

TG4 Gradam Ceoil 2013 award for Na Píobairí Uilleann

Press release on behalf of Na Píobairí Uilleann

Tuesday February 12th, 2013

Na Píobairí Uilleann (NPU/The Society of Uilleann Pipers) is pleased to announce that TG4 have awarded the 2013 *Gradam Ceoil – Gradam Aitheantais* (Musicians Award) to the organisation.

NPU was founded in 1968 with the aim of protecting a threatened art. Its core objectives are the promotion of the playing and manufacture of the uilleann pipes and of Irish traditional music in general.

The range of services provided by NPU to a worldwide membership of several thousand pipers includes public performances, music tuition, training in the art of pipemaking, publications, an instrument loan scheme, an online digital archive, library, museum and extensive research material.

NPU maintains a significant online presence. SOURCE, a web-based piping and traditional music resource, makes available their training, tutorial and archive materials to lovers of Irish music throughout the world. They are currently partnering with Music Generation and Dublin City Council to provide an extensive out-reach tuition programme.

With demand for pipes considerably exceeding supply, a dedicated Training Centre – PIPECRAFT – was established by NPU in 2010 to deliver a range of part- and full-time training in the highly skilled craft of uilleann pipemaking. In 2012, with the support of LEADER Development companies throughout Ireland, Na Píobairí Uilleann commenced a 3 year full-time training course in uilleann pipe making, not only enhancing the craft of uilleann pipe making but also promoting heritage, culture, art, enterprise and jobs.

Their restored Georgian building at 15 Henrietta Street, Dublin facilitates activities in all areas of traditional music, song and dance.

As part of the Henrietta Street Conservation Plan, NPU intends to reinstate the adjoining 16 Henrietta Street in order to provide a visitors centre, museum, mews theatre and research facility.

Na Píobairí Uilleann's primary funding agencies include The Arts Council/An Comhairle Ealaíonn, The Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht, and Dublin City Council

Since its founding in 1968, NPU has successfully delivered projects with many organisations including The Arts Council, Dublin City Council, The Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht, Templebar

Cultural Trust, The Crafts Council of Ireland, FÁS, Culture Ireland, Music Network, Child Vision, Leader, Pavee Point, Music Generation, Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy, Ballybunnion Chanters Festival, Seamus Ennis Cultural Centre and ITMA among others.

The Gradam Ceoil 2013 concert and awards ceremony will be held in UCH Limerick on Saturday March 30th at 7:45pm

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or by sending donations to Na Píobairí Uilleann, 15 Henrietta Street, Dublin 1