

COMHALTAS EXAMS- New Syllabus - What do you have to play for each level & music reading requirements

	<u>PERFORMANCE (60 MARKS)</u> <u>TUNES TO PLAY</u>	MUSIC I HAVE TO BE ABLE TO READ (10 MARKS)	INFORMAL MUSICAL DISCUSSION REQUIREMENTS (15 MARKS)
ELEMENTARY CYCLE LEVEL 1	play any two tunes of their own choice.	(10 marks) 1 Read D and D	Discuss their interest in traditional music, how and where they (15 Marks) learn, and demonstrate some knowledge of traditional instrument other than their own
ELEMENTARY CYCLE LEVEL 2	play one Air and one Dance Tune of their own choice	Read and play D,D ¹ and G,G ¹ Repertoire List required with minimum of 2 tunes.	Describe generally what happens during their music lesson and practice schedule, along with showing an awareness of musical instruments other than their own.
ELEMENTARY CYCLE LEVEL 3	play one Air, one March, and one Dance Tune Repertoire list needed from Elem Cycle 3 onwards	D D ¹ , G G ¹ and E E ¹ Repertoire List required with minimum of 5 tunes.	Describe their interest and experience so far in traditional music Some knowledge of their own instrument is required including naming a prominent musician who plays this instrument.
GRADE 1 (previously Junior Cycle 1)	one Air, one Polka and one Double Jig.	D D ¹ , G G ¹ , E E ¹ , A and B Repertoire List required with minimum of 10 tunes	Candidates should be able to talk about their interest and progression in traditional music and display some knowledge of traditional musicians in their area. Candidates should also display awareness of local traditional music events in their area such as the Fleadh Cheoil.

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GRADE 2 (previously Junior Cycle 2)	one Air, one Polka, one Reel, and one of the following (chosen by candidate): Single Jig, Double Jig, Slide.	A short sight-reading test written in staff notation comprising the notes D, D', G, G', E, E', A, B, F#, C#. - All the same beat. Repertoire List required with minimum of 15 tunes (at least 3 tune types)	Candidates should be able to talk about their interest in music and give an example of a traditional music recording (audio or video) which they have enjoyed. Candidates will be asked to name a few well-known musicians across a range of instruments, particularly musicians whose music is readily available on CDs.
GRADE 3 (previously Junior Cycle 3)	one Slow Air, one Hornpipe, one Double Jig, one Reel and one of the following (as chosen by candidate): Single Jig, Slide.	Full reading of staff notation- a short sight-reading test in D major of 2 bars, comprising 1012 crotchet or quaver notes, written without bar lines Repertoire List required with minimum of 20 tunes, (at least 4 tune types)	Candidates should be able to name some of the key historical musicians across a range of main instruments and have some basic information about their musical styles.
GRADE 4 (previously Junior Cycle 4)	one Slow Air, one Reel, one Hornpipe, one Slip Jig, and one of the following connected selections (as chosen by candidate) two DoubleJigs, two Slides, two Single Jigs.	Play the scales of D major and G major, one octave up and down, on their instrument & to play a 2-bar sightreading test in D major or G major, comprising crotchets and quavers, written in staff notation. Repertoire list of 25 tunes (5 different tune types)	Candidates should demonstrate a growing knowledge of local, national and international exponents of traditional Irish music along with associated stylistic traits. Also to discuss developments in local music, in Ireland generally or abroad, i.e groups, bands, Comhaltas branches or festivals. They should also show detailed knowledge of an instrument other than their own, along with an understanding of ornamentation and variation.

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GRADE 5 (previously Junior Cycle 5)	<p>One Slow Air, one Hornpipe, two Double Jigs</p> <p>(connected), two Reels (connected), and one of the following (as chosen by candidate): Slip Jig, Slide.</p>	<p>Candidates should be able to play the scales of D major, G major and A major, one octave up and down, on their instruments & to play a simple 2-bar sight-reading test in 4/4 time or 6/8 time, using crotchets, quavers, dotted crotchets and minims. Also identify key signature of sight-reading test as either G major, D major or A major. crotchets, quavers, dotted crotchets and minims.</p> <p>Repertoire list of minimum 30 tunes (6 different tune types)</p>	<p>Candidates should be able to talk about simple forms of music arrangement within traditional Irish music, drawing on any experience of group playing in Fleadhanna Ceoil, other competitions, festivals, etc. The discussion should also involve reference to developments in musical arrangement by traditional Irish groups over a number of decades.</p>
GRADES 6-8	<p>Please see syllabus for all details.</p> <p>Those doing Grade 6 examination must be a minimum 14 years of age on the 1st January of the year in which the examination takes place.</p>		

TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC CDs & Resources to listen to:

As your child develops as a traditional musician, listening to good quality playing by traditional musicians helps develop repertoire and aural skills. Below are some good quality CDs of Irish music that you may be interested in listening to. CDs can be sourced in the Record Room, Sligo. Custy's Music Shop in Ennis has a great selection of traditional music CDs available also and can source most hard to find CDs. (www.custysmusic.com)

CDS featuring our class teachers at Fred Finn

- Philip Duffy & Liam Kelly -Sets in Stone (2015)
- The Dartry Ceili Band- The Killavil Post & Making Tracks, Featuring Philip Duffy, June McCormack, Michael Rooney, Declan Folan, Sean Carroll. (www.dartryceiliband.com)
- The Moylurg Ceili Band, featuring Aidan Shannon, Breda Shannon & Lorraine Sweeney. CD:'The Rest is History'.
- Swallow's Tail Ceili Band- Featuring Michael Hurley
- Draiocht -Lands End CD -featuring Michael Rooney & June McCormack (www.draiochtmusic.com)
- Declan Folan (Fiddle) - CD- Skin and Bow

FLUTE PLAYERS

- Kevin Crawford - In Good Company
- Matt Molloy- The Heathery Breeze & Stony Steps
- Frankie Gavin Flute CD - Up and Away (Gael linn)
- Mike McGoldrick -Morning Rory
- Catherine McEvoy
- John Mc Kenna (1920)

FIDDLE CDS

- Frankie Gavin- Fierce Traditional
- Martin Hayes (Co. Clare)
- John Carty (from Boyle Co. Roscommon)
- Brian Rooney 'The God Father' (From Co. Leitirim)
- The Kane Sisters (East Galway Style)

CONCERTINA CDS

- Noel Hill- several CDs
- Micheal O Raghailigh - The Nervous Man
- Timmy Collins 'Dancing on Silver'.

HARP

- Michael Rooney - 'Land's End' & 'Draíocht'.
- Laoise Kelly (from Co. Mayo)- 'Just Harp'
- Grainne Hambly 'Between the Showers'

TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC CDs & Resources to listen to:

ACCORDION

- Joe Burke- several CDs
- Danny O Mahony 'In Retrospect'.

DUETS/TRIOS

- Matt Molloy & John Carty -'Pathway to the Well'. (Fiddle/Flute)
- Michael Rooney & June McCormack 'Draiocht', Land's End (Harp/Flute)
- Catherine McEvoy/Micheal O Raghailigh & Caoimhin O Raghailigh 'Comb Your Hair and Curl it' (Concertina/Fiddle/Flute)
- 'The Thing Itself'- Maeve Donnelly & Peadar O Loughlin (Fiddle/Flute)

COMHALTAS EXAMS- DETAILS FOR PARTICIPANTS.

What's involved in the Exams:

Those wishing to participate in CCE exams need to be aware that there are 4 aspects to the exam. It is not just about playing tunes. Those wishing to take part in the exams need to be fully prepared in all these 4 areas. Each of the 4 areas are graded equally. The 4 aspects for exams are:

1. Performance of several tunes- See syllabus for exact details at https://comhaltas.ie/press_room/detail/sct_syllabus/
2. Reading of music from staff notation- varies from grade to grade
3. Informal musical discussion on the Irish music your child listens to, famous players on their instrument, the musical tradition of County Sligo, information on famous recordings of musicians from the early 1900s.
(Children need to listen to recordings of Irish musicians regularly to be able to answer this part of exam competently)
4. Aural questions- clapping a rhythm from the examiner, recognising notes as played by the examiner, recognising low and high pitches & other listening tests.

Children need to give a repertoire list to the examiner on the day of the exam (from Elementary Cycle 2 onwards).

If possible, this should be typed. It should only include tunes known off by heart, without notes.

List tunes in categories (eg slow airs, marches, polkas, slip jigs, single jigs, hornpipes, etc)

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EXAM QUESTIONS TO PRACTICE FOR INFORMAL MUSICAL DISCUSSION.

PLEASE PRACTICE THESE OUT LOUD WITH YOUR CHILD AT HOME- You should try to give a few lines in response to each question, rather than a one-line answer.

Basic questions for all levels

- How long have you been playing music? Do you like Irish Music?
- Tell me about your music class? Your music teacher?
- Does anyone else in your family play music? Any neighbours?
- Do you play in any sessions? Concerts? Give details
- Have you ever competed at the Fleadh? Or Feis? Concerts?
- Have you ever gone to any Irish music concerts? What musicians did you hear?
- Have you ever gone to any summer schools?
- Are you a member of a grupa cheoil?

Questions on Music you listen to for all levels:

- Tell me about what Irish musicians you like to listen to?
- What CDs do you particularly like? Why?
- Who is your favourite traditional musician? Favourite traditional music group?
- Tell me about any musicians in Sligo that you know about and what they play.
- Do you listen to any music on radio? TV? (eg Ceili House, Geantraí, Raidió na Gaeltachta etc)

Junior Cycle Questions

- What do you know about the Sligo Style? Describe the music of the Sligo Style. What are the characteristics of the Sligo Style? Name musicians who play in the Sligo Style.
- Do the same for the Leitrim Style/ Donegal Style/ The Clare Style/ The Sliabh Luachra Style.
- What do you know about Michael Coleman. Describe his music.
(Also some of the following: James Morisson, Paddy Killoran, John Mc Kenna,)
- Discuss Fred Finn/ Peter Horan/ John Egan/ Josie Mc Dermott
- Discuss the music of some of these Sligo/ Leitrim musicians – eg Michael Hurley, Seamus, Colm O Donnell, Oisín Mac Diarmada, Dervish, June McCormack, Michael Rooney, Dartry Ceili Band, Innishfree Ceili Band, Breeda Shannon, Aidan Shannon, Fiona Doherty, Sean Carroll, Carmel Gunning, John Carty etc
- Discuss Music of some flute players/ whistle players – What does their music sound like- What do they add to their music to make it special – (Matt Molloy, Kevin Crawford, Mike McGoldrick, Colm O Donnell, Seamus Tansey etc
- Fiddle players- Declan Folan, Philip Duffy, Frankie Gavin, John Carty, Oisín Mac Diarmada etc
- Concertina Players- Noel Hill, Micheal O Raghailigh, Caitlín Nic Gabhann, Breeda Shannon etc
- Accordion Players- Joe Burke, Danny O Mahoney, etc
- Harp- Michael Rooney, Grainne Hambly, Laoise Kelly etc
- Singers – Nell Ni Chroinin, Seamus O Donnell, Colm O Donnell, etc
- **History of Comhaltas** – lots of details at <http://comhaltas.ie/about/history/>
- **History of Fred Finn Branch** – details at <https://fredfinn.ie/fred-finn/>