

Information on Ireland's traditional music heritage added to Heritage Maps website

Project a collaboration between Heritage Council and Irish Traditional Music Archive

Information on Ireland's traditional music heritage is now available on the Heritage Council's *Heritage Maps* website, following a collaboration with the Irish Traditional Music Archive (ITMA).

The *Heritage Maps* viewer (www.heritagemaps.ie) is a web-based spatial data viewer, which focuses on the built, cultural and natural heritage around Ireland and off-shore. This 'one-stop-shop' discovery tool now carries information for the first time about Ireland's traditional music heritage, with information on a selection of traditional Irish tunes provided by ITMA. The 'Humours of...' map is available in the Museum, Collections & Archives folder and it covers the entire island of Ireland, featuring Humours from Monkstown to Galway, from Passage in Cork, to Derry, and Boston, Co Laois. The link from each location gives access to the notated music, a downloadable PDF, and an interactive score that can be used as a learning tool. █

Commenting, the Heritage Council's Head of Policy and Research, Beatrice Kelly said: "Heritage is shaped by people's reaction to their surrounds. The addition of traditional music to heritagemaps.ie will allow people to explore this vibrant element of our heritage, alongside archaeological sites and biodiversity. We look forward to further enriching *Heritage Maps* with more traditional music in the years to come."

ITMA director, Liam O'Connor added: "It is a great achievement to have this milestone at hand. Traditional music is community-based and has very strong local links. This makes it ideal for mapping and we are delighted to begin our explorations in this area with the Heritage Council. We look forward to developing this idea further in the years ahead."

Visit www.heritagemaps.ie for further details.

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Notes to editors:

- Pat Reid from the Heritage Council and Liam O'Connor from ITMA are available for interview, on request.

About the Heritage Council: The Heritage Council was established under the Heritage Act 1995 with responsibility to propose policies and priorities for the national heritage. It works in co-operation with a range of agencies, communities and individuals to promote education, enjoyment and understanding of our national heritage. For further information, visit: www.heritagecouncil.ie.

About ITMA: ITMA is the national public archive and resource centre for Irish traditional music, song and dance, and the globally-recognised specialist advisory agency to advance appreciation, knowledge, and the practice of Irish traditional music. Established in 1987 and funded by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon, and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, the role of ITMA is to: collect and preserve the historical and contemporary materials of Irish traditional music, particularly those that are at risk; organise and describe these materials according to international standards of archival and library practice to create collections that are discoverable by all; present and publish content from our collections in ways that enhance the living tradition; contribute to the knowledge base of traditional music, and engage with our diverse audiences worldwide. Further details at: www.itma.ie.

