



## **Fleadhfest Support Committee January 2021**

### **Introduction**

Fleadhfest is an exciting new initiative being undertaken by Comhaltas Units during 2021, in circumstances when normal Fleadh Cheoil activity is not possible.

It provides an opportunity to each unit to tell its own story (the story of the county). The scope of the project is broadened to include iconic people, places or events outside of the realm of Comhaltas.

This means that Sporting events, Historic Events, Iconic Buildings or Breath-taking scenery that would promote the local area can all be included. It is totally open to the unit to tell their own county story. The Arts office of the local authority may be interested in suggesting one or more topics for inclusion. Likewise with sister organisations such as the GAA, Conradh na Gaeilge etc

### **How will it work.**

It involves the recording of approximately 2 hours of material which can include traditional music, song, dance, storytelling, interviews etc. For ease of handling, storage and transfer, it is suggested that units would opt for sections of approximately 30 mins duration each. Typically therefore a unit would produce 4 of these recordings (of 30 mins).

### **First Steps**

The selection of a dedicated committee is the first task. There are a number of key roles to be filled namely (a) Producer (b) Researcher (c) Scriptwriter (d) Presenter and (e) Technical person (with experience in digital recording, file editing and file management).

It is a matter for the unit (County/Region/Province) to select the people to fulfill these roles.

### **Role of Producer**

Of all the roles, the Producer is the person who will bring the whole project together. The key functions of the Producer are to:

- (a) act as chair of the committee and oversee the entire production

(b) facilitate the conduct of research into the items to be captured in the programme and the writing of the script (by the researcher and the scriptwriter respectively)

(c) determine the order of the items to be recorded

(d) decide on the manner in which the items will be introduced (in conjunction with the presenter).

(e) decide on the manner in which the actual recording will be done (in conjunction with the Technical person).

(f) participate in the editing process and ensure that the final product is uploaded (in conjunction with the Tech person)

### **Making the Recording**

While it is desirable to create recordings of good quality, it is not necessary to spend excessive amounts of money. Reasonably basic recording equipment may be used but care should be taken in its use. A separate guidance document is prepared for this purpose. File format MP4 is quite adequate for the purpose of these programmes. This makes it easy for the manipulation, storage and transfer of files at a later stage.

Recordings of a 'magazine type' are more interesting than traditional 'concert-type' items. This provides for different backgrounds, locations and settings. (*The Nationwide programme on RTE 1 is a good example of a magazine-type programme*).

### **Where will Recordings be placed.**

All recordings will eventually be uploaded to the **Comhaltas Youtube Channel**. When a unit has completed a recording, the unit will upload it to a Google Drive Folder that will be created for this purpose by this Fleadhfest team. From there it will be moved to the Comhaltas Youtube Channel. For units that may have Broadband problems, they may forward their recording to the Fleadhfest section in the Culturlann on a storage device (e.g. memory key). Units are advised to forward recordings as soon as they are completed. (*It is not necessary to hold the first recording until all have been completed*). Units are advised that these recordings should **not** go on local media pages such as Facebook etc. Units should endeavour to have all recording completed by mid-June. Some Counties hope to have their recordings completed to coincide with their usual County Fleadh date.

### **What goes on Local Social Media Pages**

At the time that the material goes on the Comhaltas Youtube Channel, the local unit is free to post a link on their local Social Media page/s that will direct the visitor to the recording on the Comhaltas Youtube Channel.

## **Ownership of the Programme and Rights**

Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Éireann (CCE) is a voluntary, not-for-profit organisation. It has Charitable Status with the Revenue Commissioners. Each unit undertaking these recordings will have received funding from CCE (derived from Government Funding). For these reasons, recordings created under the Fleadhfest initiative will be the property of CCE and may not be the subject of separate commercial business.

## **Clearance Documents**

The committee will provide a simple form to be signed by the local County unit when submitting a recording. This document will state that clearance has been obtained from each person participating in the recording, or in the case of minors, from a parent or guardian. It will also state that clearance has been received from the holder of any pre-recorded material (e.g. archive material) where such material has been used in the final recording.

## **Timeline**

It is hoped that the first of the recordings can be uploaded by Mid-April and that all County recordings could be uploaded by Mid-June. This will coincide roughly with the traditional Fleadh Cheoil calendar.

## **The use of Archive Material.**

Where a unit has ready access to archive material, it is welcome to incorporate same into the local story. A document is presently in preparation that will guide units on what Archive Material is available. However, it will not be possible to conduct 'searches' for material that has not been catalogued or digitised. This latter guidance document will issue shortly.

## **Signature Piece**

This committee will provide a short introductory piece of music from the Comhaltas Folk Orchestra for inclusion in all recordings. It is hoped that this will bring a degree of standardisation to the Programmes at first glance. Likewise a piece of music will be provided for the credits at the end of each programme.

## **General advice**

- Units should endeavour to be mindful of diversity regarding age, gender, ethnicity and race.
- 2021 is the 70<sup>th</sup> year of Comhaltas.
- Don't forget links to Comhaltas abroad. Many Irish people emigrated to Britain, America, Australia etc. Any links established with the diaspora will be well worth including in your programme.
- This is a great opportunity to incorporate 'An Ghaeilge' in your programme.

- Some people find the pronunciation of the word ‘Comhaltas’ difficult. For people undertaking the role of ‘presenter’, it is worthwhile to clarify for them that the pronunciation of the word is COAL TAS (and not CEOL TAS).

### **And Finally**

- ✚ Have fun in putting this project together.
- ✚ You have a fantastic opportunity to put your own place up in lights for the world to see.
- ✚ Your colleagues, you neighbours and your friends will thank you for this venture and the fruits of your labour will be appreciated by generations to come.
- ✚ This committee is here to support you in any way we can.
- ✚ You can contact this committee at [flanaganpat1@gmail.com](mailto:flanaganpat1@gmail.com) or on +353 86 8317821
- ✚ Go n-éirí an bóthar libh.