

# Maoin Cheoil na Gaillimhe

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## Special Events Newsletter March 2012 Issue 9



We have entered spring in the school with a real sense of excitement. Already we had the beautiful Marianne Thorsen perform in the school last Saturday with her friend and accompanist, Viv McLean. Such a morning of music, and all there to inspire the next generation of performers at the school. Both musicians exhibited a warmth and willingness to share at such a level that it was impossible not to be won over completely. And what a rare moment of beauty to hear an actual Stradavarius violin up close and personal. We want to extend our gratitude to Music for Galway for making

this incredible event available free of charge to all of our students, parents and friends. We want to thank all of those that turned out in such numbers to make the event such an overwhelming success.

### **Traditional music workshops and concerts**

Living and working in a city like Galway it is impossible not to incorporate traditional music into the teaching framework of the school. In the coming weeks there are two events that will bring this involvement to an entirely new level. Mr. John Carty and Mr. Martin Hayes have both agreed to come to the school to give a masterclass and follow this with a concert.

To begin with, John Carty is going to come on Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> to give a three hour class in Banjo performance. John is an acknowledged master of his craft and within traditional music circles he is considered one of the country's musical elite. He has been awarded the highest honours for his dedication to music and is regularly found in concert with legends of Irish music like Matt Molloy. Later that evening he will give us a taste of why he is held in such esteem when



he performs a solo concert on Banjo and Fiddle. Tickets are being offered at a special rate to students of MCnG for just €5 and parents can come along for €10. Anyone interested in taking part in the masterclass will simply register in the office. Fee for the class are €20. This concert will be one of the high points of the year and should not be missed if at all possible.

Then on Saturday, March 31st we have a similar presentation from international superstar Martin Hayes. Martin will be teaching two classes in traditional fiddle. One in the morning and another in the afternoon. The fee for these classes is €20 euro and each class is of 90



minutes duration. That evening there is a concert from the master and tickets for this are again at a special price for students and parents of the school. €15 for adults and €5 for students. This concert will be a sellout and those interested in coming to hear Martin would need to book early. There has already been considerable demand for tickets and places in the Masterclass.

We cannot stress enough how much we encourage all parents and students of the school to consider these concerts. Musicians of this calibre are showing a real vote of confidence for the work the school is doing and for the future of traditional music within MCnG. But more than this it represents a real opportunity to hear craftsmen at the peak of their craft sharing this gift of music with us in an intimate way. To describe them as inspirational musicians is merely an acknowledgement at local level of something that is appreciated the world over.

### **Piano Workshop**

Also happening on Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup> is a very special piano event. Mr Roy Holmes of DIT is coming to MCnG to present the teachers and senior students of the school the fruits of years of research into piano technique. Mr. Holmes is a highly sought after teacher and accompanist in Dublin and he recently published a book on early piano technique from the time of Bach. He has garnered a substantial amount of interest internationally for his findings and in an act



of extraordinary generosity he has agreed to come to MCnG and share his ideas. This very special presentation is not really for the general public though we are not excluding anyone that is genuinely interested. More this is a practical workshop directed towards teachers and senior students that want to consider the possibilities presented. It is a three hour presentation in two segments. Firstly there is a delivery by Mr Holmes and then there is a question and answer section when he will deal with specific technical questions from those in attendance. Teachers are welcome from outside the school and the fee for the workshop is just €10 which is redeemable against the cost of his book should you wish to purchase a copy on the day.

Full details of all these remarkable events can be had from the office on 091 528965 any day Monday to Friday between the hours of 11am and 4pm. You can email us at [admin@mcng.ie](mailto:admin@mcng.ie) and please do not forget that there is our Facebook page. It is really worth liking our page. We will be giving away two tickets to both John Carty and Martin Hayes in the coming weeks! Our page is also the source for regular update on Staff projects and additional school information.