

O'Carolan Harp & Traditional Music Festival this weekend

Friday July 30th - Monday August 2nd

Keadue set for the O'Carolan Harp Festival

Harpers and traditional musicians are expected in large numbers to the picturesque village of Keadue on the shores of Lough Meelagh for the 32nd O'Carolan Harp and Traditional Music Festival over the August Bank Holiday Weekend, starting on July 30th.

The official opening of the Festival, which is held under the auspices of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, takes place on Sunday, August 1st, and will be performed by Mr. Seamus McCormack, President of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann.

This year's Festival sees one of the biggest and most exciting line-ups ever, with a variety of music sessions and other traditional entertainment on offer to the thousands of visitors who are expected to attend. The spotlight will once again be focussed on the harp events, as the Festival has now become a focal point for harpists the world over. The Senior Harp Competition will be held on Monday, August 2nd and the winner will take home a prize of €650 and a crystal trophy. The Harp Competitions are sponsored by local company, Arigna Fuels Ltd. This is in addition to the various harp schools, recitals and workshops that will be held over the Festival period.

On the same day a visit to the grave of Turrough O'Carolan at Kilonan Cemetery followed by a lecture at 12 noon in Kilonan Castle entitled 'Patrick Moran, Crossna - His contribu-

tion to Irish Freedom'. The lecture will be given by Ms. May Moran, a niece of the late Patrick Moran. The sound of Shebeen, Liam Purcell and friends, harp recitals and traditional music sessions will also be heard throughout the village.

One of the highlights of the Festival is a special concert in Keadue Church on Saturday night, July 31st, which will feature Ireland's leading harper Catriona McKay from Scotland and Chris Stout on fiddle. Also on the programme with song and harp recital are Eamon and Orla Daly who will perform in Kilonan Castle on Wednesday night July 28th.

On Sunday night the world famous Frankie Gavin with De Dannan will take to the stage. This is sure to be a sell out. Early booking is advisable Tel (071) 96 47216.

Other groups and artists appearing at the Festival include Shebeen, Fiddlers Green, Liam Purcell and friends and Tommie Guihen. For further information contact Margaret Grimes on (071) 96 47247 or Paraic Noone (071) 96 47204 or (087) 2459222.

Frankie Gavin and De Dannan who will perform at the O'Carolan Harp Festival in Keadue on Sunday next, August 1st.



Frankie Gavin and De Dannan to perform at O'Carolan Festival

Frankie Gavin is one of the genuine legends of Irish music. From his first TV appearance playing the tin-whistle when he was six, through seven solo albums, his adventures in the realms of Jazz, Gospel, and Klezmer, through to appearances and recordings with such luminaries as Earl Scruggs, Stéphane Grappelli, Sir Yehudi Menuhin, and the 'Rolling Stones', 'the prince of Irish fiddlers' is one of the outstanding performers of the past thirty years.

Frankie is also the original founding member and band leader of internationally acclaimed traditional super group 'De Dannan'. For many years 'De Dannan' were the forerunners in the Irish traditional music world but after 33 years, 14 albums and a number of changes in the line up, the group disbanded in 2003. The band at that point had been responsible for bringing singers Dolores Keane, Mary Black, Maura O'Connell and Tommy Fleming, amongst many others, to international prominence.

In August 2009, Frankie Gavin unleashed a new 'De Dannan' line up which in his own words "reflects a 'De Dannan' of the 21st century". The current 'De Dannan' ensemble (now known as 'Frankie Gavin & De Dannan') is led by Frankie Gavin on fiddle, flutes and whistles with Damien Mullane on accordion, Eric Cunningham on percussion, flutes and whistles, Mike Galvin on bouzouki and guitars and Michelle Lally on vocals.

A new album featuring the most recent 'De Dannan' line up, entitled 'Jigs, Reels & Rock 'n' Roll', was released last month, which included a guest appearance by Ronnie Wood of the 'Rolling Stones'.

Part of Frankie Gavin's enduring appeal lies in his astounding technical ability and unceasing quest for innovation - musical pieces more commonly associated with the like of the 'Beatles' and George Frideric Handel are now commonplace in Frankie's repertoire as an Irish musician. Most pertinent of all is the knack he has for imparting to his audience his own enthusiasm, the sheer joy, the magic of great music-making.

Speaking of his return to Keadue Frankie Gavin stated, "I am really looking forward to being back at Keadue for the O'Carolan Festival. I have fond memories of past performances there and I am simply thrilled with the sound of the current band line-up and know the audience will be also. We have been very busy performing outside of Ireland, with Singapore last week and China next week and so it will be great to get back to familiar territory."

'Frankie Gavin & De Dannan' perform in Keadue on Sunday 1st August at 9 pm, tickets from (071) 96 47216.

O'Carolan Harp & Traditional Music Festival

(under the auspices of C.C.E.)

KEADUE, CO. ROSCOMMON

Friday July 30th - Monday August 2nd 2010

Friday 30th, 8.30pm: INFORMAL MUSIC SESSION WITH Liam Purcell and friends and many more artists

10 pm: CEILI with MATT CUNNINGHAM

Saturday 31st, 9.00 pm: CATRIONA McKAY with CHRIS STOUT IN CONCERT IN KEADUE CHURCH

Sunday 1st, 10.00 am: FESTIVAL MASS (Sean Ó Riada Mass)

4.00 pm: OFFICIAL OPENING OF FESTIVAL

Followed by outdoor entertainment, Craft Demonstrations and Exhibitions

4.45 pm: TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND SONG with SHEBEEN

6.30 pm: MUSIC SESSION FEATURING LIAM PURCELL AND FRIENDS

9.00 pm: FRANKIE GAVIN AND DeDANNAN

Monday 2nd, 10.30 am: INTERNATIONAL HARP COMPETITIONS

4.30 pm: MUSIC SESSION ON THE OUTDOOR STAGE with FIDDLERS GREEN

7.30 pm: DOOR DANCING COMPETITION

with M.C. Eugene Murphy of Shannonside Radio

Enquiries: (071) 96 47204 or (071) 9647247, (087) 2459222

Email: ocarolan@eircom.net Web: www.ocarolanharpfestival.ie

Ring (071) 96 47216 for tickets for Frankie Gavin and DeDannan