

In March 2025, Belfast City Council won the opportunity to host Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann 2026.

Fleadh is the largest global celebration of Irish traditional music, dance & culture and this is only the second time it will be hosted in Northern Ireland having previously been hosted in Derry/Londonderry in 2013.

Fleadh consists of concerts, sessions, awards, competitions and schools, and will run between Sunday 2nd August – Sunday 9th August 2026 with an anticipated audience of 800,000+ across the week.

Fleadh operates an ethos of inclusion, celebration, volunteerism and is open to all.

The event will be staged throughout the city with the main stage, The Gig Rig, being sited on the West Lawn of the City Hall Grounds.

The Gig Rig provides an opportunity for national and international Comhaltas branches to showcase their talents throughout the week of Fleadh, along with other groups/bands representative of the multicultural city that Belfast is today, and with a number of headline acts to also perform on the main stage.

The Gig Rig also stages the opening and closing ceremonies, both broadcast live by TG4.

Due to the programming required, and the number of acts being engaged, we would like to request an extension to the current 11pm cutoff specified on the City Hall Entertainments Licence.

It would be of great benefit if this cutoff could be extended to 1am for the following dates;

- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2026
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2026
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2026
- Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2026
- Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2026

Please do contact me if you would like any further information in support of this request.

Kind Regards,

Bernard Roddy