

FLEADH NUA IN THE GREATEST FLEADH TOWN

Following on from the great successes of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2016 and 2017, Ennis, the greatest Fleadh town in Ireland will once again be a vibrant and musical place this May with Fleadh Nua in full swing.



The Shandrum Céilí Band

Photo: Eamon Ward Photography

Fleadh Nua will feature over 120 events, including a welcoming pub session trail from 20th – 28th May 2018. Fleadh Nua has been held in Ennis every year since 1974 and since those early days, it has developed from a 3 day event to a festival spanning 9 days.

Each year Fleadh Nua delivers a programme that appeals to anyone with an interest in traditional music and offers enthusiasts of all-levels the opportunity to enjoy participation in sessions. For those more interested in sitting back and soaking up the atmosphere, there will be many opportunities to watch and listen to performances by excellent musicians and singers at a range of free lunchtime concerts, many pub sessions and a top class evening concert programme.

This year's varied concert programme features French Canadian, Newfoundland and Irish musicians, as well as a wonderful concert of young performers.

LES CHAUFFEURS À PIEDS – MONDAY 21st MAY 8.00PM

Featuring Antoine Gauthier, Louis-Simon Lemieux, Benoit Fortier and Olivier Soucy, the musicians of French Canadian Trad Music Band, Les Chauffeurs à pieds (meaning either Drivers on Foot or The Feet Warmers), are among the best in Canada for playing reels and jigs on fiddle, harmonica, mandolin, recorder, French horn and guitar. With its eight albums, including some nominations for prestigious awards, its collaboration with several well-renowned artists, enthusiastic reviews from the media and successful international tours, Les Chauffeurs à pieds confirms its status among today's main folk bands.

CORDEEN – THURSDAY 24th MAY 8.00PM

Cordeen is a group comprised of four of Ireland & Newfoundland's finest exponents of the button accordion, some also great vocalists! The

title 'Cordeen' derives from the Newfoundland expression for the Accordion, a phonetic of the Irish Gaelic word 'Cairdín'.

Benny McCarthy (Danú) and Conor Moriarty (All-Ireland Champion 2010) hail from historic counties Waterford and Kerry in Ireland. Billy Sutton (The Fables) and Graham Well's (ex-The Irish Descendants) are from Harbour Grace & St. Johns in Newfoundland. All the members bring over two decades of experience in the music industry, from International touring artists to studio and concert producers. The cultural connection between Ireland and Newfoundland is at the musical heart of Cordeen, everything from the lively foot tapping tune to heartfelt songs and airs.

Les Chauffeurs, French Canadian traditional music at Fleadh Nua



Photo: Francis Fontaine



Photo: Chris Ledrew

Join Cordeen for the first of their Irish Tour concerts at the Fleadh Nua, in Ennis.

AOS ÓG CONCERT – FRI 25th MAY 8.00PM

The future of our traditional music, singing and dance is always in the hands of the “Aos Óg”, the young generation. The Aos Óg Concert has always been a key event in the Fleadh Nua, which takes place in Ennis each year. This year, the concert will feature some of the best young traditional musicians, singers and dancers from Co. Clare and beyond.

THE CORNER HOUSE CONCERT – SATURDAY 26th MAY 8.00PM

The Corner House is Cork’s best trad music session pub, known far and wide for its great atmosphere, welcoming landlord Fergal McGowan and the many great musicians and groups that play there. The musicians that regularly play at the Thursday session will bring their music and banter to glór for a concert that will give a flavour of the ambience and atmosphere of the Corner House Session.

Aidan Coffey (Box), Johnny McCarthy (Fiddle), Eoin Ó Riabhaigh (Pipes), Cyril O’Donoghue (Bouzouki), Colm Murphy (Bodhrán) and

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Fergal McGowan (Landlord) will be joined on stage by guests for this special occasion.

THE SHANDRUM CÉILÍ BAND – SUNDAY 27TH MAY 8.00PM

What more can be said about a céilí band, formed less than 5 years ago, that has won the Senior Céilí Band competition at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann for the last 3 years. This is the greatest band in a generation and we are delighted to welcome them to Ennis to perform in concert at Fleadh Nua.

The original Shandrum Céilí Band were in existence from the 1950s to the 1970s and, with their blessing, the current band was established in December 2014. The band is based in North Cork but can regularly appear in almost any county playing for set dancers. Between the members of the band, they have nearly 200 years of experience in playing traditional Irish music and dozens of medals at all levels, in Fleadh, Scór, Siansa Gael Linn and others. Indeed, a little-known fact is that many of them are set dancers themselves, some even winning titles at All-Ireland level. They understand the dancers’ need for lively rhythmic music. The band has a dedicated national and international following.

The band will be joined by singers and dancers for a sell out performance.

CEOL AGUS CAIFE / MUSIC AND COFFEE

Frank Custy and his good friends Patrick O’Loughlin and Flann Murtagh will welcome musicians to join them at their afternoon

sessions at 3.00pm each day, Monday to Friday. They will also host a farewell session on the morning of Mon 28th May.

Each morning, listeners can enjoy great music with their coffee and scones at a number of cafés throughout the week. For the more energetic, there will be a céilí each evening at Cois na hAbhna, from Thursday 24th May to Monday 28th May. Following on our long standing tradition, the famous Tulla Céilí Band will play for the opening céilí on Thursday 24th.

CD LAUNCHES

Always a very enjoyable feature, this year will see a series of CD launches hosted in the intimate surroundings of the Sanctuary at the famous Queens Hotel.

FLEADH NUA SINGERS CLUB

For many years, Joe O’Connor has organised the very successful Fleadh Nua singing sessions which have honoured many of the great names and personalities in the Singers’ Club community. This year we will honour Joe for his enormous contribution to Fleadh Nua and to the promotion of our singing and music traditions over many years.

The Fleadh Nua Singing Sessions will take place on Friday 25th, Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th May and will be hosted by well known singers, Denise Whelan, Joe Joe Marrinan and Senan Lillis.

FREE LUNCH TIME CONCERTS

Hosted by the Arts Office of Clare Co. Council as part of their Riches of Clare programme of performances, the series of 5 lunchtime concerts, from Monday to Friday of Fleadh Nua, is hugely popular with visitors to Fleadh Nua and will feature well-known musicians from Clare.

THE TRIMMINGS

As always Fleadh Nua has something for everyone – Céilithe, Foinn Seisiún With Frank Custy And Friends, “Riches Of Clare” - Free Lunchtime Concert Series, Screenings Of “Last Night As I Lay Dreaming”- The Heart-Warming Documentary On The Life And Songs Of Robbie McMahon, Set Dancing Workshops, Storytelling, Guided

Walking Tour, Pub Music Trail, Traditional Singing Sessions, Ciorcal Cainte, Introduction To The Irish Language, Café Music Sessions, The National Dancing Championships, Sean-Nós Dancing Competitions, Teen Trad Talent Recital And A Comhaltas Branch Tribute Night.

So come to Ennis from 20th to 28th May and join us in this “the most participatory of Irish Music Festivals” and see why Ennis is the ultimate ‘Fleadh Town’. Check out www.fleadhnua.com for further updates.



Photo: Brian Morrison