



funding

traditional arts

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Traditional Singer in Residence

The Traditional Singer in Residence is an initiative of Clare County Council, supported by the Arts Council and Clare Music Education Partnership.

Context

Clare has a very strong tradition of singing, particularly in West Clare, and the Arts Office is now looking to promote this tradition amongst younger people through the **engagement of a Traditional Singer in Residence**. This residency will be a partnership project, utilising the bank of songs featured in the Songs and Singers of Clare from the Carroll Mackenzie Collection produced by Clare County Library. The target age group is 13-18 and the focus is on developing traditional singing amongst young people.

With the historical backdrop of the 1916 commemorations and the excitement of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann coming to Ennis in 2016, Clare County Council believes that this is an exciting time to conduct such a residency in the county. Whilst drawing on the strong traditions of the county, the residency offers the opportunity to a singer to leave a lasting legacy on the development of traditional singing amongst young people as well as an opportunity to focus on their own singing / projects which may be in train.

Background to the Residency

The Arts Office of Clare County Council has long recognised the distinct value and role of traditional singing in the traditional arts in the county. In 2010 Clare Arts Office worked with the Kilmaley Voluntary Housing Scheme to commission John Tunney, traditional singer, to compose three new songs in the traditional vein. This was the first traditional singing commission to be awarded under the Per Cent for Art Scheme.

http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/cominfo/arts/sing_us_another_story_may09.htm

In 2012, Clare County Library supported by the County Arts Office launched the web resource Music of Clare at www.clarelibrary.ie. Featuring hundreds of tunes and some of Ireland's best known musicians, this resource has received global recognition for its quality and content. <http://music.clarelibrary.ie/fotoweb/>

In March 2015, following the Music of Clare, the Songs and Singers of Clare was launched. This web resource features over 400 recordings of singers from West Clare recorded in England and West Clare in the 1960's and 1970's by Jim Carroll and Pat McKenzie.

<http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/songs/cmc/index.htm>

September 2014 saw the first tranche of singing projects take place in over 20 schools in Clare by the Clare Music Education Partnership. These projects continue today with some of the repertoire selected from the Songs and Singers of Clare.

It is envisaged that the use of these library website resources will be a key component of the residency.

Residency Details

The Residency will be awarded as a contract for services based on a 20 hr week, (5 hours of which is for the Singers own work development) which will allow time both for the Singer's own work in addition to engagement and interaction with the target groups.

A contract for services fee of €12,000 inclusive of VAT is offered for a 20 week period envisaged to commence early April 2016 - €600 per week / €30 per hour. (We can offer some flexibility around dates and the start date is subject to Garda vetting).

A further €2,000 is available for

- travel and subsistence
- production costs
- promotional costs
- miscellaneous costs

The successful singer will be required to provide Clare County Council with a tax clearance certificate prior to signing of contracts.

Requirements

- Proven track record of traditional singing and performance
- Ability to engage young people in traditional singing
- The Singers ability to mentor must be demonstrated.

Criteria for selection

The position is open to both Individuals and Singing Groups.

Part A

20% of marks will be allocated for **Experience and quality of work to date**

20% of marks will be allocated for **Facilitation / Mentoring ability and experience**

In this regard candidates should provide:

- A typed curriculum vitae (maximum 3 pages);
- Examples of own work (include CD's, recordings, links to websites etc.);
- Programmes or published articles, such as reviews;

Part B

30% of marks will be allocated for **Artistic Merit of the proposal submitted**

30% of marks will be allocated for **Relevance and suitability of proposal**

In this regard candidates should provide:

- A typed proposal outlining artistic ideas and approaches that will stimulate greater awareness of traditional singing as well as facilitating opportunities for young people to engage with singing and songs. (The proposal should be no more than two typed pages).

This should include

- a) an outline of the benefits of the residency to her/his stage of development as a Singer
- b) ideas / proposals in relation to engagement of young people during the residency
- c) ideas / proposals in relation to engagement of specific schools / community groups they wish to work with and the rationale for selecting these groups
- d) ideas / proposals on how to promote the residency
- e) ideas / proposals on how they would shape the residency
- f) ideas / proposals as to how they would incorporate the traditional singing resources available on www.clarelibrary.ie
- g) a short description on what they would hope the legacy of the residency would leave.

Please note: Applicants must submit three copies of their CV and 3 copies of their proposal no later than 12 noon on Friday, March 4th, 2016 to The Arts Office, County Library, Mill Road, Ennis, Co. Clare

Please ensure that all submitted materials are clearly marked with the writer's name. Email applications will not be accepted.

Applicants may be short-listed on the basis of their submissions and short-listed applicants will be called for interview in mid - March, 2016.

In advance of the residency the following will be agreed:

- Goals, roles and responsibilities and agreed criteria for the Singer in residence and the Arts Office;
- Agreed programme of work that is flexible and responsive;
- Supports (non - monetary) available from the Arts Office and Music Generation Clare;
- Ongoing review and evaluation; regular meetings.
- This is a part-time residency, which will require flexible working hours.

Child Protection

In accordance with the national Child Protection Guidelines *Children First*, the selected candidate will be required to follow child protection procedures as specified by Clare County Council. Applicants are required to undergo Garda Vetting.

Freedom of Information

The provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 1997-2003 apply to Clare County Council. Applicants should state if any of the information supplied by them is confidential or sensitive and should not be disclosed to a request for information under the aforementioned Act. Applicants should state why they consider the information to be confidential or commercially sensitive.

Prompt Payments

Under the Prompt Payments Accounts Act, the Local Authority is obliged to pay within 30 days, upon receipt of a valid invoice.

Applications should be submitted to:

The Arts Office, Clare County Library, Mill Road, Ennis, Co. Clare by 12 noon March 4th, 2016

Queries and Clarifications

Please refer any queries to Siobhán Mulcahy, Arts Officer 065 6846267 or email arts@clarelibrary.ie.

In the event that clarifications arise on this tender Clare County Council will issue such clarifications on the websites www.clarelibrary.ie/arts.htm and www.clarecoco.ie. It is the responsibility of applicants to check these websites in advance of submitting a proposal to ensure that all information is available to them.

Please note that Clare County Council reserves the right not to award this contract if none of the applications received are deemed to be suitable. In this instance Clare County Council reserves the right to pursue a different procurement process.