



MIDWEST FLEADH CHEOIL

MAY 8TH - 10TH, 2026
HILTON AT THE BALLPARK, ST. LOUIS, MO

REGISTER NOW AT WWW.MIDWESTFLEADH.ORG

Venue / Hotel Information



HILTON ST. LOUIS AT THE BALLPARK
#1 S. Broadway, St. Louis, MO 63102
1-800-581-7151

Group code: IAF

Group cut-off date: April 24th, 2026

Guest Room Rate: \$125 plus tax | <https://tinyurl.com/2nmvmj6x>

Schedule

See Fleadh Program for venues, times and any changes

| Friday, May 8 th | |
|--|----------|
| Registration desk opens | 3:00 PM |
| Duets and Trios start | 6:00 PM |
| Saturday, May 9 th | |
| Registration desk opens | 7:00 AM |
| Solo Competitions start | 9:00 AM |
| Band Competitions start | 6:00 PM |
| Sunday, May 10 th | |
| Registration desk opens | 8:00 AM |
| Sean Nós Competitions start | 9:00 AM |
| Set and Céilí Dance Competitions start | 10:00 AM |

Registration Fee, Entries & Wristbands

REGISTRATION FEE \$30
*A per-family registration charge. Includes distribution of adjudication sheets (results) and 2 Fleadh Programs. This is charged **online** as part of your entry.*

ENTRIES

- Each Competition (solo/non-qualifying) \$20
- Duets and Trios (per competitor) \$15
- Non CCÉ members \$30
- Bands (Céilí, Marching, Grúpaí Ceoil) \$100
- Dance Competitions (4-hands) \$50
- Dance Competitions (8-hands) \$100
- Late entry fee (after April 24th up to May 1st) \$50
- Onsite entries \$100

*\$150 MAXIMUM ENTRY CHARGE PER FAMILY
(excludes Registration Fee; excludes Céilí, Marching
and Grúpaí Ceoil competitions entries)*

ENTRIES CLOSE APRIL 24th

SPECTATOR WRISTBAND \$10p/p
A per-spectator wristband for non-competitor family members and guests 10 years and older. Admits entry to ALL competitions. Must be purchased on the day at registration before attending competitions – cash or check preferred.

**Spectator or Competitor wristband required
to enter competition rooms**

For more information visit
WWW.MIDWESTFLEADH.ORG

Kim Elliott
Fleadh Manager

STLfleadh@gmail.com • 314-313-4161



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme
An Roinn Gaelilí Eardeartha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



An Roinn Cultúir,
Cumarsáide agus Spóirt
Department of Culture,
Communications and Sport



General Rules (abridged)

1. Entries must be completed online by April 24th, 2026. www.midwestfleadh.org is the registrar for the fleadh. ALL ENTRIES MUST be submitted through said online platform. Entries may not be submitted under the teacher's name. Entries received after April 24th and up to May 1st will be subject to a \$50 late fee and those names will not be listed in the program. Onsite entries accepted at Committee's discretion and are subject to a \$100 penalty.
2. Only Irish Traditional Music will be accepted.
3. Competitors shall play each tune twice only. In the case of a tune which is played singly, a competitor may play such a tune three times (AB AB AB). Slow airs may be played once.
4. Competitors must perform in person, unless in Newly-Composed Song, Amhráin Nua-Cheaptha and Newly-Composed Tunes, at the competition venue and as far as possible, compete in the order in which they are called by the Call Steward. A competitor who fails to present him / herself when called for a specific competition, and who has not notified the Call Steward on duty, of a just cause for his / her absence, shall be disqualified from the competition.
5. Competitors in the following competitions at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann MUST compete in the order published in the Clár. Duets over 18 and Trios over 18, Céilí Bands and Grúpaí Ceoil 15 / 18 and Céilí Bands and Grúpaí Ceoil over 18 and all Marching Bands. Failure to do so entails disqualification.
6. The Call Steward shall terminate a competition after the completion of the performance by the last available competitor, unless the Call Steward has been previously notified that the missing competitor is detained while competing in another competition, in which case the competition shall, at the discretion of the Call Steward, be kept open for a maximum of fifteen minutes. Once the Call Steward has closed the competition, it cannot be reopened.
7. No communication with the adjudicator is permissible on the day of the competition at the Fleadh venue, except through the stewards.
8. Prompting and / or coaching of competitors during the course of any competition is prohibited.
9. Adjudicators may withhold the awarding of a first prize, should competitors fail to reach a meritorious standard.
10. Winners of First and Second prizes shall qualify to Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann (All-Ireland) in the same year.
11. Adjudication sheets will be sent to the branch or school associated with each competitor. Competitors not associated with a branch of school will receive their results directly. Competitors may contact the Fleadh Manager to make other arrangements.
12. Disputes involving interpretation of Fleadh Rules shall be resolved by reference to 'Rialacha Fleadhanna Ceoil 2026'. These are on the Midwest Fleadh website.
13. In all Solo competitions, a competitor must compete in own age group only. In competitions for Miscellaneous (Rogha Ghléas), a competitor may compete on one instrument only. In Duets, Trios, Céilí Bands and Grúpaí Ceoil competitions, a competitor may compete only once in any age-group of the aforementioned competitions. A competitor may also compete in a higher age group, provided they change instrument. Duets and Trios must compete in the age group of the oldest competitor in the group.
15. In Duet and Trio competitions, all members must at all times play the melody of the tune.
16. In Over 18 Duets: two different melody instruments and only two must be played. In Over 18 Trios, at least two different melody instruments must be played.
17. In competitions for Grúpaí Ceoil, whistlers and lilters may be included, as well as players of bodhrán 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, polkas, barn dances, planxties, etc. Attention should also be given to instrumental arrangements and presentation of the music. A list of music pieces in the order to be played, e.g. slip jig, march, etc. and a list of instruments, shall be submitted by each group leader to the competition clerk prior to the performance. See time limit Penalties in Rule 15 of the Fleadh Rules book 'Rialacha Fleadhanna Ceoil 2026'.
18. Changing of instruments while competing in any competition except Grúpaí Ceoil, is strictly forbidden.
19. Electronic or amplified instruments are not acceptable in any competition. Where a standard piano is not available, the organising Fleadh Coiste must provide a weighted key electronic piano. Competitors are not permitted to use their own electronic piano. The piano for competitions will be an 88-note, weighted action digital piano.
20. Recordings of any kind are not permitted without prior approval of the fleadh chairperson. Such permission, when granted, is valid for one competitor in one competition. A signed release must be obtained in advance from any competitor being recorded. **MEDIA PERMITS available at Registration** free of charge.
21. Practice sessions are not allowed in or near competition venues.
22. Entry or exit from a competition room is not allowed during a competition. Spectators are required to be silent during competitions.

Age Groups / Grades

- A** U-12: a person whose 12th or earlier birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.
- B** 12-15: a person whose 13th, 14th or 15th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.
- C** 15-18: a person whose 16th, 17th or 18th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.
- D** 0-18: a person whose 19th or greater birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.
- E** Any Age
- F** U-18: a person whose 18th or earlier birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.
- G** U-9: a person whose 9th or earlier birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.
- H** 9-11: a person whose 10th or 11th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.
- I** 11-13: a person whose 12th or 13th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.
- J** 13-15: a person whose 14th or 15th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.
- K** Age Group K applies to Mixed Set 0-35 and Ladies Set 0-35. All members of the set must have their 36th or greater birthday on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.
- N** 0-12: a person whose 13th or greater birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

NOTES:

1. In all Solo competitions, a competitor must compete in his / her own age group only.

2. In Duets, Trios, Grúpaí Ceoil, Céilí Band and Marching Band competitions, a competitor may compete only once in any age group of the aforementioned competitions. A competitor may also compete in a higher age group, provided s/he changes instrument, but in Duets and Trios a minimum of one competitor must be in the higher age category.

In the event of a dispute, a certificate of age must be produced within 7 days of the competition, if requested by the Regional / Provincial / C.E.C. Rúnaí. Failure to do so will entail automatic disqualification.

Classification of tunes

- | | | | |
|------------------------|--|---------------|----------------|
| • Air (slow or lively) | • Jig (double, slip hop or single jig) | • Planxty | • Highland |
| • Reel | | • Fling | • German |
| • Polka | • Slide | • Barn Dance | • Dance Tunes* |
| • Hornpipe | • Set Dance | • Schottische | |
| • March | • Mazurka | • Clan March | |

ONLY IRISH TRADITIONAL
MUSIC ACCEPTED

* Dance tunes played for céilí dances as approved by Ardchomhairle. These are: Haste to the Wedding, The Rakes of Mallow, Humours of Bandon, Trip to the Cottage, St Patrick's Day, The Three Tunes, Lannigan's Ball, Sweets of May.

NOTE: Competitors shall play each tune twice only. In the case of a tune which is played singly, a competitor may play such a 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.

Music Performance Requirements

The performance requirements (tunes to be played from the list above) differ according to the competitor's age group / grade. Please read the Fleadh Competitions Rulebook (Rialacha Fleadhanna Ceoil) page 10. Document available at www.midwestfleadh.org

Dance Performance Requirements

Competitors may only perform 4-Hand or 8-Hand Céilí Dances from Ár Rincí Céilí (Revision September 2014) and subsequent updates in the Céilí dancing handbook issued by An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha.

For detailed dance performance requirements, entries, categories, substitutions, etc please refer the Fleadh Competitions Rulebook (Rialacha Fleadhanna Ceoil) page 14 (céilí dancing) or page 16 (set dancing).

Document available at www.midwestfleadh.org

Non-Qualifying Competitions

These three events were created for competitors who want feedback on their playing from a qualified adjudicator, for those who find competition too stressful but want to be part of the festivities, or for beginners who are not quite ready for the qualifying competition. This is a low pressure, very positive event. Competitors who choose to participate in Tír na nÓg or An t-Aistear cannot also compete in regular qualifying competitions on the same instrument. Entrants should plan to play two tunes in contrasting tempo or sing two songs: one lively, one slow. If the entrant performs only one piece, feedback will be given on that piece. Event entrants will NOT be qualified for the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann (All-Ireland)

- 54 - Tír na nÓg (U-12 age group only)
- 55 - An t-Aistear - The Journey (All ages over 12)
- 56 - Recitation (Any age)

List of Official Fleadh Cheoil Competitions

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1 Fídlí – Fiddle | A B C D |
| 2 Bosca Ceoil – Button Accordion | A B C D |
| 3 Feadóg Mhór – Flute | A B C D (Note 1) |
| 4 Feadóg – Whistle | A B C D (Note 2) |
| 5 Cairdín Pianó – Piano Accordion | A B C D |
| 6 Consairtín – Concertina | A B C D |
| 7 Píb Uilleann – Uilleann Pipes | A B C D |
| 8 Cruit – Irish Harp | A B C D |
| 9 Orgán Béil – Mouth Organ | A B C D (Note 3) |
| 10 Bainseó – Banjo | A B C D |
| 11 Maindilín – Mandolin | A B C D |
| 12 Pianó – Piano | A B C D (Note 9) |
| 13 Mileoideon – Melodeon | A B C D (Note 4) |
| 14 Rogha Gléas – Miscellaneous | A B C D (Note 5) |
| 15 Tionlacan – Accompaniment | A B C D (Note 6) |
| 16 Bodhrán | A B C D (Note 7) |
| 17 Drumaí Céilí – Céilí Band Drums | A B C D (Note 8) |
| 18 Foinn Mhalla, Fídlí – Fiddle Slow Airs | A B C D |
| 19 Foinn Mhalla, Píb Uilleann – Uilleann Pipes Slow Airs | A B C D |
| 20 Foinn Mhalla, Feadóg Mhór – Flute Slow Airs | A B C D |
| 21 Foinn Mhalla, Feadóg – Whistle Slow Airs | A B C D |
| 22 Foinn Mhalla, Cruit – Harp Slow Airs | A B C D |
| 23 Ceol Beirte – Duets | A B C D (Note 10) |
| 24 Ceol Trí – Trios | A B C D (Note 10) |
| 25 Buíon Cheoil Chéilí – Céilí Bands | A B C D (Note 10) |
| 26 Grúpaí Ceoil | A B C D (Note 10) |
| 27 Buíon Cheoil Cairdín – Accordion (Marching Band) | F D (Note 10) |
| 28 Buíon Cheoil Feadóg Mhór – Flute (Marching Band) | F D (Note 10) |
| 29 Buíon Cheoil Rogha Gléas – Miscellaneous (Marching Band) | F D (Note 10) |
| 30 Buíon Cheoil Píb – Pipe (Marching Band) | E (Note 10) |
| 31 Amhránaíocht ar an Sean Nós (Mná) – Irish Singing (Ladies) | A B C D |
| 32 Amhránaíocht ar an Sean Nós (Fir) – Irish Singing (Men) | A B C D |
| 33 English Singing (Ladies) – Amhráin Bhéarla (Mná) | A B C D |
| 34 English Singing (Men) – Amhráin Bhéarla (Fir) | A B C D |
| 35 Feadaíl – Whistling | A B C D |
| 36 Portaireacht – Liltíng | A B C D |
| 37 Amhráin Nua Cheaptha, Gaeilge – Newly Composed Songs in Irish | E |
| 38 Newly Composed Songs in English – Amhráin Nua Cheaptha, Béarla | E |
| 39 Píosaí Cheoil Nua-Chumtha – Newly composed Tunes | E |
| 40 8-Hand Ceilí Dancing, Ladies | A B C D |
| 41 8-Hand Céilí Dancing, Mixed | A B C D |
| 42 4-Hand Céilí Dancing, Ladies | A B C D |
| 43 4-Hand Céilí Dancing, 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, 0-35 | K |
| 48 Full Set, Ladies, 0-35 | K |
| 49 Rince ar an Sean Nós | A B C D |
| 50 Comhrá Gaeilge | G H I J C |
| 51 Storytelling | A B C D |
| 52 Scéalaíocht | A B C D |
| 54 Tír na nÓg | A (Note 11) |
| 55 An t-Aistear - The Journey | N (Note 12) |
| 56 Recitation | E (Note 13) |

Note 1: Instruments to include traditional simple system wooden flutes, also Boehm system, Radcliffe system etc. The pitch of the instrument or the material from which it is made is irrelevant for entry.

Note 2: A whistle can be defined as an instrument with a fipple and not more than six finger holes. The pitch of the instrument or the material from which it is made is irrelevant for entry.

Note 3: Orgán Béil / Mouth Organ: A diatonic instrument in a fixed key, as distinct from a harmonica (a harmonica is a chromatic instrument, incorporating the use of a mechanism or lever, and must be played in the Rogha Gléas competition).

Note 4: Mileoideon / Melodeon: the single row accordion is not a melodeon and is not acceptable in the melodeon competition.

Note 5: Rogha Gléas / Miscellaneous: This category caters for all instruments, on which the melody can be played, not catered for in Solo Instrumental Competitions listed in Rule 8, 1-13.

- Electronic, mains or battery-powered instruments are not accepted.
- In competitions for Rogha Ghléas/Miscellaneous, a competitor may compete on one instrument only.
- In all competitions the instrument being played, and tuning if relevant, shall be listed on the official Fleadh Entry form.
- The competitor/instrument combination must be maintained at all subsequent Fleadhanna in that year.
- In all Fleadh programmes the competitor listings for Miscellaneous Competitions shall include the competitor's name and instrument.

For a detailed list of eligible and non-eligible instruments please refer to the Fleadh Competitions Rulebook (Rialacha Fleadhanna Cheoil) page 8.

Note 6: Tionlacan / Accompaniment: This category caters for instruments that use melodic accompaniment as opposed to melody. The accompanist in this accompaniment competition should not be penalised for starting first, i.e. setting the tempo. This accompaniment must be played throughout the performance. The aim of the competition is to adjudicate on the accompaniment only. In all Accompaniment competitions the instrument being played shall be listed on the Official Fleadh Entry Form. This competitor / instrument combination must be maintained at all subsequent Fleadhanna in that year. In all Fleadh Programmes, the competitor listings for Accompaniment Competitions shall include the competitors name and instrument. A maximum of two musicians is permitted to play for accompaniment competitions.

Note 7: Bodhrán: A maximum of two musicians is permitted to play for competitors in the Bodhrán competition.

Note 8: Céilí Band Drumming / Drumaíocht Céilí: A maximum of two musicians is permitted to play for competitors in the céilí drumming competition.

Note 9: Electronic or amplified instruments are not acceptable in any competition. Where a standard piano is not available, the organising Fleadh Coiste must provide a weighted key electronic piano. Competitors are not permitted to use their own electronic piano.

Note 10: One instrument only: With the exception of competitors playing Mouth-Organ and Grúpaí Ceoil Competitions, the following rule applies: In Solo, Duet, Trio, Céilí Band and Marching Band competitions, competitors may not change instrument or set tuning during the performance.

Note 11: Tír na nÓg: Non-qualifying, feedback only special solo event, U-12 any instrument.

Note 12: An t-Aistear - The Journey: Non-qualifying, feedback only, any instrument, over 12 years of age (N). Entrants play two tunes in contrasting tempo from the categories listed. Each tune should be played twice, with a break in between. The candidate will receive constructive feedback from the adjudicator that identifies strengths as well as areas for improvement. The adjudicator will evaluate the candidate on flow, rhythm, ornamentation and command of the instrument.

Note 13: Recitation: Poem to be Irish in character; in English or the Irish language.