

ARMAGH PIPERS CLUB



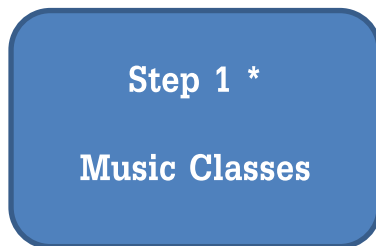
Handbook 2011-2012

Armagh Pipers Club

Education Programme * 2011/12

Armagh Pipers Club is a school of excellence for traditional music. The Club is renowned worldwide for both the quality of teaching and the performance experiences we've given our students for the past 45 years.

Armagh Pipers Club has a 3 step Education Programme for all of its members:



Membership includes free access to all of the above. Attending only **Music Classes** will not give the same overall rounded experience that a developing traditional artist needs to achieve excellence.

Fees do not include admission to WKPF concerts, Burns Night, replacement strings or reeds, tin whistles, instrument loans or deposits.

The Armagh Pipers Club Education Programme is generously supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.



Step 1 : Music Classes

THE TIME AND THE PLACE

Armagh Pipers Club holds its classes in St Patrick's Grammar School, beside St Patricks Cathedral in Armagh on most Monday evenings throughout the academic school year. Please check the calendar in this handbook for dates.

There are two sessions of classes each Monday and a member may attend one or both if they wish at no extra charge - In fact, we encourage all members to broaden their musical knowledge if possible!

BEGINNERS

Ages 4-7 **6 – 6.30PM** Children's songs and musical games
(Instrumental beginners often attend this class as well)

Ages 7+ **6.30 – 7.30PM** Tin Whistle (Years 1 and 2 only)
6.30 – 7.30PM Fiddle, Flute, Pipes, Harp, Concertina,
Button Accordion, Banjo / Mandolin.

These classes are for pupils over 7 who have played Tin Whistle for at least a year

JUNIORS

Grades 2-4 Mostly **6.30 – 7.30PM** with some from **7.30 – 8.30PM**

SENIORS

Grades 6-8 Mostly **7.30 – 8.30PM** with some from **6.30 – 7.30PM**



THE TEACHERS

Armagh Pipers Club has sourced the best traditional musicians in the area to teach our classes. Many of our teachers are past-pupils of the Club and all of the teachers have experience in professional performance. For 2011-12 the Pipers Club teachers include:

PIPES: Tiarnán Ó Duinnchinn, Éamonn Curran, Brian Vallely, Sinéad Lennon, Jim Hanna

FLUTE: Martin Meehan, Gough Glenn, Emma Murphy

TIN WHISTLE: Louise Hughes, Órlaith Hughes, Conor Mallon, Emma Robinson

FIDDLE: Thomas Smyth, Justin Toner, Martina Murphy, Eithne Vallely, Emmet Mulholland, Niall Murphy, Rosie Smyth, Síle O Connor

BUTTON ACCORDION: Caroline Judge

BANJO / MANDOLIN: Mark Mohan, Dermot Mulholland, Justin Toner, Marian McGauley

HARP: Emer Mallon

CONCERTINA: Ciaran Hanna, Joan Kiernan

SINGING: Thirza Mulder, Eithne Vallely

Step 1 : Music Classes

MUSIC EDUCATION

Once registered, we'll assign each student to a class depending on their musical ability. Teaching is group-based, giving learners the experience of working with others to make music in a non-competitive atmosphere. We keep the number of students in each class low and every student will get the attention and instruction they need to succeed.

Beginners and junior pupils are taught using graded tutor books and CDs produced by APC. Members will be provided with a book of music or a CD at the beginning of the first semester. Additional music will be available to download from our website. There will be a charge for extra copies of APC books and CDs.

All pupils are taught to read music, enabling them to access the wide range of music publications available. Senior classes are taught aurally and pupils are expected to have their own recorder in class.

Where numbers justify it, there are separate classes for children and adults e.g. uilleann pipes and fiddle, otherwise classes cater for children and adults together

FURTHER STUDY

Students may sit graded music exams if they wish – Your teacher will advise you of the appropriate grade and the closing dates for entries. These exams are via the London College of Music and Armagh Pipers Club has a registered exam centre in Victoria Street. There are 3 exam dates spaced throughout the year – Check the calendar for the closing dates for entries.

The Club also has a large archive of recordings, music collections and tune/song transcriptions. Students can avail of computer programmes to transcribe tunes.

A completely unique facility is the Pipers Club uilleann pipe making workshop located in St Patrick's Trian, Armagh. Classes and weekend workshops are offered in pipe making and maintenance for all members.

INSTRUMENTS

Pupils are expected to provide their own instruments and advice on the purchase of suitable instruments can be obtained from Club tutors. It is important to buy the best instrument you can afford and to ensure that all valuable instruments are insured.

APC has a small stock of instruments which we lend to pupils already in the Club and who have been recommended by their tutor. Instrument loans are for one year only and must be returned in June 2011. Loan fee for this year will be £20 to cover insurance. In addition there will be a refundable deposit of £50 on loans of harps and pipes.



Step 2 : Family Session

Performance is essential for the learner to feel confident in playing their instrument and developing their playing style. Members are encouraged to play the new tunes learned in Music Classes. No matter what your skill level it is always valuable to play along with other musicians and different instruments.

All members and their families are expected to attend the Family Sessions each month, particularly if other members of the family play music. The Sessions take place in the Pearse Ogs Club, Armagh and they are a great way to learn new tunes and meet some of the other 240 members of the Armagh Pipers Club. Traditional music survived because it was passed down through different generations in this way. It's also a bit of craic!

The first half (7-8pm) caters for beginners and junior classes with simple tunes played at an easy pace. We take a break at 8 for tea and each family is asked to bring along some biscuits or cakes while we supply juice, tea and coffee. From 8.30 until 9.30 the session is for advanced musicians. Any parents who play are welcome to join in the session.

Step 3 : Trad @ the Trian

As well as learning music in the Classes and playing music in the Family Session, Trad @ the Trian gives the learner a unique opportunity to hear some of the most well-known professional artists performing just for the Armagh Pipers Club.

At each event we invite 2 professional artists - a singer and an instrumentalist - to perform at St Patrick's Trian, Armagh. The events are acoustic and unaccompanied so members can hear the artists' technique and style and learn from it. The following day Master class workshops are offered with the performers – free of charge to all members!

This is a truly exceptional opportunity and attendance at Trad @ the Trian will help the learner to understand styles, increase their repertoire and learn from some of the greatest musicians the traditional world has to offer – essential for the aspiring musician!

T@T Events 2011-12

OCTOBER 7th	Len Graham - Vocals	Mairtin Quinn - Accordion
DECEMBER 2nd	Rita Gallagher – Vocals	Kevin Crawford – Flute
FEBRUARY 3rd	Eamon O Donnachadha – Vocals	John Carty – Fiddle/Banjo
APRIL 13th	Maire Ni Cholim – Vocals	Zoe Conway - Fiddle

Anything else?

Loads! Burns Night, Concerts and other events; Professional performances all over Ireland and Scotland; CD, Radio and TV recordings; Volunteering opportunities; Career development, training and work experience.

Mark Donnelly Remembered

Mark Donnelly was associated with Armagh Pipers Club for more than 20 years, firstly as a pupil and later as the senior uilleann pipe tutor.

His family have generously offered to establish a yearly bursary fund to help uilleann pipe pupils in the Club advance their careers. Details of the bursary will be made available during the first semester and will also be online at www.armaghpipers.org

Read our 2010-11 Highlights to see what the Pipers Club got up to last year or check out our website to see what's happening now www.armaghpipers.org or **Armagh Pipers-Club** on

facebook

UILLEANN PIPE MAKING WORKSHOP

The uilleann pipe making workshop under the direction of Éamonn Curran is now in operation and we are taking orders for practise sets, half sets and full sets. During the year there will be a series of workshops in various aspects of pipe making, instrument maintenance, reed making etc.

Below are the workshop dates confirmed so far:

October	1 st – 2 nd	8 th – 9 th	15 th – 16 th
November	19 th – 20 th	26 th – 27 th	
December	3 rd – 4 th		



LOTTERY FUNDED

HIGHLIGHTS * SEPTEMBER 2010 TO AUGUST 2011

The 12 months from September 2010 to end of August 2011 have seen an unprecedented rise in the profile of the club reflected in growing numbers of pupils and tutors, the success of club projects, the numerous and diverse invitations to perform at home and abroad, the success of pupils in the LCM exams, recording programmes for UTV., RTE., and BBC., the establishment of the Mark Donnelly Bursary, the launch of the film 'A perfect passion', the exchange with Feis an Earraich, the 17th WKPF, the 12th Trad at the Trian series and the list goes on.

SEPTEMBER 2010

Registration on Monday 6th heralded the start of yet another year in the life of the club and the build up to the 45th Anniversary celebrations.

While all these activities highlighted different aspects of the club activities throughout the year the mainstay of the club was the ongoing weekly classes for some 250 pupils under the direction of 34 tutors. The success of the classes has been built on almost 45 years of dedicated work. The club is in a process of continual renewal with the pupils of yesterday moving on to become the teachers of today. The support and dedication of parents is fundamental to this process. This dedication which sees many parents making enormous sacrifices in the interests of their children, like driving round trips of anything from 1 to 3 hours weekly, has to be flagged up and respected.

Long may this threefold co-operation between parents, teachers and pupils thrive and keep the club going for another 45 years at least.

OCTOBER 2010

Brona Graham on banjo and Mark Dunlop on vocals featured at the October Trad at the Trian concert on Friday 1st October with master-classes on Saturday 2nd.

NOVEMBER 2010

The big event this month was of course the 17th William Kennedy Piping Festival which as usual brought musicians from all over the world to perform at this unique festival. The club hosted a 12 strong group from the Isle of Skye under the Feis an Earraich exchange programme. Club members contributed hugely to the festival with groups such as Macha and Canntaireachd playing at the big concerts, featuring in the loscaid gig at the Hooley in Hotel and everyone pulling their weight in numerous voluntary roles including airport pick ups, helping at concerts, selling raffle tickets and helping run the festival shop.



The awarding of the inaugural Mark Donnelly Bursary funded by the Donnelly family took place at the uilleann pipe concert with Conor Mallon taking the award and runner-up awards going to Caoimghin O Caolain and Ciaran Breen. The William Kennedy Festival also featured two showings of Sally Walmsley's wonderful film about the club entitled 'A perfect passion'.

Also in November 5th we had another great Trad at the Trian night featuring accordionist Gerry Lappin and singer Rosie Stewart.

DECEMBER 2010

Trad at the Trian in December featured young musicians from the club Niall Murphy on fiddle and Niall Hanna vocalist. This was a very important concert showcasing young talent from the club.

JANUARY 2011

The big event on the January calendar is 'BURNS NIGHT' which this year was a wonderful success once again. The event has now been held for a few years in the Pearse Og social club thanks to the support from the club.

Fiona Kelleher from Cork and Caoimhin Vallely now living in Cork were the featured guests in the first event of the New Year Trad at the Trian with the concert on Friday 7th and the master-classes on the 8th.

Celtic CONNECTIONS

The highlight of the month had to be the invitation to give two concerts during the world famous Celtic Connections Festival in Glasgow. The concerts on consecutive nights 20th and 21st in the Centre for Contemporary Arts in Glasgow featured Macha presenting a programme of songs in Irish and Scottish Gaelic.

FEBRUARY 2011

The 2nd term started off on February 11th with a wonderful Trad in the Trian concert featuring singer and flute player Christine Dowling and husband Martin a great fiddle player. This was a rare opportunity to hear this couple live and experience a workshop with such masters of their art the following morning.

MARCH 2011

The big March event was the 5th annual Armagh Pipers Club concert on the 13th which was a wonderful success with perhaps the best audience for many years. This concert is the annual showcase for the club with all the classes coming together in mixed ability groups under the direction of their tutors to present innovative and challenging sets of music, song and dance.

The concert was also the opening event of the St Patrick's Day festivities which culminated in two important concerts on the 18th & 19th March. The concert on the 18th featured 'Canntaireachd' and Macha as well as loscaid which includes quite a few of our members. The Navan Centre was packed to the doors for this



concert with many disappointed people who didn't get tickets in advance. The following night the venue was St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral where former pupils of Armagh Pipers Club played to a sellout audience. The two groups involved were Brian Finnegan's 'Flook' and the band Buille featuring Niall and Caoimhin Vallely backed by Donal Lunney with vocals from Karan Casey. The March Trad at the Trian featured concertina player Pdraig Rynne and vocalist Cathal Lynch who both took master-classes on the Saturday.

CEILI HOUSE RECORDING

The club also did a Ceili House recording on Sunday March 20th with guest musicians Niall and Caoimhin Vallely and singer Karan Casey. This was an hour long programme and featured instrumental and vocal pieces from club members.

APRIL 2011

The big event in April was the biannual trip to Skye for the exchange with Feis an Earraich. The group travelled in two mini-buses taking the Belfast/Stranraer ferry and then driving through the magnificent Scottish highlands where they eventually crossed the new Skye Bridge into the island. The group departed on April 10th and returned on the 16th. As usual this was a very worthwhile exchange on both a cultural and a social level. Our members took part enthusiastically in a huge range of activities from instrumental and singing classes to dancing classes and ceilis to shinty games and a talent competition organised by the pupils. The group played at the opening ceili night and also took part in various groups at the final concert. This project was generously supported by Colmcille.

On the 2nd & 3rd of April we had the Spring LCM exams while on Friday 1st the final Trad at the Trian concert took place with uilleann piper Tiarnan O Duinnchinn and singer/composer Ger Woulfe from Cork. The Saturday workshops were well attended and Ger Woulfe introduced the singers to the art of song writing.

MAY 2011

On May 26th members of the club spent an afternoon at the Navan Centre where they were recording playing music and being interviewed by Malachy Cush for his programme on UTV featuring Armagh.

JUNE 2011

In June we had the 3rd round of the London College of Music exams which now feature very much in the club curriculum. Since these graded exams were introduced some years ago pupils and teachers from the club have performed to a very high level with many Grade 8 distinctions being awarded. The academic aspect to traditional music is also being increasingly reflected in the numbers progressing to 3rd level music degree courses in Cork and Derry.

In June we also had two singing sessions on Saturday 11th for the younger singers who attend the 6pm singing class and the intermediate and senior singers. Once again the older singers gathered in the Armagh Public Library for a wonderful night of singing and socialising in the beautiful surroundings of the old library. Then on Sunday 12th we had the annual teachers barbeque accompanied by the torrential rain that we've come to expect. Monday 13th the final 'family session' took place in the Pearse Og social club.

June 4th saw club members participating in a sponsored session at Sainsbury's. This was very well received and valuable funds were raised to help cover the mounting costs of running the club. Sincere thanks to all those who gave up part of the day to play at this event.

JULY 2011

Canntaireachd were invited to play at a concert in the Ulster Hall on July 28th which was part of the Belfast City Council 'Piping is Class' Festival built around the European Pipe Band Championships. This concert featured internationally renowned bands 'Battlefield Band' and 'Red Hot Chili Pipers'. The group had played the previous year at this festival in the Europa Hotel so it was great to be invited back.



Brian and Eithne Vallely attended the Ceolas festival from the 4th to the 9th of July in South Uist one of the Western Isles included in the Outer Hebrides. This festival reflects the sort of ethos that the club represents – the bringing together of the various strands of Gaelic culture represented through music, song, dance, art and sense of place.

AUGUST 2011

The year ended with an action packed month of August including invitations to perform at the opening of the Transplant Games in the Waterfront Hall on Thursday 4th August and again on Friday 5th when the club performed for the invited guests of the Games in Belfast City Hall.

The following week a 14 strong group travelled to Glasgow for the 8th Piping Live Festival where they performed at a whole range of events including 'Piobairean nam Orain' which was televised for BBC ALBA, the Scottish Gaelic TV station.

Invitations were also received for the Charles Wood Summer School with a concert in Armagh 1st Presbyterian Church on the 23rd and another concert on the 27th during the An Droichead Festival in Belfast.



AnDroichead

Registration

There are **two** registration dates in the academic year – September and February

Registration for the first semester is on Monday 5th September. There will be no classes this evening

Registration for the second semester is by 13th February 2012. This will be for existing members only – no new students can enrol at this point of the year. There will be classes this evening.

Fees

Fees are charged per semester. We have split up the year into 2 semesters in order to avoid families paying out large amounts of money at a busy time of year.

Fees do not include admission to WKPF concerts, Burns Night, replacement strings or reeds, tin whistles, instrument loans or deposits.

Each semester the following charges apply.

1 child	£80
2 children	£120
Family	£170
Adult	£100

Singing classes for children under 8 years are £1 each evening. These classes can also be paid for in advance at time of registration.

Members should select the suitable charge on the registration form. Ideally payment should be made on the day, but no later than 2 weeks from the date of registration. Payment may be made by cheque or cash. Please do not post any payment to the Pipers Club. Receipts will be written for all payments handed in to the Lunch Hall on Monday evenings.

2011-2012 TIMETABLE

SEMESTER ONE	
Monday 5th September 2011	Registration
Thursday 8th September 2011	Teacher's meeting
Monday 12th September 2011	WK#1
Monday 19th September 2011	WK#2
Monday 26th September 2011	WK#3 / Closing date for LCM Exam entries
Saturday 1 st October 2011	Uilleann Pipe Making Workshop Weekend
Sunday 2 nd October 2011	Uilleann Pipe Making Workshop Weekend
Monday 3rd October 2011	Family Session
Friday 7th October 2011	Trad @ the Trian (Len Graham & Martin Quinn)
Saturday 8 th October 2011	Master-class workshops
Saturday 8 th October 2011	Uilleann Pipe Making Workshop Weekend
Sunday 9 th October 2011	Uilleann Pipe Making Workshop Weekend
Monday 10th October 2011	WK#4
Saturday 15 th October 2011	Uilleann Pipe Making Workshop Weekend
Sunday 16 th October 2011	Uilleann Pipe Making Workshop Weekend
Monday 17th October 2011	WK#5
Monday 24th October 2011	WK#6
Monday 7th November 2011	Family Session
Monday 14th November 2011	WK#7
Thursday 17 th November 2011	WKPF – Concerts, workshops, sessions
Friday 18 th November 2011	WKPF – Concerts, workshops, sessions
Saturday 19 th November 2011	WKPF – Concerts, workshops, sessions
Sunday 20 th November 2011	WKPF – Concerts, workshops, sessions
Saturday 26 th November 2011	Uilleann Pipe Making Workshop Weekend
Sunday 27 th November 2011	Uilleann Pipe Making Workshop Weekend
Monday 28th November 2011	WK#8
Friday 2nd December 2011	Trad @ the Trian (Rita Gallagher & Kevin Crawford)
Saturday 3 rd December 2011	Master-class workshops
Saturday 3 rd December 2011	Uilleann Pipe Making Workshop Weekend
Sunday 4 th December 2011	Uilleann Pipe Making Workshop Weekend
Monday 5th December 2011	WK#9
Monday 12th December	Christmas Session
Monday 9th January 2012	Family Session
Monday 16th January 2012	WK#10
Sunday 22nd January 2012	Burns Night Event
Monday 23rd January 2012	WK#11 / Closing date for LCM Exam entries
Monday 30th January 2012	WK#12

2011-2012 TIMETABLE

SEMESTER TWO	
Friday 3rd February 2012	Trad @ the Trian (Eamon O Donnachadha, John Carty)
Saturday 4th February 2012	Master-class workshops
Monday 6th February 2012	Family Session
Monday 13th February 2012	WK#14 / 2nd Semester Registration
Saturday 18th February 2012	Bag Packing at Sainsbury's Armagh
Monday 20th February 2012	WK#15
Monday 27th February 2012	WK#16
Monday 5th March 2012	WK#17
Sunday 11th March 2012	Annual Class Concert
Monday 19th March 2012	WK#18
Monday 26th March 2012	WK#19
Monday 2nd April 2012	Family Session
Friday 13th April 2012	Trad @ the Trian (Máire ní Choilm, Zoe Conway)
Saturday 14th April 2012	Master-class workshops
Monday 16th April 2012	WK#20 / Closing date for LCM Exam entries
Monday 23rd April 2012	WK#21
Monday 30th April 2012	WK#22
Monday 14th May 2012	WK#23
Monday 21st May 2012	WK#24
Monday 28th May 2012	WK#25

ADDITIONAL WEEKS	
Monday 11th June 2012	Try a new instrument / Rehearsals / Exam prep
Monday 18th June 2012	Rehearsals / Exam prep
Saturday 23rd June 2012	Singing Session
Sunday 24th June 2012	Teacher's Meeting / Session

You can call the Armagh Pipers Club office on 02837 511248.
We are located at 12-14 Victoria Street, Armagh, BT61 9DT

Or you can contact us by email:

- APC Director – Brian Vallely | brian@armaghpipers.org
- APC Director of Music – Eithne Vallely | eithne@armaghpipers.org
- APC Programme Manager – Gráinne Vallely | grainne@armaghpipers.org
- APC Safeguarding Children Officer – Jacqueline Toner | jacqui@armaghpipers.org