

## **Hampsey Harp School Annual Report 2023**

### **Overview:**

Hampsey Harp School has had a successful year in 2023, with its students and teachers achieving remarkable milestones and participating in numerous events. With dedicated teachers and talented students, the school continues to foster a vibrant community of harp musicians.

### **Current Enrolment and Faculty**

#### **Student Body and Staff Changes**

The school currently has 25 pupils and 4 teachers. Longtime teachers Alicia Doherty and Lucy Millar left in June 2023 to pursue university studies, and in September, Mairead Comer and Sinead Close joined the school, maintaining the high quality of teaching. Each pupil receives 10 half-hour lessons per term.

#### **Teacher Achievements**

In February, teacher Lauren O'Neill was appointed CEO of Harp Ireland, an inspiring achievement for both the school and her students.

### **Competitions and Exams**

#### **1. IMBOLC Youth Folk Orchestra**

In February 2023, teacher Alicia Doherty performed with the IMBOLC Youth Folk Orchestra for the premiere of \*Endgame\*, a composition by Martin Tourish.

#### **2. Coleraine Music Festival (April 2023)**

Six pupils participated, earning notable placements with two second place and two third-place awards.

#### **4. Co. Derry Fleadh (June 2023)**

Two pupils entered, with Aine Kearney qualifying for the Ulster Fleadh in the Under-12 Slow Air category.

#### **5. Additional Exam Success (December 2023)**

Seven pupils passed their LCM Irish Traditional Music exams on the harp at various levels, from Step through Grade 6.

## **Performances and Events**

### **1. Royal Visit (July 2023)**

Pupils performed for the visit of HRH Edward to Garvagh, showcasing their talents on a prestigious occasion.

### **2. Harpers' Gathering (August 2023)**

Pupils participated in this gathering in Moville, Co. Donegal, engaging with other young harpers and honing their skills.

### **3. Harpers' Call (August 2023)**

Pupils contributed recordings to Harp Ireland, which were compiled in a video celebrating Irish harp music.

### **4. Harp Day 2023 (October 2023)**

The school celebrated by performing at The Pantry Kitchen from 10:00 am to 11:00 am, honouring the tradition of the harp within the community.

### **5. Garvagh Christmas Lights Switch-On (December 2023)**

Pupils performed at Garvagh's Community Christmas Lights event, bringing festive cheer with their music.

## **Summary:**

2023 has been a memorable year for Hampsey Harp School. With the addition of new teachers, significant achievements in music exams, competitive successes, and meaningful performances, the school has solidified its role in promoting Irish harp music and providing invaluable opportunities for young musicians. The school looks forward to continuing its legacy and building upon this year's accomplishments.