries and cream will be available to purchase on the night with many thanks to Clarkes fruit. We would be very grateful if anyone could donate suitable prizes for the raffle. Please find below the list of tunes the children should be working on for the concert. It is important that the children learn about performing in public places and how to listen to other musicians when they are not playing themselves.

**Fleadh / Scrúdaithe SCT**

Well done to all our students who participated in the Dublin Fleadh , you all performed fantastically. Best of luck to all of our students who re sitting their SCT exams next week in Clasach Cluan Tarbh . Go raibh maith agaibh to all the staff who helped prepare the students for these events.

**Participation at sessions and events**

We have noticed that it is the same small group of children who repeatedly participate at sessions and events outside of lessons . Comhaltas is as much about these events as it is weekly classes. They are a vital part of a healthy branch . from September, performance in the January and end of year concerts will only be open to those who participate at some sessions / events.

**Oíche ceol Gaelscoil Bhaile Brigín**

We are looking for a group of children to play at a music night held in Gaelscoil Bhaile Brigín every year. We would not be able to continue with the branch if it were not for the generosity of the Gaelscoil . Please make an effort to be available. The concert will take place in the hall of the Gaelscoil at 7pm on the 20th June. We will be opening the concert so the children will be free to leave at around 7.15pm. The event is suitable for children who can play at least 5 out of the following 7 tunes :

**Kerry polka/Britches full of stitches/Tripping up the stairs/Maggie in the woods/Inis oirr/Out on the ocean/Ballydesmond polka 1**

**Balbriggan Summerfest**

We have been asked to perform at the Balbriggan Summerfest on the afternoon of June 1st. We will be playing the above list of tunes . Please come along to support us. Further details to come.

**News for September**

There are some great new additions to our programme for next year

Adult Céilí band: There will be an adult Céilí band starting in September for adults . this will be a great opportunity for adults to brush up on their tunes and have a bit of craic at the same time.

Traditional singing for children : We will start a singing class for children in September. The class will be a mixture of sean nós songs as Gaeilge and traditional songs in English .

We will also have new beginner classes for children in the various instruments. Please consider diversifying instruments.

**Instrument Purchase scheme**

We will host an instrument purchase scheme for both the button accordion and harp for September. We are extremely grateful to Fingal County Council who have granted us €1800 in order to help with the purchase scheme of the button accordions.

It is important to note that the cost that the branch has purchased the instruments is a discounted cost compared to buying your own instrument, however if you wish to purchase your own instrument upfront, you are more than welcome to do so. The cost of the instrument can be spread over 18 months and will require a small deposit. Payment of the scheme is by standing order only .

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|  | Button Accordion | Harp |
| Overall discounted cost | €450 | €630 |
| Deposit required | €54 | €90 |
| Cost per month over 18 months | €22 | €30 |
| Total | €450 | €630 |

Both instruments should last the student between 3-5 years before having to upgrade. When an upgrade is required, both instruments will likely have a very good resale value, especially when purchased at the discount rate. It may be possible to sell the beginner instrument back to the branch.The purchase scheme is a fantastic opportunity to develop and enrich your child’s musical experience . Please speak to a committee member if you are interested in applying for the scheme. Further T&C’s will be given to interested members.

**List of tunes for Concert**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Theresa Banjo 1  Kerry Polka / Spancill Hill | Theresa Banjo 2  The harvest home | Theresa banjo 3  Kilfenora / clumsy lover |
| Muireann Flute  Barney Brallaghans/ the Connaught man’s rambles | Muireann introduction  Trasna na dTonnta/ Bog dow in the Valley | Aisling Introduction  Britches full of stitches/ Dilín Ó Deamhas |
| Ríona Whistle  Spancil Hill / John Ryan’s Polka / South wind | Joe accordion  Wards jig / others | Gráinne guitar  My darlings asleep/ kesh jig |
| Róisín fidil 1  Inis Oirr/ the geese in the bog/ the Merry blacksmith | Róisín Fidil 2  Bog down in the valley / Oró ‘sé do bheath abhaile | Róisín fidil 3  The maid behind the bar / slow air / the butterfly |
| Caoimhe whistle  Bog down in the valley/britches full of stitches | Dónal band  The lilting banshee / Jim wards / BallyDesmond Polkas 1&2 | Dónal whistle  TBC |
| Theresa band  Kerry Polka / Maids of Ardagh / O Connell’s trip to parliament | Joe band  Brithches full of stitches / Kerry polka / Maggie in the woods / lilting banshee/ out in the ocean |  |