GMIT
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA NA GAILLIMHE-MAIGH EO
GALWAY-MAYO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Galway International Hotel School

MODULE DOCUMENTATION

The Irish Musical Tradition

GAEL07005

Mandatory

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GAEL07005
The Irish Musical Tradition

Full Title	The Irish Musical Tradition		
Status	Uploaded to Banner	**Start Term**	2017
NFQ Level	07	**ECTS Credits**	05
Module Code	GAEL07005	**Duration**	Semester - (13 Weeks)
Grading Mode		**Department**	Humanities
Module Author	Mr. John Tunney		

Module Description

The Irish Musical Tradition

	Learning Outcomes ***On completion of this module the learner will/should be able to:***
1.	Demonstrate an appreciation the place of music, song and dance in Irish cultural tradition and contemporary life;
2.	Demonstrate a knowledge of the main facets of Irish Traditional music, song and dance as they have evolved since the 17th century;
3.	Demonstrate an understanding of the historical forces that led to the mid-20th century revival on Irish music after a long period of slow decline;
4.	Engage in the current debate on innovation, commercialisation and internationalisation of Irish traditional music, articulating their own insights into and opinions on these developments.

Indicative Syllabus

Music of the Gaelic aristocracy: 12th-16th century: Poet, bard and harper in Gaelic society. Tudor conquest. Destruction of Gaelic aristocracy. Demise of music patronage.

Penal Era and Golden Age. The ‘Big House’ and the Hidden Irelands. Decline of harping tradition. Fiddle, flute and pipes. Jig, Reel and Hornpipe. The ‘slow air’ as a musical form.

Cultural revival at the end of 18th c. Harping festivals. Start of collecting of Irish music. Music and dance in the rural countryside.

FOLKSONG: An intimate art form. Irish and English language singing: origins and influences, similarities and differences. Decline of sean-nós singing: destruction of the Irish Language.

Song in the 18th & 19th centuries: change of language. Songs in English: some characteristics. Context and performance. Regional differences. The stories behind the songs. Singing, song-carriers and the singer.

Post-famine cultural devastation. The extent of the demise of tradition in post-famine Ireland. Early US recordings of Irish music.

The Irish music diaspora: Influence of Irish music on American folk, country and old times musics. Francis O’Neill, collector. Cultural revival at turn of 20th century. Conradh na Gaeilge. Na Píobairí Uilleann.

The influence of the early US recordings back in Ireland – the real origins of the Irish Traditional Music revival?

The loss of the house dance and the demise of ‘hearth’ culture. 1920s-50s: Dance Halls Act. Emergence of Céilí Bands and the céilí dance movement. Founding of Radio Éireann 1926. Music collection.

The post-War international folk music revival. Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, the Fleadh Cheoil. “Ballad boom” as an outgrowth of the Tradition. Seán Ó Riada and his legacy. The Super Groups, music classes, summer schools, festivals. The set dance phenomenon.

Commercialisation of traditional music. “World Music”. “Traditional vs. Innovation” debate. Influence of music industry.

The *Riverdance* Phenomenon. The disappearance of the ‘folk community’ – the loss of the Tradition?

Teaching and Learning Strategy

Combination of lectures, workshops, seminars and demonstrations will be used to explore the various topics.

Assessment Strategy
A combination of examination, project and class presentation.

Repeat Assessment Strategies
Examination.

Indicative Coursework and Continuous Assessment:		50 %		
Form	***Title***	***Percent***	***Week (Indicative)***	***Learning Outcomes***
Essay	Term Essay	10 %	Week 6	2
Group Project	Case Study	10 %	Any	1,4
Individual Project	Class Presentation	30 %	OnGoing	1,2,3,4

End of Semester / Year Formal Exam:		50 %		
Form	***Title***	***Percent***	***Week (Indicative)***	***Learning Outcomes***
Closed Book Exam	Final Exam Final Examination	50 %	Week 15	1,2,3,4

Full Time Delivery Mode Average Weekly Workload:			3.65 Hours		
Type	***Description***	***Location***	***Hours***	***Frequency***	***Weekly Avg***
Lecture	Lecture	Flat Classroom	3	Weekly	3.00
Seminar	Discussion	Not Specified	2	Monthly	0.50
Practical	Song and Singing Class	Lecture Theatre	2	Once Per Module	0.15

Literary Resources

REQUIRED READING

Breathnach, Breandan, *Folk Music and Dance of Ireland*, (Cork).

Carson, Ciaran, *Irish Traditional Music*, Belfast, 1986.

Carolan, Nicholas, *A Harvest Saved*, Ossian Publications, 1997.

Dubois, Thomas *Lyric, Meaning and Audience in the Oral Tradition of Northern Europe*, University of Notre Dame Press, Indiana, 2006.

Glassie, Henry, *Passing the Time in Ballymenone: Culture and History of an Ulster Community,* Indiana University Press, 1995.

MacMathuna, Seamus, *Traditional Songs and Singers*, Dublin.

Munnelly, Tom 'After the Fianna: Reality and Perceptions of Traditional Singing in Ireland', ***The Journal of Music,*** 2001

O'Boyle, Sean, *the Irish Song Tradition*, Dublin.

O hAlmhurain, Gearoid, *A Short History of Irish Traditional Music*, Dublin, 1998.

O Neill, Francis ,*Chief O Neill's Sketchy Recollections of an Eventful Life in Chicago*, Brandon, Dingle (republished) 2008.

O Riada, Seán, *Our Musical Heritage*, Mountrath, 1982.

O Rourke, Brian, *Blas Meala/A Slip from the Moneypot*, Dublin, 1985

Pale Rainbow / An Dubh ina Bhan, Dublin, 1990.

Tunney, Paddy, *The Stone Fiddle,* Gilbert Dalton, Dublin 1979.

Vallely, Fintan, *The Companion to Irish Music 2nd Edition*, Cork, 2011.

Hamilton H, Vallely E, Doherty L. (eds.), Crosbhealach an Cheoil, the Crosswords.

Conference 1996, (Dublin, 1999).

Piggott, Charlie, Blooming Meadows – *The World of Irish Traditional Musicians*,

Dublin, 1998.

Yeats, Grainne, *The Belfast Harpers Festival* 1792, Dublin.

RECOMMENDED READING

Brennan, Helen, *The History of Irish Dance*, Dublin, 1999.

Clancy, Liam, *The Mountain of the Women: Memoirs of an Irish Troubadour*, Broadway, 2002.

Curtis, P.J., *Notes from the Heart*, Corofin, 2001.

Hogan, I.M., *Anglo-Irish Music 1780-1830*, Cork, 1966.

McNamara, C. and Woods, P., *The Living Note, Heartbeat of Irish Times*, Dublin, 199.

O Canainn, Tomas, *Traditional Music in Ireland*, London, 1978.

O Connor, W., *Bringing it all Back Home: The Influcence of Irish Music*, London, 1991.

O Sullivan, Donal., *Songs of the Irish Dublin*, 1960

Roche, F., *The Roche Collection of Traditional Irish Music*, Cork, 1982

O'Toole, Leagues' *The Humours of Planxty*, Hodder Headline, Dublin, 2006.

Tunney, Paddy, *Where Songs Do Thunder*, Appletree Press, 1981.

JOURNALS

Bealoideas, Dept. of Folklore, UCD

Irish Music Magazine

Treoir, Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann

Updated Literary Resources

REQUIRED READING

Breathnach, Breandan, *Folk Music and Dance of Ireland*, (Cork).

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O Boyle, Sean, *the Irish Song Tradition*, Dublin.

O hAlmhurain, Gearoid, *A Short History of Irish Traditional Music*, Dublin, 1998.

O Neill, Francis,*Chief O Neill'ss Sketchy Recollections of an Eventful Life in Chicago*, Brandon, Dingle (republished) 2008.

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Other Resources

None

Additional Information

None

Programme Membership

GA_HHERG_B07 201500 Bachelor of Arts in Heritage Studies
GA_HHERG_H08 201500 Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Heritage Studies