

## Press Release

### ***Tánaiste Launches Uilleann Pipes Documentary***

Saturday Dec 6<sup>th</sup> – Henrietta Street, Dublin



The Tánaiste and Minister for Social Protection, **Joan Burton TD**, this evening launched the Dublin première of a documentary on the foundation and history of **Na Píobairí Uilleann** (The Society of Uilleann Pipers). The film, produced by **Dearcán Media** for **TG4**, tells the story of the 1968 gathering that brought the uilleann pipes back from the point of extinction.

Featuring interviews and performances from leading pipers, **Liam O'Flynn, Paddy Moloney, Sean Óg Potts, Seán Potts senior,**

**Peter Browne, Gay McKeon, Pat Mitchell, Maitiú Ó Casaide, Néillidh Mulligan** and **Brian Vallely** among others, the film is also augmented by archive recordings taken at the original 1968 gathering.

The uilleann pipes, on the point of dying out in the 1960s, are now a vibrant part of the music scene in Ireland and internationally. From just a handful of pipers a few generations back, it is estimated that there are now six thousand players of this uniquely Irish instrument globally. This is the story of the first piping Tionól, or gathering, held in April 1968 in Bettystown in County Meath – a first hand account of what happened on the day the uilleann pipes were brought back from the point of extinction.

Speaking at the screening The Tánaiste said *“The sound of the uilleann pipes is the unique sound of Ireland and it is testament to the work of Na Píobairí Uilleann over the last forty six years that there are now so many terrific young players both here in Ireland and all over the world”*

The documentary will be broadcast on **TG4** on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 8.30pm

#### **About Na Píobairí Uilleann**

Na Píobairí Uilleann (NPU), the Society of Uilleann Pipers was founded in 1968 when there were less than 100 uilleann pipers remaining. Now, over 46 years later, NPU is a thriving arts organisation dedicated to Sharing the Sound of Ireland through Access, Education, Performance and Preservation, delivered through the organisation's commitment to excellence in values, governance and processes.

Since unveiling its restored Georgian premises at 15 Henrietta St, Dublin in January 2007, NPU has been busy catering for the expanding demand for regular tuition as well as releasing a number of significant publications and recordings. With demand for pipes considerably exceeding supply, a dedicated Training Centre - PipeCraft - has been established to deliver training in the very highly skilled craft of uilleann pipemaking. NPU's commitment to tuition, both on a weekly basis at its premises and internationally, continues to grow, along with its public performance programme.

NPU also maintains a significant online presence. Source, our web-based piping and traditional music resource, makes available our accumulated training, tutorial and archive materials to lovers of Irish music around the world.

NPU recently launched a new look web site and two innovative new mobile apps Moving Cloud and Pipecraft, the first of their kind within the Irish traditional arts world.

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

Na Píobairí Uilleann, 15 Henrietta Street, Dublin 1 – [infor@pipers.ie](mailto:infor@pipers.ie)  
<http://www.pipers.ie>

### **About Dearcán Media**

Dearcán Media is based in Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin in Derry and was formed in 2010. The company specialises in developing projects of historical, cultural and political significance. Dearcán Media has previously produced:

**Tubaiste Bhaile Mhánais** (The Ballymanus Disaster), 2011, BBC

**Bram Stoker agus Dracula**, 2011, TG4

**Ballaí Dhoire** (Derry's Walls), 2012, BBC/TG4

**Robert Burns**, 2013, TG4

**Votaí do Mhná** (Votes for Women), 2013, TG4

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