



Cruit Éireann  
Harp Ireland

# Resonance: Bridging Tradition and Tomorrow



Strategic Plan  
2025-2030

# Our living tradition

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Photo: Matthew Rose-Niel

# Our past and our future

# Welcome

Irish harping holds a unique and profound place in our cultural identity. It is both our past and our future — a vibrant tradition that speaks to who we are and what we can become; our harpers are its beating heart.

At Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland (CÉHI), we honour our living tradition every day, championing the people, places, and practices that sustain it.

Le seoladh ár straitéise nua, cuimhnímis ar cheannródaithe na cruite a d’imigh romhainn. Bhí fíis uailmhianach acu maidir le hathbheochan agus cur chun cinn na cruitireachta, sháraigh siad constaicí a linne chun an fhíis seo a aimsiú. Go maire a gcuimhne buan.

Breis is seasca bliain faoi lán seoil, tá céim úrnua tógtha ag cuitirí comhaimseartha agus straitéis do shochaí na cruitireachta curtha i láthair anseo againn.

As Chair of the Board of CÉHI and its advisory group, I am proud to present our 2025–2030 strategy, *Resonance: Bridging Tradition and Tomorrow*. Developed through consultation with our harping community and stakeholders, and with the generous support of our funding partners, this strategy sets out a clear and ambitious vision for the future of Irish harping.

At its heart are two transformative goals: the creation of the World Centre for Irish Harping in Dublin, and the sustainable growth of our organisation. Together, these goals will ensure that the harp continues to inspire and unite future generations across Ireland and beyond.

We invite you to join us in forging an ambitious destiny for harping – as harpers, audiences, partners, and friends – to ensure the resonance of Irish harping is felt long into the future.

**Aibhlín McCrann**

Chair, Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland

# Introduction

Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland (CÉHI) is the national organisation dedicated to developing, promoting and sustaining Irish harping. Since our establishment in 2016, we have worked with harpers, educators, harp makers, and audiences across Ireland and around the world to celebrate the harp's enduring cultural importance and future potential.

*Resonance: Bridging Tradition and Tomorrow* focuses on two key priorities:

- 1** The creation of the World Centre for Irish Harping in Dublin — a national cultural asset and international hub for performance, learning, innovation and heritage.
- 2** The sustainable development of CÉHI as an organisation, ensuring we have the structure, people and resources to support harpers and the wider public for generations to come.



People, place and programme underpin our strategy; they will guide our work across three progressive phases:

**Find our Place**  
**Make it our Home**  
**Welcome the World**

We have laid the groundwork for the future of Irish harping; the next five years are critical to securing its sustainable future and creating a permanent home for this vibrant tradition. The World Centre for Irish Harping will deliver an unparalleled space for performance, education, and collaboration; we will strengthen its operational capacity to support harpers and audiences across Ireland.

Moving from vision to action we will create an environment where Irish harping is cherished, practiced and shared at home and internationally.



# Our Vision, Mission and Values

## Vision

A world-class environment where Irish harping flourishes and thrives.

## Mission

- Develop and promote Irish Harping nationally and internationally.
- Establish the World Centre for Irish harping.
- Build a strong foundation to sustain programming and the Centre.
- Support harpers and harp makers to safeguard the tradition for future generations.

## Values

### Resonance |

Honouring the legacy of Irish harping while embracing modernity.

### Excellence |

Encouraging artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation.

### Inclusivity |

Ensuring equal access to harping for all.

### Sustainability |

Creating a future where harping and CÉHI can thrive together.



# Fulfilling our ambition for harping

Photo: Martin Keenan



# Safeguarding harping for future generations

# Our Strategic Pillars and Objectives

## Place

- Establish the World Centre for Irish Harping in Dublin.
- Strengthen CÉHI's national infrastructure and operational headquarters.
- Secure long-term sustainability for the organisation and the tradition.

## People

- Support harpers at all levels through mentorship, education and development.
- Foster staff training and organisational resilience.
- Support harp makers, promoting innovation and craftsmanship.
- Build national and international audiences, ensuring ongoing relevance and engagement.

## Programme

- Express the diversity of the harping tradition through impactful, artistic and educational programming.
- Broaden the scope of Lá na Cruite | Harp Day nationally and internationally, positioning CÉHI as a leader in cultural celebration.
- Balance cultural preservation with contemporary engagement.

Photo: Pat Moore

# Our Approach

## Phase 1 | Find Our Place

- Strengthen core operations and lay the foundations for the Centre.
- Conduct feasibility studies and stakeholder engagement.
- Deepen partnerships and diversify income streams.

## Phase 2 | Make It Our Home

- Develop the Centre, pilot new programmes and build capacity.
- Expand staff and enhance governance structures.
- Deliver ambitious pilot programming that reflects the Centre's potential.

## Phase 3 | Welcome the World

- Launch the Centre and scale up cultural programming.
- Host international collaborations, events and exchanges.
- Integrate Centre operations with national activity for sustainable growth.

# Find our place Make it our home Welcome the world



Photo: Martin Keenan

# Supporting the Harping Community

We remain deeply committed to supporting Ireland's diverse and evolving harping community – from learners to professional artists, from harp makers to teachers.

- Provide more frequent and inclusive performance opportunities for harpers of all levels.
- Expand access to grants, mentorship, and peer learning.
- Invest in new educational resources tailored to schools, teachers, and learners.
- Enhance regional outreach by developing programmes in underserved areas.
- Partner with harp makers to support training, innovation, and visibility.
- Facilitate community networks and shared learning events.
- Strengthen our role as a responsive and supportive resource hub.



# Nurturing Partnerships and Collaboration

We will work collaboratively to increase impact, expand reach, and enhance the visibility of Irish harping nationally and internationally.

- Develop co-curated projects with Irish arts organisations and festivals.
- Partner with cultural, educational, and heritage institutions across Ireland and abroad.
- Engage new funders and sponsors through shared strategic goals.
- Build deeper links with international networks and the global Irish diaspora.
- Nurture cross-border and cross-sector collaboration opportunities.



# Enhancing Engagement, Inclusion and Digital Access

We will build new pathways for participation, ensuring our work reflects and includes the diversity of Irish society.

- Invest in digital tools that offer accessible experiences for all users.
- Offer hybrid and remote participation in key events and programmes.
- Translate programming insights to better reach new audiences.
- Collaborate with local communities to tell new stories of harping in Ireland.
- Champion inclusive practice from communications to programme design.

**A world-class environment  
where Irish harping  
flourishes and thrives**



Photo: Martin Keenan

# Fostering Environmental and Social Responsibility

We are committed to embedding sustainability and social value into everything we do, with a strong focus on place-based and community engagement.

- Integrate sustainability policies across operations, programming, and planning.
- Engage with local communities to co-design meaningful cultural initiatives.
- Foster environmental responsibility through programming themes and partnerships.
- Amplify the role of Irish harping in cultural wellbeing, inclusion and public value.



# Ensuring Organisational Strength

To deliver on our ambitions, CÉHI must be a resilient, well-managed and adaptable organisation.

- Invest in professional development and staff wellbeing.
- Strengthen internal systems for finance, HR, compliance and reporting.
- Support board development, leadership succession and trustee diversity.
- Create agile processes for planning, monitoring and decision-making.
- Embed strong data practices to inform evidence-based strategy.



# Measuring Impact

We will evaluate and communicate our progress to ensure learning, accountability and continuous improvement.

- Define annual performance indicators for core activity, public benefit and organisational health.
- Build feedback loops with artists, partners and participants.
- Undertake regular programme reviews and publish annual impact summaries.
- Track digital engagement and audience demographics.
- Use impact data to shape strategy, communications and investment priorities.



Photo: Tom Honan

# Supporting and promoting Irish harp makers

# Ár mBuíochas

Míle buíochas dóibh siúd a dtugann tacaíocht dúinn.

- Our community of harpers, learners, and harp makers
- Our audiences, volunteers and partners across Ireland and worldwide
- The Arts Council, An Chomhairle Ealaíon, The Heritage Council, An Chomhairle Oidhreachta, other government departments and agencies
- Our Board, advisory group, staff, and those who support our mission.

We are deeply grateful to all who contribute to the life and growth of CÉHI.

The future of  
Irish harping  
is in our hands –  
a living tradition and  
our national emblem.

## Our Board

Aibhlín McCrann, *Chair*

Eithne Benson, *Secretary*

Aileen Kennedy, *Treasurer*

John Crawley, Dr Eibhlís Farrell, Deirdre Granville,  
Gráinne O’Hogan, Tomás MacUileagóid, Sharon Rollston,  
Frances Tansey, Dr Éimear O’Connor

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## Our Advisory Group

Catríona Cannon, Sharon Carroll, Cormac De Barra,  
Fiona Gryson, Gráinne Hambly, Dr Janet Harbison,  
Kathleen Loughnane, Aisling Lyons, Deirdre Ní Bhuachalla,  
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Harp Foundation Ireland CLG t/a Cruit Éireann, Harp Ireland | Company Number: 614434

Charity Number: 22367 | Charities Regulatory Authority Number: 20203969

Registered in Dublin.

Registered office: c/o Communiqué International, 26, Herbert Place. Dublin 2.

A chlár buadha as bláith mínlearg,  
a mhonghárach mhéirfhirdhearg,  
a cheóladhach do chealg sinn,  
a dhearg leómhanach láinbhinn

O choice instrument of the smooth, gentle curve,  
thou that criest under red fingers,  
musician that hast enchanted us,  
red harp, high-souled, perfect in melody.

Gofraidh Fionn Ó Dálaigh,  
'Ireland's arch-professor of poetry' (d1387?)