

Manus Lunny Music Residency

Artist Name: Manus Lunny

Title: Manus Lunny Music Residency

Year of Installation: 2009

Details of Commissions: Commissioned by Donegal County Council Public Art Office in partnership with The Regional Cultural Centre, Udaras na Gaeltachta, and The Arts Office of Donegal County Council utilising the Per Cent for Art Scheme arising from Housing projects in West Donegal
Size: n/a Medium: Music

Location: Rann na Feirste, West Donegal

Description: This new CD collection of the unique song archive from Rann na Feirste in West Donegal is the culmination of an artist's residency by Manus Lunny. The songs have been chosen by the performers and represent the type of song one is most likely to hear in the intimate setting of the home, at local social events or in the local pub. Most of songs were composed by writers and poets from Rann na Feirste and all but two tracks are performed by local artists or by those who have strong family links to the area. Two of Donegal's most celebrated traditional singers, Máire Brennan and Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh, perform tracks on the CD. A free copy of the CD was distributed to each household in townland of Rann na Feirste and all subsequent proceeds from the CD and associated concerts will directly benefit both Scoil Náisiúnta and Áislann Rann na Feirste community and enterprise centre.

Biography: Manus Lunny is one of the top accompanists, arrangers and producers working in traditional Irish and Scottish music today. He is renowned for his innovative work with Capercaillie, Donald Shaw and Michael McGoldrick for whom he produced the CD 'Morning Rory'. He has worked with many of the top traditional musicians in the world and has produced and engineered many acclaimed recordings.

More info:

A background to the Rann na Feirste CD –

Rann na Feirste has played a key role in producing and maintaining the Irish language arts. This small community's contribution in terms of literature, song and storytelling is quite unique. It begins an exciting new phase in its community's development with the building of Áislann Rann na Feirste, a community and enterprise centre which will, for the first time, provide social, cultural and economic workspace for local people.

A local committee was set up in 2008 to produce a CD which would celebrate the community's contribution to traditional music and song. The songs have been chosen by the performers and represent the type of song one is most likely to hear in the intimate setting of the home, at local social events or in the local pub. Most of songs were composed by writers and poets from Rann na Feirste and all but two tracks are performed by local artists or by those who have strong family links to the area. We are delighted that two of Donegal's most celebrated traditional singers, Máire Brennan and Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh, have shown their support by performing tracks on the CD.

In 1972 Gael Linn produced the first collection of song, poetry and traditional music from Rann na Feirste. The album, Rann na Feirste: Ceol agus Amhráin, was digitally remastered and re-released in 2006. We are particularly pleased that four of the artists who performed on the original album have also contributed to this new recording.

Music and song are not produced in a vacuum. They are the dynamic product of a complex interaction between human society and its environment. The songs on this CD, with their themes of love, tragedy, nature and the love of place, record that social relationship and are expressed in the local dialect of Irish. In a sense music and song are the currencies which enable small rural communities, like Rann na Feirste in West Donegal, to contribute to the arts in general, while also allowing the broader community access to the artist expression of a community that still continues to take pride in its native culture.

All proceeds from the CD and associated concerts will directly benefit both Scoil Náisiúnta and Áislann Rann na Feirste.

Donnchadh Ó Baoill, Coiste Dhlúthdhiosca Rann na Feirste, Fómhar 2009

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Ceol Cheann Dubhrann

A Mhéilte Cheann Dubhrann, is sibh a thógfadh domh cian, Tráthnóna sa tsamhradh nuair a luíos an ghrian.

Tá na hamhráin agus an seanchas fá choiscéim dá chéile, bíonn an siúl céanna leo, ag inse scéal a bpobail, agus is amhlaidh an cás sa bhailiúchán ceoil agus amhrán seo, Ceol Cheann Dubhrann. Is cnuasacht ceoil agus amhrán é seo de chuid Rann na Feirste. Tá an bailiúchán bunaithe ar mheascán d'amhráin a cumadh i Rann na Feirste agus amhráin ar ghnách a cheol ariamh anall ar an bhaile.

Is iad muintir agus bunadh an bhaile amháin atá ar an dlúthdhiosca, seachas dhá aoi speisialta atá ar na gaobhair linn, is iad sin Máire Ní Bhraonáin agus Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh, ár gcomharsain agus ár gcairde.

Tá muid sásta go bhfuil ceathrar den mhuintir a ghlac páirt sa chéad cheirnín, Rann na Feirste, Ceol agus Amhráin, a thairfead Gael Linn in 1972, le cloisteáil ar an dara bailiúchán ceoil seo.

Is é Coiste Cheol Cheann Dubhrann a chuir an dlúthdhiosca seo le chéile le ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar cheol agus amhráin Rann na Feirste. Rachaidh an phroifid uilig a dhéanfar as an tionscnamh seo chun sochair do Scoil Náisiúnta Oilibhéar Pluincéid agus d'Áislann Rann na Feirste.

Donnchadh Ó Baoill, Samhain 2009

Donnchadh Ó Baoill, Coiste Dhlúthdhiosca Rann na Feirste, Fómhar 2009