

Ceolta Sí

### **Group profile:**

Craobh Eochaille CCÉ was formed 25 years ago. Now based in the new, purpose built Brú na Sí centre, the branch is active in the local community throughout the year. Irish traditional music classes are provided in a range of instruments including button accordion, tin whistle, flute, fiddle, concertina, banjo and mandolin, as well as Irish dancing. The performing group, Ceolta Sí, performs regularly at the centre. Ceolta Sí combines members of the local branch of Comhaltas and extends out into the community. The group attempts at all times to make links with and collaborate with others in the local music community. The performances by Ceolta Sí are a result of the strong links between the group, the local branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and the wider arts community.

Ceolta Sí are one of the most popular and successful performing groups of their kind. They perform regularly in east Cork and much of the money raised by their performances has gone to local charities. In particular, much of the money has gone to the building of Brú na Sí, a local music and education centre. In recent years the group has begun to travel extensively, visiting Wales, the Czech Republic, Mexico, Italy and China in the past two years with a number of other trips planned.

Two more groups have been developed in east Cork over the past two years, Lár na Cruinne and Draíocht an Oileáin. These new groups are envisaged as the future performing groups that will represent the musical heritage of east Cork and provide an informed audience for visiting artists. Between them, the three groups have a membership of nearly one hundred members. More groups are planned for the coming years.

Members of the three groups recognise the value of cultural collaborations and the importance of presenting performances of a professional standard on the international stage. Their success is highlighted through the repeated requests for return visits and the close ties developed between Ceolta Sí, various embassies and international organisations and festivals. The success feeds local activity in the arts and further encourages participation by all age groups in the arts in east Cork and west Waterford.