



# Roscommon Traditional Music School

## SCHOOL AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

The primary aim of the school is to provide a high-quality, safe environment for children and adults to learn traditional Irish music. The ultimate goal is to foster a community of traditional music players in Roscommon and as a result, raise the quality of musicianship in Roscommon and increase the repertoire of all musicians.

It is important to us to develop connections in the community and for students to have a multitude of experiences in performance. As such, we have developed a range of activities towards these goals.

The initial first term of the school will focus on delivering high quality individual lessons and getting students comfortable with their chosen instruments and teachers. As we move forward, we have a range of exciting endeavours to come!

### SCHOOL CONCERTS

We would like students to get plenty of playing experience.

In Term 1 each student will have the opportunity to perform 2-3 minutes solo in a showcase alongside fellow students. This will allow students an opportunity to perform a piece they have learned and also the wonderful opportunity to hear each other in a supportive environment with parents and families in the audience.

In Term 2 we expect to prepare the students for a Christmas concert which will be open to the local community.

In Term 3 we hope students to be prepared to perform in a larger-scale end of year concert. Students will perform solos, some duets and others in groups or bands. It will be open to the public and an important goal for students to look forward to.

### CÉILÍ BANDS

A top priority for the development of our students will be to form a Céili Band. In fact, we hope that there will be several! We will have a beginner's band, for practising playing together. As the school grows, we will have multiple bands. The community bands will provide playing experience for all levels. Students will be able to play in a band that is suitable for their level and perform at local events and gigs. For the highest-level, competition bands will be invitation only to the students at a level to compete.

### TRAD ORCHESTRA

Students will be invited to join the school orchestra once they have enough experience playing or have reached a certain level of playing. The orchestra will be playing performances in the local community and will be a main stay of the end of year concerts.

### DUETS, TRIOS, AND GROUPS

Students can apply to be placed in duets, trios or groups for performance. This will give them an opportunity to make friends in the school with similar interests while also learning to play together and training for performances or competitions.

## CHOIR

With an excellent Sean Nós singer instructor working with the school we will be launching a school choir. The choir will sing songs in Irish and will be training for performances in the community.

## SLOW SESSIONS

These sessions will be run by one of our teachers for children of certain age groups. The idea is students can learn about sessions playing in a safe and fun environment. They can be mentored by our tutors and try out tunes they have learnt throughout their time with RTMS.

## GROUP DRAMA

From next year, students will be able to enrol in group drama for performance. They will have three performances each year, at least one of which will be in partnership with the Roscommon Arts Centre. One of these performances will be scenes from a Shakespeare play (matching the Leaving Certificate syllabus). The second of these will be scenes or a short play from Irish writers. The third will be a Christmas show or pantomime. The drama group will also work alongside students of the choir to perform in musicals.

## TUNE A WEEK

This group is for advanced players who are out there in the community playing at sessions and aren't taking lessons. It is for musicians who want to increase their repertoire and meet new people. The group meets once a week for an hour and learns a new tune and then plays it.

## LEARN ABOUT MUSIC

This is a group class for children aged 3-5 where they can try out instruments and learn a bit about music in a fun way. Possibly a Summer camp or a weekend activity.

## CHILDREN'S UKELE GROUP

Again another group class aimed at children aged 5-6. This is something for them to do before they are old enough to enrol in the school. It's a class that can run on a Saturday.

## RADIO SHOWS

Our founder, Ash, hosts a local radio show for traditional music on Ros fm. Students will be invited to play on the radio either solo or in groups. This will be a great experience for them and something to aim towards as a goal.

## MUSIC VIDEO AND RECORDING WORKSHOPS

Ash will be teaching the older students how to record their own music videos. In the workshops they will learn about lighting, mics, recording equipment and a bit of editing so they can put together their own music videos to help with self promotion. We will do the same thing for recording music for home studios.

## INSTRUMENT HIRE

The school buys several instruments that parents can hire for the children. These are then either returned at the end of the school year or bought at a rate reduced equal to the rental cost.

## INSTRUMENT BUY BACK

If you have bought an instrument through the school, we will buy the instrument back from you to be used in our rental schemes. This will guarantee you some return on investment if you / your child stops playing. Rather than the instrument gathering dust, it can help another student on the outset of their music journey.

## O'ROURKE'S TRADITIONAL MUSIC SHOP

We are proudly launching a music shop. This will cater to the needs of our students by selling instruments that have been approved by our teachers to be quality instruments suitable for beginners. Of course we will also stock instruments for improvers and advanced players. We will take part exchange on instruments to help save you money. We will be selling all sorts of every day accessories such as replacement strings, straps, tuners, music books and CDs. We will also operate a setup and repair service which we will do inhouse with our network of skilled and professional music repairs people.





# Roscommon Traditional Music School

## LESSONS IN MUSIC

Our staff of teachers are all experts in Irish traditional music, and on their instruments. We have brought together some of the most talented teachers in the county and beyond to form the RTMS.

It is our goal to provide our students with the very best quality tuition possible.

Each student is different and so each lesson will be tailored to the individual needs and requirements of each student, making it a unique learning experience.

Each teacher has their own unique style of teaching and some of them specialize in a certain regional style of Traditional playing. These unique styles will be passed on to the students through the playing of their teaching.

What each teacher covers in their class will be different, but most music lessons will include:

- Techniques idiosyncratic to the instrument such as
  - ◆ Bowing
  - ◆ Bellows control
  - ◆ Breath control
  - ◆ Posture
  - ◆ General techniques
  - ◆ Learning notes
  - ◆ Finger placement
  - ◆ Scales
  - ◆ Chords
  - ◆ Simple tunes
  - ◆ Improving tone
  - ◆ Rhythm
  - ◆ Timing
  
- Advanced techniques / ornamentation
  - ◆ Rolls
  - ◆ Trebles
  - ◆ Triplets
  - ◆ Slides
  - ◆ Hammer ons
  - ◆ Popping
  - ◆ Bass notes and harmonies
  - ◆ Double stopping
  - ◆ Drone notes
  
- Reading music
  - ◆ Notation
  - ◆ ABC
  - ◆ Chord charts
  - ◆ Tabs
  - ◆ How to join tunes
  - ◆ Key signatures



# Roscommon Traditional Music School

## LESSONS IN POETRY OR SPEECH AND DRAMA

RTMS provides lessons in both Poetry and Speech and Drama. These disciplines are interlinked and complement each other. Many students will benefit from taking both courses, while others will prefer to focus on one. This document has been put together by our teacher Alexandra to help you choose what's best for your interests and goals.

### **POETRY**

There is a wonderful depth to the Poetry course, allowing students the opportunity to learn how to use their voice with an aim towards performance, while also deepening their understanding of poetical writing. Students in this course will be taught to read poetry aloud using a variety of techniques including voice and breath control, vocal modulation, pace variation, inflection, and more. The aim of the course is to provide students with the confidence and ability to perform a selection of poetry, however performance is never a requirement. For those who wish to explore poetry simply for fun, or as a mental exercise in memorisation, this course is also suitable.

Students will also learn how to analyse poetry, and be able to discuss aspects of poetry such as imagery, rhyme, style, tone, theme and so on. This will be of great benefit to students when taking the Junior and Leaving Certificate exams in English. There is not currently an examination grade in poetry alone.

### **SPEECH AND DRAMA**

The aim of the Speech and Drama course is to provide students with a range of skills needed to perform in a variety of disciplines. While the Speech and Drama course also contains a great deal of poetry, it has a wider emphasis on other types of performance. The course includes informal and formal talks, improvisation, prose reading, performance of monologues or condensed scenes, and mime. There are grade examinations available in Speech and Drama, but for those who are not interested in examinations, the course is ideally suited to those who wish to develop their performance ability. It allows students to explore a range of drama and modes of performance.

It is also immensely helpful in building confidence and essential skills in public speaking.

### **TAKING BOTH COURSES**

While poetry is part of Speech and Drama, the Poetry course focuses solely on Poetry. If a student enrolls in both courses, the poetry element of the Speech and Drama course will be minimised to allow a greater depth of focus on the other elements of the course.

If you are interested in taking the Speech and Drama Grade exams, taking both courses will accelerate your learning. You will focus on poetry in your poetry lesson, and develop your other skills in your Speech and Drama course.

If you are not interested in taking the Speech and Drama Grade exams, there is similar benefit in taking both courses as you will develop your performance skills at twice the pace with both classes. Students enrolled in both courses will be able to enjoy the greater depth of study in the Poetry course, while expanding their experience of other types of drama in the Speech and Drama course.



# Roscommon Traditional Music School

## TERM DATES

### Term 1

1. 9<sup>th</sup> September
2. 16<sup>th</sup> September
3. 23<sup>rd</sup> September
4. 30<sup>th</sup> September
5. 7<sup>th</sup> October
6. 14<sup>th</sup> October
7. 21<sup>st</sup> October  
28<sup>th</sup> October – *NO LESSONS (Midterm)*
8. 4<sup>th</sup> November
9. 11<sup>th</sup> November
10. 18<sup>th</sup> November

### Term 2

1. 25<sup>th</sup> November
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> December
3. 9<sup>th</sup> December
4. 16<sup>th</sup> December  
23<sup>rd</sup> December – *NO LESSONS (Christmas)*  
30<sup>th</sup> December – *NO LESSONS (New Year)*
5. 6<sup>th</sup> January
6. 13<sup>th</sup> January
7. 20<sup>th</sup> January
8. 27<sup>th</sup> January
9. 3<sup>rd</sup> February
10. 10<sup>th</sup> February  
17<sup>th</sup> February – *NO LESSONS (Midterm)*

### Term 3

1. 24<sup>th</sup> February
2. 3<sup>rd</sup> March
3. 10<sup>th</sup> March
4. 17<sup>th</sup> March
5. 24<sup>th</sup> March  
31<sup>st</sup> March – *NO LESSONS (Midterm)*
6. 7<sup>th</sup> April  
14<sup>th</sup> April – *NO LESSONS (Easter)*  
21<sup>st</sup> April – *NO LESSONS (Easter)*
7. 28<sup>th</sup> April
8. 5<sup>th</sup> May
9. 12<sup>th</sup> May
10. 19<sup>th</sup> May



# Roscommon Traditional Music School

## PRICING DETAILS

Lessons are paid for in advance, per term.

Each term consists of 10 lessons, and an End-of-Term showcase or concert.

An electronic booking form will be sent to you via email.

When this has been completed, we will send you a lesson timetable and invoice for payment.

We are happy to offer a discount to families who have multiple children taking lessons with us.

We also offer the same discount when a child takes up lessons in a second or third instrument.

The payment deadline for Term 1 is Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2024.

The payment deadline for Term 2 is Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.

The payment deadline for Term 3 is Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2025.

If payment has not been received by the deadline unfortunately we cannot hold places as our teachers are fully scheduled and we already have students on a waiting list for places.

30 minutes is the standard lesson at RTMS.

However, we understand that children under age 8 may benefit from a shorter lesson of 20 minutes, while older, experienced students may prefer a longer lesson. If you would like to discuss what would be best for you / your child, please feel free to contact us to discuss your needs.

We will generally recommend a 30 minute lesson.

<b>TERM PRICES</b>	<b>First instrument</b>	<b>Second instrument or sibling 10% discount</b>	<b>Third or more instrument or sibling 20% discount</b>
<b>20 minutes</b> <i>for Under 8s</i>	<b>€200</b> <i>€20 per lesson</i>	<b>€180</b> <i>€18 per lesson</i>	<b>€160</b> <i>€16 per lesson</i>
<b>30 minutes</b> <i>Standard Lesson</i>	<b>€250</b> <i>€25 per lesson</i>	<b>€225</b> <i>€22.50 per lesson</i>	<b>€200</b> <i>€20 per lesson</i>
<b>45 minutes</b> <i>for Adults or Experienced</i>	<b>€450</b> <i>€45 per lesson</i>	<b>€405</b> <i>€40.50 per lesson</i>	<b>€360</b> <i>€36 per lesson</i>
<b>60 minutes</b> <i>for Advanced Students</i>	<b>€600</b> <i>€60 per lesson</i>	<b>€540</b> <i>€54 per lesson</i>	<b>€480</b> <i>€48 per lesson</i>

**Registration fee of €30 is payable per family.**