



Fleadh Success 2018

Congrats to all branch members who participated in Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann 2018. Well done to the Fred Finn U-18 grúpa cheoil and the Fred Finn U-15 grúpa cheoil who qualified for the All Ireland Fleadh this year in Drogheda and played so well. Congrats to all individual winners on their success.

Also to Fred Finn prizewinners as follows:
Senior Flute: Tom Gavin, 1st place
Harp Slow Airs 12-15: , 2nd place: Kate Gavin

Well done to all the children for all their commitment to practicing throughout the year. Thanks to Michael Rooney, June McCormack & Breda Shannon for their work with the 3 groups & ceili band. Thanks also to Dúlra Hanley & Tom Gavin for taking groups for a number of rehearsals during the summer.

Child Protection at Fred Finn Classes

It is a mandatory requirement that parents of children attending classes supervise for one Saturday for each term. All parents will be rostered and notified for supervision.

Four parents are needed for each Saturday morning. Parents/Guardians are responsible for the supervision of their children going to and coming from the classes. Fred Finn assumes responsibility for the child only for the duration of the tuition within the class room.

Your child/children should be collected from the school building on time, on completion of their Saturday classes. Other than their music teacher's classroom, children should not access any other areas of the school building on Saturday mornings.

This respects the arrangement the Branch has with the Gaelscoil and respects classrooms, offices etc as the place of work of school staff."

CLASS DATES FOR THIS TERM –13 classes

Class 1:	Sat. 15th Sep.
Class 2:	Sat. 22nd Sep.
Class 3:	Sat. 29th Sep.
Class 4:	Sat. 6th Oct.
Class 5:	Sat. 13 th Oct.
Class 6:	Sat. 20th Oct.
Class 7:	Sat. 27th Oct.
NO CLASS	Sat 3rd Nov. (Mid-Term Break)
Class 8:	Sat 10th Nov.
Class 9:	Sat 17th Nov.
Class 10:	Sat 24th Nov.
Class 11:	Sat 1st Dec.
Class 12 :	Sat 8th Dec.
Class 13:	Sat 15th Dec. (Concert/Session)

Taking a 2nd class at Fred Finn costs €30

If your child wishes to take a 2nd or 3rd class at Fred Finn on Saturdays, each additional class costs just €30. This offers many children the opportunity to continue with their main instrument & take up a new one, or to do dancing and another class.

Sean-Nos Dancing Classes with Eimear Mulvey

Saturday mornings 9:30 to 11:00AM

We are continuing sean-nós dancing classes in the Gaelscoil on Saturday mornings, with beginners at 10AM and 2 other classes at 10:30 and 11AM. Dancing classes are 30 mins in length.

Starting a new instrument- We would encourage all those who started tin-whistle in the past 2 years to consider starting a new instrument in September. Those who can play polkas on tin-whistle are generally able to begin on a 2nd instrument. Many children who start a 2nd instrument find it beneficial to continue attending a tin-whistle class also to develop repertoire. The branch rents out concertinas, harps, uilleann pipes, flutes, banjos, fiddles.
(<http://www.fredfinn.ie/classes/>)

A note of caution on buying instruments- It is advisable to seek the opinion of a competent adult musician before buying an instrument for your child.

CLASSES on offer at Fred Finn CCE

Newcomers & beginners welcome in all instruments in September only.

- Fiddle – Philip Duffy & Dulra Hanley
- Flute – Michael Hurley, Lorraine Sweeney, Noelle Carroll
- Whistle – Seamus McCormack, Flute/TW Tom Gavin & Shauna Cullen
- Button Accordion- Sean Carroll
- Concertina – Breda Shannon
- Harp – Niamh McGloin
- Sean-Nós Dancing- Eimear Mulvey
- Michael Rooney is musical director of the branch
- June McCormack is the branch Music Education Officer
- All classes are of 40 mins duration & are offered at beginner, intermediate & advanced levels.

Upcoming Music Events

- Culture Night Sligo – Fri 21st Sep
- Celtic Fringe Festival Grange 21-23rd Sept
- Sun 23rd Sep: Cherish the Ladies – Hawks Well 8PM
- Sat 29th Sep: Kevin Burke Fiddle Player- Hawks Well
- Thur 11th Oct: S Begley, O.Mac Diarmada & S.Harvey
- Fri 19th Oct- Ballintogher Festival Concert
- Sun 28th Oct- Ballintogher Feis (dancing/music)
- Thur/Fri 8th & 9th Nov- Fred Finn Flag Day Sligo

BRANCH CONTACT DETAILS

Class Queries: 0879178355 or 0851131911

fredfinnsligo@gmail.com

Follow us on our website at www.fredfinn.ie

Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/FredFinn/548818345135962>

How to get the most out of your music classes:

Welcome back to the Fred Finn Branch Classes.

- **PRACTICE:** Encourage your child to practice each day for at least 15mins. Your child should be learning at least one part of a tune Off By Heart each week
- **Homework Sheet:** Your child has a homework sheet, which is filled in by teachers each week. Please monitor the homework sheet & ensure practice is done.
- Each child needs a folder, with plastic sheets for music sheets. Please bring your folder to each class.
- Please ensure your child arrives **on time** each week to classes. Please don't disrupt classes by arriving late.
- Improvers or those from jig stage onwards should have a Music recorder with them each Saturday, so the teacher can record the tune for your child. This will help your child to make greater progress.
- Parents please support branch activities and your child's musical activities throughout the year (musical events, fundraising, performances, sessions etc).
- Those who practice each week make progress at music.
- **Parents, if you have queries, please direct them to the enrolment team in the main building, rather than to individual teachers, to ensure all children have an uninterrupted class each week.** We thank you for your understanding in this area.

Structure of our Classes at Fred Finn

- Classes are available at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels in all instruments and are taught by experienced adult tutors.
- Beginners classes in harp, concertina, accordion & fiddle are only offered each September.
- Classes are 40 minutes long and children are offered tuition in small groups, following a structured music programme.
- Children are placed into classes appropriate to their level at the start of the term. Children are assigned a particular suitable class by the branch education officer/ musical director.

Adult music classes:

Adult music classes are held on Thursday evenings for 10 weeks in the Gaelscoil and will recommence on **Thursday 27th Sept. with enrolment at 7:30PM** on that evening. Adult classes cater to adults wishing to learn traditional music on several instruments (including tinwhistle, banjo, fiddle, flute etc). Classes are held for beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Tutors are Michael Hurley and Fiona Doherty.

Free Singing Classes for All from October

Would your child like to learn some songs?- Free singing classes for all ages and all children will be held in October. Classes this year will be at 9:30AM-10:3AM. Details to follow.

Instrument Rental

The branch has a number of instruments for hire on a termly basis, subject to availability.

- Children need to be playing the tin-whistle for at least a year, before progressing to other instruments.
- Instruments available for rental are: Harps, concertinas, concert flutes/ fiddles/Button Accordions/ Uilleann Pipes/ Banjo.

Criteria for Rental of instruments:

- Child must be registered and attending Fred Finn classes to be eligible to participate in rental scheme.
- Child must be able to play to at least polka standard on a whistle or other instrument before rental.
- Child's name is added to a list and applications are assessed based on criteria.
- A child needs to be enrolled in Fred Finn classes for one term prior to rental of an instrument
- Instruments are available for rental for a maximum of two terms. (At that point, instruments must be returned to branch)
- It is the responsibility of the Instrument Hirer to arrange for the return the Instrument on time
- Instrument rental form must be filled & terms/conditions of rental accepted (See form for details).
- Parents are fully responsible for the care and upkeep of rented instruments. Any damages are the full responsibility of the renter.

Comhaltas Music Exams & Grupa Cheoil

Comhaltas exams for traditional Irish musicians are run on an annual basis in the springtime. The system is similar to the classical music and drama exams you may already be familiar with. Many children find these annual exams very beneficial to mark and examine their progress in music. The Fred Finn Branch encourages children to participate in these exams on an annual basis. The exams are held in the Springtime. This year we had over **60 children participating at all levels from Fred Finn CCE**. Entries for exams are submitted in Dec.

Exam Preparation Classes: The Branch will run some exam preparation classes for students later in the year. Details to follow. All those participating in exams are encouraged to avail of this class to prepare fully for exams in the Spring.

Grupa Cheoil- We audition for grúpa cheoil at U-12, U-15 & U-18 age levels in mid-Dec or early January. Weekly rehearsals commence in Feb/March and run to the County Fleadh in June. Grupa cheoil involves group playing for 20 children at each age level. It provides children with a wonderful opportunity to play together, make friends, socialize and learn to play in a group.