



## Interim National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage

In December 2015, following a Government Decision, Ireland ratified the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The Convention will come into force for Ireland 3 months after ratification on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016.

As a first step, the Department convened an interim advisory group to advise on the implementation of the Convention in Ireland. This group, comprising of representatives from the Arts Council, the Heritage Council, together with the National Monuments Service and Arts Division of the Department met on 22 February, 2016 to provide initial advice on the drawing up of an interim National Inventory, as required by the Convention. This initial inventory has been prepared on an interim basis.

Following a recommendation of the advisory group, the Minister approved Uilleann Piping and Hurling for inclusion on the interim National Intangible Cultural Inventory. Both of the concerned organisations, Na Píobairí Uilleann and the GAA, have expressed an interest in having these elements of our national intangible cultural heritage inscribed on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage and are working with the Department to prepare applications for submission to UNESCO by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016.

Date	Reference	Element
22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2016	NIICH – 001	Uilleann Piping
22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2016	NIICH – 002	Hurling

Dated 16 March 2016

## Interim National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage

**Reference No. NIICH - 001**

<b>Name of the Element:</b>
<b>Uilleann Piping</b>
<b>Geographical location and range of the Element:</b>
The practice of <b>Uilleann Piping</b> is worldwide, and is universally recognised as an Irish art-form, involving the performance of Irish traditional music.
<b>Identification and definition of the Element:</b>
<b>Domain manifested by the element:</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> performing arts <input type="checkbox"/> social practices, rituals and festive events <input type="checkbox"/> knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> traditional craftsmanship
<b>Description of the Element:</b>
<b>Uilleann Piping</b> is a form of bagpipe music. It developed in Ireland and, since the early 1700s, has been, and continues to be, associated with the national music of Ireland. It has its own range of expression, technique and repertoire. These developed through a dialogue between the music and the capabilities of the instrument, and make available a wide range of expression on the instrument
<b>Bearers and practitioners of the element:</b>
There are very well-known practitioners of <b>Uilleann Piping</b> , some of whom are associated with high-profile public performance, for heads of State and visiting dignitaries, and some who are known to be leading practitioners only within the piping community. In this context, social status is irrelevant; all pipers interact on an equal basis.
<b>Transmission of the knowledge and skills related to the element today:</b>
Transmission of <b>Uilleann Piping</b> has always been effected through oral and non-oral modes. As a vernacular music, it has its own 'accent' which differentiates it from art-music. In fact, as it is a musical practice with a variety of styles associated with influential exponents, it has many accents, and these can only be acquired by ear, through exposure to an experienced teacher's performance and tuition, or with the help of recordings. Repertoire is transmitted aurally as well, but sometimes with the support of printed scores as a form of <i>aide mémoire</i> . Transmission can be in a formal setting such as a <i>tionól</i> or class or workshop, and also in informal settings, as the performance of <b>Uilleann Piping</b> mostly takes place in a social context.
<b>Safeguarding Measures:</b>
Measures to safeguard <b>Uilleann Piping</b> for the future include the establishment of Na Píobairí Uilleann and many other groups, in Ireland and around the world. In all cases these groups were established by practitioners themselves. They concern themselves with the fostering and sharing of all the knowledge, skills, and practices involved in <b>Uilleann Piping</b> , and with the collection, preservation and dissemination of supporting materials. In the case of Ireland, the activities of Na Píobairí Uilleann and other groups that support <b>Uilleann Piping</b> are supported by the Irish state through the Irish Arts Council, in the case of Na Píobairí Uilleann by means of a 'Regularly Funded Organization' (RFO) grant-in-aid.
<b>Concerned Community organisation(s) or representative (s)</b>
Na Píobairí Uilleann