

Clifden Traditional Music Festival 6th-9th April 2017

The 8th Annual Clifden Traditional Music Festival will take place this year from the 6th-9th April 2017 in Clifden, Connemara, Co. Galway. The Festival will begin on Thursday the 6th April with a concert with Danny O'Mahony and Liz Kane and Tune Composition Competition in the Alcock and Brown Hotel at 8pm. Friday will see the Official Opening and Concert in the Clifden Station House Theatre at 7pm. As always the event will feature a host of artists from all over Ireland.

Saturday the 8th of April starts with music workshops in Fiddle, Button Accordion and Concertina from 10am until 12.30pm in Scoil Mhuire National School.

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: Geraldine O'Callaghan (Fiddle) from Cork, Niamh O'Sullivan (Concertina) from Dublin, Michael Curran (Button Accordion) from Co. Tyrone, George McAdam (Banjo), Pat Bass (Banjo/Piano), John Bass (Accordion), Caoimhe Kearins (Fiddle/Singer), Colin McGill (Piano Accordion), James Duggan (Fiddle), Cian Kearins (Flute), Paul Clesham (Piano/Concertina), Plunkett O'Toole (Flute), Graham Guerin (Accordion), Rory Healy (Fiddle), Rachel Masterson (Piano), Mark McCrystal (Piano), Danny O'Mahony (Accordion), Liz Kane (Fiddle), Cathriona Canavan (Singer) and a whole host more musicians. Great dancers and singers will also be seen in the sessions over the weekend.

The Sessions will take place as follows: **Friday** 7th April at 10pm: Tom Kings Bar, Central Bar and Guys Bar. **Saturday** 8th April: 2pm Lowrys Bar, 4pm - O'Malley's Bar, Saturday night: 10pm: Mullarkeys Bar in Foyles Hotel, Mannions Bar, EJ Kings Bar. **Sunday** 9th April The "Farewell Session" will be in Foyles Hotel at 12.30pm.

A big highlight of the festival this year will be again the outdoor gig on the street on Saturday night. This year it will feature a fantastic lively group called "Socks In the Frying Pan" multi-award winning trio from County Clare, Aodán Coyne on guitar and vocals, brothers Shane Hayes on accordion and Fiachra Hayes on Fiddle and Banjo these lads have been just named "New Group of the Year" by the *Live Ireland Awards*.

A few events have been added onto the Trad Fest again this year. Tune Composition competition which is open to anyone to enter. All you need to do is compose a Tune and submit by Friday 25th March by email: clifdentradfest@yahoo.ie or by post: Dave Beecher, Secretary Clifden CCE, Dooneen, Clifden, Co. Galway. The competition will be held on the Thursday evening for the festival at 8pm in the Alcock & Brown Hotel all entrants will be asked to play their tune for a judge to pick the winner! For full details and rules on this, please check out our website www.clifdentradfest.com

On the Saturday of the festival, from 1pm there will be Street Entertainment around the town with stilt walkers, face painting etc. The annual Clifden Trad Fest Busking Competition will take place from 1:30pm all around Clifden Town, Musicians, Singers & Dancers can set up and play outdoors and they will be judged by a "Guest" judge. Some rules apply but check www.clifdentradfest.com for more details. There will also be entertainment on the Gig Rig on Saturday afternoon with "Cathriona Canavan and Friends" (Glor Tire TG4) which will coincide with Saturday afternoon activities creating a good buzz and atmosphere. Also on Saturday at 2pm The Clifden Trad Fest 5k, Get involved - walk, run, jog. Sky Road route, departing/arrival point outside the Old Supervalu, Market Street, Clifden.

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!

www.clifdentradfest.com Tel: 086-4015342 clifdentradfest@yahoo.ie @clifdencce