



Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Mid-Atlantic Fleadh Cheoil 2024

Syllabus

May 10-12, 2024
Hilton Parsippany Hotel
1 Hilton Court
Parsippany, NJ 07054

WWW.CCEMIDATLANTIC.COM

Fleadh Co-chairpersons:

Frankie McCormick, Comhaltas North American Provincial Chair
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Fleadh Co-Chair

Ann Marie Acosta, Comhaltas Mid-Atlantic Regional Chair
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Fleadh Entry Committee

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Garr Disalvo
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Preliminary Tentative Daily Schedule:

Friday: Grupai Cheoil Competitions
Saturday: Solos & Dance Competitions
Sunday: Under 18, Over 18 Slow Air Solos, Ceili Drum Solos, Duets, Trios, Ceili Bands

Admission Fee:

\$25 per family due at the time of entry

Accommodations

Hilton Parsippany Hotel
One Hilton Court
Parsippany, NJ 07054

For **Reservations** Call 973-267-7373 or visit www.ccemidatlantic.com to access direct link.

Use group code IRISH MUSIC WEEKEND to receive the block room rate of \$169 (U.S.).
This rate includes breakfast for two people.

Please use the below rules, in conjunction with **CLÁR NA gCOMHÓRTAS 2020** when seeking information/clarification regarding competitions. Both documents are available on WWW.CCEMIDATLANTIC.COM If at any time, you have a question, please reach out to the fleadh committee, as we are happy to help.

Rules For Competition:

Eligibility: The Mid-Atlantic Fleadh Cheoil is open to competitors who live in the Comhaltas Mid-Atlantic US, Northeast US, West US, and Canada East and Canada West Regions. A competitor in the Mid-Atlantic Fleadh may not compete in any other qualifying Fleadh in 2024.

1. Though all competitions are open to any competitor, qualified by age, they are aimed at those willing to travel to Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. Only those who have secured first or second prize at the 2024 Mid-Atlantic Fleadh are eligible to compete in Wexford, Ireland August 2024.
2. Only Irish traditional music will be accepted in all competitions. Competitors may not use written words or sheet music while competing in any competition. The prompting and coaching of competitors during the course of the competition is prohibited.
3. Competitors shall play each tune twice only. In the case of a tune which is played single format a competitor may play such tune three times (AB AB AB). Competitors who play extra tunes e.g. two jigs or two reels in lieu of one shall be adjudicated on the first tune of the selection only and shall be penalized by the deduction of two marks for each extra tune attempted. No penalty shall be levied in the Slow Airs Competition if a competitor plays the air through once only.
4. A satisfactory standard is necessary for awarding first or any other prize.
5. No ties for First, Second or Third places will be awarded.
6. The Fleadh Committee may require proof of age for competitors, and all participants are asked to make this available if requested. **NOTE: A Competitors age is based on their age as of January 1, 2024.**
7. The adjudicators are the sole judge of merit and in all other matters and the decision of the Fleadh Committee shall be final. Any complaint must be lodged with the Fleadh Committee before the close of competitions on the day of the fleadh and accompanied by a \$25 fee; refunds will be at the discretion of the Fleadh Committee. Complaints will be reviewed by the Fleadh Committee immediately following the Fleadh.

8. Communication with the adjudicator is not permitted before, during, or after the competition except through the Stewards. Parents, teachers, and competitors must not approach an adjudicator, and are expected to take their decisions as final.

9. Competitors shall, as far as possible, compete in the order in which they are called by the Call Steward. A competitor who fails to present themselves when called for a specific competition, and who has not notified the Call Steward on duty of a just cause for their absence, shall be disqualified from the competition. The Call Steward shall terminate a competition after the completion of the performance by the last available competitor, unless the steward has been previously notified that the missing competitor is 'held up' in which case the competition shall be open for a maximum of fifteen minutes. Once the Call Steward has closed the competition it cannot be reopened. Competitors often have multiple competitions scheduled at conflicting times, and for this reason,

10. **Please note that it is the responsibility of each competitor to communicate to all call stewards regarding such conflicts prior to the start times.** Competitors are strongly advised to let call stewards know, which other competition numbers are in conflict. Competition Scheduling Conflict forms are available in the fleadh office.

11. Competitors may request a copy of the adjudication sheet in order to obtain judges comments/feedback. These are available for purchase in the fleadh office. In Grupai Cheoil and Ceili Band competitions, these sheets are available to group leaders/or teachers only. Sheets will be sold for \$2.00 each.

12. In solo competitions, a competitor must compete in their own age group only. In duets, trios, ceili band and grupai cheoil, a competitor may compete only once in each age group of any of the aforementioned competitions. In addition to being eligible to compete in their own age category, a competitor may also compete in a higher age group, provided that they change their instrument.

13. Including competitions for miscellaneous instruments, competitors are allowed to compete on one instrument only in any one competition. This instrument must remain consistent if competing in Ireland after qualification. **Note:** This does not apply for grupai cheoil competitions. Multiple instruments may be utilized by the same person in any one age category for grupai cheoil competitions, however, if a competitor chooses to participate in a different age category, none of these instruments may be again utilized.

14. Audio and video recording is not permitted unless approved in advance by the Fleadh Chairpersons. Each approval is for one individual in one competition. A release must be obtained in advance from any competitor to be recorded. Forms are available in the Fleadh Office and on www.ccemidatlantic.com

15. Practice sessions or rehearsals are not allowed in or near the competition rooms. Entry or exit to competition rooms is not allowed during a competition. Spectators are required to be silent during competitions. Please silence all electronic devices prior to entering a competition room.

16. **A limited number of practice rooms are available to rent/reserve throughout the weekend.** Practice room requests will be prioritized by those coming from teachers who are Comhaltas members, and who have submitted entries for groups and bands. The number of registered competitors and the number of fleadh volunteers provided by each branch/school will also be taken into consideration. Forms will be made available to all who are interested, and dates for the request period and deadline will be posted.

The cost of each practice room is \$400 per day/\$1200 for the weekend.

This amount is required to be paid in full by check at the time of the request. Once paid, and confirmed, each teacher will be given an equivalent amount of raffle tickets (dollar value wise) from the fleadh/Hall of Fame fundraiser to sell in order to recoup this expense. It will be the responsibility of the teacher filling out the form to provide the address where tickets should be mailed, and also to ensure that all of the ticket stubs are returned to the fleadh committee prior to the drawing for inclusion. One teacher from each school/branch is asked to be the contact person and please use the official practice room request form provided.

A MUSIC SCHOOL/TEACHER that reserves a practice room for the full weekend will get ONE FREE bronze level journal ad included in the digital journal.

17. In competitions for **duets and trios**, all members must at all times play the melody of the tune.

18. In duets over 18, two different instruments and only two must be played. In trios over 18, at least two different instruments must be played.

19. All competitors and spectators are expected to comply with the Bullying & Harassment Prevention Policy included on www.Comhaltas.ie. Please know that consideration and respect for all in attendance is our goal, and anyone out of compliance has the potential to lose their eligibility to participate in competitions and/or remain in attendance.

20. There will be an official **Photographer and Videographer** present throughout the event. Your entry submission is your acknowledgement of this, and that your, or your child's image, may be captured throughout the weekend. These photos/videos may be used for archival and promotional purposes and shared on our website and/or social media. **No concession can be made otherwise with regard to group/band/ensemble competitions.** Should you wish for your or your child's **individual** photos/videos not to be utilized post event, please note it is your responsibility to notify us of this in writing by filling out the Media/Photography OPT OUT FORM which will be made available in the fleadh office. Please return it directly to Frankie McCormick or Ann Marie Acosta.

21. Competitors in dance competitions are not permitted to wear tips of any kind on their shoes.

Competition Entry Information:

Please note that we are thrilled to have **FEISWEB** on board this year to accept fleadh entries. Many of you will already be familiar with the program, and for some it will be a new experience. Please note: **All Fleadh Competitors Must make a FEISWEB ACCOUNT**, even if you already have one connected to a dance school profile. This new profile will allow you to select your COMHALTAS branch (or to state that you are non-member).

For the moment, please be aware that the word “*dancer*” is to be interpreted as “*competitor*” for the purposes of entering the Mid-Atlantic Fleadh. In addition, the word “*school*” is to be interpreted as “*branch*.” We are aware that the majority of participants at the fleadh are musicians, but as the Feisweb program originated as a platform to allow families to enter dance competitions, the language currently requires that we interpret it with the understanding that not all fleadh competitors are dancers. We appreciate your understanding as we transition to a new entry system.

Teachers must create an account in order to enter **ceili bands, grupai cheoil, or dance teams**. Once these entries are submitted, please note you will be required to email the details regarding specific members names and instruments separately. Please fill out the **Mid-Atlantic Fleadh ensemble form 2024** below and return it by email to: Midatlanticfleadh@gmail.com

For **duets and trios**, each participant must enter and pay in FEISWEB. After entering using FEISWEB, please email to confirm the names and instruments of all participants (your partners). Please email: midatlanticfleadh@gmail.com with this information using the **Mid-Atlantic Fleadh Ensemble Form 2024**. Having qualified, no substitution of individual or instrument is allowed. The instruments that are played by each participant must remain the same, should an ensemble qualify through to the all-Ireland.

Please fill out a separate ensemble form, included below, for each duet, trio, ceili band, grupai cheoil, or dance team, and email a copy to:
midatlanticfleadh@gmail.com

Mid-Atlantic Fleadh Ensemble Form 2024

Name of person filling out this form: _____

Email address of person filling out this form: _____

Telephone number of person filling out this form: _____

Competition number: _____ Age Category: _____

Branch: _____ Teacher: _____

Circle: Duet Trio Ceili Band Grupai Cheoil Dance Team

Name of Ensemble Member

Instrument

1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
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20.		

Visit WWW.CCEMIDATLANTIC.COM for a link to FEISWEB.

Competition Fees

\$20 per entrant for each solo competition

\$15 for each entrant for duets and trios

Each céilí bands is \$100.

Each grupai cheoil is \$100.

4 hand ceili: \$40

8 hand ceili: \$80

Family admissions/spectator fee: \$25

Family Max Fee:

A family will not have to pay more than \$175 in competition entry fees.

(which does not include ceili bands, grupai cheoil, or family admission fees)

Payments can be made using paypal or check.

Make checks payable to: Mid-Atlantic Fleadh

Please mail to: **Maureen Fallon, Treasurer**

1031 Elderberry Drive

Weston, Florida 33327

***Please include your phone number on the check.**

******THE FAMILY ADMISSION FEE IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO COMPLETE ENTRY******

Please include \$25.00, which is in addition to competition fee total and/or family max total.

This fee allows you to bring as many spectators as you wish throughout the weekend, without having to pay a daily entrance fee.

The deadline for entries is April 20, 2024.

Entries received after that date will be charged a **\$50 late fee**.

Duets, Trios, Grupai Cheoil, and Ceili Bands must submit their entries before the Fleadh and will not be permitted to submit their entry during the Fleadh weekend. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the fleadh committee.

All competitors are encouraged to become a member of Comhaltas Ceolltoiri Eireann by reaching out to their local branch, prior to entering competitions. Branch information and contact details are available at www.ccemidatlantic.com

Classes of Music

Air (slow or lively)

Reel

Polka

Hornpipe

Jig (double, single, slip)

Slide

Set Dance

March

Mazurka

Planxty

Fling

Barn Dance

Schottische

Clan March

Highlands

Germans

A competitor's age is based on the age of the competitor on January 1, 2024.

For example: if the competitor was 14 on January 1, 2024, and turned 15 on February 2, the category would be: b 12-under 15.

a = Under 12 (any competitor who was 11 years old or younger on January 1, 2024)

b = 12 - under 15 (see above)

c = 15 - under 18 (see above)

d = 18 or over (see above)

e=any age

f=under 18

g=under 9

h=under 11

i=under 13

j=under 15

k=u18

l=over 35

n=over 12

Solo Competition musical requirements:

Grades "a" & "b": One tune from each of TWO music classes.

Grade “c”: One tune from each of THREE classes.

Grade “d”: One tune from each of FOUR classes, but must include a Slow Air in the case of fiddle, tin whistle, concert flute, harp, and uilleann pipes.

Competitions offered:

1. Fiddle a/b/c/d
2. Two Row Button Accordion a/b/c/d
3. Concert Flute a/b/c/d
4. Tin Whistle a/b/c/d (6 hole penny-whistle styles only)
5. Piano Accordion a/b/c/d
6. Concertina a/b/c/d
7. Uilleann Pipes a/b/c/d
8. Harp a/b/c/d
9. Mouth Organ a/b/c/d
10. Banjo a/b/c/d
11. Mandolin a/b/c/d
12. Piano a/b/c/d
13. One Row Melodeon (old style) a/b/c/d
14. Miscellaneous Instrument a/b/c/d (any instrument not listed)
15. Accompaniment a/b/c/d
16. Bodhran a/b/c/d
17. Ceili Band Drummer a/b/c/d
18. Fiddle Slow Airs a/b/c/d
19. Uilleann Pipes Slow Airs a/b/c/d
20. Concert Flute Slow Airs a/b/c/d
21. Tin Whistle Slow Airs a/b/c/d
22. Harp Slow Airs a/b/c/d
23. Duets a/b/c/d
24. Trios a/b/c/d
25. Ceili Band a/b/c/d
26. Grupai Cheoil a/b/c/d
27. Accordion Band (Marching) f/d
28. Flute Band (Marching) f/d
29. Miscellaneous Band (Marching) f/d
30. Pipe Band (Marching) e
31. Irish Singing: Ladies a/b/c/d
32. Irish Singing: Men a/b/c/d
33. English Singing: Ladies a/b/c/d
34. English Singing: Men a/b/c/d
35. Whistling a/b/c/d
36. Liltng a/b/c/d
37. Newly Composed Songs: Irish e
38. Newly Composed Songs: English e

39. Newly Composed Dance Tunes e
40. 8-Hand Céilí Ladies a/b/c/d
41. 8-Hand Céilí Mixed a/b/c/d
42. 4-Hand Céilí Ladies a/b/c/d
43. 4-Hand Céilí Mixed a/b/c/d
44. Full Set Ladies a/b/c/d
45. Full Set Mixed a/b/c/d
46. Half Set Mixed f/d
47. Full Set Mixed O35 I
48. Sean Nós a/b/c/d
49. Comhrá Gaeilge g/h/i/j/k
50. Storytelling a/b/c/d
51. Scéalaíocht a/cb/c/d
52. Tír na nog a
53. Mixed Instrument/Non-Qualifying b/c/d
54. Traditional English Singing with self harp accompaniment (Non-Qualifying) k/d
55. Traditional Irish Singing with self harp accompaniment (Non-Qualifying) k/d

Accompaniment:

This competition caters for instruments that are typically used in our tradition to play a supportive role to the melody. (piano, guitar, harp, bouzouki type instruments) Accompaniment must be played throughout the performance of each tune. A maximum of two melody players are permitted to provide melody. Only the accompaniment will be judged. The instrument being played by a competitor must be stated at the time of entry, and will be noted on the adjudication sheets. Should a competitor qualify through to the all-Ireland, they will be required to compete using the same instrument.

Solo Slow Airs

In all grades competitors shall submit a written list of slow airs to the adjudicator/s as follows:

Under 12 - two slow airs;
12-15 - four slow airs;
15-18 - six slow airs;
Over 18 - eight slow airs.

- In the Under 12 grade each competitor shall play one slow air selected by the adjudicator from a list of two submitted.
- In the 12-15 grade each competitor shall play two slow airs, one selected by the adjudicator from a list of four submitted and the other selected by the competitor from the remaining three on the list.
- In the 15-18 grade each competitor shall play two slow airs, one selected by the adjudicator from a list of six submitted and the other by the competitor from the remaining five on the list.

- In the Over 18 grade each competitor shall play three slow airs, two selected by the adjudicator from a list of eight submitted and the other selected by the competitor from the remaining six on the list.

Ensembles

Duets and Trios: Grades “a” and “b”, one tune from each of TWO classes.

Grade “c”. One tune from each of THREE classes.

Grade “d”. One tune from each of FOUR classes.

Ceili Bands: (Minimum of 5 members, maximum of 10)

Grades “a” and “b”: One tune from each of TWO classes.

Grade “c”: Two reels in succession, plus one tune from each of two other classes.

Grade “d”: two reels in succession, plus a maximum of two tunes played in succession from each of three other classes listed above.

****In the event of a recall in Grades “c” (U18) or “d” (O18) a Band must play two new reels in succession and may not repeat any of the tunes it has played in its first performance.**

Grupai Cheoil: (Minimum of 4 members, maximum of 20 members)

Own choice of music for a maximum of 6 - 8 minutes but with a limit of ten minutes on stage. This includes setting up of chairs, instruments, etc. Note: Musicians may sit or stand while performing.

Whistling and Liling may be included, as well as players of bodhran and bones, but piano and drums are not permitted. Efforts should be made to play tunes other than jigs, reels and hornpipes, e.g. slow airs, set dances, old marches, harp music etc. Attention should also be given to arrangement and presentation of the music. **A list of music pieces in the order to be played must be submitted by each group leader to the adjudicators prior to the performance.**

*All Grupai Ceoil are required, as part of their programme, to perform at least one dance tune, played at least once **IN UNISON** by all members of the group who play melodic instruments.*

Dance Competitions

Please see the details of all required elements in the dance competitions in **CLÁR NA gCOMHÓRTAS 2020**. **NOTE: Competitors are not permitted to have TIPS of any kind attached to dance shoes while competing.**

Solo Traditional Singing

In competitions for solo traditional singing the following are required:

Grade (a) two songs of his/her own choice - slow & lively.

Grades (b) and (c) - two songs from a list of four submitted (two slow and two lively) - the first selected by the adjudicator and the second contrasting song by the competitor.

Grade (d) two songs from a list of six submitted (4 slow and 2 lively): the first selected by the adjudicator and the second contrasting song by the competitor. In all lists of songs, the lively songs must be clearly denoted.

Newly Composed Ballad - Must not previously have been sung at any fleadh prior to the current year. Lyrics and notated melody for newly composed songs must be submitted in writing with entry (April 20th deadline) and must accompany results to All-Ireland level. Ballad need not be performed by the composer. Songs in waltz time should be avoided.

Newly Composed Tune - Must be traditional in character. A written copy in staff notation must be submitted with entry (April 20th deadline). The composer may designate a different musician to perform the tune in competition.

Traditional singing (Irish) with self-accompaniment on the harp.

Traditional singing (English) with self-accompaniment on the harp.

These competitions are offered u18, and over 18. Winners in this particular competition type are not qualified through to the All-Ireland, as these competitions are not currently offered at the All-Ireland level.

The **Under 18 Competitors** will be required to perform **two songs, one slow and one lively**.

The **O.18 competitors** will be required to **submit a list of four songs, two slow and two lively**. The first song is selected by the adjudicator, and the second contrasting song by the competitor. Lists must clearly denote the lively/rhythmic songs.

The adjudication will be based on the following guidelines:

The accompaniment does not comprise the playing of the melody- it is to reflect the principles of accompaniment, complementing the singer's interpretation of the song in question. The integrity of the amhránaíocht ar an sean-nós and the Traditional Lively/Rhythmic song will be maintained as the accompaniment will not dictate a regular pulse. The harp accompaniment should not dominate the performance, supporting the traditional singer to interpret the song.

Each song/performance will be marked on the basis of 60% for singing & 40% for accompaniment.

The suggested guidelines as currently exist on the traditional singing adjudications sheets apply and are incorporated below:

Traditional Singing (English) with self-accompaniment on the harp

Intonation & Quality of Voice; Phrasing, Clarity & General Interpretation Choice & Quality of Song; Command of Traditional Style; Accompaniment: Supportive, complementary and stylistically appropriate to the song.

Traditional; Singing (Gaeilge) with self-accompaniment on the harp.

Binneas gutha & cruinneas nodaíreachta; Rithim an cheoil ag teacht le rithim na bhfocal Rogha & mianach Caighdeán an-amhrán; Máistreacht / Smacht ar Stíl; Cruinneas Foghraíochta Srl; Tionlacan: cuí don amhrán agus do stíl an amhráin.

The above rules are a supplement to **CLÁR NA gCOMHÓRTAS 2020** all should be considered when seeking information and clarification about all aspects of fleadh competitions.

