

The Remembering Bunting Festival

18 - 19th February 2022

Belfast

Free concerts, special guest speakers , film
screenings and more

★★★★
*Entertainment
that enlightens
and inspires*

★★★★





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inspires...*

Exploring rich cultural musical history and heritage through honouring the important and significant work of Edward Bunting

About

In 2017, Dún Uladh Cultural Resource Centre hosted the first Remembering Bunting Festival with outstanding panel discussions, lectures, film screenings, workshops and performances centred around deepening the understanding of the life and work of Ireland's Edward Bunting.

The festival offers lessons and insights which can be drawn from his ubiquitous legacy with an aim to contribute to an inclusive, positive and peaceful future. A celebration that is built upon an underlying ethos of inclusion, it values, supports, encourages and promotes cultural activities as a unifier amongst diverse communities across the province of Ulster. It continues to do this by building, growing and maintaining like-minded partnerships with other musical traditions of the area.

The Festival enjoyed its inaugural celebration in 2018. Since then, it has gone from strength to strength building upon a growing comprehensive roster of stellar, world class musicians, guest scholars, film makers, authors and distinguished guest speakers both local and international.

Who is Edward Bunting?

Born in Armagh in 1773, Edward Bunting was a prolific collector of traditional songs and tunes. His three volumes of *The Ancient Music of Ireland*, were published in 1796, 1809 and 1840 respectively.

Edward began formal music studies at the young age of seven in Drogheda, county Louth. He showed such great promise that by age eleven, he was scouted and became apprentice to William Ware, organist of St. Anne's Parish. Later, he became the church organist at St. George's Parish Church, High Street Belfast before the last chapter of his professional and personal life took place in Dublin, where he is buried.

Edward Bunting was born to a Catholic mother and a Church of Ireland father. Whilst in Belfast, he resided at the home of the famous McCracken family and became somewhat of an "adopted" member of that Presbyterian family having stayed with them for thirty-five formative years! At age nineteen, with the shared interests and formidable support of the siblings, Mary Ann McCracken and Henry Joy McCracken, the classically trained and most competently skilled young Bunting was put to the task of transcribing the music presented at the Belfast Harpers' Gathering in 1792 for the purpose of preserving what was referred to as the "ancient melodies of Ireland".

His love and devotion to music found him living a rich life within the varying traditions, cultures and religions of the communities of Belfast city. By his own account, he developed a particularly strong, innate love of the old Irish melodies which he believed were unrivalled by any other country. Thus, his famous reputation was sown.

Lost for many years, Bunting's collective works contain invaluable clues and commentary that reveal both the practices and perceptions of his time, preserving both precious history and heritage. In 1916, Omagh musician, composer and music collector Charlotte Milligan Fox (1864-1916), Founder and Secretary of the London Irish Folk Song Society in 1904, bequeathed a vast proportion of his manuscripts to Queen's University, Belfast where they presently remain.

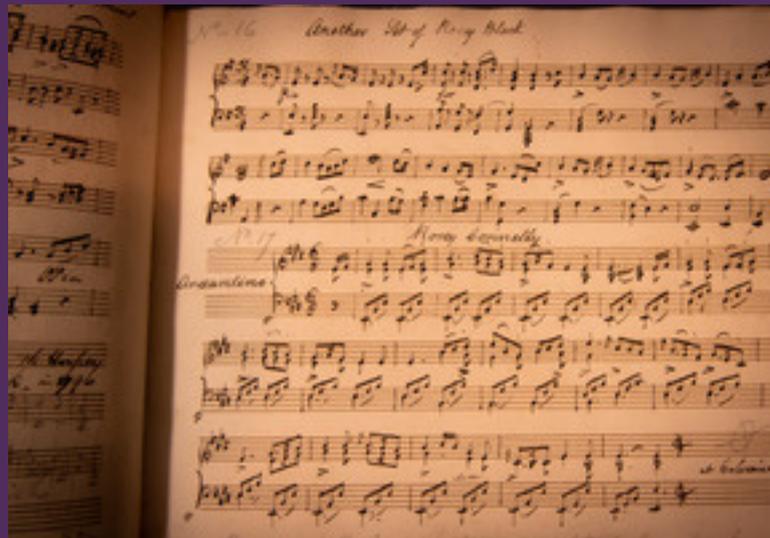
Edward Bunting's contribution to traditional music cannot be overstated and his story, our story, continues to live on through the music of today both knowingly and oft times, even unknowingly!

The CEOL Project

The Community Engagement, Outreach and Liaison Project (CEOL) was initiated by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann through its Regional Resource Centre, Dún Uladh in 2016. The CEOL Project values and promotes cultural activities as a unifier amongst diverse communities across Ulster which enable all communities to feel comfortable accessing the traditional music of Ireland.

Leading up to the Remembering Bunting Festival, a group of musicians are assembled to share, exchange and explore their musical heritages and traditions with one another through bespoke workshops and activities. Each year, under partnered mentorship of accomplished community music leaders, the group prepares and rehearses repertoire to perform for the public as part of the festival in celebration with a new, shared pride.

CEOL has enabled Comhaltas in Ulster to develop links with similar organizations within the Scottish pipe band sector, such as our project colleagues the Northern Ireland Piping and Drumming School and the Music Service for Pipes and Drums. This continues to facilitate exciting new relationships and musical collaborations that explore, showcase and celebrate our shared musical heritage.



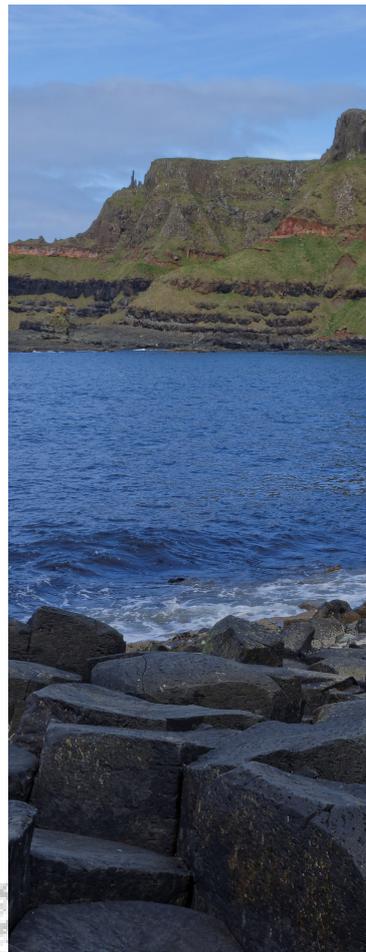
Friday 18th February

Ulster Scots Culture Talks | 6pm, Ulster Scots Centre, Belfast | Free event

Explore our shared traditions and culture across the province and with an illuminated talk around history of the Ulster Scots/cultural expression and more. With special guest speakers, education officer at the Ulster Scots Centre, Matthew Warick and musician and writer Fintan Vallely hosting a talk exploring Irish traditional music, its origins, links to identity in Northern Ireland and its role in building a shared society. Refreshments served.

Pipes of Peace concert | 7pm, Ulster Scots Centre, Belfast | Free event

Following the talks, a fantastic night of the music traditions so dear to Ulster are explored and celebrated in dynamic style. The '*Pipes of Peace*' project demonstrates the crossover of the sharing of Scottish and Irish tunes on Scottish Border Pipes played by Ian Burrows and Uilleann Pipes played by Kenny Qua. For centuries the tunes of Scotland and Ireland have been shared by Scottish Pipers and Irish trad Musicians, Ian and Kenny will give examples and play tunes that have been shared down through the years to this day.





Saturday 19th February

Exhibition of the original Bunting Manuscripts

12 pm | Queens University Belfast, Special Collections/Archive | Free event

Special Collections & Archives at Queen's University Belfast has held the Edward Bunting Collection since it was bequeathed in 1916. The earliest manuscript dates from the Belfast Harp Festival of 1792. A number of Bunting's unique manuscripts along with original accession letters will be displayed in the Special Collections Reading Room. Assistant Librarian in Special Collections, Kriss Leslie, will introduce these manuscripts and attendees will then be invited to peruse those on display. Additional Bunting manuscripts and publications are available online at www.rememberingbuntingfestival.com. **Pre-booking is essential as places are limited. Please email specialcollections@qub.ac.uk to secure your place.**

Part of a bigger picture: A glimpse into different worlds via the Bunting archives with Dr. Moyra Haslett & Ciara Conway

1:30 pm | Old Staff Common Room Main University Building (Lanyon), Queen's University Belfast | Free event

Intriguing and unexpected, a panel of experts share and discuss information and insights that have been uncovered through the study of The Bunting archive. Hosted by Dr. Moyra Haslett, current co-editor of The Oxford Handbook of Irish Song. Along with PhD candidate, Ciara Conway, they share their collective and individual research to shed light on the subject of how the Bunting collections offer an unrivalled glimpse into different worlds immediately followed by a panel discussion. Refreshments available.

Documentary Screening : Belfast 1792 - The Hub of the Harp and Q&A with Film maker, Bernard Conlon

4pm | 2 Royal Avenue, Belfast | Free event

Screening of film maker, Bernard Conlon's 25 minute documentary film, Belfast 1792 - The Hub of the Harp which offers great introductory insight into why we still celebrate the work of Edward Bunting today. The film describes the events surrounding the 1792 Belfast Harpers Assembly, which took place in the Assembly Rooms building at the junction of Donegall and Waring streets. It touches upon the 220th anniversary in 2012 which was an event that took place in the Central Library to commemorate it. This event revealed research about the life and times of Arthur (Art) O'Neill, one of the oldest harpers at the Assembly as carried out by Eugene Dunphy. The film highlights an era in Belfast when there was common purpose and great cultural and political dynamic. Following the screening, Bernard will be available for a short Q & A period.

CEOL band performance

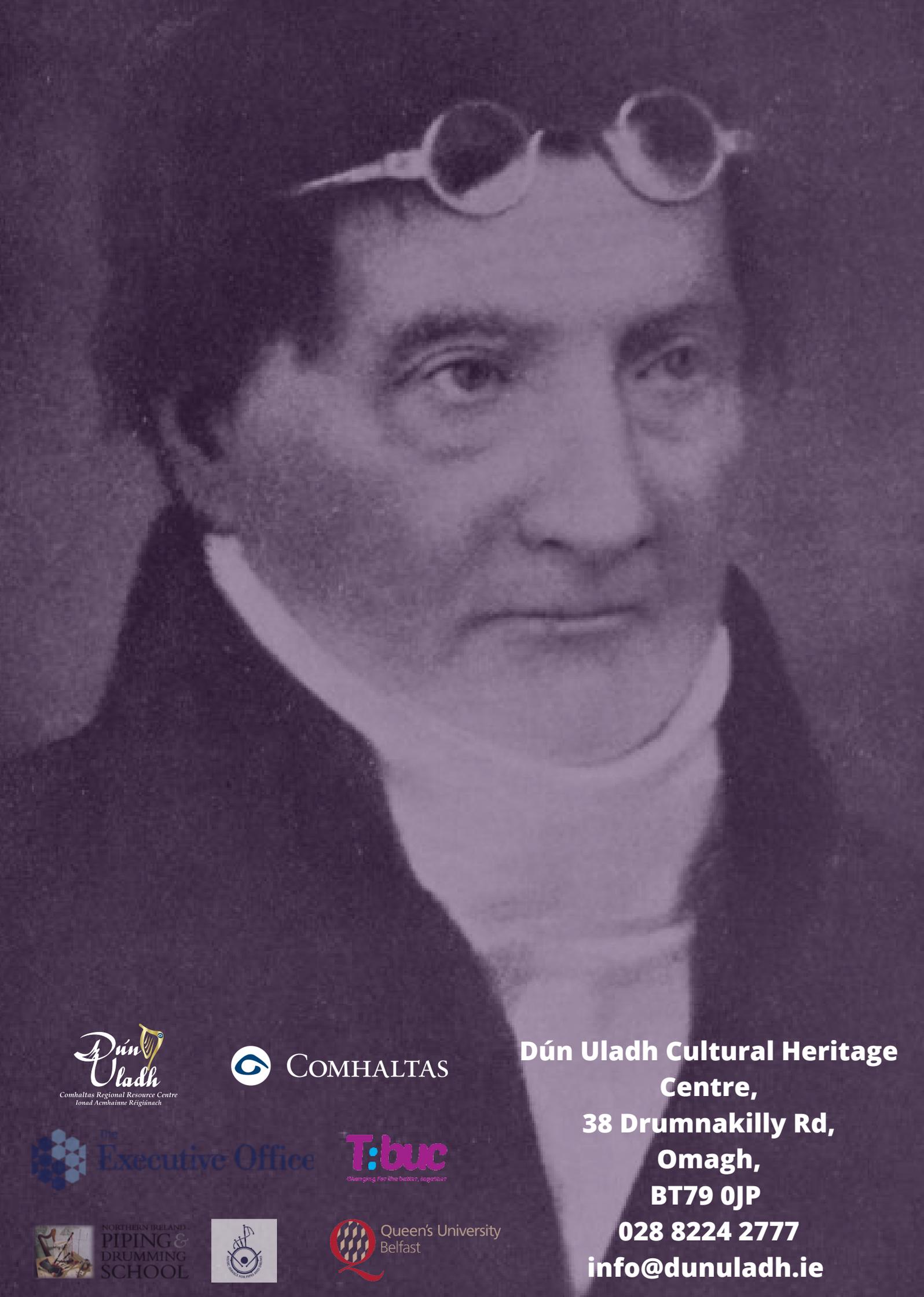
7:00pm | 2 Royal Avenue, Belfast | Free event

This 15 piece cross community youth band, is drawn from members of Ulster Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann branches and the Northern Ireland Piping & Drumming School and the Music Service for Pipes and Drums. They will perform an exciting showcase of tunes and songs that shine a light on the continuing involvement of their shared heritage of traditional music.

Headlining performance - Daoirí Farrel trio

8:00pm | 2 Royal Avenue, Belfast | Free event

Singer and bouzouki player Daoirí (pronounced 'Derry') Farrell is described by some of the biggest names in Irish folk music as one of the most important singers to come out of Ireland in recent years. Six months after releasing the album 'True Born Irishman' Daoirí won two prestigious BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards 2017 for Best Newcomer and Best Traditional Track, and performed live at the awards ceremony at London's Royal Albert Hall. Since then he has toured the UK, and played at festivals in Australia, Canada, the UK, Belgium, Denmark and more. In February 2018 he toured with the all-star Transatlantic Sessions in major venues across the UK. Daoirí released his new album 'A Lifetime Of Happiness', produced by Dónal Lunny, in February 2019 and in Ireland was nominated for three RTE Folk Awards that year. He is joined by uilleann piper Mark Redmond and bodhran player Robbie Walsh as the Daoirí Farrell Trio. **Tickets available on www.dunuladh.ie or call the centre on 028 8224 2777.**



Comhaltas Regional Resource Centre
Ionad Acmhainne Réigiúnach



COMHALTAS



The Executive Office



Changing for the better, together



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