

ENNIS, CO. CLARE INIS, CO AN CHLÁIR
MAY 20 – 28 BEALTAINÉ, 2012

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ABAIR AMHRÁN – SINGERS AND SONGS AT FLEADH NUA

A Fleadh just wouldn't be a Fleadh without Songs and Singers. And the line-up for the Singers' Sessions at Fleadh Nua 2012 is one to savour featuring three of the all-time greats of the genre - Paddy Berry, Seamus MacMathuna and Ann Mulqueen.



OLD GROUND HOTEL
FRIDAY, 25TH MAY - 9.30 P.M.

PADDY BERRY – originally from Duncormick and now living in Drinagh, County Wexford - is one of the most prominent ballad singers, songwriters and song and folklore collectors of his generation. His outstanding contribution to various cultural initiatives has long been recognised by fellow musicians and singers. It has also earned Paddy a special lifetime achievement award from the then President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, in 2003. A highly respected member of Comhaltas for more than five decades, he received a Bardic (Ceannródaí) award at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in Tullamore.

Paddy's published works include '*Wexford Ballads*' (1982), and "*More Wexford Ballads*" (1987) and they stand as an enduring testament to the immense work he carried out in the '70s and '80s, travelling the length and breadth of the Model County, collecting ballads from singers and writers alike. These two collections are widely acclaimed as treasure troves of history and folklore.

He has also released three collections of recordings: "*Paddy Berry Sings Wexford Ballads*" (1985), "*Sing Us A Song Paddy*" (1999), and "*Sing Again Paddy*" 2005.



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Is ceoltóir cáiliúil é **SÉAMAS MAC MATHÚNA** agus tá sé ar a chumas an fliúit a sheinm, amhráin a chanadh agus portaireacht béil a dhéanamh.

Seamus was born in Gower, Cooraclare and it was here his interest in and love for Irish music began. He often speaks of the wonderful musicians of the area. He is highly regarded and respected among musicians for his knowledge of and profound interest in the promotion of all aspects of Irish culture. Following on his appointment as Regional Organiser for Conradh na Gaeilge in Cork and Kerry, Seamus moved to Coolea in the Muscraí Gaeltacht, an area well known for its prolific poets and an important source of poetry, songs and music. Sean Ó Riada had also come to live in the area about that time and he and Seamus became close friends.



OLD GROUND HOTEL
SATURDAY, 26TH MAY - 9.30 P.M.

He took up full time employment with Comhaltas as Timire Cheoil in the '70s and moved to Dublin. The job description may have been daunting and the work demanding but Seamus' unique talents and skills enabled him to fulfil his role with great success. Seamus knew some of the finest musicians and singers in Ireland and recorded many of them. He was mainly responsible for setting up the Comhaltas Archive. He also produced a book and accompanying tape of Irish and English traditional songs. With the assistance of the late Micheál Ó hEidhin he established a specialized course for music teachers.

Seamus has also composed some great songs.



OLD GROUND HOTEL
SUNDAY, 27TH MAY - 9.30 P.M.

ANN MULQUEEN was born in Castleconnell, Co. Limerick. She learned her earliest songs from Bridget Mulqueen, her grandmother from County Clare. She won the All-Ireland Ballad Singing Title in 1959, when Seamus Ennis was one of the judges, and retained her title in '60 and '61.

At the age of 15, Ann sang with the Gallowglass Céilí Band. She also sang occasionally with The Dubliners and performed at concerts with Willie Clancy and Connemara sean-nós singer Seán 'ac Dhonncha, among others. She also performed on Comhaltas Tours to Britain and the USA.

Ann now lives in Ring, Co. Waterford. In 1992 Ann released a solo album entitled "*Mo Ghrása Thall na Déise*". This was followed in 2001 by "*Briseann an Dúchas*" which features the singing of Ann and her daughters, Odí and Sorcha Ní Chéilleachair.

See full event details at www.fleadhnua.com **END**

