

Galway Comhaltas - Ceol an Gheimhridh

Sunday 25th January 2026

Venue: Corofin



Galway Comhaltas

Junior members of Comhaltas aged Under 14 on 1st January 2025 are invited to consider entering this year's Ceol an Gheimhridh competitions which takes place on Sunday 25th January 2026 in Corofin, Galway.

Important Notes:

- The age groups are Under 11 and 11-14 as of Jan 1st 2025.
- All competitors must be fully paid-up members of Comhaltas for the 2025/2026 branch year to enter.
- No entry fee - you only pay admission charge at the door on the day
- **It was agreed that a max of 3 entries from each branch will be accepted for each competition and age group. The onus is on the branch to decide on who enters – The method you use for deciding is also the responsibility of the branch. E.g.: You may wish to run heats in your branch prior etc.**

Eligibility:

- Please note: solo qualifiers to Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2025 from the Connacht Fleadh 2025 are ineligible to compete in this year's Ceol an Gheimhridh on the category type in which they competed in Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. (e.g a competitor who qualified from the Connacht Fleadh on fiddle is ineligible to enter the strings competition in Ceol an Gheimhridh 2025/26 etc). This applies to competitors in Strings, Wind, Reed, Singing, Amhránaíocht, Storytelling, Sean-nós, Duets and Scéalaíocht only.

CONNACHT CEOL AN GHEIMHRIDH 2026

A provincial Ceol an Gheimhridh will take place but no dates have been confirmed to us yet. We have inquired and we await an update.

Please note: 1st and 2nd will qualify to Connacht from their respective county with 3rd also eligible to qualify if the adjudicator deems that they have met a sufficient standard.

Competitions are:

- Reed (Button Accordion, Piano Accordion, Concertina, Pipes)
- Wind (Whistle and Flute)
- Strings (Fiddle, Banjo, Mandolin, Harp)
- Duets (2 melodic instruments)
- Quartettes (4 melodic instruments)
- English Singing
- Irish Singing
- Recitation of a Poem
- Storytelling
- Céilí Dancing (4 Hand/6 Hand/8 Hand Ladies & Mixed)
- Set Dancing
- Sean Nós Dancing
- Céilí Band

Comp. No	Competition Title	Comp. No	Competition Title
1Z	Wind Z (Faoi 11)	9Z	Duets Z (Faoi 11)
1Y	Wind Y (11-14)	9Y	Duets Y (11-14)
2Z	Reed Z (Faoi 11)	10Z	Quartette Z (Faoi 11)
2Y	Reed Y (11-14)	10Y	Quartette Y (11-14)
3Z	String Z (Faoi 11)	11X	Céilí Band X (Faoi 14 & 2)
3Y	String Y (11-14)	12Z	Set Dancing Mixed Z (Faoi 11)
4Z	Amhránaíocht Z (Faoi 11)	12Y	Set Dancing Mixed Y (11-14)
4Y	Amhránaíocht Y (11-14)	13Z	Set Dancing Girls Z (Faoi 11)
5Z	Singing Z (Faoi 11)	13Y	Set Dancing Girls Y (11-14)
5Y	Singing Y (11-14)	14X	6 Hand Céili Z (Faoi 11)
6Z	Scéalaíocht Z (Faoi 11)	14Y	6 Hand Céilí Y (11-14)
6Y	Scéalaíocht Y (11-14)	15Z	8 Hand Céili Z (Faoi 11)
7Z	Storytelling Z (Faoi 11)	15Y	8 Hand Céilí Y (11-14)
7Y	Storytelling Y (11-14)	16Z	4 Hand Céilí Z (Faoi 11)
8Z	Recitation of a poem Z (Faoi 11)	16Y	4 Hand Céilí Y (11-14)
8Y	Recitation of a poem Y (11-14)	17Z	Sean Nós Dancing (Faoi 11)
		17Y	Sean Nós Dancing (11-14)

CLOSING DATE:

- Closing date for County Board to receive entries from Branch Secretaries is the 30th Dec 2025.
- Branch secretaries need to enter their agreed entrants via Google Form which will be provided during December to all branches.
- Branch secretaries only to submit entries not participants.
- No late entries can be accepted and the google form will close to entries on 30th Dec 2025

AGE GROUPS:

- There will be two age groups: Under 11 & 11/14. January 1st 2025 will be regarded as the qualifying date in respect of age limit.
- In Duets & Quartettes, an under 11 competitor may opt for a higher age group but may compete in one age group only for that competition.
- 4/6/8 Hand Céilí and Set Dancing: In the Under 14 grade each team may include two dancers from the Under 11 years competing team. Where no under 11 teams competes, the under 14 team may be comprised of 50% under and 50% over 11 years.
For the 4 Hand – only one may dance up. Where no under 11 teams competes, the under 14 team may be comprised of 50% under and 50% over 11 years.

ELIGIBILITY NOTE:

- Competitors are confined to registered members of Comhaltas and may compete with one branch only with the exception of Duets, Quartettes and Ceilí Band competitions.
- Competitors are not eligible to compete at Co. Level unless registered CCÉ members with Co. Board at the time of submitting entries.
- Competitors may only compete ONCE in any competition.

FINANCE:

- All competitors and spectators will pay an admission fee at the competition venue.

OBJECTION:

- Any objection on the grounds of non-compliance with the rules should be lodged in writing with the county board within 3 days of the competition.

PÍOSAÍ CEOIL/ MUSIC PIECES/POEM/STORYTELLING:

- Ceol/ Music: 2 contrasting pieces from Clár na gComórtas listing of tunes.
- Duets & Quartettes: Instrument Detail to be shown on entry form to County.
- Duet shall comprise of two melody instruments.
- Quartette shall comprise of four melody instruments.
- U14 Céilí Bands: Two contrasting tunes, from Clár na gComórtas listing. (Minimum Six, Maximum Ten Performers). Céilí Bands are responsible for bringing their own electric keyboard as a piano will not be provided.
- Céilí Bands: TWO substitutes allowed provided minimum of 8 members, otherwise ONE substitute.
- Singing/Amhránaíocht: (4) Amhránaíocht ar an sean-nós (5) Traditional songs in English 2 songs - one fast and one slow in each competition (note, a song from the competitor's own county may earn a bonus of 5 marks at the adjudicator's discretion). – no list required
- Scéalaíocht & Storytelling: Minimum of 4 minutes to a maximum of 8 minutes. (as per Fleadh Rules 2020)
- Dán a Aithriseoireacht /Recitation of a Poem (In Irish or English or Bi-lingual) Poem to be Irish in character or in the Irish language. Maximum of 5 minutes

RINCE SEIT & CÉILÍ:

- (12) Traditional Set: Mixed Teams (4 boys & 4 Girls) - 2 parts of any Connacht Set
- (13) All Girls Team: 2 parts of any Connacht Set (Connacht Sets ONLY allowed)
- (14) 6 Hand Céilí Dance
- (15) 8 Hand Céilí Dance
- (16) 4 Hand Céilí Dance
- (17) Sean Nós Dance

- Céilí Dancing Teams: may comprise of any combination: Any number of boys up to a maximum of four in 8 Hand Dance and the remainder made up of girls. (This is different to Fleadh Cheoil Competition)
- The emphasis should be on the traditional approach to dancing in costume and footwear.
- Céilí dancing: Body, one figure, & Body of Céilí Dance (as per Ár Rincí Chéilí 2014). Names of all Céilí Dances being danced must be shown on entry form to County
- Music for Set/Céilí Dancing Competitions: All Céilí & Set teams provide their own music for both competitions.
- 4 & 6 hands Céilí dance ONE substitute allowed. Sets & 8 Hand Céilí dance TWO substitutes allowed
- Substitutes must be registered members of the relevant branch and registered with the Galway County Board