



## MEDIA RELEASE

# LEADING TRADITIONAL MUSIC ARTISTS CONFIRMED FOR TRAD 4 TEENS SESSIONS

**County Clare, IRELAND, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2007** – The upcoming Easter Bank Holiday Weekend marks the first in a series of workshops aimed at encouraging County Clare’s teenagers to develop and maintain their interest in traditional music. The Arts Office of Clare County Council has confirmed that three of Ireland’s leading traditional musicians - Michael ‘*Blackie*’ O’Connell, Kevin Crawford and Edel Fox - will participate in the monthly sessions, the first of which takes place at Glór Irish Music Centre in Ennis on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April next.

*“Given the variety of backgrounds of teenagers and their teachers, it is sometimes difficult to find a mutual repertoire of tunes. For this purpose we are organising the Trad 4 Teens workshop series”,* according to Tara Connaghan of the Clare Arts Office.

*“The idea for Trad 4 Teens came about when music teacher and singer/songwriter Claire Watts observed that there was a distinct lack of venues for teenagers to perform at within the county. Claire responded to a call by the County Arts Office for new initiatives in the Traditional Arts and Trad 4 Teens was born. The first pilot session took place in the summer of 2005 and due to its popularity, Trad 4 Teens now takes place regularly at Glór on the first Saturday of every month”,* she added.

Ms. Connaghan continued, *“The workshops are not instrument-specific as the Trad 4 Teens sessions include a variety of instruments such as fiddles, flutes, accordions, whistles and concertinas. This approach will be evident in our upcoming series of workshops.”*

The first of the workshops will be held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April and will feature **Michael O'Connell** (affectionately known as 'Blackie'), a young vibrant Clare uilleann piper taught by the legendary piper **Mickey Dunne** from Limerick. Michael has toured with various dance shows and now teaches the pipes locally. He remains in great demand for performances and workshops at festivals locally as well as internationally.

The second Trad 4 teen workshop takes place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May and will feature **Kevin Crawford**, the internationally renowned flute player with the band **Lúnasa**. Born in Birmingham, Kevin was a member of the Clare-based band **Moving Cloud**. He has also recorded music with **Grianán**, **Raise The Rafters**, **Joe Derrane** and **Sean Tyrell** as well as appearing on the 1994 recording *'The Sanctuary Sessions'*. A virtuoso flute player, Kevin has produced two albums entitled *'D'Flute Album'* and the more recent *'In Good Company'*. He tours regularly as both a solo artist and with Lúnasa.

After the summer break, October's Trad 4 Teens workshop will feature esteemed concertina player **Edel Fox** from Miltown Malbay. A prized pupil of **Noel Hill**, Edel was awarded the *TG4 Young Musician of the Year* award in 2004. She has recently released a debut album with fiddle player **Ronan O'Flaherty** and teaches annually at the Willie Clancy Summer School and various festivals around the world. She tours frequently and is currently studying music in University of Limerick.

The Trad 4 Teens workshop series 2007:

**Sat. April 7<sup>th</sup>:** Michael 'Blackie' O'Connell (Uilleann Pipes)

**Sat. May 5<sup>th</sup>:** Kevin Crawford (flute)

**Sat. Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>:** Edel Fox (concertina)

*"Workshops will be held in Glór Irish Music Centre during the normal Trad 4 Teens sessions from 3-5pm. The workshops will take place during the first hour with the session continuing for the second hour. The workshop tutors will also take part in the session"*, Ms. Connaghan concluded.