

SEAN-NÓS DANCER IN RESIDENCE

Gearóid Ó Dubháin, Sean-nós Dancer in Residence at Centre for Irish Studies 2014



The Centre for Irish Studies at NUI Galway is delighted to announce the appointment of Gearóid Ó Dubháin as Sean-nós Dancer in Residence for 2014.

A native of Ardmore, Connemara, Gearóid draws his dancing from both sides of his family. Séamus Ó Dubháin (or Séamusín Devaney as he is widely known) is a well-known sean-nós dancer, as indeed was his father before him, Colm Ó Dubháin and his brother Joe. Annie, his father's sister is also a dancer. Sean-nós dancing runs through the generations, as Gearóid's own brother Pádraig is known in his own right for his award-winning sean-nós style. Dancing was also in Gearóid's mother's family and certainly, the strength of this family background contributes to his own dance style and skill.

Gearóid has been successful in many competitions including: Oireachtas na Samhna (2010), Craobh na hÉireann (2011), Féile na Mí (2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012), Féile Chóilín Clesham and many others. Now teaching workshops to young and old throughout Galway, Gearóid also gives workshops and master classes nationally. Key to Gearóid's teaching and performance philosophy is to keep faithful to the older dance style of his father, and this is apparent in his dancing.

During his residency, Gearóid will participate in a series of performances and workshops at the Centre for Irish Studies and other venues in Galway. A selection of his repertoire will also be recorded to deposit in the Sean-Nós Archive at the Centre for Irish Studies. Sean-nós dance workshops will take place in the Aula Maxima, NUI Galway, commencing on 5th of February 2014. These workshops which run for five weeks are free of charge and all are welcome to attend.

This project is funded by Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Údarás na Gaeltachta and An Chomhairle Ealaíon in association with the Centre for Irish Studies at NUI, Galway.

SEAN-NÓS SINGER IN RESIDENCE / AMHRÁNAÍ CÓNAITHEACH SEAN-NÓIS



Joe John Mac An Iomaire

Joe John ceaptha mar Amhránaí Cónaitheach ag OÉ Gaillimh

Is cúis mhór áthais é d'Ionad an Léinn Éireannaigh OÉ Gaillimh go bhfuil Joe John Mac an Iomaire ceaptha mar Amhránaí Cónaitheach Sean-nóis i mbliana.

Is as Ros Dugáin, Cill Chiaráin, Joe agus is cuimhin leis a mháthair bheith ag gabháil fhoinn agus é ina leaid óg. I dtithe cuartaíochta ar nós thigh Sheáinín Choilmín a fuair sé go leor dá chuid amhrán ina dhiaidh sin. Tá guth glan binn ag Joe John is tá a stíl amhránaíochta préamhaithe i dtraidisiún a cheantair féin. I measc na n-amhrán is mó atá luaite leis, tá 'An Droighneán Donn' agus 'Bean a' Leanna' a chan sé ar an gclár teilifíse *Amhrán is Ansa Liom*. Tá 'Caoineadh na dTrí Mhuire' i measc na n-amhrán is ansa leis chomh maith agus canann sé gach bliain é ag an bpátrún a bhíonn ar siúl ag Máméan i mí Lúnasa.

Tá Corn Uí Riada buaite faoi dhó ag Joe (1975, 1977), agus Comórtas na bhFear ag an Oireachtas (1968, 1978) agus is minic ó shin e ag canadh ag féilte in Éirinn agus thar lear, go mórmhór i mBoston mar aoi speisialta de chuid Chonradh na Gaeilge sa chathair sin.

Beidh sraith ceardlann á reachtáil ag Joe John san Ollscoil agus in áiteanna eile san Earrach agus arís sa bhFómhar agus beidh a chuid amhrán á dtaifeadadh aige don gcartlann sean-nóis atá á cur le chéile le blianta beaga anuas ag Ionad an Léinn Éireannaigh. Cuirfear tús leis na ceardlanna i seomra seimineáir an Ionaid ar Bhóthar na Drioglainne ar an 13Feabhra. Tá na ceardlanna saor in aisce agus fáilte roimh éinne a bhfuil spéis aige/aici san amhránaíocht.

Is iad Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Údarás na Gaeltachta, An Chomhairle Ealaíon agus Ionad an Léinn Éireannaigh OÉ Gaillimh a mhaoiníonn an tionscnamh seo.

New Sean-nós Singer in Residence at Centre for Irish Studies

The Centre for Irish Studies at NUI Galway is delighted to announce the appointment of Joe John Mac An Iomaire as the Sean-nós Singer in Residence for 2013.

The appointment of Joe John recognises his importance in the rich singing tradition of Connemara and the West of Ireland. A native of Ros Dugáin, Cill Chíarán, Joe John remembers his mother singing from a young age, but learned much of his singing from the time-honoured practice of 'cuartaíocht' as houses such as that of Seanín Choilmín. Like many of his contemporaries, Joe John's singing is firmly rooted in the repertoire and style of his locale. His voice is instantly recognisable for its sweetness of tone and distinct delivery, and his renditions of 'An Droighneán Donn' and 'Bean a Leanna' are among his signature performances which featured in TG4's recent *Amhrán is Ansa Liom*. 'Caoineadh na dTrí Mhuire' is also a favourite and he makes the annual pilgrimage to Maméan each August to sing it as part of the revived pattern there.

Joe John won Corn Uí Riada on two occasions (1975 and 1977), and he was also successful in Comórtas na bhFear at An tOireachtas in 1968 and again in 1978. He has been invited to sing at festivals throughout Ireland, and indeed, has been a favoured guest of Conradh na Gaeilge in Boston on many occasions.

During his residency, Joe John will participate in a series of performances and workshops at the Centre for Irish Studies and other venues in Galway. A selection of his repertoire will also be recorded to deposit in the Sean-Nós Archive at the Centre for Irish Studies. The Sean-nós singing workshops at the Centre for Irish Studies, NUI Galway will commence on the 13th of February 2013 and are free of charge and open to all.

This project is funded by Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Údarás na Gaeltachta and An Chomhairle Ealaíon in association with the Centre for Irish Studies at NUI, Galway.

SEAN-NÓS DANCER IN RESIDENCE



SEAN-NÓS DANCER IN RESIDENCE 2012

The Centre for Irish Studies at NUI Galway is delighted to announce the appointment of Róisín Ní Mhainín, a native of Rosmuc, as Sean-nós Dancer in Residence for 2012.

Recognised as one of the first generation of female sean-nós dancers to gain widespread popularity, Róisín has developed a distinctive style of dancing and is acknowledged by her peers as a leading exponent of sean-nós dance in the new millenium. Her success at An tOireachtas further demonstrates her leading role among sean-nós dancers and within the wider traditional arts community. Róisín has performed extensively in stage productions such as 'Between the Jigs and the Reels' and 'The Well' in Vicar St and further afield at the Milwaukee Festival.

At the reception to mark her appointment, Róisín captivated family, friends and admirers with her performance. Treasa Ní Mhiolláin, the outgoing Sean-nós Singer in Residence for 2011 described the first time that she saw Róisín perform as a skilful young dancer, and was particularly pleased to pass on the artist in residency baton to Róisín for 2012. In announcing her appointment, Professor Gearóid Denvir observed that Róisín drew from the wellspring of traditional culture in Connemara through her steps and her appointment as Sean-nós Dancer in Residence emphasises the university's commitment to, and recognition of, the value of that tradition.

As part of her residency, Róisín will participate in a series of performances throughout the year and also importantly, will give a series of sean-nós dance workshops at NUI Galway. The workshops will be open to the public and commence in January 2012.

In addition to the Centre for Irish Studies, this scheme is supported by Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Údarás na Gaeltachta and An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

SEAN-NÓS SINGER IN RESIDENCE 2011



The Centre for Irish Studies at NUI Galway is delighted to announce the appointment of Treasa Ní Mhiolláin, a native of the Aran Islands, as Sean-nós Singer in Residence for 2011.

Treasa Ní Mhiolláin has an international reputation in traditional Irish song, sean-nós, and in 1996 won the prestigious Sean-nós Cois Life award for her efforts in promoting and encouraging sean-nós singing. Treasa is a renowned exponent of the great love songs of Connacht, but also possesses a store of locally composed songs and some English ballads. Popular songs include 'Sagart na Cúile Báine,' 'Dónall Óg' and Treasa's famous and unique version of 'Cúirt Bhaile Nua.' She is also a noted performer of the light-hearted songs with quicker tempo such as 'An Spailpín Fánach' and 'Bríd Thomáis Mhurcha.' Treasa has twice won the coveted 'Corn Uí Riada' award, the top prize for *sean-nós* singing at Oireachtas na Gaeilge (1972, 1979), and her distinctive singing was featured in Bob Quinn's television series *Atlantean*.

Since returning to Aran permanently, Treasa has taught many younger singers the art of traditional Gaelic song, including Macdara Ó Conaola and the Mulkerrins brothers. She has also continued to tour and perform internationally over the years, having given concerts and taught in Germany, Switzerland and Sardinia among other countries.

During the period of her residency, Treasa will participate in a series of performances and workshops at the Centre for Irish Studies and other venues throughout Connemara and the Aran Islands. She will also record her own work and that of other singers.

The workshops at the Centre for Irish Studies, NUI Galway will commence in February 2011.

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SEAN-NÓS DANCER IN RESIDENCE



SEAN-NÓS DANCER IN RESIDENCE 2009

A graduate of NUI Galway, Seosamh Ó Neachtain is one of a handful of performers who have rejuvenated the Gaeltacht tradition of sean-nós dancing, introducing the athleticism and sophistication of a dynamic but neglected art form to national and international audiences. He has performed on concert stages throughout the world with some of the finest exponents of traditional music, including Altan, De Danann, Máirtín O'Connor, Harry Bradley, Jesse Smith, Johnny Connolly, and Róisín Elsafty.

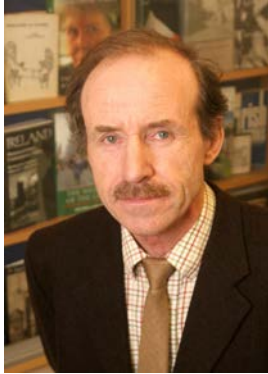
In 2000, Seosamh was awarded a bursary from the Arts Council of Ireland to study aspects of tap dance in New York City. The resulting performance was described by *Ballet Magazine* as 'a wonderful improvisation of down-to-earth Irish tapping that showed the direct link between Irish roots dancing and American rhythm tap. In his collaboration with African dancer Tamango 'a dialogue expressed not in words but in physical exhilaration', Ó Neachtain's feet, according to the *Irish Times*, were 'like playful birds at the floor. He almost hovers, and you almost wonder if he might be able to dance across water ...'

His contribution to the TG4 series *Ceolchuart* explored the influence of Irish dance on American tap dancing won the entertainment category in the Celtic Film Festival 2009.

Seosamh is also one of the founding members of the traditional dance show *Barr go Sáil/Heel to Toe* which has performed at festivals such as Tonder Festival, Denmark, Celtic Connections, Glasgow and the International Dance Festival of Ireland. He is currently studying for a Masters Degree in Music and Creative Media at Dundalk Institute of Technology.

The Dancer-in-Residence programme is supported by Ealaín na Gaeltachta

SEAN-NÓS SINGER IN RESIDENCE



SEAN-NÓS SINGER IN RESIDENCE 2007

The Centre for Irish Studies at NUI, Galway has announced the appointment of Micheál Ó Cuaig to the position of Sean-Nós Singer in Residence for the current year.

A native of Cill Chiaráin, Micheál qualified as a primary school teacher in 1970 and was principal of Scoil Naomh Ciarán for sixteen years before his retirement last year. Throughout his teaching career, he organised classes and workshops in *sean-nós* singing for his pupils. Having fallen under the spell of Joe Heaney at a young age, he has organised an annual festival, Féile Joe Éinniú, which celebrates Heaney's legacy, for the past fifteen years. In order to further commemorate Heaney's contribution to Irish music, Micheál recently presented a copy of the Joe Heaney Archive held at Washington University, Seattle to NUI, Galway and that material is now located at Áras Shorcha Ní Ghuairim in Carna.

Micheál Ó Cuaig is also the author of two highly regarded collections of poetry in Irish *Uchtóga* (1985) and *Clocha Reatha* (1986) which critics have applauded for their emotional delicacy and scrupulous use of language. He is married to Mairéad Ní Chonghaile and they have seven children.

During the period of his residency, Micheál will participate in a series of performances and workshops at the Centre for Irish Studies and other venues throughout Connemara and the Aran Islands. He will also record his own work and that of other singers.

The workshops at the Centre for Irish Studies will commence at 7.00pm on Tuesday 13 February .

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SEAN-NÓS SINGER IN RESIDENCE



SEAN-NÓS SINGER IN RESIDENCE 2006

The Centre for Irish Studies at NUI, Galway has announced the appointment of Máire Uí Dhroighneáin to the position of Sean-Nós Singer in Residence.

A native of Spiddal, Máire cites her mother Máire Nic an Ríogh, from An Gleann Mór, Carraroe as a formative influence on her singing style. 'She used to sing while she was working around the house or trying to get us to sleep and those are the first songs I can remember. I had her tormented, asking her to sing the same songs over and over again.'

Amongst the many other singers who have influenced her, she makes particular mention of Máire Chólman Nic Dhonnacha, Máire Áine Nic Dhonncha, Pat Phádraic Tom Ó Conghaile and Máirtín Phatch Ó Cúláin as well as Seán Mac Donncha and Seosamh Ó hÉanaí.

While she remains wary of the over-emphasis on competitions, she has won Comórtas na mBan at the Oireachtas and been runner-up in Corn Uí Riada, the premier award for sean-nós singing.

For the past seventeen years, Máire has been involved with An Gaelacadamh, teaching children the songs that were passed on to her and which she is now handing on to a new generation, many of who have gone on to compete successfully at the Oireachtas, and at various *fleadhanna ceoil*.

In acknowledgement of her contribution to the living tradition, both as a performer and as a teacher, Máire was awarded Gradam Sean-nóis Cois Life in 2004.

Máire also has extensive experience as an actress, on stage and on screen and is perhaps best known to television audience in the part of Máire, the sanctimonious shopkeeper, in *Ros na Rún*.

During the period of her residency, Máire will participate in a series of performances and workshops at the Centre for Irish Studies and other venues throughout Connemara and the Aran Islands. She will also record her own work and that of other singers.

The workshops at the Centre for Irish Studies will commence at 7.00pm on Tuesday 14 February and will run from now until Easter.

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SEAN-NÓS SINGER IN RESIDENCE



SEAN-NÓS SINGER IN RESIDENCE 2005

The Centre for Irish Studies at NUI, Galway has announced the appointment of Áine Ní Dhróighneáin as Sean-Nós Singer-in-Residence at the university for the forthcoming year. Áine is from Baile an tSléibhe in Spiddal, an area which has produced many fine singers over the years including Síle Tim Ní Fhlaithearta, Mairéad Ní Fhlaithearta, and Tomás Ó Neachtain.

Áine's first introduction to sean-nós was through classes at An Gaelcadamh, where she began singing at the age of eight. A year later she attended her first Oireachtas and went on to win the Corn Faoi-18 at the tender age of fifteen. In 2002, she finished second in Corn Mháire Áine Mhic Dhonnchadha and was awarded second place again later that year in the sean-nós competition at Féile na Mí.

Among the many singers who have helped her over the years and influenced her style of singing, Áine gives particular credit to Peaitsí Ó Ceannabháin, Máire Pheitir Uí Dhróighneáin, Pat Phádraig Tom Ó Conghaile, from whom she learned a great many of her songs. Despite the geographical rivalry between Spiddal and Carna, she also mentions Johnny Mháirtín Learaí as one of her favourite singers.

Among the highlights of her career as a singer, she mentions performing for Mary Robinson when she visited Spiddal during her presidency. She has also performed twice at the Celtic Festival in Lorient, initially with the acapella group Lughnasa, and on her own in 2000 when she performed at the opening of Les Nuits Magiques, a major outdoor concert at the Lorient football stadium.

Although she has yet to make a full recording of her songs, Áine has contributed to many of TG4's most popular programmes, including Ros na Rún, Abair Amhrán, and a documentary on the work of Dr Eithne McGee.

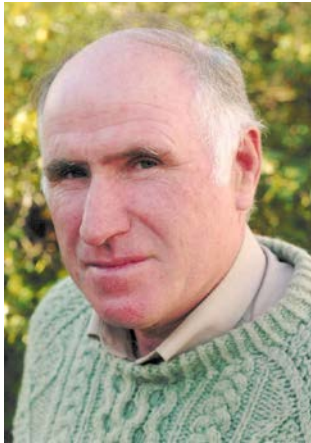
Áine teaches English and French at Coláiste na Coiribe in Galway and also works as part-time tutor in the French Department at NUI, Galway, where she teaches French through the medium of Irish.

Et voila!

During the twelve months of her residency, Áine will participate in a series of performances and workshops at the Centre for Irish Studies and at Áras Shorcha Ní Ghuairim in Carna, and, in association with Pléaráca Chonamara and An Gaelacadamh, at other venues throughout the Connemara Gaeltacht. She will also make a recording of her work for the audio archive at the Centre for Irish Studies.

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SEAN-NÓS SINGER IN RESIDENCE



The Centre for Irish Studies at NUI, Galway has announced the appointment of [Josie Sheáin Jeaic Mac Donncha](#) as Sean-Nós Singer-in-Residence at the university for the forthcoming year. A three times winner of the prestigious Corn Uí Riada, the premier award for sean-nós singing, Josie is a native of An Aird Thiar, Carna, where the tradition of sean-nós singing is particularly strong. Other notable singers from the area include Seosamh Ó hÉanaí, Seán 'Ac Donncha, Dara Bán, and Josie's father, Seán Jeaic, whom Seán Ó Riada identified as perhaps the most interesting of all Connemara singers in the 1960s in his groundbreaking radio series *Our Musical Heritage*. More recent singers from the area include Bríd Ní Mhaoilchiaráin, winner of Corn Uí Riada in 2002 and last year's singer-in-residence at the Centre for Irish Studies.

Lillis Ó Laoire has described Josie Shéain Jeaic as 'a justly recognised master of the sean-nós tradition . His style is generally unhurried and relaxed, while revealing an intense mesmeric involvement with the texts and the music of his songs'. A frequent visitor to the Oireachtas and Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, Josie has also travelled extensively abroad. He remembers a particularly gruelling visit to England with Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann which included twenty-one concerts in as many days and a visit to Libya in 1976, where the touring Irish singers and musicians were scheduled to meet with the country's leader, Colonel Gadaffi. To the regret of all parties, the meeting had to be cancelled at short notice as Colonel Gadaffi had to attend a prayer retreat.

Josie was also instrumental in establishing Cumann Amhránaíochta Iorras Aithneach, a highly successful singing session which meets on the last Saturday of each month in Cill Chiaráin.

During the twelve months of his residency, Josie will participate in a series of performances and workshops at the Centre for Irish Studies and at Áras Shorcha Ní Ghuairim in Carna, and, in association with Pléaráca Chonamara and An Gaelacadamh, at other venues throughout the Connemara Gaeltacht. He will also make a recording of his work for the audio archive at the Centre for Irish Studies.

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SEAN-NÓS SINGER IN RESIDENCE



The appointment of Bríd Ní Mhaoilchiaráin to the position of Sean-Nós Singer in Residence at the Centre for Irish Studies in September 2002 represents an important extension of the dynamic connection between the University and the performing arts.

It also consolidates the relationship between the Centre for Irish Studies and the Irish-speaking communities of South Connemara by recognising the tradition of Sean-Nós singing as a highly developed and sophisticated art form which is particularly strong in the Connemara Gaeltacht.

A native on An Aird Thoir in Carna, Bríd cites her greatuncle, Joe Heaney, her grandfather Máirtín Éinniú and her mother Bairbre as formative influences on her singing style. Her first foray into the world of competitive singing was at the inaugural Féile Joe Éinniú in 1986 where she was awarded Corn Joe Éinniú for the most outstanding young singer at the festival. Since then she has won numerous awards including Corn Mháire NicDhonnchadha, Corn Sheáin Óig Uí Thuama and Corn Tom Pháidín Tom. She was runner-up in Comórtas na mBan at the Oireachtas Festival in 2000. In 2002, she was awarded Corn Uí Riada, the premier award for a sean-nós singer at the Oireachtas.

During the twelve months of her residency, Bríd has conducted a series of performances and workshops at the Centre for Irish Studies and at Áras Shorcha Ní Ghuairim in Carna, and at other venues in Galway and throughout Connemara. She has also begun work on a series of archive recordings of her own work and that of other singers.

The appointment of the Sean-Nós Singer-in-Residence at NUI, Galway is funded by Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Údarás na Gaeltachta and An Chomhairle Ealaíon in association with the Centre for Irish Studies.