

# Annual Report 2024



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# ITMA's Mission, Objectives and Strategy



## The Irish Traditional Music Archive

ITMA was established as part of an Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon policy initiative in 1987. A pilot project proposed by Nicholas Carolan and Harry Bradshaw was funded and supported, and has grown into what we now know as ITMA. The impetus of the policy initiative was to support the development of Irish traditional music by focusing on the centrality of the process of transmission in the living tradition. We **collect, preserve, organise** and **make available** the materials of Irish traditional music in both the Irish and English languages. Our role is to be an agent of transmission, closely linked to contemporary practice, and in constant interaction with artists and audiences.



Artwork by Sinéad Kennedy



## ITMA's Vision

**Our vision is of ITMA as a progressive, established, national archive and resource centre for Irish traditional music, playing a key role in the development of a vibrant traditional arts and heritage sector that is positioned at the heart of Ireland's cultural, social and economic life.**

## ITMA's Mission

ITMA's mission is to be the national public archive and resource centre for Irish traditional music, song and dance, and the globally recognised specialist advisory agency to advance appreciation, knowledge, and the practice of Irish traditional music.

We will do this by continuing to:

- collect and preserve the historical and contemporary materials of Irish traditional music, particularly those that are at risk
- organise and describe these materials according to international standards of archival and library practice to create collections that are discoverable by all
- present and publish content from our collections in ways that enhance the living tradition; contribute to the knowledge base of traditional music, and engage with our diverse audiences worldwide

## ITMA's Values

- Respect for all music, song and dance collections in our care and for those who create and donate the materials
- Commitment to free and open access to collections while respecting privacy and legal obligations
- Act with dignity, fairness and kindness in all engagement with users
- Embrace diversity and inclusiveness
- Commitment to creativity, curiosity, openness, and collaboration
- Honesty, transparency, integrity, and adherence to legal and best-practice guidelines

## ITMA'S Strategic Pillars & Objectives

### Content

What we acquire and hold

- identify, locate and preserve unique and at-risk materials
- undertake a survey of the materials of traditional music in Ireland
- fill knowledge gaps in our collections to reflect the rich diversity of the practice of Irish traditional music including the representation of gender, language, and ethnicity
- continue and extend collaboration and cooperation with broadcast media

### Care

How we manage the content we hold; our standards and practices; our nurturing of professional expertise; our relationships with artists, donors, collectors and rights owners

- review our long-term property requirements to meet increased storage demands; improve visitor experience, and minimise risk to our collections by providing the best possible security and safety for the materials that we hold
- strengthen our professional capacity in archival practice and share this knowledge at local and community level, including Local Authorities, to support best practice in archiving Irish traditional music
- increase investment in digitisation for preservation and access, and prioritise the long-term preservation of our digital assets
- invest in our staff's expertise and capability, and in recruitment, to ensure we deliver the highest standards of digital, information and preservation management

## ITMA'S Strategic Pillars & Objectives

### Access

How we encourage use of our collections; how we ensure they are easily discoverable and searchable; how we present and curate collections; how we extend our reach within and beyond the traditional music community worldwide

- animate the collections through in-house and collaborative creative and digital initiatives
- make collections more easily discoverable and searchable by improving ITMA's information architecture and move towards the principles of Universal Access
- improve public and research access to our collections through increased outreach and collaboration
- expand our footprint and presence within Ireland and internationally and ensure diverse communities are aware of ITMA's services and resources



ITMA Manuscript Collection

# Foreword from Chair





Áine Hensey

## **Mar Chathaoirleach ar Bhord Stiúrtha ITMA, tá áthas agus mórtas orm an tuairisc bliantúil seo a chur os bhur gcomhar.**

The publication of our annual report is an opportunity for us to reflect on how ITMA continues to consolidate, develop and expand its activities. At the core of that endeavour is the collection and archiving of traditional Irish music, song and dance and it is a pleasure to observe the operation of our world-class audio and video digitisation studio at our headquarters in Merrion Square. These facilities will be further augmented when the projected refurbishment of the mews to the rear of the premises, as archivist- and artist-in-residence accommodation, is complete. Ongoing progress in cataloguing and the procurement of publication rights and

permissions will eventually mean that our priceless archive of music, song and dance will be available, at the touch of a button, to anyone with an interest in our traditional culture, wherever they may be throughout the world.

It has also been a delight to witness the many different ways in which artists are engaging with the material that is housed in ITMA. Through research, discussion and performance, the dedicated work of so many enthusiasts who recorded and preserved our music over the last few centuries is being presented to new generations in artistic and imaginative ways.

It is a particular pleasure to note the continuing development of an enthusiastic engagement with our diaspora. Traditional music, song and dance has always been a

vital element in the ties that bind emigrants together and I am delighted that ITMA is partnering with communities in the United States, the UK and other countries to preserve and disseminate our culture.

None of this work would be possible without the dedication, hard work and inspiration of our CEO Liam O'Connor and his brilliant staff, for whom no challenge is insurmountable and no query too trivial to address. We are grateful that the Arts Council, the Heritage Council, the OPW, numerous government departments, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Foras na Gaeilge and personal benefactors reflect their understanding of the importance of our work through their ongoing support.

Finally, a word of thanks to my fellow board members who continue to bring their wide range of skills and expertise, along with boundless enthusiasm for the work of ITMA, to all aspects of the organisation's operation.

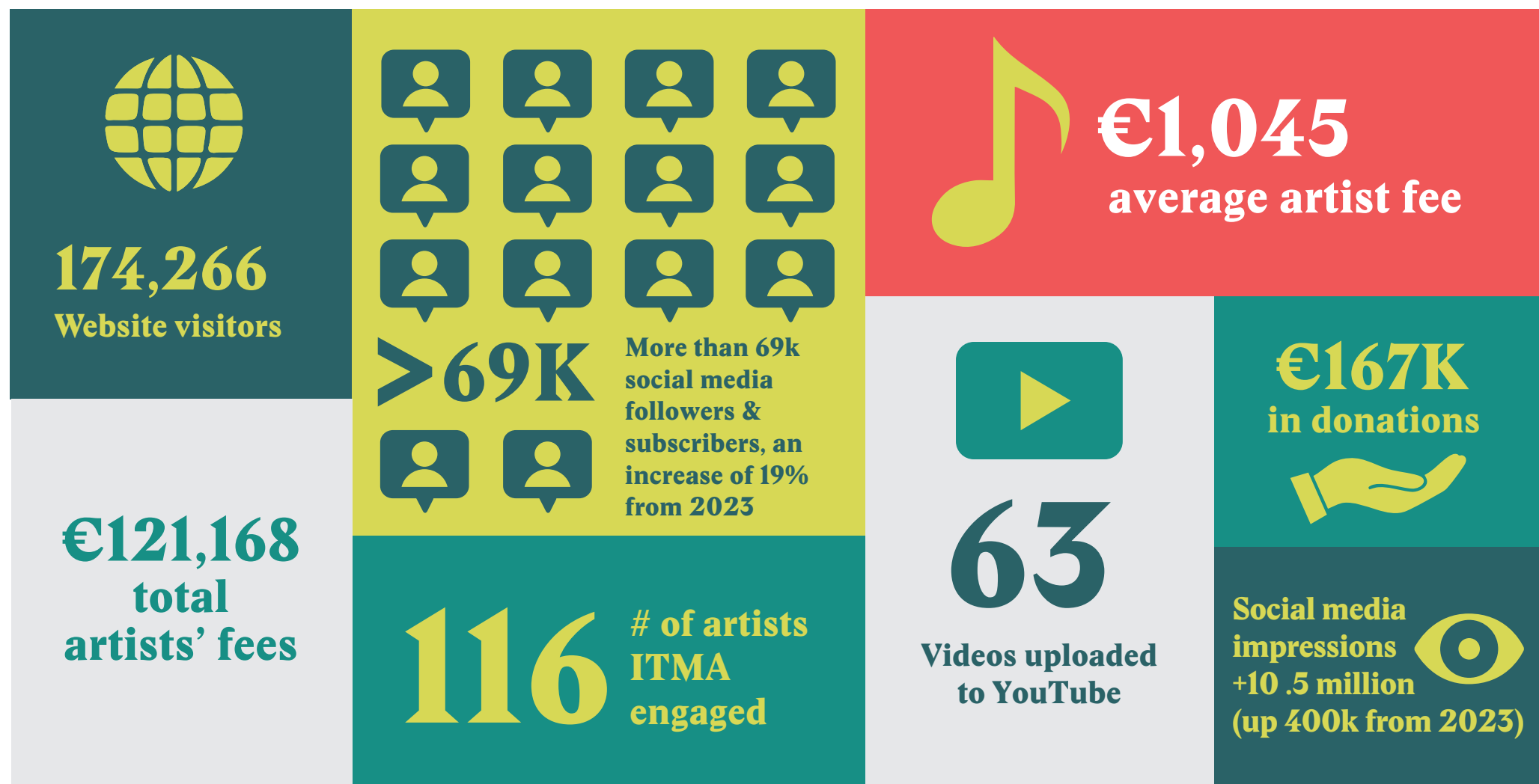
**Guím gach rath ar obair  
ITMA sna blianta atá  
amach romhainn.**

**Áine Hensey**  
Cathaoirleach

# Achievements and Impact Summary



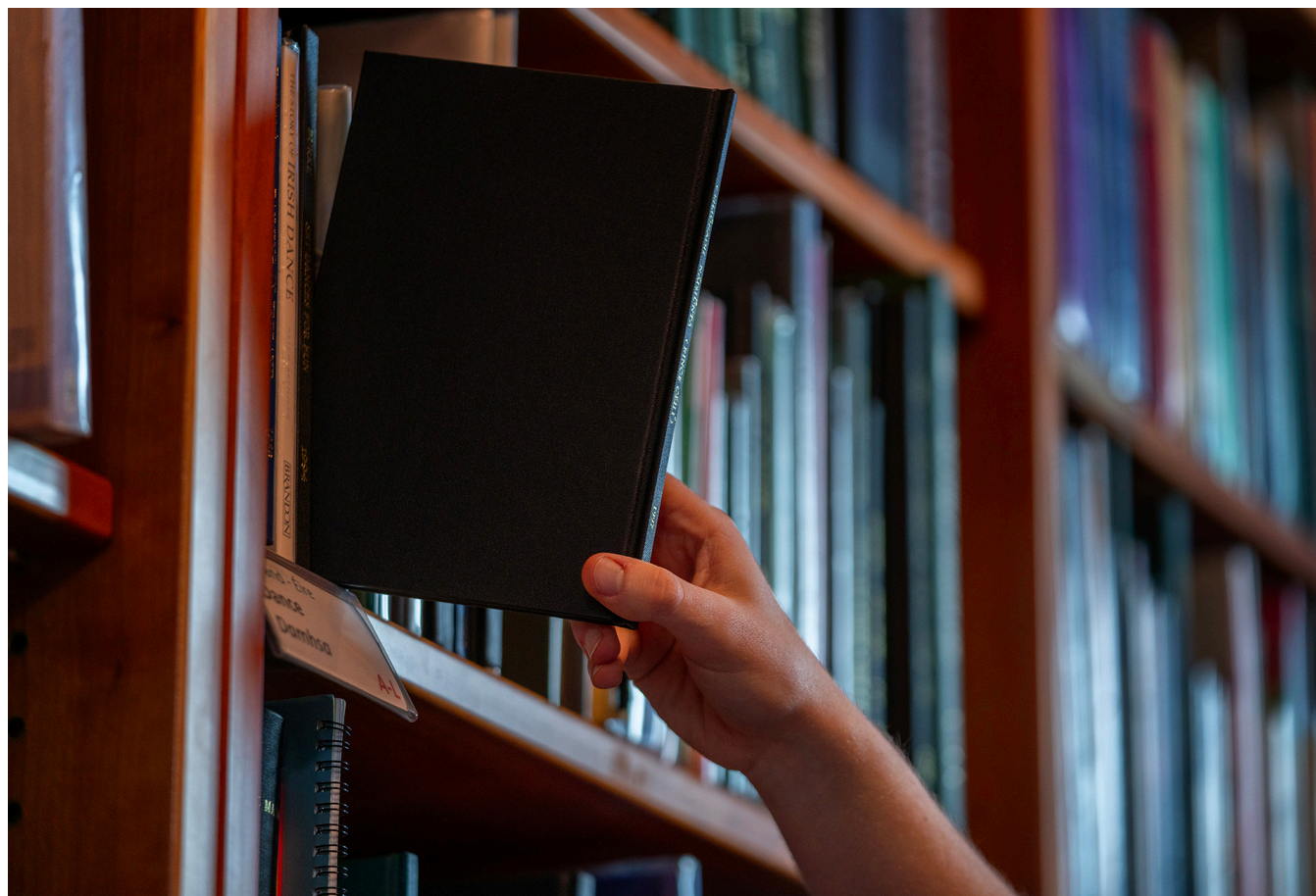
## ITMA's Achievements and Impact Summary 2024

















## Library Service in 2024

Our library service is a key aspect of our public engagement. It provides our users with research assistance and reference services, scanning facilities and bespoke tours for students and community groups. In 2024, ITMA opened its doors to approximately **1800 library users**. In tandem with our ever-expanding digital collections and services, it is important to highlight ITMA's commitment to the provision of a devoted physical space for the public to research, explore and consult our multimedia collections. During the year, ITMA welcomed library users from a range of communities, both local and international. From primary to third level students, educators, researchers, practitioners and tourists — our library service aims to create an educational space for all groups in Irish society and beyond, based on the principle of free universal access.



# Director's Introduction



	31 December 2018	31 December 2024	Growth %
 Total Income	€954,587	€1,541,495	61%
 Total Expenditure	€950,113	€1,496,258	57%
 Number of Funders within Calendar Year	6	14	133%
 Donations & Philanthropic Support	€2,414	€167,530	6,840%
 Social Media Following	21,774	69,122	218%
 Video Views	404,012	1,692,862	319%
 Tangible Fixed Assets	€20,073	€281,257	1,301%
 Total Net Assets less Current Liabilities	€48,407	€624,338	1,190%
 Other Trading Activities	10,120	92,804	81%
 Surplus for Year	€4,474	€45,237	911%
 No. of Staff	10	13	30%
 Payroll Costs	€532,163	€611,320	15%



Liam O'Connor

“**Diaidh i ndiaidh a chéile  
a thógtar an caisleán.**”

(Step by step, the castle is built.)

The Irish Traditional Music Archive (ITMA) celebrated a remarkable year of progress and resilience in 2024. Despite the challenges of a competitive funding environment, ITMA continued its mission to preserve, digitise, and share Ireland’s music, song, and dance heritage, ensuring its archives become increasingly accessible to anyone, anywhere, at any time. Some of our achievements in 2024 include:

## Digitisation Milestones

Thousands of archival materials, including over 10,000 78 RPM records, were organised and inventoried in 2024. With funding from the Government of Ireland’s Shared Island Initiative and specialised equipment from the Heritage Council, ITMA

now benefits from excellent in-house audio and audio-visual digitisation capabilities, enhancing autonomy and quality control.

## Digital Storage Expansion

ITMA nearly doubled its internal storage capacity from 200TB to close to 400TB in 2024, creating scalable infrastructure for a growing digital archive.

## Rights and Permissions

Clearance efforts advanced significantly to pave the way for landmark collections like the Breandán Breathnach Archive to become more widely accessible.

Along with this expansion of digital infrastructure, ITMA continued to inspire contemporary creativity and collaboration in 2024 through our artistic programming.



The *Drawing from the Well* concert series, in partnership with the National Concert Hall, continued with two more well-attended performances in 2024. On 14 March, *Drawing from the Well: Tommie Potts* celebrated the artistry of Dublin fiddler Tommie Potts, featuring Noel Hill, Sibéal Davitt, poet Paula Meehan and Sharon Carty, among others, and hosted by Dónal Fallon. On 6th October, artists such as Louise, Mick and Michelle Mulcahy, Zoë Conway, and Seán McKeon brought archival-inspired creativity to the National Concert Hall in front of a sold-out audience.

September 2024 saw the return of the annual *Drawing from the Well Concert Tour*, which saw six performances in six different venues across Ireland. The lineup for this year's tour featured Derek Hickey, Aoife Ní Bhriain, Stephanie Keane, and Iarla Ó Lionáird, along with outstanding local artists each night. It is very rewarding to see our tour bringing the archive's services into local, regional and rural venues as we seek to deepen our impact locally, nationally and internationally.



Derek Hickey, Aoife Ní Bhriain, Stephanie Keane performing at the *Drawing from the Well* Concert Tour in Amharclann Chois Fharraige, Connemara



Our artistic programming in 2024 was not only available to those in-person, but also served our digital audience around the world. The year saw the continuation of our monthly *Saothar* web series, which showcases compositions by contemporary traditional artists. This year's *Saothar* composers included Michael Flatley, Martin Hayes, Sorchá Costello and Brenda Castles, whose compositions ranged from tributes to Princess Grace of Monaco to pieces inspired by bumblebees and the ecological concerns they face.

Beyond *Saothar*, other notable online projects this year include Anton Zille's work on Dennis Murphy recordings from the Breandán Breathnach Collection at ITMA. Anton prepared an online collection for ITMA.ie that featured hours' worth of recordings of Sliabh Luachra fiddle master Dennis Murphy along with transcriptions, note cards and other associated materials. Anton's work helps to further preserve Denis Murphy's unique style and legacy within Irish traditional fiddle music.

**ITMA's production capabilities reached new heights in 2024, with multiple programmes and films broadcast on television and screened in cinemas.**

In January 2024, ITMA screened its original production, *Seán Keane: A Portrait of an Artist* at the Irish Film Institute in Dublin. The documentary celebrates the legacy of the legendary fiddle player and member of The Chieftains.



Seán Keane - *A Portrait of an Artist* screening at the IFI in January 2024



Brendan Gleeson in *Farewell to Hughes's*

Just over a month later, ITMA's documentary *Brendan Gleeson's Farewell to Hughes's* made its world premiere at the Dublin International Film Festival. Directed by Ciarán Ó Maonaigh and co-produced by ITMA and actor Brendan Gleeson, the documentary honors the legacy of Hughes's pub in Dublin. After its premiere sold out in less than 24 hours, the film had a three-month run in the Lighthouse Cinema in Dublin, followed by a broadcast on TG4 in December 2024. The film received great critical acclaim and was nominated in the Best Documentary at the Irish Film and Television Academy Awards.

May 2024 saw the broadcast of *Taoscadh ón Tobar*, an ITMA/TG4 docuseries now freely available on the TG4 Player. The series brought Ireland's traditional music to life as artists Andrea Palandri, Iarla Ó Lionáird, Doireann Ní Ghlaicín, Seán McElwain and Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh uncovered the stories of significant

musicians, singers, collectors, and regions by exploring our archives over the course of five episodes.

It is worth noting that the full interviews and recordings that are made as part of these productions make for excellent archival footage. For every hour of final edited footage that appears on screen, we have tens of hours of bonus footage and in-depth content that will live on in the archive.

Meanwhile, on the radio, continued collaboration with RTÉ Radio 1 and Aoife Nic Chormaic's *The Rolling Wave* have helped to amplify ITMA's reach. These partnerships, featuring pro-bono contributions from Professor Pádraic Mac Mathúna, highlight the importance of public service broadcasting in showcasing Ireland's cultural heritage.





Dancers Caitlín Nic Gabhann, Cuthbert Tura Arutura and Edwina Guckian after a December 2024 field recording interview

## Expanding Dance Archival Collections

Over the course of 2024, ITMA deepened its commitment to preserve Irish traditional dance through various dance-related projects.

Collaborations with Edwina Guckian and Caitlín Nic Gabhann saw field interviews with practitioners from around the country to document and preserve their traditions. The unique set dancing style of West Kerry was documented as part of a Foras na Gaeilge-funded film project, presented by Clíodhna and Méabh Ní Bheaglaoich.

Collectors and practitioners Helen Brennan, Michael Tubridy, and John Cullinane enriched ITMA's dance archives through interviews and donations of precious Irish dance recordings and materials.



## Those We've Lost

Each year, the Irish traditional arts community mourns the loss of numerous esteemed tradition bearers whose contributions have profoundly enriched our cultural heritage. In 2024, we bid farewell to several such luminaries, including the renowned composer and musician Charlie Lennon.

Charlie Lennon's compositions have become integral to Irish music sessions worldwide, from Bantry to Boston. His dedication to the craft was unwavering, as he continually sought to learn and innovate within the tradition. His passing is a significant loss to the musical community.

In March 2023, Charlie delivered a memorable performance at the National Concert Hall during our Drawing from the Well concert, captivating the audience with his mastery as a fiddle player, pianist, and composer. ITMA was privileged to conduct



an in-depth interview with him, preserving his insights and experiences for future generations.

We also remember with deep respect many other tradition bearers who left us in 2024, such as Séamus Ó Dubháin and Sliabh Luachra's Timmy O'Connor. Fortunately, ITMA had the opportunity to document their unique knowledge and artistry through interviews, ensuring that their legacies endure. However, we are acutely aware of the challenges we face, with a

significant backlog of interviews awaiting publication and many tradition bearers yet to record. Each missed opportunity is a poignant reminder of the fragility of our cultural heritage and the imperative to honour these extraordinary individuals by preserving their stories, music, and dance for future generations.

**At ITMA, we remain steadfast in our commitment to capturing and sharing the rich tapestry of Irish traditional arts, ensuring that the voices and talents of our tradition bearers continue to inspire and resonate across time and place.**

## Acknowledging Key Funders and Supporters

ITMA wouldn't have been able to achieve this progress over the past 12 months without the support we receive from our funders and partners. This includes our main strategic annual funder, The Arts Council of Ireland, and also the Arts Council of Northern Ireland for their steadfast support. While a full list of our supporters can be found on page 93-94, I'd like to acknowledge some of the many contributions we received last year, including:

### **The Heritage Council:**

For transformative investment in digitisation and administrative capacity.

### **The Ireland Funds:**

For facilitating donations from US-based supporters.

### **The Irish American Partnership:**

For a \$10,000 grant supporting ITMA's digital education ambitions.

### **Turas Nua:**

For a €10,000 donation towards increasing access to ITMA's Clare collections.

### **Donors:**

Following an anonymous \$100,000 matched-funding pledge, ITMA was able to raise an astounding €167,530 in donations over the course of the year.

### **Government of Ireland and Partners:**

Including the Shared Island Unit, TCASGM, and DFA for their vital support.

### **Office of Public Works (OPW):**

For providing ITMA's Merrion Square home and their ongoing cooperation.

## Looking Ahead to 2025

In the year ahead, we hope to build on our momentum from 2024 and continue to provide the public with increased access to the archive and our shared tradition. We will continue our Drawing from the Well concert collaborations with the National Concert Hall, and expand our international reach with performances in Paris at the Centre Culturel Irlandais (CCI), and Le Philharmonie, while also deepening our roots in local communities.

We plan to develop educational initiatives with new partners, including The Irish American Partnership, to inspire the next generation.

We're looking forward to a Shared Island Flute residency that will celebrate the diverse flute traditions across the island. This next year will see the release of a biography of Tommie Potts, authored by

Seán Potts, with contributions from Aoife Nic Chormaic and Aoife Ní Bhriain. ITMA will begin work on the exceptional song collections of Christy Moore, Pádraigín Ní Uallacháin and Len Graham in 2025, preserving their invaluable contributions to the Irish song tradition.

All the while, we will continue our digital expansion, ensuring even more of the archive is accessible to remote users worldwide.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of ITMA's dedicated full-time staff, pro-bono contributors, interns, volunteers, artists, and service providers whose incredible hard work, creativity, and collaboration have been the foundation of our success this year.

ITMA's achievements in 2024 were only possible because of the support of our funders, donors, and community.

I would like to thank, acknowledge and show gratitude to all the donors who entrusted ITMA this past year with contributions ranging from €5 to \$100,000. Every single euro and dollar donated has helped to drastically improve ITMA's outlook for the year to come.

**As we look ahead, we remain committed to preserving Ireland's music, song and dance heritage and making them accessible to anyone, anywhere, at any time.**

Míle buíochas daoibh go léir,  
Liam O'Connor

# Fundraising





In 2024, an anonymous U.S. foundation pledged to make a matching donation if ITMA could raise \$100,000 (€95,000) over the course of the year. Thanks to a swell of support from all around the world, ITMA reached this goal.

In total, ITMA received more than 540 donations over the course of 2024 worth €167,530. Once we process corporate contributions and CHY3 forms from our Irish-based donors in the first quarter of 2025, this number will rise beyond \$200,000. So far, donations from 2024 have helped to increase digitisation and cataloguing capacity to make more archival materials freely available around the world.

**ITMA is on a journey to democratise access to traditional music, song and dance by digitising our archival collections, making them accessible to anyone, anywhere, at anytime. We need additional financial support to achieve this goal.**





ITMA 73 Merrion Square

**Donations to ITMA can go towards hiring new staff to catalogue, clear rights and permissions and digitise audio and visual materials. They can fund further equipment and digital storage upgrades. They can finance additional artist and archivist engagements. And so much more.**

Supporting ITMA's mission to universal access also benefits donors. ITMA will offer a number of sponsorship opportunities in 2025 that can see donors acquire naming rights to public exhibitions, artist- and archivist-in-residence spaces, and more. As we continue to upgrade and expand our production capabilities, ITMA can provide organisations and individuals with bespoke, broadcast-level film and promotional materials.

For those based in the U.S., donating to ITMA can be a tax efficient way of supporting our mission. ITMA is eligible for 501(c)3 donations and, working through the Ireland Funds and The Irish American Partnership, our donors have an amazingly positive impact on the work we deliver each year. For those based in Ireland, donors giving €250 or more can sign a CHY3 form, increasing the value of their donation by as much as 45%, at no additional cost. For example, with a signed CHY3 form, a €250 donation benefits ITMA to the value of €362.

# Strategic Delivery Report



## 6a. Collect and Preserve

### Collections 2024 RPA and Donated Materials: Number of Donors and Acquisitions

76

76 newly published commercial sound recordings were listed in our Recent Publications & Acquisitions list in 2024.

145

145 newly published books, articles and blogs.

107

107 different organisations and individuals donated material to ITMA in 2024. This material included music manuscripts, photographs, commercial and non-commercial sound recordings, videos, books, periodicals, original artwork, musical instruments and artefacts.





Tam Lin [Finbar, Eddie, Paul Furey and Davey Arthur], Bermuda, 1975. From the Furey Family Collection

## Finbar Furey Collection

In October 2024, ITMA staff made three visits to the Furey family home in Rathfarnham, Dublin, to acquire the extensive Furey Family Collection. Spanning material from the 1960s to the 2020s, the collection includes non-commercial audio cassettes, master reel-to-reel tapes, CDRs, DATs, and VHS tapes, along with a rich array of ephemera such as programmes, posters, flyers, tickets, and newspaper clippings. Also included are numerous colour and black-and-white photographs, personal correspondence, and original song manuscripts written by Finbar Furey. This significant acquisition documents the career of one of Ireland's most prominent musical families, who performed internationally for decades, and adds to ITMA's growing archive of professional Irish musicians.



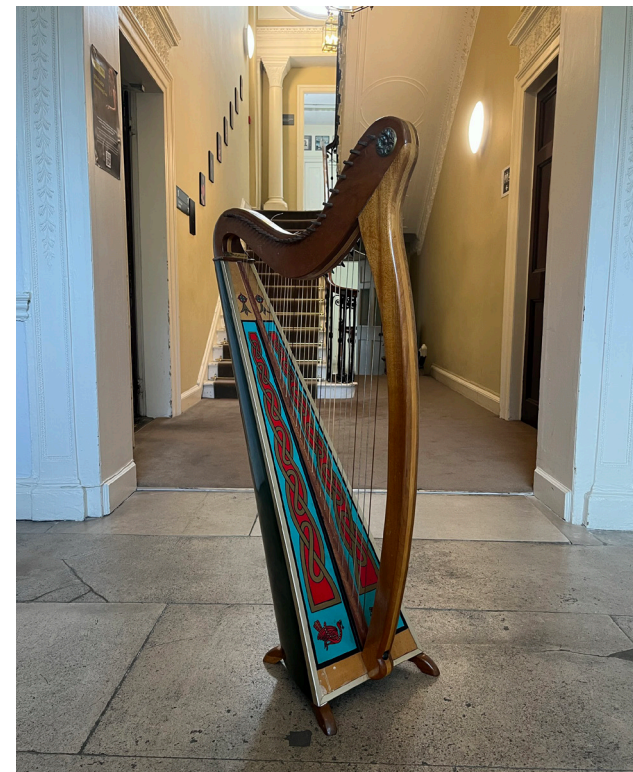
## Musical Instrument Donations

In 2024, ITMA received two donations of significant musical instruments. In May, Canon Gary Hastings donated a unique tin fiddle, handcrafted in 1984 by Simey Doherty of Ballyfeach, Co. Donegal. Commissioned by Robbie Haldane as a wedding gift for Gary and the late Cairtriona Ní Ghallchóir, the fiddle was entirely made by Simey, who, in poor health, completed the instrument shortly before his passing. It stands as the last fiddle ever made by the renowned Doherty family.



Simey Doherty's handcrafted tin fiddle, donated in 2024 by Canon Gary Hastings

In October, Elizabeth Bicker generously donated one of the harps belonging to her close friend, the late Derek Bell, with whom she frequently performed as a pianist. Wishing to honour his legacy, Elizabeth entrusted ITMA with the instrument, hoping it might be made available for public appreciation. The harp was transported from her home to ITMA's premises at Merrion Square, where it now joins the Derek Bell Collection already housed in the archive.



One of Derek Bell's harps, donated in 2024 by Elizabeth Bicker

## Other acquisitions of note include:

### Tommie Potts Collection

Collection of original & photocopied music manuscripts, set lists, correspondence, and songs dating primarily from the mid-1980s. The majority of the material is in Tommie Potts' hand but also includes correspondence from Míchéal Ó Súilleabháin and Paddy Dooley of The Welsh School of Violin making. Donated by James & Helen Furey.

### Tomás Ó Canainn Collection

Further transfer of multimedia collection belonging to the uilleann piper and scholar Tomás Ó Canainn. Donated by the Ó Canainn Family.

### Bernie & Seán Potts Collection

Ephemera (posters, programmes, newspaper clippings, etc.), photographs, manuscript music, printed books and correspondence, much of the material relating to the early years of The Chieftains, 1970s. Donated by Bernie Potts.



The Chieftains, San Francisco, 1973. From the Bernie & Seán Potts Collection

## Noel Hill Collection

Letter from Tommie Potts to Patrick Hill, 1960; 4 colour photographs taken at Tommie Potts' funeral, March 1988; Ephemera, correspondence and manuscripts relating to Fleadh Ceoil na hÉireann, Boyle, Co. Roscommon, 5 June 1960. Donated by Noel Hill.

## Danny O'Donnell Collection

Manuscript music, sheet music and printed books belonging to Donegal fiddle player Danny O'Donnell. Donated by Dónal Ó Duibhir.

## Richard Tew Collection

Digital audio recordings from the podcast series *Rince Radio* includes interviews with Irish dancers and Irish dancing teachers from around the world, 2020s. Donated by Richard Tew.

## Significant Acquisitions of Images included

- Geantraí Photographic Collection. 1 archival box of colour photographs taken at the making of various *Geantraí* programmes across Ireland, 1999–2012. Donated by Tony McCarthy, ForeFront Productions
- Photographs taken by Tony Kearns at the Willie Clancy Summer School, 1992–1996
- Photographs taken by Des Gallagher at various live music events and subsequently displayed in a gallery on the ITMA website. <https://www.itma.ie/galleries/des-gallagher-2024/>
- A collection of photographs donated by Japanese flute player Kozo Toyota of a performance by The Toyota Céilí Band playing for dancers, and of the band O'Jizo, of which he is a member.



The Toyota Céilí Band

## Misc.

A Jacob Stack pen and ink drawing of Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill. Donated by Ellie Byrne.

A manuscript of tunes handwritten by Michael Gorman, early 1960s. Two photos and a non-commercial cassette recording featuring Margaret Barry. Loaned by Antoinette Keane for digitisation.



## Audiovisual Collections

### The Felix Dolan Collection

Felix Dolan (1937-2013) was for many years America's pre-eminent piano accompanist for Irish traditional music. Born in the Highbridge section of the Bronx, Felix developed an understated but always harmonically correct style and became the favoured accompanist of New York's Irish music and step-dancing elite, including Joe Burke, Andy McGann, Paddy O'Brien, Bobby Gardiner, Paddy Reynolds, Charlie Mulvihill, James Keane, Catherine McEvoy, amongst many others.

The Felix Dolan Collection was donated to ITMA in May 2024. The collection consists of non-commercial audio recordings primarily made in the north-eastern United States between the 1970s–2000s. The recordings feature Felix and associated musicians in a variety of settings ranging

from private rehearsal tapes to céilí, competitions and house parties. A small number of recordings given to Felix by other musicians are also included.



Con Cassidy and Caoimhín Mac Aoidh, 1985 (from the Caoimhín Mac Aoidh Collection)

### Caoimhín Mac Aoidh Collection

Non-commercial audio collection, manuscripts, preparatory material for publication, photographs and

correspondence, 1980s–2000s. Materials in the collection focus largely on Donegal fiddle music. Donated by Caoimhín Mac Aoidh.

### The Caroline and Michael Kilbane Collection

This website is a collection of just over 100 archival recordings made from live performances of Julia Clifford at her home in Thetford (Norfolk), sessions and other public performances, with PDF transcriptions of the tunes. The recordings were made by Michael and Caroline Kilbane on a Marantz cassette tape recorder at Julia's house during the period they lived in Ipswich, 1984–1987.

## The Phil Callery Collection

This collection consists of two deposits, containing over 200 audio recordings on cassette, CDR, Minidisc, and reel-to-reel tape. The recordings date from the mid-1970s until the 2010s. The subjects of the recordings vary greatly and include performances at festivals such as WCSS and Frank Harte, as well as concerts in various venues around Ireland. Voice Squad recordings and preparatory materials for commercial albums are also represented. Approximately 2 boxes of paper materials were also donated. These include commercial publications, music manuscripts, and other documents. Donated by Sarah and Rosa Callery.

## The Pat Campbell Collection

This collection is comprised of 23 reel-to-reels and 1 disc. Personal recordings of a variety of artists including Seán Maguire. Some recordings may have been preparatory work for commercial release on Silver Hill Records, 1970s. Donated by Pat Campbell.





Video digitisation equipment

## VHS to DigiBeta: Preserving Ireland's Intangible Cultural Heritage through Video Digitisation

In May 2024, ITMA was awarded €24,932 by the Heritage Council under its Community Heritage Grant Scheme. This funding has enabled the purchase of state-of-the-art video digitisation equipment and software, significantly expanding ITMA's capacity to play back and digitise thousands of video recordings held in its collections.

Thanks to the generous support of the Heritage Council, ITMA has established a new, in-house video digitisation suite in consultation with industry expert Adrian Finn. Without this facility, it would be impossible to properly view, preserve, and make accessible the wealth of video content already in ITMA collections. The digitisation suite is designed to capture archival-quality transfers of approximately 10 different video formats that are already held in ITMA's collections. For example, formats that can now be digitised in-house at ITMA include:

- miniDV (PAL / NTSC)
- DVCAM (PAL / NTSC)
- HDV (PAL / NTSC)
- VHS / VHSC / SVHS / SVHSC in PAL
- Betacam SP (PAL / NTSC)
- Betacam SX (PAL / NTSC)
- MPEG IMX (PAL / NTSC)
- Digital Betacam (PAL / NTSC)
- HDCAM (PAL / NTSC)

**This enhanced capacity not only safeguards valuable audiovisual materials but also strengthens ITMA's mission to communicate, celebrate, and share Ireland's traditional culture and intangible cultural heritage with the wider public.**

The evolution of technology makes high-quality video recordings increasingly fast, easy, and inexpensive to create. As a result, ITMA predicts that video collections in a variety of formats will grow exponentially in the coming decade.



ITMA staff attending a video digitisation training workshop, August 2024

## Digitisation of Key Print, Photographic and Manuscript Materials

A selection of the materials digitised in ITMA in 2024:

- **Antoinette Keane Collection**  
Manuscript and photographs relating to Margaret Barry and Michael Gorman
- Micho Russell and Denis Murphy tune transcriptions from An Cnuasacht Iomlán den Cheol Damhsa card index in the **Breandán Breathnach Collection**
- Cassette inlay cards from the **Cathal & Maura McConnell Collections, Caoimhín MacAoidh Collection and Fr Quinn Collection**
- Japan related material from the **Derek Bell Collection & Gráinne Yeats Collection**
- John O'Connell Manuscript and various image collections relating to John O'Connell
- **Tommie Potts Collection**  
Tommy Potts manuscripts & photographs from various collections
- Photographs from the **Cullinane Archive Collection**
- 497 Photographs from the **Bailiúchán Phádraigín Ní Uallacháin**



## 6b. Organise and Describe



Ruth Flynn

### Internships

As part of their MPhil in Digital Humanities and Culture at Trinity College Dublin, Qingqing Zhang and Chenbei Pan completed internships at ITMA. Qingqing explored the integration of IIIF players within WordPress platforms, while Chenbei focused on the presentation of interactive scores.

Ruth Flynn, a postgraduate student in Archives and Records Management at University College Dublin, completed her internship at ITMA in March 2024. During her time here, Ruth catalogued a collection of Tommie Potts manuscripts, generously donated by the Potts family in March 2024, creating a detailed archival record in AtoM. She also contributed to the organisation of the Cullen O'Connell Dance Collection, donated in October 2023.

From Maynooth University, Master of Arts in Musicology and Performance students

Marina Cabrera, Tyler Wallin, and Lina María Manjarrés completed a five-week placement with ITMA during February and March 2024. Their work focused on the Micho Russell tune transcription cards from the Breandán Breathnach Collection. The students digitised, indexed, and transcribed the music using notation software, and documented their experience in a blog post published on the ITMA website in April 2024.



Marina Cabrera, Tyler Wallin & Lina María Manjarrés

Urszula Waszkiewicz began volunteering with ITMA towards the end of the year, working on tune transcriptions.

## Summer Internship Programme

ITMA has developed a successful summer internship programme, now in its fourth year, that has seen the placement of 10 summer interns from diverse disciplinary backgrounds and educational institutions including Communications Studies, Information Science, Business studies, and Irish Folklore students from University of Notre Dame, University College Dublin, and Boston College.

ITMA's summer interns gain unique hands-on experience with our archival collections. This may include organising, describing, digitising, or making materials available to the public. Previous projects have focused on significant reel-to-reel collections and reorganising and inventorying disc-based media such as phonograph records and vinyl LPs.

ITMA would like to thank Eimear Clowry Delaney, the Michael Smurfit Director of Notre Dame Dublin, Maggie Arriola, Assistant Director of Notre Dame Dublin, Hannah Flannagan and Prof. Kevin Whelan for all their efforts in administering the internship programme.



ITMA Interns Aubrey and Olivia Breen

This year's summer interns, Aubrey and Olivia Breen (Notre Dame) and Andrew Caden (Boston College), focused on reorganising ITMA's 78rpm phonograph record collection and developing and inventory of every disc held by ITMA.

ITMA houses one of the largest collections of 78rpm shellac records associated with Irish traditional music anywhere in the world. Recently ITMA carried out a complete inventory of its 78rpm disc collection. A total of roughly 10,000 discs were organised by record label and catalogue number, with all relevant metadata for each disc noted also.

The benefit of this work was transformative for the collection. Not only could we identify the total number of discs but also how many duplicates are present, how many disc require catalogue records, how many have been digitised or are yet to be digitised and finally, what discs ITMA

is missing. Although there is much work to be done to preserve these precious recordings, this crucial analysis will form the basis of future work on this collection.



ITMA Intern Andrew Caden

**“ Working on this project was a privilege. With each box of 78s we catalogued and stored in the basement vault, was another 35 discs rediscovered – because now they have a location and pertinent info (such as artist names, tune titles, and instrumentation) recorded in ITMA’s catalogue. Not only are all the 78s organized in alphabetical order by label and numerical order by catalogue number, but you can now look up any 78rpm record in ITMA’s collection and find exactly where it is. ”**

Olivia Breen





Seán Ó Broin - Drawing from the Well March 2024. Photo by Colm Keating

## Seán Ó Broin

Seán Ó Broin assisted with the organisation, indexing, and description of approximately 300 cassettes from the Larry Masterson Collection, among others. As part of this work, he received technology-focused training in the use of a PC for common office and business tasks, including data entry with Microsoft Excel and other Office applications.

## Outcomes and Statistics



Total number of discs: **9,824**

Total unique titles: **5,226**

Duplicate titles: **3,339**



How many discs had catalogue records? **6,336**

How many discs did not have catalogue records? **4,849**

How many discs with records are not currently in ITMA? **1,343**



How many sides have been digitised? **6,402 (3,202 discs)**

## Cataloguing by Numbers

**1,211** Archival descriptions/Authority records in AtoM have been created/revised in 2024.

**905** Thesauri additions and 959 edits were made in Soutron

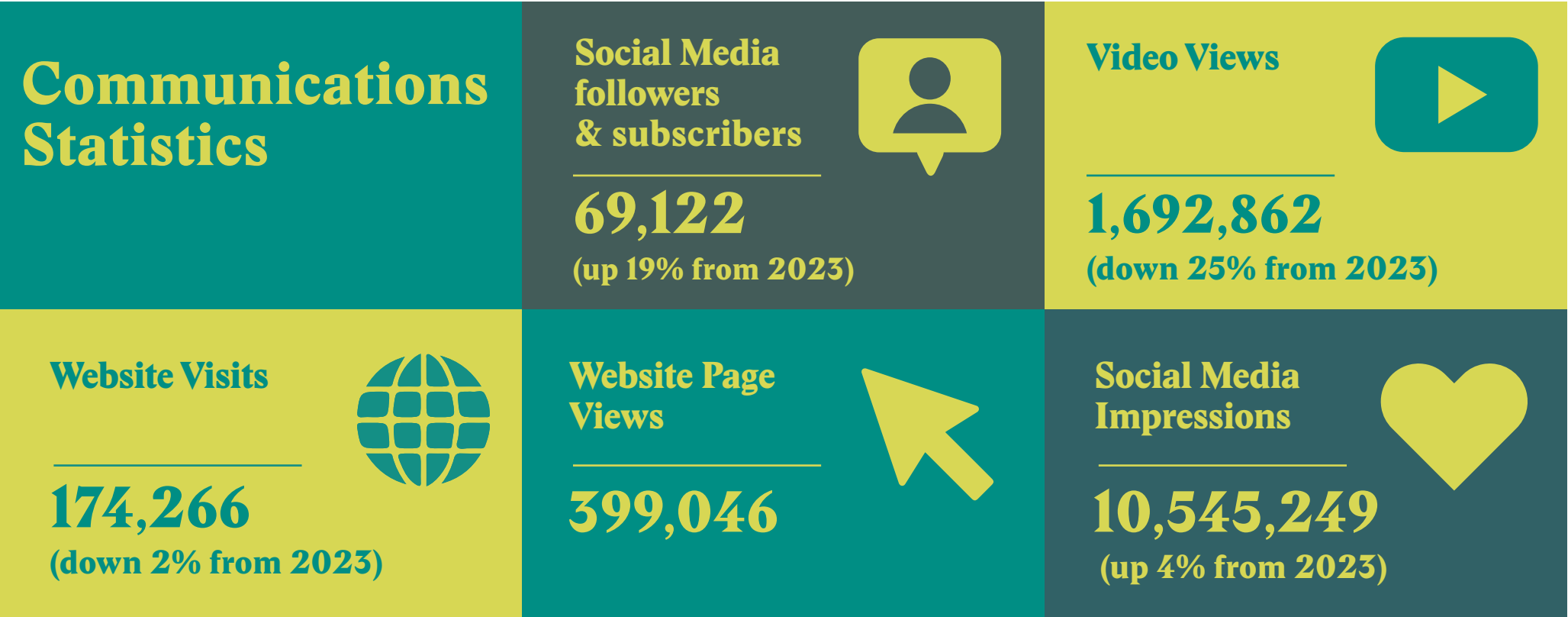
**2933** Catalogue records were created in Soutron, and a further 5000 identifiers were generated for the 78rpm project

**26,241** Edits were made to Soutron catalogue records in 2024. Many of these were merely to remove a third-party provider name and replace it with the word ‘preservation’.

**1,177** Preservation records were created for material going to the Digital Repository



# 6c. Present and Publish





Doireann Ní Ghlacáin, Drawing from the Well October 2024 -  
Photo by Des Gallagher

## Drawing from the Well in the National Concert Hall

In 2024, ITMA continued its bi-annual Drawing from the Well concert series in partnership with the National Concert Hall. In March, ITMA presented a night of beautiful music, song, dance, poetry and history dedicated to Dublin fiddle legend Tommie Potts.

The night featured a lineup of wonderful artists connected with Tommie Potts and his music: Aoife Ní Bhriain, Noel Hill, Sharon Carty, Ryan Molloy, Sorchá Costello, Liam O'Connor, Sibéal Davitt, Ronan Browne, Ellen Potts, Seán Potts, Seán Ó Broin, Paul McGrattan, Cuthbert Tura Arutura, Paula Meehan and Fiachna Ó Mongáin. The concert's programme was presented by Dublin historian and broadcaster Donal Fallon.

In October 2024, ITMA and the National Concert Hall presented the sixth edition of the Drawing from the Well concert series in front of a sold-out crowd.

The audience was treated to a beautiful night of music, song and dance from Iarla Ó Lionáird, Mick, Louise and Michelle Mulcahy, Zoe Conway, Seán McKeon, Liam O'Brien, Síle Denvir, Stephanie Keane, Iarfhlaith Ó Domhnaill & Natalie Ní Chasaide, West Kerry band Cuas, Barry Kerr and Doireann Ní Ghlacáin. Throughout the night, the artists performed new interpretations of traditional music, song and dance based on archival materials and their engagement with the archive.

ITMA would like to thank all of the artists for their contributions to both concerts, NCH and ITMA staff for making the events run so smoothly, and most importantly the audiences for continuing to show great support towards the traditional arts.



Michelle Louise and Mick Mulcahy with Stephanie Keane - Drawing from the Well October 2024.  
Photo by Des Gallagher



Doireann Ní Ghlacáin, Drawing from the Well October 2024.  
Photo by Des Gallagher

# Drawing from the Well Tour

ITMA’s annual *Drawing from the Well* Concert Tour returned for its third year in September 2024, bringing four of the country’s top traditional musicians to six venues across Ireland. Over the course of two weekends, Aoife Ní Bhriain, Iarla Ó Lionáird, Derek Hickey and Stephanie Keane performed in Pavilion Theatre, Dún Laoghaire; Amharclann Chois Fharraige, Connemara; St James’ Church, Dingle; Duncairn, Belfast; Dock Arts, Carrick-on-Shannon and The Venue, Ratoath. Each date on the tour also featured guest performances from local musicians.

The *Drawing from the Well* Tour helps bring ITMA to local communities throughout Ireland. We look forward to bringing the tour to even more communities in 2025, while expanding it to reach audiences outside of Ireland as well.



Drawing from the Well 2024 Concert Tour poster



## Cathal & Maura McConnell Collection Launch

ITMA was delighted to launch the Cathal & Maura McConnell Collections at a special event held in the Reading Room of No 73 Merrion Square in June 2024. It was wonderful to see so many friends and family at ITMA to celebrate Cathal's achievements.



Cathal McConnell performing at the Cathal & Maura McConnell Collection Launch

## TurasÓir

Over a week in August, ITMA welcomed local and international visitors alike as part of a pilot programme connecting tourism with the Irish language. In partnership with Dublin City Council's TurasÓir, ITMA administered daily tours to the public that showcased the archive and its unique collections. Though ITMA is open to the public throughout the week, the tours provided a unique opportunity to dive deep into the world of Irish traditional music, song, and dance.

During the tours, visitors were welcomed in Irish and taught a cúpla focal before they were introduced to the archive and its artefacts and collections. After a live music and dance performance in ITMA's library, the visitors learned a song as Gaeilge, taught by Dublin singer and uilleann piper Sorchá Ní Scolaí. The tours were organised

and led by ITMA Administrative Assistant Sophie Ryan and ITMA Secretary Bridie Flaherty. Sophie and Bridie also performed as part of the tours, along with ITMA Intern Andrew Caden and Sorchá Ní Scolaí.



Sorchá Ní Scolaí teaches a group of tourists a song as Gaeilge as part of ITMA's Turasoir tours



## Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy

It was another busy year for ITMA at Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy 2024 in Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare. Over the course of the week, ITMA filmed every recital, concert and lecture in the Miltown community hall, conducted field recording interviews with 20 different artists in Queally's Pub, launched the Tony Kearns photo exhibition in the Milton Design Bank, and launched ITMA's new album, *The Old Reels of the World*, curated by Pádraic Mac Mathura. ITMA Artist Liason and Field Recording Officer Alan Woods also delivered a lecture on the life and music of the Cork-born singer Margaret Barry.

ITMA would like to thank all artists, ITMA and SSWC staff, the ITMA Board, Queally's Pub, and everyone who contributed to and supported our work throughout the week. We look forward to making all the interviews we've recorded in Queally's pub since 2022 available to the public in 2025.



Charlie Harris performing during a field recording at Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy 2024

## Heritage Week

Once again, ITMA welcomed visitors to a suite of events for National Heritage Week.

The events included lunchtime film screenings of *Brendan Gleeson's Farewell to Hughes's*, *Seán Keane: A Portrait of an Artist*, and Barry Kerr's short film *Fuascail*. Along with these screenings, guests packed into ITMA's library for two free lunchtime concerts featuring Mick O'Brien and Ciara Ní Bhriain, as well as Andrew Caden, Conor McDonagh, Ryan Sheridan, and Jack Fitzpatrick.

## Culture Night with ITMA

ITMA was delighted to host a series of six live performances of traditional music, song, and dance at our annual open house for the 19th edition of Culture Night on 20 September, 2024. The half-hour concerts, each attended by a different audience, featured both ITMA staff and musical guests.

Performing on the night were Róisín O'Connor (fiddle), Niamh Landale (uilleann pipes), Conor McKeon (uilleann pipes), Dermot O'Hanlon (fiddle), Iarlaith Mac Gabhann (flute), Seán Ó Broin (flute), Sophie Ryan (harp), Lúsaí Ryan (concertina), Andrew Caden (fiddle), Kyle Macaulay (guitar, bouzouki), Bridie Flaherty (dance), Nicole Ní Dhubhshláine (flute, concertina), and Méabh Ní Bheaglaoich (accordion).

All six concerts were at capacity, lending themselves to a night rich in culture and creativity across the island. Started by the Arts Council in 2005, Culture Night/Oíche Chultúir continues to provide special opportunities for people to dive into cultural events and unique spaces. More than 1.2 million people engaged with 1,700 Culture Night events in 2024, and ITMA looks forward to staging more great traditional artists in September 2025.

## EA-DIGIFOLK

ITMA are involved in this four-year research project, led by the University of Salamanca and funded by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA). The aim of the project is to establish an open-to-the-public platform containing folk music from European and Ibero-American culture. ITMA hosted researchers from Spain and Portugal as part of EA-DIGIFOLK while Treasa Harkin visited Salamanca in Spain and Alan Woods went to Porto in Portugal to work on various aspects of the project.

## Sparks from the Flagstones

In February, ITMA hosted the official Dublin launch of dancer Edwina Guckian's Sparks from the Flagstones.

In the book, Edwina celebrates the folk traditions and calendar customs of the Ireland in which she grew up in rural County Leitrim. She dances through the Celtic Calendar Year and the importance of ancient Quarter Day customs and old-world Fire Festival traditions at Samhain, Imbolc, Bealtaine and Lughnasa.



ITMA's Heritage Week events



## P.W. Joyce, Co. Limerick Educator and Collector

In October, ITMA hosted the official launch of *P.W. Joyce and the Educational Shaping of the Emerging Irish Nation, 1827-1914*, a book by Professor Teresa O'Doherty, Professor Tom O'Donoghue and ITMA CEO Liam O'Connor.

From Glenosheen, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick, Pádraic Weston Joyce was one of his generation's foremost educationalists and collectors of traditional Irish music. The influence Joyce's published works had on readers, teachers and journalists played a major part in shaping national thinking on historical and cultural aspects of Irish life in the years before independence.

The book was launched by Prof Kevin Whelan, Professor of Irish History and former Michael Smurfit Director of University of Notre Dame Dublin. The launch also featured music from the Joyce publications and manuscripts performed

by Laoise Kelly; Liam Flanagan and Ciara Flanagan, who run the annual Joyce Brothers Festival in Kilfinane, Co. Limerick; and Derek Hickey, who researched the music collections of Joyce for an upcoming *Drawing from the Well* episode. These artists are all helping to reintroduce tunes collected in the 19th century in Limerick to local school children, adult learners and musicians, singers and dancers.

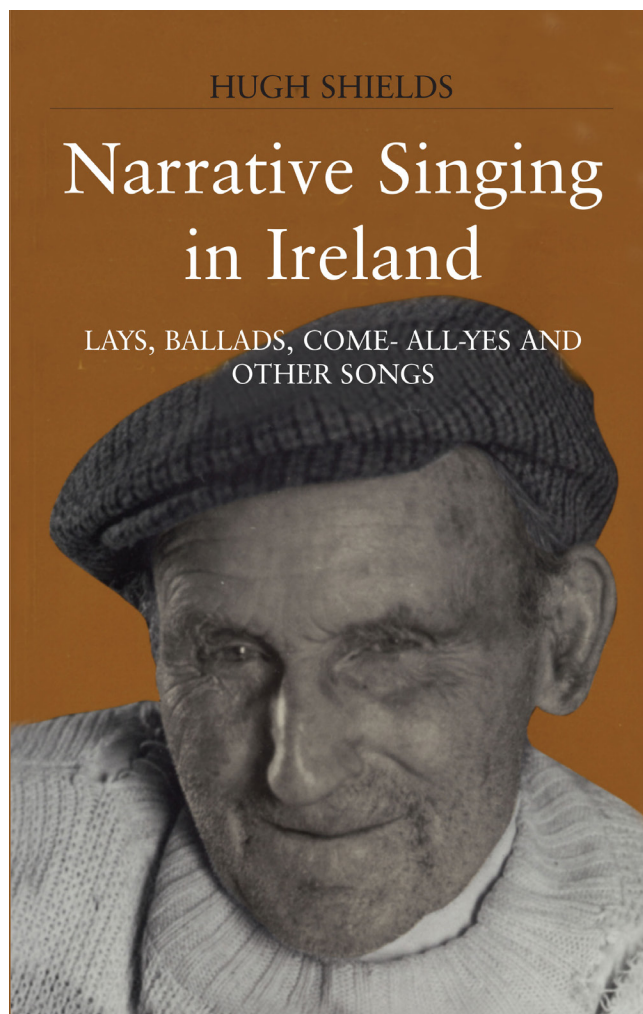
Following the book launch, ITMA CEO Liam O'Connor performed and spoke at the 2024 Joyce Brothers Festival which celebrates the legacy and lives of P.W. Joyce and his brother and fellow music collector Robert Dwyer Joyce.



Ciara Flanagan, Liam Flanagan and Derek Hickey perform at ITMA's P.W. Joyce book launch



## Notable collections included in 2024 were:



Hugh Shields book Narrative Singing in Ireland

### Hugh Shields Publications

In 2024, ITMA was delighted to make two important books by Hugh Shields freely available on its website. In January, *Narrative Singing in Ireland: Lays, Ballads, Come-All-Ye's and Other Songs* was published online, followed in September by *All the Days of His Life: Eddie Butcher in His Own Words* along with its three accompanying CDs.

ITMA would like to sincerely thank the Shields Family for their kind permission to make these valuable resources accessible to the public.

### Journal of the Irish Folk Song Society

In March and April 29 volumes of the *Journal of the Irish Folk Song Society (1904–1939)* were made freely available on the ITMA website. The Irish Folk Song Society (IFSS) was founded in London in 1904. The object of the Society was ‘to collect all the unpublished traditional airs and ballads of the Irish race, and to print and publish as many as possible from time to time’. This was accomplished through the publication of a journal.

## The Moynihan Dance Manuscript

In August 2024, ITMA published *The Moynihan Dance Manuscript* on its website. This unique document contains the unpublished typewritten notes of a 1938 interview with Mr James Moynihan, a well-known dance master from Cork City. The manuscript was donated to the Cullinane Archive Collection (CAC) by Mrs Peggy Barry of Cork City, who had been a pupil of Moynihan in her younger days.

## Stories Told by Cards & Tapes: Uncovering Denis Murphy Materials at ITMA



Fiddle player Anton Zille

This online project, curated and edited by fiddle player Anton Zille, shines a light on the musical legacy of Denis Murphy through the rich resources of the Irish Traditional Music Archive. Published on ITMA's website in November 2024, the project was undertaken to mark the 50th anniversary of Denis Murphy's untimely passing in 1974.

Presented across nine chapters, the project features curated playlists and images of *An Cnuasacht Iomlán den Cheol Damhsa* (CICD) index cards from the Breandán Breathnach Collection. In total, 38 audio tracks and 39 CICD cards are showcased.

Six of Denis Murphy's tunes have been transcribed in detail by Anton Zille and are available as interactive scores synced to the original recordings. These are also offered as downloadable PDFs and in ABC notation format.

ITMA gratefully acknowledges Anton Zille's valuable contributions to this project.

## Misleór 2024

In 2024, ITMA collaborated with the Misleór Festival of Nomadic Cultures to make a rare and out-of-print album of Traveller stories and songs freely available through the ITMA website. The recordings originally published on cassette as 'Stories and Songs of the Road, vol. 1' were made by Niall Ó Murchadha with Travellers based in Co. Galway between 1989-1991. As part of the Misleór 2024 festival programme, ITMA co-hosted an event celebrating the audio collection, which brought together the families of the performers featured in the recordings.

## Ireland's Whistling Ambassador: Micho Russell



Bill Ochs and Micho Russell

The 30th Anniversary of the death of Micho Russell was also remembered with the publication of Bill Ochs' film *Ireland's Whistling Ambassador*. Along with the film, ITMA published interactive transcriptions of Micho's tunes and added two commercial CDs of Micho Russell's music through his Pennywhistler's Press to ITMA's shop. ITMA would like to thank Margaret Vetare and the Moloney and Russell families for permission to reproduce the material.

Other material added in 2024 included a new series of ITMA video interviews; photographs from Des Gallagher and a further 59 interactive scores.

Work continued to bring the remaining material from the previous website into the new design, including the Dusty Bluebells microsite, Furls of Music microsite and 2,000 compositions by Andy Dickson. The Goodman and Grier manuscripts were also re-published in a new IIIF interface.



The Old Reels of the World CD, curated by Pádraic Mac Mathúna

## The Old Reels of the World

In July, ITMA launched a new album of outstanding, previously unheard recordings of traditional music and song from its collections. The Old Reels of the World features 21 tracks from the donated private collections of Tom Davis, Tony MacMahon and Larry Redican. The CD was compiled by Prof Pádraic Mac Mathúna and formally launched at Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy 2024 by former ITMA chairperson Cathal Goan.

The album features recordings dated from the 1950s to the late 1990s from some of the biggest names in traditional music, including Séamus Ennis, Willie Clancy, Bobby Casey, Joe Heaney, Leo Rowsome, Kathleen Harrington, Tommie Potts, Seán Keane and more.

Prof. Pádraic Mac Mathura is an uilleann piper and retired gastroenterologist, who over the past three years has catalogued a huge body of old recordings for ITMA pro bono. His father, Ciarán Mac Mathúna, worked as a radio and TV presenter for RTÉ, and for decades collected Irish traditional music throughout Ireland and during trips to the United States. Ciarán also sent private personalised recordings to musicians in the States, some of which have been catalogued by Pádraic during his time with ITMA.

**“These recordings reflect the diversity of contexts in which Irish music was and continues to be performed; at house parties, clubs, pubs, concert halls and competition venues. They remind us of the intimacy of performance and sense of connection between musician and audience, whether it’s the vibrant response of a concert-hall audience for a céilí band or the muted appreciation of a song well-sung in private.”**

Former ITMA Chairperson and Director  
General of RTÉ Cathal Goan



## Digital Collections and Exhibitions



Claire Sherry, recorded as part of ITMA and Trad is Amach's 'Ar Scáth a Chéile' project

### Ar Scáth a Chéile

Coinciding with Dublin Pride Festival 2024, ITMA and Trad is Amach partnered to create Ar Scáth a Chéile, a new digital audio collection highlighting the works of five traditional artists who identify as members of the LGBTQ+ community. ITMA would like to thank Niall Coakley, Máire Úna Ní Bheaglaioich, Mick McCabe, Claire Sherry and Kieran Munnely for their participation, and Eoghan Scott for his accompaniment. ITMA and Trad is Amach look forward to building out this project in the coming years to feature more musicians in the LGBTQ+ community and continue to recognise the rich contributions they make to the tradition.

### St. Brigid's Day

On 1st February, for the third year in a row ITMA presented a composition on the theme of St Brigid to mark her national holiday. The composer this year was Sandie Purcell, a fiddle player and primary school teacher from Kill, Co. Kildare.

### Pádraic Mac Mathúna's Monthly Playlist

In 2024, ITMA continued the 'Pádraic's Picks' web series – a monthly playlist from the collections of Tom Davis, Tony MacMahon and Larry Redican curated by Dr Pádraic Mac Mathúna.

## Cathal and Maura McConnell Collection Playlists

Cathal McConnell, renowned musician and singer, donated 700+ cassette tapes to ITMA in 2023, a vast collection that spans more than four decades from the late 1960s to the early 2010s. His late sister Maura's collection was donated to ITMA in 2002 and contains over 400+ non-commercial audio tapes, photographs, printed materials and features recordings from the 1960s–1980s.

The non-commercial audio material was recorded both in Ireland and abroad in a range of settings including field recordings in houses, informal sessions, concerts, outtake studio recordings, music classes and workshops. Cathal cast his musical net far and wide and listeners can enjoy an informal gathering in a kitchen in rural Fermanagh before being transported to stages from New York to Melbourne. This reflects Cathal's life as a performing musician who maintained a steadfast link to his native tradition.

In 2024, Donegal fiddle player Rónán Galvin curated six playlists for ITMA's website that explored this treasure of traditional music and song. This project was made possible thanks to funding from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

## Saothar

12 composers featured in the Saothar series with a total of 84 compositions (70 tunes and 14 songs).

Eamon Flynn, fiddle (23 tunes); Brenda Castles, concertina (6 tunes); Daniel Ryan, accordion (7 tunes); Michael Flatley, flute (2 tunes); Martin Hayes, fiddle (3 tunes); Clare Sands, fiddle (4 tunes); Sophie Ryan, harp (4 tunes); Marty Fahey, accordion (11 tunes); Connie O'Connell, fiddle (6 tunes); Ceara Conway, singer (7 songs); Sorcha Costello, fiddle (4 tunes); Chan Reid, singer (7 songs).

## December in-house Field Recordings

In December 2024, ITMA conducted nine field recording interviews in the library at 73 Merrion Square with a collection of traditional musicians, singers and dancers. Over the course of three days, ITMA interviewed 10 different artists: fiddle player and collector Caoimhín Mac Aoidh, singer Len Graham, dancers Bernie Nic Gabhann and John Murphy, dancer Cuthbert Tura Arutura, dancer Terry Moylan, singer Nan Tom Teamín, singer Gearóidín Breathnach, fiddle player and singer Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh and composer Bill Whelan. The interviews were conducted by Liam O'Connor, Ciarán Ó Maonaigh, Síle Denvir and Caitlín Nic Gabhann and Edwina Guckian.

## At the end of 2024 the visitors to the ITMA website could:



### View

2,411 images in  
67 galleries



### Watch

344 videos



### Listen

to 3,537 audio files  
in 183 playlists



### Learn

from 10,273  
interactive scores  
in 93 notated  
collections,



### Read

488 books and  
manuscripts,  
129 biographies,  
301 Recent  
publications  
and acquisitions  
listing, 128 blogs;



### Explore

26 multi-media  
Collections,  
3 external  
exhibitions.

## Films and Programmes



Andrea Palandri, *Taoscadh ón Tobar*

### **Taoscadh ón Tobar**

ITMA's flagship artistic series "*Drawing from the Well*" launched in 2020 with the aim of connecting Ireland's leading traditional musicians, singers, and dancers with ITMA's rich archival material to inspire new works of art. In May 2024, in partnership with TG4, this concept was brought to the small screen in *Taoscadh ón Tobar*.

The docuseries brought Ireland's traditional music to life and uncovered the stories of significant musicians, singers, collectors, and regions over the course of five episodes. Italian-born fiddle player Andrea Palandri traced the life and music of Sliabh Luachra fiddle master and teacher Pádraig O'Keeffe. Cúil Aodha native Iarla Ó Lionáird studied the songs of his locality as collected by Alexander Martin Freeman in the early 1900's. Doireann Ní Ghlacáin uncovered the story of fellow Dublin fiddle player Bridget Kenny, dubbed "The Queen of Irish Fiddlers" by Captain Francis O'Neill. Seán McElwain highlighted the music of Sliabh Beagh, a border area where counties Tyrone, Fermanagh, and Monaghan meet. And singer Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh performed a deep dive on the songs of Seán de hÓra, a standard bearer of the tradition, and the only ever Oireachtas winner to hail from Corca Dhuibhne. The programme was broadcast over five weeks on TG4 and is now freely available via the TG4 Player.





Brendan Gleeson in *Farewell to Hughes's*

## Brendan Gleeson's *Farewell to Hughes's*

Brendan Gleeson's *Farewell to Hughes's*, a documentary co-produced by ITMA and actor Brendan Gleeson, made its world premiere at the 2024 Dublin International Film Festival on Friday, 1 March, 2024. The film, directed by Ciarán Ó Maonaigh and presented by Brendan Gleeson, explores the music and legacy of Hughes pub in Dublin.

After its DIFF premiere sold out within 24 hours, the film had a three-month run at Dublin's Light House Cinema and Galway's Pálás Cinema. In the Autumn, the film made its international debut in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane and Canberra as part of the Irish Film Festival Australia. Following this, Aer Lingus acquired the rights to air the film on board its in-flight entertainment system. In December, the film made its broadcast debut on TG4, with plans to air on Sky TV in the UK and Ireland, SBS in Australia and the Rialto Channel in New Zealand 2025.

*Farewell to Hughes's* was awarded Best Documentary at the 2024 Vancouver Movie awards and was nominated for the George Morrison Best Feature Documentary at the 2025 Irish Film and Television Academy (IFTA) Awards.

**“ Brendan Gleeson's *Farewell to Hughes's* is a succinct feature documentary made by Ciarán Ó Maonaigh and produced and presented by Brendan Gleeson – both accomplished musicians in their own right. To those uninitiated in traditional music, the lack of an introductory narrative may leave them curious to where it is headed. However, the story unfolds slowly to reveal a hidden world of music, song and dance. ”**

Film Ireland

## Seán Keane

ITMA's documentary *Seán Keane: A Portrait of an Artist* was screened to a sold-out crowd at the Irish Film Institute (IFI) on Sunday, 28 January as part of Temple Bar TradFest 2024.

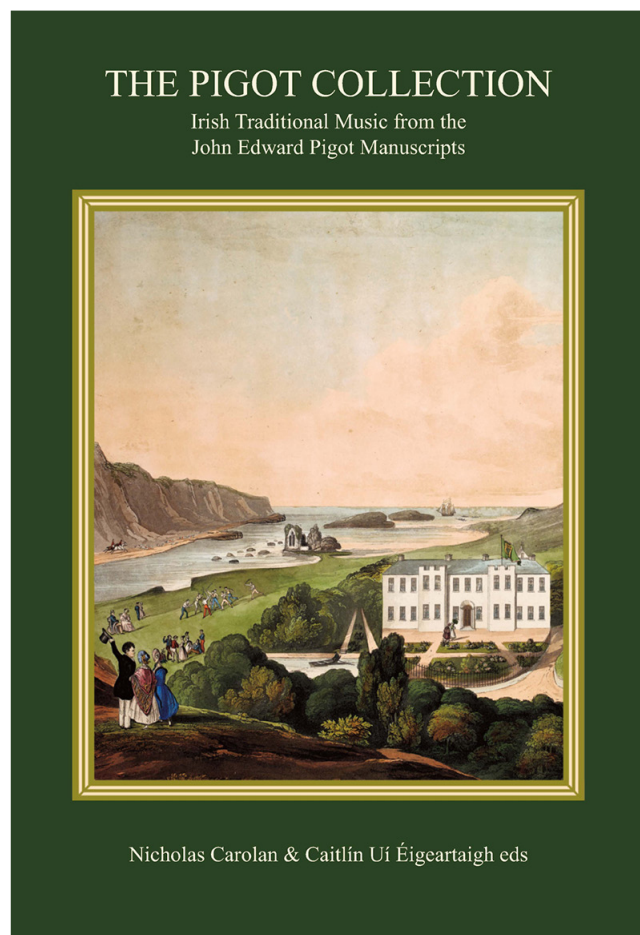
## Drawing from the Well: Junior

To coincide with the 2024 Smithfield Fleadh, ITMA partnered with Dublin's Lighthouse Cinema to screen its educational *Drawing from the Well: Junior* series of short films. In the series, school students Niamh Towey and Fionn O'Connor ask Ireland's leading traditional musicians, singers and dancers about our native instruments. Featuring Seán McKeon, Louise Mulcahy, Robbie Harris and Eithne Ní Chatháin.



Robbie Harris, Niamh Towey and Fionn O'Connor - *Drawing from the Well: Junior*

## Presentations & Publications by ITMA Staff



### The Pigot Collection

In late November, ITMA published an important new collection of more than 600 transcriptions of pre-Famine Irish traditional music.

*The Pigot Collection: Irish Traditional Music from the John Edward Pigot Manuscripts* features staff-notated music collected in the 1840s and 1850s by the barrister-at-law and amateur musician John Edward Pigot, assisted by his musician wife Annie Prendergast.

The book, edited by ITMA Director Emeritus Nicholas Carolan and Caitlín Uí Éigeartaigh, features all the melodies Pigot noted from live performance and from manuscripts given to him by friends and colleagues. These are featured along with essays on the collector, illustrations, appendices and indexes. The Pigot Collection is a companion to ITMA's Forde Collection, published in 2022.



ITMA Archivist Maeve Gebruers presenting at a National Library of Ireland event, September 2024

**Throughout 2024, ITMA Archivist Maeve Gebruers delivered a number of presentations to a range of audiences, sharing expertise in traditional music archiving and digital preservation.**

On 6 March, Maeve co-presented with ITMA Digital Librarian Treasa Harkin to students of Traditional and World Music at the University of Limerick. Other

engagements included a presentation at the Heritage Week Training Day in Limerick (16 May), and participation in the National Library of Ireland/Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC) event on digital preservation systems (25 September). In November, Maeve spoke at the Exploring Archival Cataloguing event at Dublin City Library & Archives, organised by the Irish Archives Resource, the Archives and Records Association, Ireland, and UCD School of History. Earlier in the year, she was also one of three invited guests on the Archives & Records Association's Archive Hour Twitter discussion (March), focusing on the challenges of archiving intangible cultural heritage, alongside Dr Barry Houlihan (NUIG) and Lisa Shorthall (Heritage Council).

Treasa Harkin gave an interview to Raidió na Gaeltachta about a cassette tape and essay by Niall Ó Murchadha entitled 'Stories and songs from the road', recordings collected from Irish Travellers in Galway, 1989-1991, which was re-published on the ITMA website.

Treasa Harkin's article Interactive Scores at the Irish Traditional Music Archive was published in *Fontes Artis Musicae*, Vol. 71, No. 3

## Margaret Barry research

At Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy 2024, ITMA's Field Recording Officer Alan Woods presented a lecture on the life and music of the Cork born singer, Margaret Barry. Alan undertook a period of extensive original research that saw him conduct field recording interviews with members of Margaret Barry's family and people who knew and played music with Margaret such as Reg Hall and Paddy Joe Tighe. Through Alan's research, a number of donations and new collections were added to the ITMA Collection, including rare video footage of Margaret filmed by Winston Pettus, audio donated by Roger Digby and a mixed media collection loaned for digitisation by Antoinette Keane that includes audio, photographs and a manuscript of music written by Margaret Barry's musical partner, Michael Gorman.



# Financial Review



The results for the financial year are set out in the statement of financial activities.

## Results

The net surplus for the financial year 2024 was €45,237 (2023: surplus of €345,047).

Total income in 2024 was €1,541,495 (2023: €1,846,020).

The total expenditure in 2024 was €1,496,258 (2023: €1,500,973).

## Expenditure

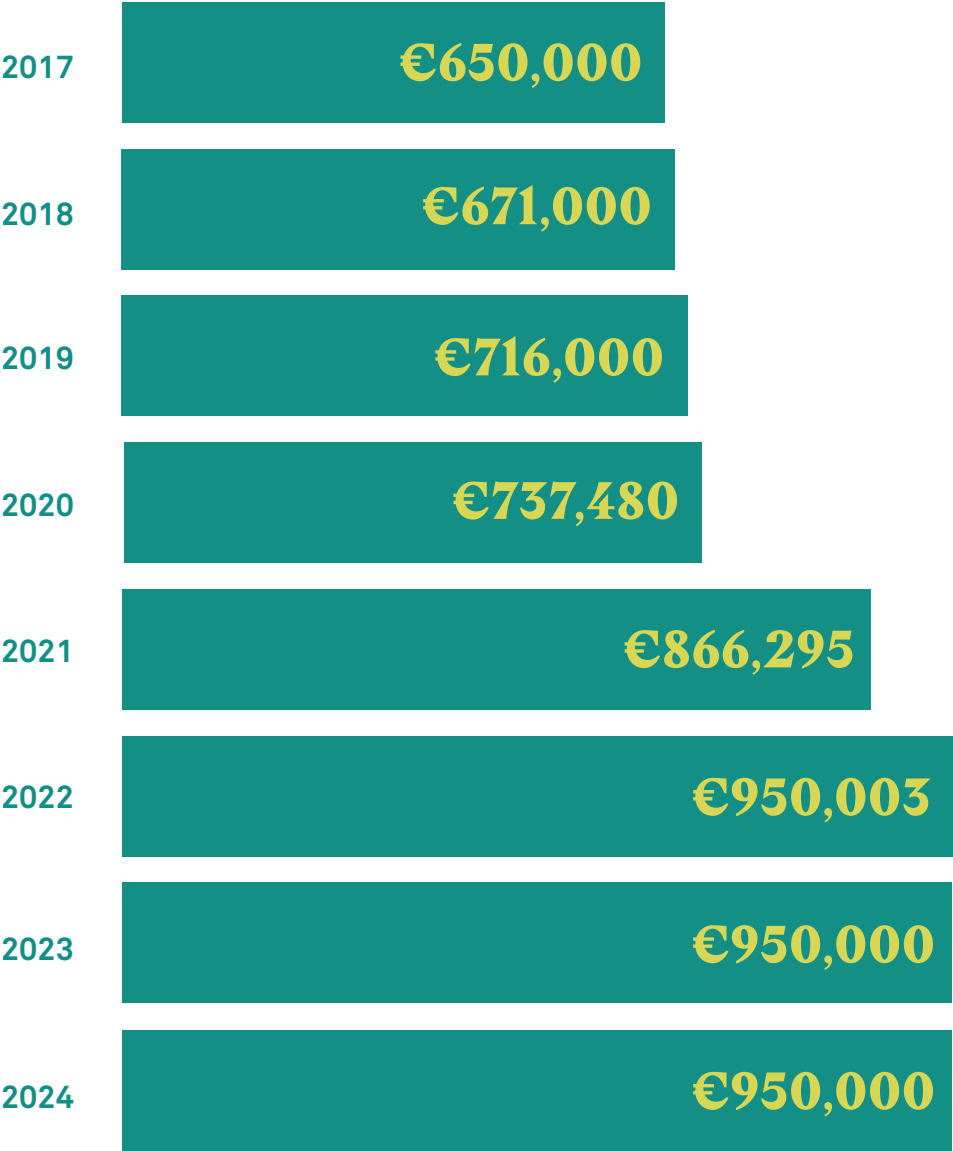
Summary		
	2024	2023
Payroll	€611,320	€574,248
Core	€589,628	€552,090
Programme	€295,310	€374,635
Total Expenditure	€1,496,258	€1,500,973

Income	2024	2023	2022	2021
Donations and Legacies	€167,530	€224,475	€15,724	€5,281
Charitable Activities: Grants from Governments Agencies and other co-funders	€1,281,161	€1,543,570	€1,240,890	€1,118,147
Other trading activities	€92,804	€77,975	€94,243	€44,070
Total Income	€1,541,495	€1,846,020	€1,350,407	€1,167,498
Expenditure				
Charitable Activities	€1,496,258	€1,500,973	€1,262,377	€1,140,072
Surplus for the year	€45,237	€345,047	€88,030	€27,426

## Income

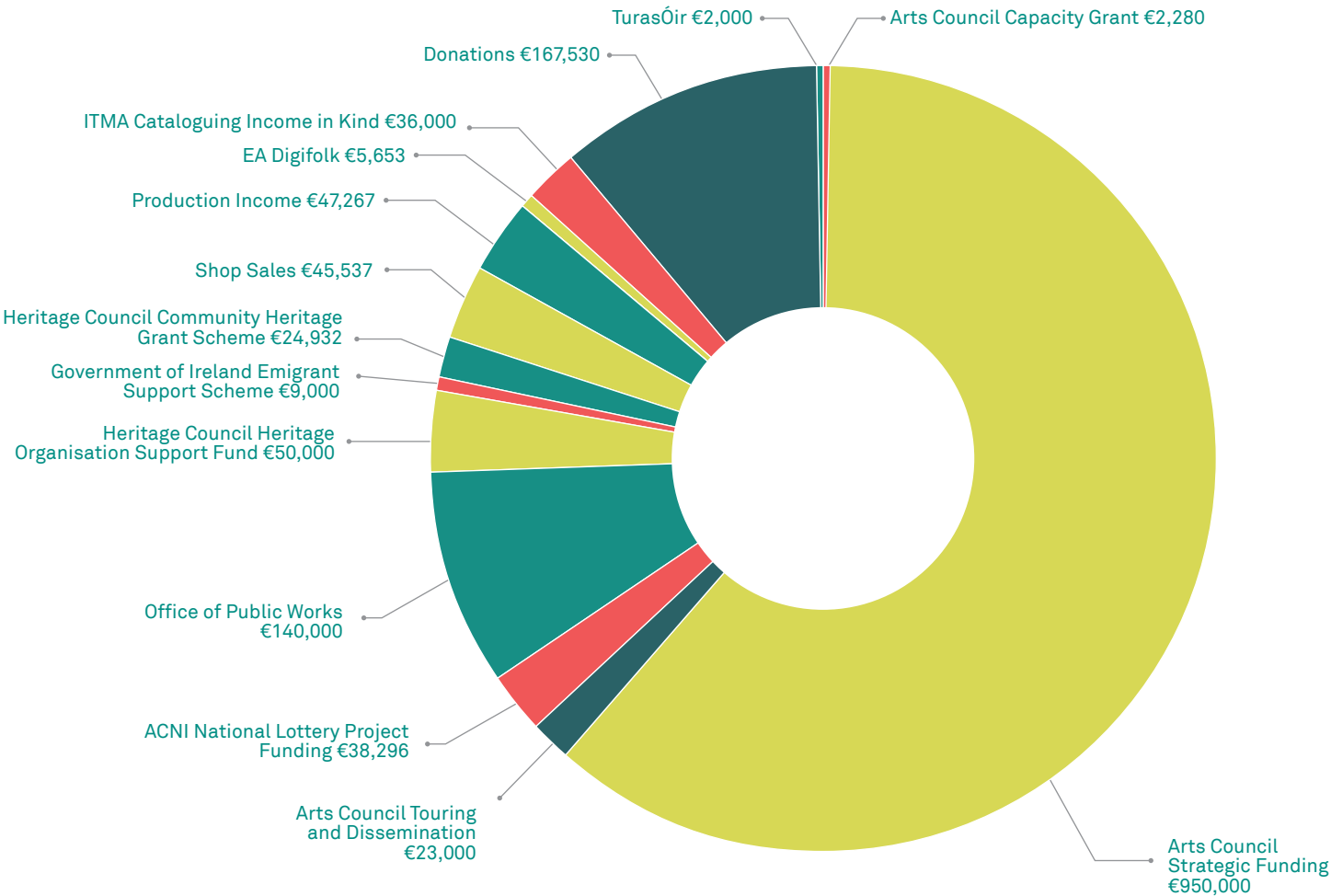
### Arts Council Strategic Funding

In 2024, ITMA’s annual strategic funding from the Arts Council of Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon was at a standstill of €950,000. In providing a free public service and established on a not-for-profit basis, ITMA is dependent on the financial support of its main funding institutions and was extremely grateful in the confidence shown by the Arts Council of Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon in sustaining a high level of financial support for ITMA in 2024.



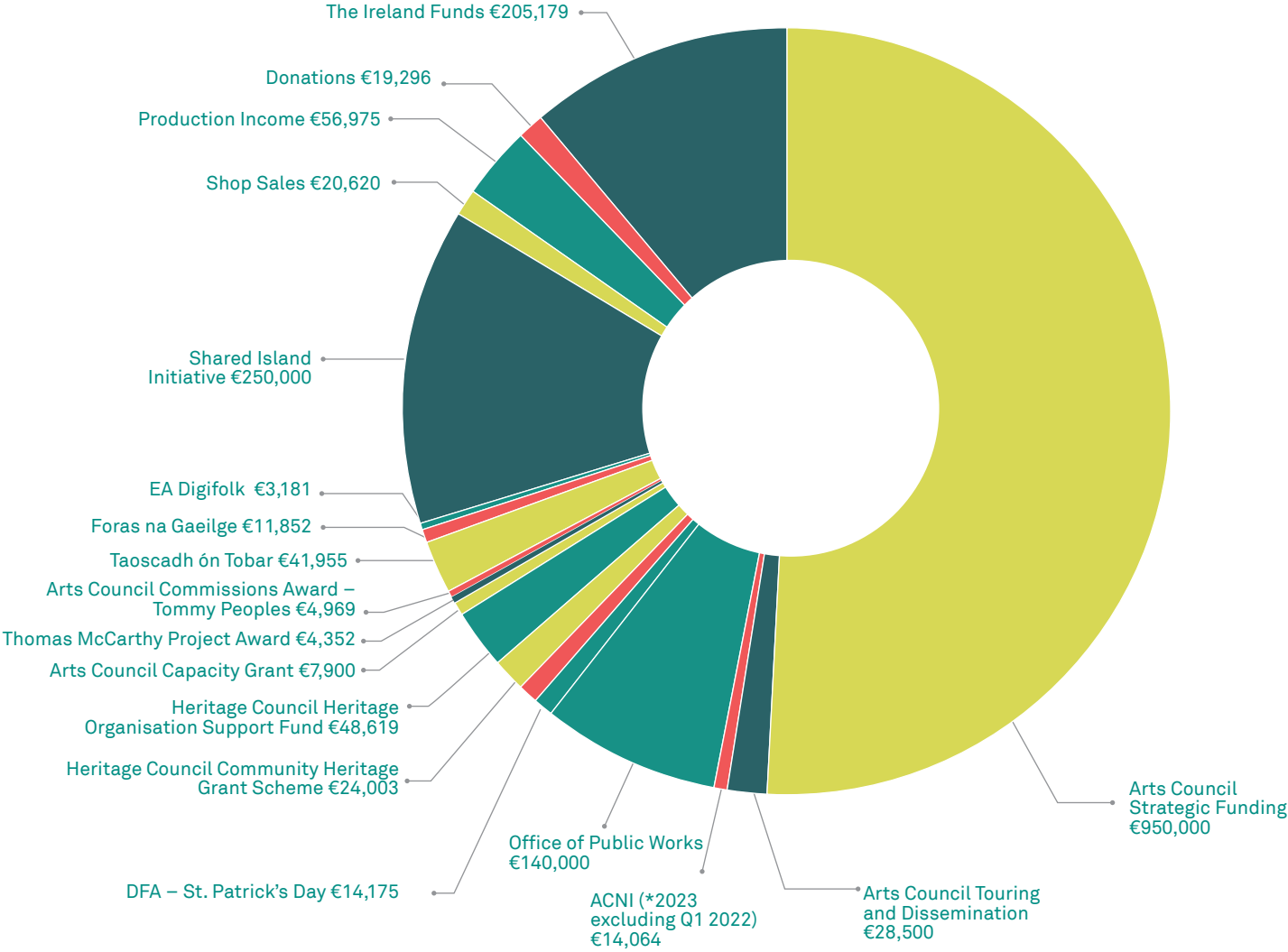
# Other Funding

ITMA was awarded annual funding of £23,450 by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. The Heritage Council awarded funding totalling €74,932 from two separate grant streams in 2024. In-kind benefit was received from the State through a rental agreement with the Office of Public Works for its premises in 73 Merrion Square. In 2018 this was valued at an in-kind income of €140,000. ITMA received philanthropic donations worth €167,530 as of 31st December. ITMA are grateful to our other grant funders.



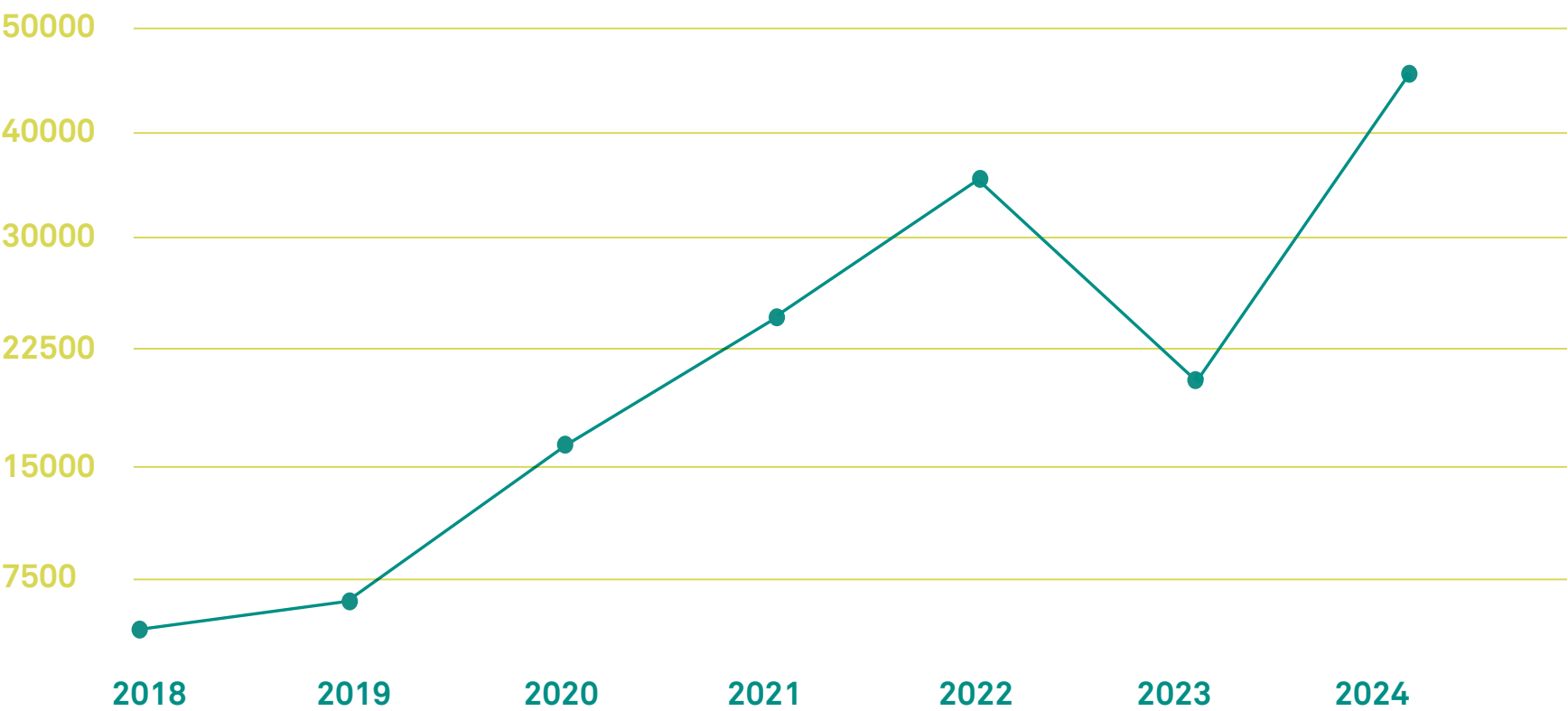


ITMA Funding 2023



## Online Shop

In 2024, ITMA online shop sales were €45,537 (2023: €20,620), an increase of 120% on 2023. Growing shop sales is part of ITMA’s strategic move to broaden the organisation’s income sources and increase financial resilience.



Growth In Shop Sales

## ITMA Reserves Policy & Plan

The following was agreed at the ITMA Board Meeting on 12/12/2023: The audit committee recommends a policy of creating 4 months reserves by the end of 2024, 4.5 months reserves by the end of 2025, and 5 months reserves by the end of 2026.

- The level of Reserves held by the organisation are to be monitored on a monthly basis by ITMA's accountants and Director/CEO and on a bi-monthly basis by the Audit Committee and the Board
- ITMA's accountants prepares a specific Reserves calculation as part of each management accounts pack
- ITMA Finance & Administration staff are subject to expenditure approval limits as set out in the company's Financial Management and Procedures Manual
- The Chair of the Board signs off on all yearly budgets submitted to the Arts Council as part of the annual application for strategic funding
- Company expenditure levels vs budget are reviewed monthly by the Director/CEO and bi-monthly by the Audit Committee and Board.

## Use of Reserves

Company reserves may only be utilised in the following circumstances:

- Expenditure items are “revenue generating”, i.e. shop stock items
- Expenditure items are exceptional in nature, in the best interests of the organisation and must be approved by Director and Chair of the Board.

## Building Reserves – Plan

ITMA plan to grow the financial reserves of the Company by the following means:

- Increasing ITMA Shop Income
- Increasing donations income and philanthropic support via ITMA's matched funding scheme
- Increasing ITMA “Production” Income
- Developing new private/fundraising income streams, i.e. ITMA studio space & ITMA Content Income.

## Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The directors are responsible for the company's system of internal controls and for reviewing its effectiveness. The internal control system is designed to manage, rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve the company's business objectives and can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatements or loss.

The directors are not aware of any specific risks or uncertainties which would have an impact on the company. The company plans to improve its present activities and current trading levels. Employees are kept as fully informed as practicable about developments within the business.

Risk Register identifies risks under the following themes: Governance, Strategic, Legal and Regulatory, Operational Financial, Environmental & External and Reputational.

The following key risks were identified in 2021 and continued to be a priority in 2024:

- IT Obsolescence, security and upgrade
- Data asset storage and preservation capacity
- Property – risk of damage, storage, suitability and future planning
- Intellectual Property and copyright procedures
- Mitigation measures have been put in place to reduce the risk level.





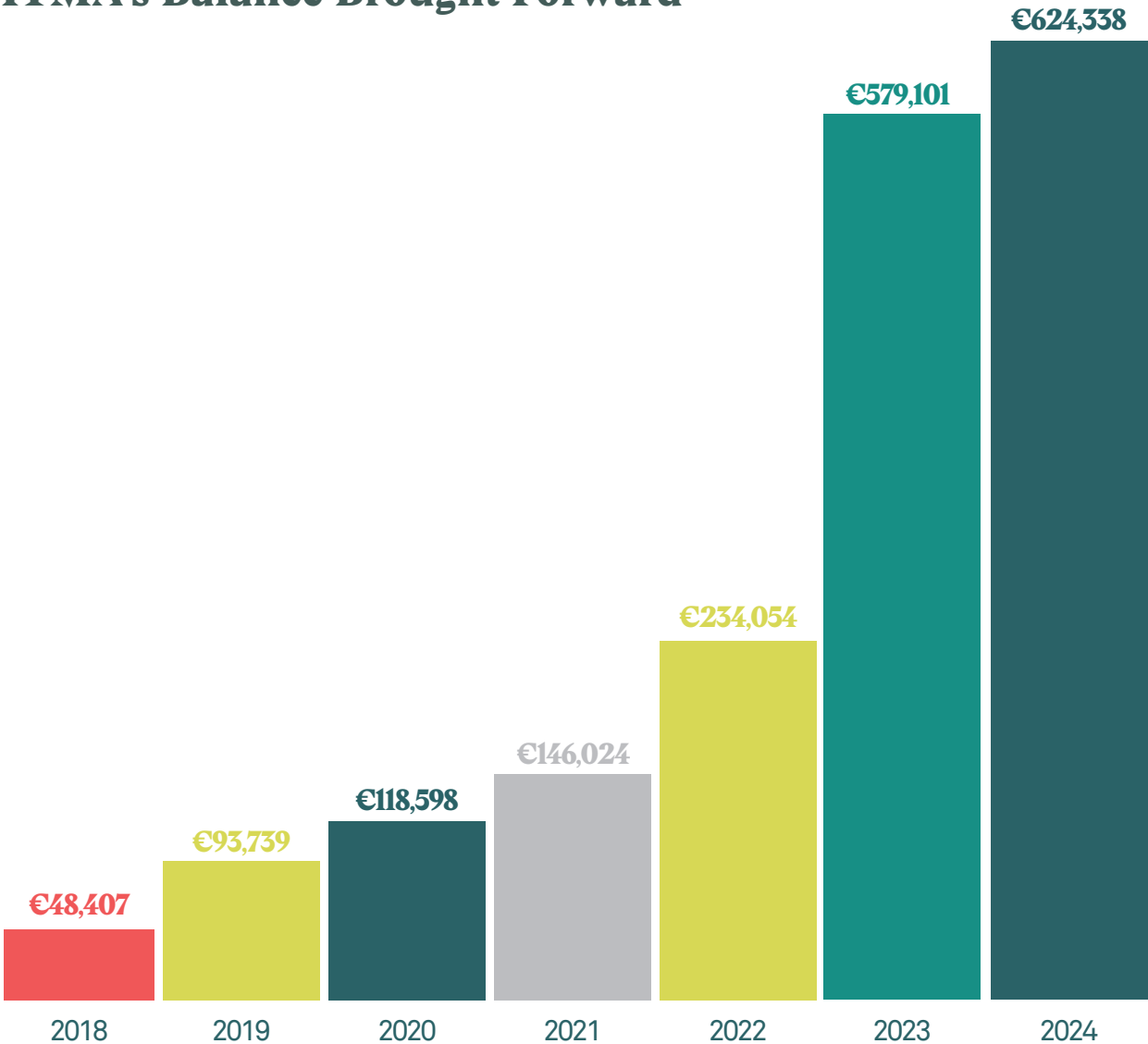
## ITMA’s Reserves Achievements

A surplus of €45,237 for 2024 was made possible by the delivery on the actions outlined in ITMA’s reserve policy plan and KPIs.

ITMA Shop Sales: €45,537

ITMA Production Income: €47,267  
(Drawing from the Well Concerts & tour ticket sales income earned)

## ITMA’s Balance Brought Forward



# Governance and Management



## Ethos

ITMA is committed to operating to the highest standards of good governance practice. We are committed to ensuring we live up to our reputation as a respectful, honest and open organisation, and we aim to continue to achieve the highest standards in all our practices. The Irish Traditional Music Archive is committed to complying with the Guidelines for Charitable Organisations Fundraising from the Public and has formally discussed and adopted the Guidelines at a meeting of the governing body.

## Structure & Management

ITMA is a company limited by guarantee, registered under Part 18 of the Companies Act 2014. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association and

managed by the Board of Directors. ITMA Board sub-committees are established for good governance practice. ITMA has three board subcommittees, Audit & Finance, Governance and Fundraising who report to the Board at each board meeting. These subcommittees comprise of industry experts in the field of business management, finance, governance, law, information technologies and media. ITMA have a dedicated Governance Officer on staff who works closely with the CEO and Administration in reviewing company policies and procedures before reporting to the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Committee. ITMA governance policies and procedures are reviewed and updated periodically by the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Committee throughout the year.

## Role of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of ITMA as a whole are responsible for:

- Ensuring that ITMA has a clear vision, mission and strategic direction and is focused on achieving these
- Ensuring that ITMA complies with all legal and regulatory requirements
- Acting as guardians of ITMA's assets, both tangible and intangible, taking all due care over their security, deployment and proper application
- Ensuring that ITMA's governance is of the highest possible standard
- Ensuring an ethos of equality in all that the organisation does

*(ITMA Handbook for Board Members, p.11)*

## Board members

The directors who served throughout the financial year, except as noted, were as follows:

- Áine Hensey, Chair, Audit Committee, Fundraising Committee (appointed 2018, re-appointed 2021, re-appointed as chair 2023), attended 7/7 meetings
- Síle Denvir, vice chair, ESG committee (appointed 2019, re-appointed 2022) attended 6/7 meetings
- Kate Barry, ESG committee (appointed 2022) attended 7/7 meetings
- Libby McCrohan, Audit committee (appointed 2022) attended 7/7 meetings
- Mairéad Hurley, ESG committee (appointed 2022) attended 7/7 meetings
- Niamh Ní Charra, ESG committee (appointed 2022) attended 6/7 meetings
- Edwina Guckian, Fundraising committee (appointed 2022) attended 4/7 meetings
- Martin O'Connell, Audit committee (appointed 2023) attended 7/7 meetings
- Iarfhlaith Ó Domhnaill, treasurer, Audit Committee (appointed 2023) attended 7/7 meetings
- Máire Ní Ghráda, ESG committee (appointed 2018, completed term of office July 2024) attended 4/4 meetings
- Úna Monaghan, ESG committee (appointed 2018, completed term of office July 2024) attended 4/4 meetings
- Bernard Kirk, Audit committee, Fundraising committee (appointed July 2024) attended 3/3 meetings
- Cathal Gaffney, Fundraising committee (appointed July 2024) attended 3/3 meetings
- The company secretary is Liam O'Connor

## Appointment of Directors & Induction

Board members are recruited in accordance with the Board Competency Framework. This document is part of the Board Member's Handbook and comprehensively sets out the recruitment process. It details constitutional requirements for appointments to the Board, the general principles of the Board, the range of experience and skills required and the process by which Board Members are recruited. This process is overseen by the ESG Committee. New recruits to the Board are taken through an induction process, again detailed in the Board Member's Handbook, and invited to meet with staff and get a tour of the building. They are given a copy of the Handbook which details the roles and responsibilities so that it is clear to each Board Member what is expected of them.



## Board Member Profiles

### Dr Áine Hensey

Áine has worked in broadcasting since 1979. She began her career with RTÉ Radio 2 (now 2FM) before joining Raidió na Gaeltachta in 1995. Since 2014, she has been the co-director of Consairtín, the national concertina convention. She was awarded a PhD in early modern history from Maynooth University in 2012 and is currently chairman of the board of directors of Gael-Linn.

### Bernard Kirk

Bernard is co-founder of Africa Code Week and CEO of The Camden Education Trust, a not for profit with charitable status based in Ireland. A primary school teacher for over 20 years, he was also Director of the Galway Education Center, where he was responsible for teacher professional development. In 2013 Bernard was awarded

an Honorary Masters in Science by NUI Galway for his contribution to Education in Ireland.

### Cathal Gaffney

Cathal established Brown Bag Films with Darragh O'Connell in 1994. In 2015 Brown Bag Films was acquired by 9 Story Media Group and Cathal became the COO of 9 Story media group responsible for all animation Production, HR and Technology across the group. Employing over 1,000 talented staff across studios in Dublin, Toronto, and Bali, Brown Bag Films mission is to produce the best quality work for children on television. In 2002 Cathal directed the short film 'Give Up Yer Aul Sins' which was nominated for an Academy Award® and in 2010 Brown Bag Films were nominated for a second Academy Award® with the short film 'Granny O'Grimm's Sleeping Beauty' directed by

Nicky Phelan. A graduate of 'Leadership For Growth' executive education programme at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. He has studied child psychology and is an honorary Fellow of IADT National Film School. Cathal was nominated for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year programme and has won an Emmy, a Peabody Award and the Murakami Award at Dingle Animation.

### Dr Máire Ní Ghráda

Máire is an uilleann piper originally from Cork, now living in Clonlara, Co. Clare. She is a regular teacher at international piping tionóil and at the annual Willie Clancy School in Miltown Malbay. Máire also teaches Irish and Irish Folklore Studies in the University of Limerick.

**Dr Síle Denvir**

Síle is a harpist and sean-nós singer from the Connemara Gaeltacht. Síle has a BA in Music and Irish from NUI Maynooth, an MA in Irish from NUI Galway, a Graduate Diploma in Music Education and an MA in Traditional Music Performance from the University of Limerick. She also received her PhD doctorate from the University of Limerick in 2012.

**Dr Úna Monaghan**

Úna is a harper, composer, researcher, and sound artist from Belfast. She held the Rosamund Harding Research Fellowship in Music at Newnham College, University of Cambridge from 2016-19.

**Kate Barry**

Kate Barry has a law degree from Birmingham University, she has worked for Eversheds Law Practice in the UK. She moved to Ireland and is now working in Academic Law.

**Libby McCrohan**

Libby McCrohan is an Irish traditional musician and artist from Fingal. She plays a round back Greek bouzouki. She holds a BA in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering from Trinity College Dublin as well as a Higher Diploma in Data Analytics. She is also very interested in visual arts, digital design and crafts.

**Edwina Guckian**

Dancer, choreographer, film maker and cultural producer Edwina hails from outside the village of Drumsna in Co. Leitrim. She has been awarded Leitrim County Council Arts person of the Year, Arts Council Next Generation Award and Connacht Business Person of the Year by the Irish Enterprise Board which led to her setting up [www.irishdancecourses.com](http://www.irishdancecourses.com).

**Niamh Ní Charra**

Niamh is a musician, composer and professional archivist. Chair of the Archives and Records Association for the Archives and Records Association, Ireland, she is co-host of the podcast series Archive Nation, and regularly gives presentations on her work in this field, including recently at both Electric Picnic and at the International Council on Archives (ICA) conference in Rome.

**Dr Mairéad Hurley**

Mairéad Hurley is a concertina player from a musical family in Ballymote, Co. Sligo. She is an Assistant Professor in Science Education at Trinity College Dublin, and her research examines learning approaches which combine science with the arts. She has been successful in securing over €5M in funding for international cooperative projects on science education since 2017.

**Martin O'Connell**

Martin O'Connell is an accordion player and an electrical engineer from County Kerry who is an accomplished and award-winning entrepreneur with expertise in pharmaceuticals, financial and business management. Martin co-founded Nasal Medical in 2014 and as its CEO, grew the company into a leading transatlantic operation. Augmenting the Board's financial, entrepreneurial and fundraising experience, Martin brings this experience and business acumen to support the organisation's ambitions to expand in the year's ahead.

**Iarfhlaith Ó Domhnaill**

Iarfhlaith Ó Domhnaill hails from Donegal and is a documentary film maker and fiddle player. He is also a chartered accountant with auditing experience. Iarfhlaith worked in KPMG, WOBH, and ITMA before taking a position with Other Voices where his production and financial skills are combined. As Treasurer, Iarfhlaith has an excellent knowledge of the nuances of SORP accounting, the arts sector and cultural charities.

## Audit Committee

The committee held 6 meetings during the year

Iarfhlaith Ó Domhnaill (chair)

Libby McCrohan

Martin O'Connell

Áine Hensey

Bernard Kirk (from August 2024)

Assisted by Liam O'Connor

## Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Committee

The committee held 5 meetings during the year

Síle Denvir (chair)

Niamh Ní Charra (from August 2024)

Kate Barry

Mairéad Hurley

Cathal Gaffney (August - October 2024)

Assisted by Treasa Harkin

## Fundraising Committee

(formed October 2024)

The committee held 2 meetings during the year.

Cathal Gaffney (chair)

Bernard Kirk

Edwina Guckian

Áine Hensey

Liam O'Connor



## Board Meetings and Attendance

The board met on 7 occasions in 2024

20 February 2024

23 April 2024

18 June 2024

4 July 2024 (AGM)

27 August 2024

23 October 2024

10 December 2024

\*A director is appointed for a three-year term of office. At the AGM each year, directors who have completed their full three-year term shall retire. A retiring director shall be eligible for re-election for a further term of office which, when aggregated with the term already served, shall not exceed six years. A “year” for this purpose shall mean the period from one annual general meeting of the Company to the next. (Article 60, ITMA Constitution)

The provisions of article 60 shall not apply in the case of a director appointed as chairperson during his/her period of tenure. Any such director may be eligible for re-appointment for a further term of not more than three years and may be re-appointed by ordinary resolution of the Board. (Article 63, ITMA Constitution)

Board Member	Role	Meeting Attendance	Appointed (always July)	Reappointed (always July)	Left the Board
Áine Hensey	Chair (to July 2023) Fundraising Committee Audit Committee	7/7	2018	2021	
Síle Denvir	Vice chair, ESG committee	6/7	2019	2022	
Kate Barry	ESG committee	7/7	2022		
Libby McCrohan	Audit committee	7/7	2022		
Mairéad Hurley	ESG committee	7/7	2022		
Niamh Ní Charra	ESG committee	6/7	2022		
Edwina Guckian	Fundraising committee	4/7	2022		
Martin O’Connell	Audit committee	7/7	2023		
Iarfhlaith Ó Domhnaill	Treasurer, Audit Committee	7/7	2023		
Máire Ní Ghráda	ESG committee	4/4	2018		Completed term of office July 2024
Úna Monaghan	ESG committee	4/4	2018		Completed term of office July 2024
Bernard Kirk	Audit committee, Fundraising committee	3/3	2024		
Cathal Gaffney	Fundraising committee	3/3	2024		

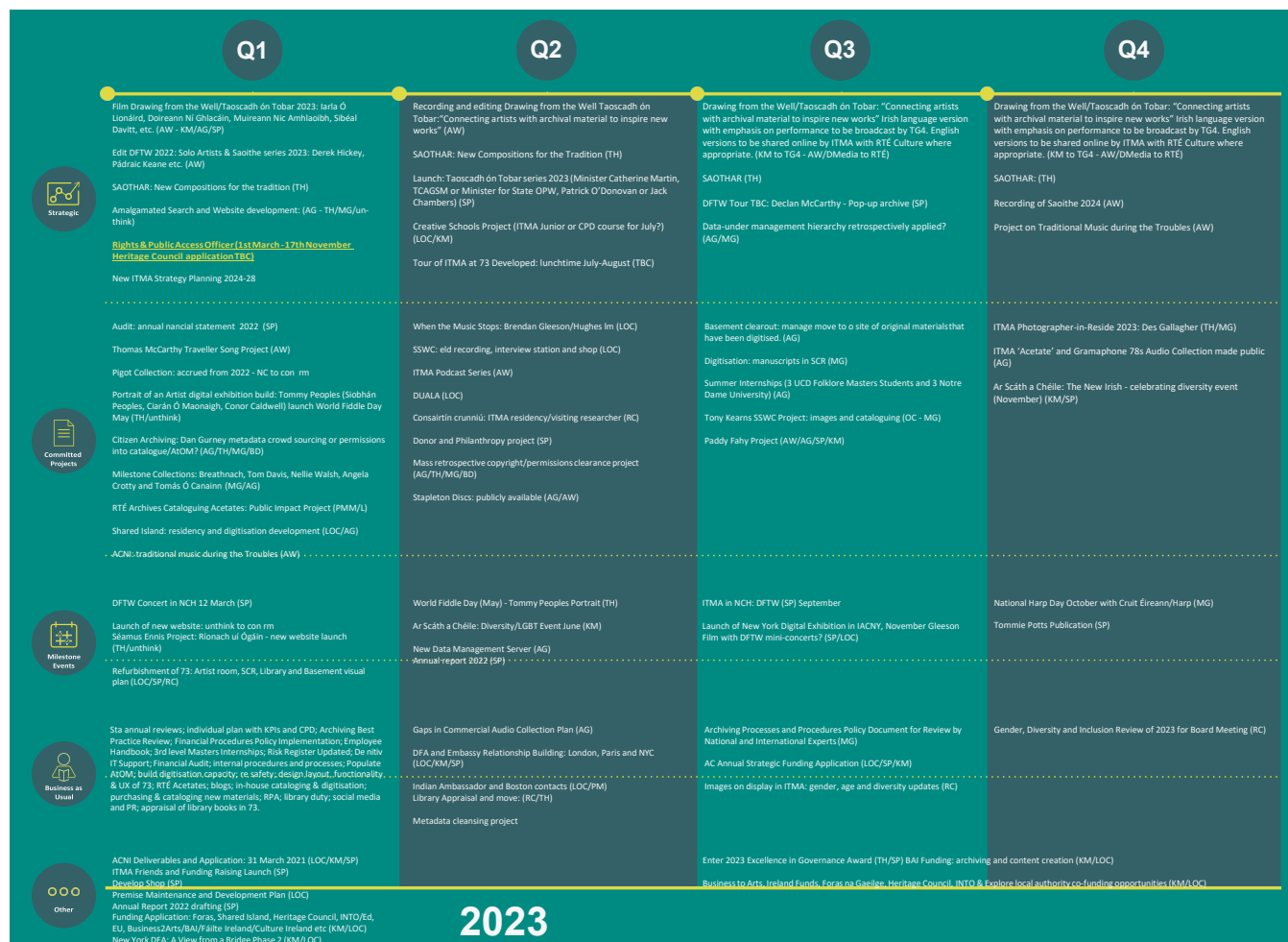
## Delegation of Board Responsibilities to the Director of ITMA

The Board of Directors is ultimately responsible for ITMA. Article 84 of the Articles of Association provides that the directors may delegate any of the powers which are conferred on them and the following duties and responsibilities have been delegated to the Director/CEO:

**“ To implement the strategic plan, and to lead and manage ITMA’s staff members, programmes, projects, finances, pricing and all other administrative aspects so that ITMA’s ongoing mission, vision, and strategies are fulfilled within the context of ITMA’s values as approved by the Board of Directors. The Director/CEO shall have responsibility and authority over all areas of the organisation including any subsidiaries. The Director/CEO is also responsible for preparing materials for Board consideration and for preparing materials for any future strategic planning process. ”**

(ITMA Handbook for Board Members, p.14 (2020))

The Director/CEO's responsibilities for contracts and leases, staff appointments, business records, financial matters, financial supervision, receipt of funds, disbursement of funds, financial records are outlined in ITMA's Handbook for Board Members. The Director/CEO prepares an Annual Strategic Yearly Plan informed by ITMA's Strategy 2019-23, which outlines strategic, committed projects, milestone events, business as usual and other priorities broken into quarterly goals. The Annual Strategic Plan is presented by the Director/CEO for Board approval and reported on subsequently at every Board Meeting. The Director/CEO's performance can be measured by the delivery of the Annual Strategic Plan.



ITMA Annual Strategic Plan 2023

## Staff Performance KPIs and Remuneration

The Director/CEO bases each individual staff members' KPIs on the Annual Strategic Plan's organisation-wide goals which is reflected in the respective individual's yearly performance plan. These personalised plans also make reference to resources needed, training available, and assessment markers and are agreed with staff input. Individual performance plans are outlined and discussed with staff in a formal meeting in early Q1 with quarterly informal discussions, half-yearly reviews and formal year-end reviews.

ITMA's remuneration for staff is guided by ITMA's Salary Scale operative since 1 September 2008 which is a 13 point scale ranging from €26,750 to €54,994.

# Organisational Chart



\*Nicholas Carolan: Director Emeritus, a non-executive honorary title of retired co-founder and former Director



## Governance Policy Review

The Governance committee reviewed the following documents in 2024

- ITMA Constitution
- ESG Committee terms of reference
- Child protection safeguarding statement
- Volunteer policy
- Equality, diversity and inclusion policy
- Communication policies and procedures
- Donor charter
- Comments, compliments and complaints
- Notice and take-down procedure
- The audit committee reviewed the
- Pay the artist policy

## Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards

The company engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. Irish Traditional Music Archive subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

- The Companies Act 2014
- SORP (Standard of Recommended Practice) for Charities (FRS 102)
- Charities Governance Code from the Charity Regulatory Authority
- Arts Council Governance Transparency Scale
- Guidelines for Charitable Organisations Fundraising from the Public

ITMA is also in compliance with relevant employment, health and safety and data protection legislation.

## Board Training

ITMA is committed to providing training opportunities for all board members.

This commitment is reflected in the *ITMA Handbook for Board Members*:

**“ If at any time you feel that access to training or to professional advice would be beneficial to you to fulfil your own responsibilities to the board, please speak to the Director/CEO. (p.3) ”**

## ITMA Conflict of Interest Policy

Board members have a legal obligation to act in the best interests of the Irish Traditional Music Archive (ITMA) and in accordance with ITMA's governing document.

Conflicts of interest may arise where an individual's personal or family interests and/or loyalties to some other individual or group conflicts with those of ITMA. Such conflicts may create problems. They can:

- inhibit free discussion
- result in decisions or actions that are not in the interests of ITMA
- risk the impression that ITMA has acted improperly
- The purpose of this policy is to protect both ITMA and its Board members from any appearance of impropriety. This policy is prepared in accordance with the Code of Governance for Community, Voluntary and Charity Organisations in Ireland.

This policy was reviewed by the board in June 2023 and will be reviewed again in 2026.



Sorcha Ní Scolaí

## Governance Policy Review and Update

Over the course of 2024 the Governance Committee continued their work to review ITMA's documentation and ensure that it is fit for purpose. This process ensures that ITMA stays current and that all its legal obligations are met.

## Safe to Create

ITMA was among the group of Arts Council of Ireland strategically funded organisations who participated in a workshop hosted by the Arts Council to learn more about the Safe to Create Code, and its range of recently published resources.



ITMA is aware of the issues raised in the reports and are scrutinising the publications to identify ways in which we can further align our policies and actions with best practice, to play our role in creating a better environment for our users and staff.

The following staff completed Safe to Create training courses in 2024:

Róisín Conlon

Alan Woods

Maeve Gebruers

Adam Girard

## HR and Staffing

Sophie Ryan and Bridie Flaherty were appointed to the new roles of Administrative Assistant and Secretary in May 2024. In these roles, Sophie and Bridie will help to support the CEO and management in the daily operations of the archive.

## Staff Training and Certificates

Treasa Harkin completed a certificate in Creative Commons.

All staff completed *Screen Ireland* training on Unconscious Bias and Bullying and Harassment in the Workplace.

## Future Developments

The Irish Traditional Music Archive plans to continue to grow its present activities and current operating levels. Employees are kept as fully informed as practicable about developments within the business. The directors are not expecting to make any significant changes in the nature of the business in the near future.

## Auditors

The auditors, ITAS Accounting completed ITMA's 2024 audit in accordance with the provisions of section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

## Accounting Records

To ensure that adequate accounting records are kept in accordance with Sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014, the directors have employed appropriately qualified accounting personnel and have maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. The accounting records are located at the company's office at 73 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

## Banking

ITMA banked exclusively with Bank of Ireland in 2024.

## Investment Policy

ITMA does not invest its reserves.

# Stakeholder, Funder and Artist Quotes







**“ An Archive Alive. For me, this sums up one of ITMA’s crowning achievements in recent years, its combination of past and present. Not only does ITMA fulfil the important task of documenting and preserving our musical heritage for future generations, it does so while being an advocate for the living and breathing tradition that we have inherited and continue to shape on a daily basis. The support for artists across the country and beyond to explore the archive and bring it outside of Merrion Square and into concert halls, local venues, homes and hearts has been an essential part of representing the ‘aliveness’ of our musical traditions. From programmes such as ‘Drawing From The Well’ to its support for artistic residencies such as that at the Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris, I have personally felt the support of the archive, drawing from it and giving back to it in a rewarding cycle that preserves our tradition while giving nourishment to its ongoing journey. ”**

Ryan Molloy



Daithí De Buitléir

**“ Bhí muid an-shasta tacú le TCDÉ sa tionscadail nua ‘TurasÓir’ i gcomhpháirt le BÁC le Gaeilge. Bronnadh airgead don TCDÉ chun imeachtaí cultúrtha a chur ar fáil i mBaile Átha Cliath, trí mheán na Gaeilge ach go háirithe. I rith na seachtaine ina raibh na turais ar siúl, ba léir an tsuim a bhfuil ag an bpobal i gcúrsaí cultúrtha, idir ceol agus an teanga. B’iontach an réimhse leathan cuairteoirí a bhí le fheiceáil ag na dturais agus bhí sé follasach go bhfuil an-éileamh ann don eispéireas cultúrtha.**

**Tá sé an-thabachtach go mbeadh baint idir an ceol agus an teanga i dTCDÉ. Gan dabht, is cuid luachmhar dár n-oidhreacht é TCDÉ agus is léir go bhfuil an fhoireann ag déanamh obair sárluachmhar chun gnéithe tábhachta den chultúir a chaomhnú agus a chur chun cinn i gCathair Baile Átha Cliath, ar fud na tíre agus níos faide anonn.**

**Guímid gach rath ar TCDÉ agus táimid ag súil go mór leis a bheith ag tacú le TCDÉ sa todhchaí. ”**

Daithí de Buitléir, DCC



Dónal Fallon

**“The Irish Traditional Music Archive touches on so much more than just the preservation and promotion of traditional music. In research on subjects as diverse as the Phoenix Park and the social history of Dublin public houses, items in their collections have been useful to me in my research. There is indeed a song and a tune for all occasions. It is wonderful to see the digitisation of content like Folk Magazine, which I have drawn on for my book on Dublin public houses. ITMA’s events strike the perfect balance of appealing to those within the tradition and those curious about it. Combining music with literature and history, as in the case of Drawing From The Well, makes for such unique nights and insights. I am delighted to endorse ITMA and its work.**

Dónal Fallon



Sorchá Costello

**“ I was commissioned by ITMA in 2024 to provide compositions for the Saothar series as well as to perform as part of a Drawing from the Well concert in the National Concert Hall.**

**As a professional musician I believe ITMA is a vital resource. The work being done in ITMA not only to preserve traditional music but also to promote and grow the tradition is extremely important to artists, researchers, enthusiasts and the general public.**

**I look forward to collaborating more with ITMA going forward and I will personally continue to rely on ITMA as an invaluable resource for research and inspiration. ”**

Sorchá Costello



Alice Black, Head of Film Programming, Light House Cinema

“ITMA has been one of the best partners Light House Cinema has worked with in recent years. In 2024, we screened ITMA’s documentary Brendan Gleeson’s Farewell to Hughes’s for more than three months. This included hosting multiple sold-out premieres and special event screenings featuring live music. ITMA was a pleasure to work with throughout the film’s run, collaborating on new ideas to promote the film, which continually helped to draw in audiences over the course of three months.

In the summer of 2024, we continued our collaboration by screening ITMA’s short films *Drawing from the Well: Junior* to coincide with the 2024 Smithfield Fleadh.

At Light House Cinema, we are continually impressed with ITMA’s ability not only to produce cinema-quality content, but also to help market and promote this content in order to bring traditional music to as wide an audience as possible on the big screen. ”

Alice Black, Head of Film Programming,  
Light House Cinema





Robert Read, CEO, National Concert Hall

**“The National Concert Hall has partnered with ITMA since 2022 to host bi-annual concerts as part of the Drawing from the Well series.**

**ITMA has been an engaging and valued collaborator during this time and these concerts have provided a platform for some of today’s leading traditional musicians, singers and dancers, while honouring the legacy of Irish traditional music and renowned musicians of the past**

**Over the course of this partnership the Drawing from the Well concert series has grown in reputation and stature, leading to rave reviews both from those already engaged in traditional music and more general audience members.**

**ITMA’s staff has worked seamlessly with NCH staff behind the scenes to make these events run smoothly and to build the series into what it is today. ITMA has proven to be a reliable, knowledgeable and beneficial partner for us and we look forward to continuing and growing this collaboration in the years to come. ”**

Robert Read, CEO, National Concert Hall



**OPW**

Oifig na  
nOibreacha Poiblí  
Office of Public Works



**Shared Island  
Initiative**



**Foras na Gaeilge**



**Government of Ireland  
Emigrant Support Programme**



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha  
Department of Foreign Affairs



Funded by  
**An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council**



**An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,  
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán**  
Department of Tourism, Culture,  
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha**  
Department of Foreign Affairs



**IRISH AMERICAN  
PARTNERSHIP**

**RTE Archives**



**Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council**



