



Oifig an Taoisigh  
Office of the Taoiseach

## Message from the Taoiseach

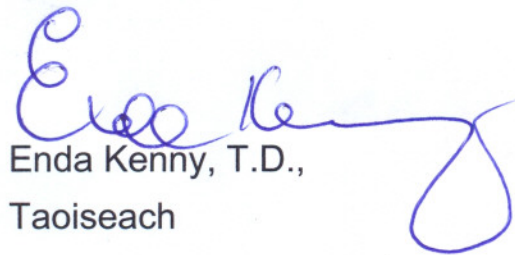
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Irish music, dance and storytelling form part of the very cornerstone of our identity as a nation. They are the language of the soul. They reflect the spirit of our people. They remind us of our origins reflecting our journey through time. Our melodies and rhythms – at times plaintive and evocative – at other times stirring and majestic weave together a potent image of our hopes, joys, struggles, pain and sorrow since the dawn of Irish history.

Irish artists such as Celtic Nights have brought our distinctive and evolving music and dance tradition to the world stage and showcase our tradition in spectacular fashion. Despite the globalising influences of the modern world, our artists are helping to ensure that Ireland's music and dance of which we are so proud is more vibrant and celebrated than ever before.

I wish you a most enjoyable evening.

Beir bua agus beannacht.



Enda Kenny, T.D.,  
Taoiseach