Present in this image too are symbolically-important figures: one of the earliest folklorists - Thomas Crofton Croker – and an early antiquarian - Fr. Matthew Horgan – both of them contributors to the philosophy which energised the 20th-century revival of Irish Traditional music. Compánach indeed takes all its aesthetic cues from this painting by using pipes, fiddle and flute, by opening with music which is likely to have been played on that night in 1832, and by using the power of a visual narrative rather than commentary to tell the music's story.

The Artistes

Fintan Vallely, editor of the *Companion* and director of the show, plays the concert flute. He has been one of the major public voices in Irish music since the early 1990s, the editor of many books and articles on it; like the others he has performed throughout the world and has recorded and broadcast.

Gerry O'Connor is a most innovative figure in Irish music, solidly 'of his place' in the music's traditions. From Dundalk, he has toured Europe with the band Skylark, and he has many recordings, among them the seminal albums of Lá Lugh with the challenging, evocative vocals of Eithne Ní Uallacháin; he has also taught fiddle internationally over several decades.

Tiarnán Ó Duinnchinn is an uilleann piper from Monaghan who has achieved all major Irish awards for his playing, most recently the Seán Ó Riada gold medal; he performs and teaches pipes world-wide and currently is based in France.

Roisín Chambers is a Connemara-style sean-nós singer and a fiddle-player from Dublin who has won the highest honours in Oireachtas, Fleadh Cheoil and Siansa competitions and has performed solo, with Salsa Celtica and The Bonnymen.

Sibéal Davitt comes from a background of Irish language and music and is an accomplished student of dance as well as being a superb sean-nós (old-style, free-form) step dancer and musician. She has performed world wide solo and in modern-dance shows and workshops, and in guest spots with major bands including The Chieftains.

Jacques Piraprez Nutan is an award-winning Belgian photographer who was a neighbour and protégé of surrealist painter Renée Magritte. A much-published artist whose images are used by many Irish musicians on their album covers, he has made the west of Ireland his home, and Irish topography, people and music his life's work since the 1960s.

Translation by Ian Ó Caoimh · Design & layout by Nick Lethert

Compánach is a registered title for the audio-visual recital representing the music of *The Companion to Irish Traditional Music*. It is performed by the artistes on this brochure, occasionally substituted for by others of the same superb standard where necessary, and joined from time to time by exemplary players on other instruments. The concert is touring world-wide and welcomes enquiries from prospective hosts. See *www.companach.ie*
Enquiries to *mail@imusic.ie* · Text/phone +353 86 858 6183.

Ceol Éireannach

Cur i láthair cluthair closamhairc de cheol, amhránaíocht is damhsa a chuireann beocht i nádúr, raon agus stair Cheol Traidisiúnta na hÉireann mar a leagtar amach é san *Companion to Irish Traditional Music*. Ceolchoirm mhear, bheoga, éagsúil í seo, idir thogha an cheoil agus rogha na n-amhrán as na ceithre hairde, trína nochtar stór agus stíl shainiúil an cheoil Éireannaigh. I bhfoirm chlosamhairc atá sí, agus is í an íomhá seachas an focal a iompraíonn an scéal. Ina n-orlaí tríd an tseinnt taispeántar na céadta íomhánna lánscáileáin den lucht ceoil, dá mbólaí agus dá n-imeachtaí, rud a chuireann faisnéis, comhthéacs agus anam leis an iomlán.

Cúlra

Ciclipéid is ea *The Companion to Irish Traditional Music* a foilsíodh den chéad uair in 1999 chun tuairisc in ord aibítire a sholáthar ar nádúr agus taibhiú an cheoil dúchais Ghaelaigh. Eisíodh eagrán nua in 2011 agus a dhá oiread, tuairim is 900 leathanach, ann agus i bhfoirm ríomhleabhair freisin.

Tá an ceolchoirm 'Compánach' bunaithe ar ábhar an leabhair, agus tógtar a leagan amach A-Z chun léargas a thabhairt ar fhoinn agus amhráin as gach contae agus ceantar imirceach ón tseanaimsir go dtí an nua-aois.

I gcaitheamh breis is dhá uair an chloig úsáidtear guthanna aonair, dísréad aontachta agus uirlisí tríréid, an damhsa céime, an amhránaíocht Ghaeilge agus Bhéarla agus grianghraif ar mhórscála chun taifead cruthaíoch a chur ar fáil ar an gceol Gaelach.

Is é a bheidh mar mhóitíf amhairc ag an gceolchoirm, íomhá clúdaigh an Companion – pictiúr taibhseach leis an ealaíontóir Éireannach Daniel Maclise de chóisir Samhna i gCo. Chorcaí in 1832. Trí dhathanna gléineacha a úsáid, léirítear gach gné de thraidisiúin cheoil na hÉireann: an píobaire, an fidléir agus an fliúiteadóir, an buachaill leis an tambóirín, na foghlaimeoirí óga agus na damhsóirí – iad go léir i mbun taibhithe mar chuid de cheiliúradh comhphobail croíúil.

I láthair freisin san íomhá seo tá pearsana a mbaineann tábhacht shiombalach leo: duine de na chéad bhéaloideasóirí – Thomas Crofton Croker – agus duine de sheanfhondúirí na n-ársaitheoirí – an tAth. Matthew Horgan – beirt a d'imir tionchar ar an bhfealsúnacht a chuir brí agus beatha isteach in athnuachan an Cheoil Thraidisiúnta san 20ú céad.

Go deimhin is ag freagairt do na leideanna aeistéitiúla go léir sa saothar péintéireachta seo atá Compánach, trí úsáid a bhaint as an bpíb, an fhidil agus an fhliúit, trí oscailt le ceol a d'fhéadfadh a bheith le cloisteáil an oíche sin in 1832, agus trí chumhacht insinte físe a úsáid seachas tráchtaireacht chun scéal an cheoil a ríomh.

Na Taibheoirí

Seineann **Fintan Vallely** an fhliúit cheolchoirme adhmaid. Is é eagarthóir an Companion agus stiúrthóir an seó é. Mar thráchtaire ar cheol na hÉireann tá sé i lár an aonaigh ó na 1990í luatha. Tá cuid mhaith leabhar curtha in eagar agus alt scríofa aige ar an ábhar; dála na ndaoine eile tá seinnte aige ar fud an domhain agus tá taifeadtaí agus craoltaí ceoil déanta aige.

Fidléir ildánach as Dún Dealgan is ea **Gerry O'Connor** a bhfuil an ceol ceantair sa smior aige. Thug sé camchuairt na hEorpa as féin agus leis an mbanna Skylark, agus thaifid sé albaim leis an ngrúpa clúiteach Lá Lugh, agus amhránaíocht mheallacach Eithne Ní Uallacháin á thionlacan; tá cúpla scór bliain caite aige ag múineadh cheol na fidle go hidirnáisiúnta freisin.

An phíb uilleann a sheinneann **Tiarnán Ó Duinnchinn** as Muineachán agus tá na mórghradaim go léir sa tír seo bainte aige, arb é Bonn Óir Sheáin Uí Riada an ceann is déanaí acu; bíonn sé ag casadh agus ag múineadh cheol na píbe ar fud na cruinne agus is sa Fhrainc atá sé ag cur faoi na laethanta seo.

Is Baile Átha Cliathach í **Roisín Chambers** a chleachtann stíl Chonamara ina cuid amhránaíochta agus fidléireachta. Tá na gradaim is airde tugtha léi aici san Oireachtas, sa bhFleadh Cheoil agus ag Siansa.

As cúlra Gaeilge agus ceoil Ghaelaigh do **Shibéal Davitt** agus is mac léinn damhsa cruthanta í chomh maith le bheith ina sárdhamhsóir ar an sean-nós.

Grianghrafadóir Beilgeach is ea **Jacques Piraprez Nutan** a bhfuil duaiseanna buaite aige agus a raibh an péintéir osréalaíoch René Magritte mar chomharsa agus mar choimirceoir aige. Tá neart foilsithe ag an ealaíontóir seo, a bhfuil ardmheas ag ceoltóirí Éireannacha air. Is san iarthar atá sé ag cur faoi agus ó na 1960í i leith is iad topagrafaíocht, pobal agus ceol na tíre seo saothar a shaoil.

Aistriúchán le hIan Ó Caoimh · Dearadh agus leagan le Nick Lethert

The Music of Ireland

An intimate, audio-visual recital of music and song which brings alive the nature, scope and history of Irish Traditional music as described in the encyclopedia *Companion to Irish Traditional Music*. It is a fast-moving concert of great variety, music and song from all Irish regions which demonstrates Irish music's hallmark repertoire and style. Information is given by images rather than narrative, the playing infused with context and warmth by a backing flow of several hundred superb, large-screen photographic images of music people, places and events.

Background

The *Companion to Irish Traditional Music* is an encyclopedia first published in 1999 to alphabetically document the nature and performance of indigenous Irish music. It was re-issued in 2011, doubled in size with c. 900 pages, and also as an e-book. The *Compánach* concert is based on its content, taking its A-Z format to illustrate tunes and song drawn from each Irish county, émigré region and ancient to modern eras. It uses the voices of solo, and unison duet and trio instruments, step dance, song in Irish and English, and large-scale photos to creatively document Irish Traditional music.

The visual motif for the concert is the *Companion's* cover image – a profound painting by the Irish artist Daniel Maclise of an 1832 Halloween party in Co. Cork. In vivid colour, this depicts all the elements of Irish music traditions – the piper, fiddler and flute player, the boy with the tambourine, the young learners and the dancers - all performing in an animated community celebration.