



"Bringing a community of all ages together to learn, share, experience & celebrate the music and culture of Ireland"

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Comhaltas in Britain Launches Special Promotion to Boost Participation in Fleadh Dancing Competitions

Comhaltas in Britain is inviting dancers of all ages to take part in the dancing competitions at local fleadhanna this year, with a special promotion designed to make participation easier and more accessible. While dancing competitions have always been available at fleadhanna, this year Comhaltas in Britain is aiming for increased participation to ensure that the Set Dancing, Céilí Dancing, and Sean-nós Dancing communities can come together throughout the year to celebrate and share their love of dance.

Competitions are offered across **ten dancing categories**, covering multiple age groups and experience levels:

- **Rince Céilí Ochtair, Mná** – 8-Hand Céilí Dancing, Ladies
- **Rince Céilí Ochtair, Measctha** – 8-Hand Céilí Dancing, Mixed
- **Rince Céilí Ceathrair, Mná** – 4-Hand Céilí Dancing, Ladies
- **Rince Céilí Ceathrair, Measctha** – 4-Hand Céilí Dancing, Mixed
- **Rince Seit, Mná** – Full Set, Ladies
- **Rince Seit, Measctha** – Full Set, Mixed
- **Rince Leathsheit, Measctha** – Half Set, Mixed
- **Rince Seit, Measctha, Os cionn 35** – Full Set, Mixed, O-35
- **Rince Seit, Mná, Os cionn 35** – Full Set, Ladies, O-35
- **Rince ar an Sean Nós**

Musical accompaniment for dancing competitions

For Sean-nós and Céilí dancing competitions, musicians will be provided by the fleadh. Set dancing teams should note that they are required to bring or provide their own musicians, with up to a maximum of three musicians permitted. Recorded music is not permitted.

In a bid to encourage wider participation, this year Comhaltas in Britain is offering a **special promotional entry fee** for team events:

- **£10 for 4-hand teams**
- **£20 for 8-hand teams**

These rates apply regardless of membership status, making it easier than ever for dancers to take part. Solo sean-nós dancing competitions will follow the standard local fleadh entry fee.

The 2026 Regional Fleadhanna in Britain will take place on the following dates and venues:

- London & Southern: Sunday 22nd March, Salvatorian College, Harrow
- Midland: Sunday 19th April, Newman University, Birmingham
- Scottish: Sunday 26th April, Woodfarm Secondary School, Glasgow
- Northern: Saturday 9th May, Liverpool venue TBC

In addition to dancing, fleadhanna will feature the usual extensive categories of musical competitions, from fiddle, tin whistle, bodhrán, singing, whistling, and lilting, giving musicians of all ages and abilities a chance to perform.

Please note: All entries must be submitted to your regional fleadh secretary no later than 6 weeks before the date of your regional fleadh.

Full dancing fleadh rules, along with details of CCÉ-approved sets and half-sets (Coiste Rince), are available on the [Comhaltas website](#).

For more information about the entry process in your region, contact your regional secretary:

- London & Southern: John Goulding - johnngoulding@comhaltas.co.uk
- Midland Region: Carmel Burke - irishtadmusic4all@gmail.com
- Northern Region: Karen Lacy-Roberts - karenlacyroberts@comhaltas.co.uk
- Scottish Region: Roisin Reid - comhaltasnahalban@comhaltas.co.uk

If you have any questions about the competitions, please email: info@comhaltas.co.uk

“Dancing competitions are a wonderful way to celebrate Irish culture and bring communities together,” said Erin Watson, Outreach and Development Community Project Officer, Comhaltas in Britain. “By encouraging more participation this year, we hope to strengthen connections between dancers across Britain and celebrate the joy of Set Dancing, Céilí Dancing, and Sean-nós Dancing at fleadhanna throughout the year.”

Whether experienced performers or first-time competitors, dancers in Britain now have a golden opportunity to take part in one of the most vibrant traditions of Irish music and dance.