



MICHIGAN IRISH MUSIC INITIATIVE

The **Michigan Irish Music Initiative (MIMI)** is one of the most exciting new awards offered to young traditional Irish music groups. Organised under the auspices of the **Michigan Irish Music Festival (MIMF)** the **Michigan Irish Music Initiative** provides a platform for talented and aspiring independent artists, groups associated with colleges, organisations, or institutions who focus on Irish traditional music to participate in high level competition, offering the winners the distinguished opportunity of featuring on the main stage at the **Michigan Irish Music Festival, Muskegon, USA** between **September 13th – 16th 2018** with round-trip flights, accommodation, and breakfasts/dinners included. The entrants must aim to emulate the excellence of professional performance-groups through their arrangement, presentation and stagecraft.

NOTE: *Festival organisers from many other festivals attend the Michigan Irish Music Festival including those of The Milwaukee Irish Fest; Dublin (Ohio), Syracuse (NY) The Kansas City Irish Festival; La Crosse Irish Music Festival; and The Wheatland Festival amongst many more. This offers a unique opportunity for winners to present their music to the most influential industry leaders.*

THE FIRST STEP

Please click here to apply: [MIMI Application Form](#)

Or copy the following link into your browser:

<https://tradirishmusic.com/michigan-irish-music-initiative-form>

You can also mimi@michiganirish.org for assistance with the application form.

- **Completed Entry Forms & Audio Recordings must reach:**

MIMI Project Co-Ordinator
Éamonn de Barra
15 The Square Larch Hill
Oscar Traynor Road
Dublin 17
(email: mimi@michiganirish.org)



by 5PM on FRIDAY 23rd MARCH 2018 (late entries will not be accepted)

- Groups are required to record an **8 to 10 minute continuous programme** of traditional Irish music/ song. **They can alternatively choose to record 3 sets of tunes/songs** (approximately 3 minutes each. Variety is essential).

It is important that the recording be of a high standard. Groups should ensure that:

- (a) every instrument is in tune
- (b) there is a good sound balance between the different instruments and
- (c) each singer and every instrument is audible.

A mixture of both the instrumental and singing traditions is favoured. However, groups who feel they have a very strong repertoire representing a varied musical palette may comprise instrumental performers only, or equally a group may focus primarily on the singing tradition.

- Each group must be represented by a mentor/ willing member/ reliable person(s) who will act as the point of contact between the group and **MIMI** representatives.
- The mentor/ willing member/ reliable person(s) will be issued with guidelines regarding procedure on entering the competition.
- Recordings will not be accepted without the relevant documentation. Please contact mimi@michiganirish.org if you need help with your documentation. We will be happy to assist.
- This documentation will include, among other things: the name of each participant; date of birth of each participant; if you are affiliated with a college/organisation, or if you are entering the competition as an independent artist/ band. You must also state that the group is available to travel and perform at the Michigan Irish Music Festival between 13th-16th of September 2018. This may include a travelling period between 12th – 18th September 2018. Your documentation should also include the names of the pieces, and composers if known.
- When putting the programme together, artists are advised to incorporate a wide variety of exciting musical elements including: rhythm, phrasing, and harmony while creating imaginative links between the tunes/songs. All influences of music are accepted once the Irish traditional element is prominent, including newly-composed music or new arrangements of traditional Irish/Celtic tunes. **Emphasis should be on producing a programme of music with new and imaginative arrangements.**

- Care should be taken, however, to strike a balance between tradition and innovation in the choice of music.
- It is also important to note that your group will be performing on a festival stage, which will involve a high level of engagement with an audience who are not familiar with your music.
- Dancing is permitted as part of the performance element in **The Final** on competition day, however, it is not necessary to include the dancing element on the audio recording presented in the application process.
- Groups are advised not to over-imitate or copy the the musical arrangements of other groups.

PROCESS

- All recordings will be listened to by a panel of adjudicators and the groups who have been chosen to participate will be announced in late March early April 2018.

FINAL

- 8 groups will be chosen from among the groups who have entered to contest the final which will be held in the **Spirit Store, Dundalk, Co. Louth on Saturday 14th April 2018** in conjunction with the **Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT) and the Irish Traditional Music Archive (ITMA)**. Rehearsal rooms will be provided in the Carroll's Building on the campus of Dundalk Institute of Technology on the competition day (further details of precise location on campus forthcoming, and will be sent to each group's representative mentor/ willing member/ reliable person(s)).

PRIZES

The winning group will receive a prize of:

- i. **Round-trip flights and transportation to the Michigan Irish Music Festival 2018** (*hotel accommodation with breakfasts/dinners at the fesitval on each of the days included, plus per diems*).
- ii. **Main stage feature at the Michigan Irish Music Festival, Muskegon, September 13th – 16th 2018**
- iii. **Michigan Irish Music Festival Winners Certificate signed by the President of the Festival.**

2nd prize **\$1000**

3rd prize **\$500.**

Every musician who takes part in the final receives a memento of the occasion.

ADJUDICATOR'S MARKING SYSTEM

As a guideline, the following marking system will be used by the adjudicators (advice, rather than marks, will be given to each group at the end of the competition). A degree of the audience reaction will also be taken into consideration, as it is a festival audience that the winners will ultimately perform to.

SECTIONS	MARKS
Instrumental Playing-Skills/Tuning/Rhythm	35
Music Choice/Arrangement	35
Ensemble Playing/Presentation	30
Total	<u>100</u>

RULES/CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

MIMI will have the final decision in the event of a dispute arising regarding interpretation of rules/conditions of participation or any other element of the competition.

1. All competitors must be available to participate in the Michigan Irish Music Festival in September 2018. This includes travel to and from the festival which may occur before the festival begins. This may mean traveling on Wednesday 12th September 2018. PLEASE NOTE: *Winners will be provided with travel from the festival either on the last day of the festival Sunday 16th or on Monday 17th. In the event that the group travels on Monday 17th, they will in that case land in Ireland on the morning of Tuesday 18th due to the time difference between the USA and Ireland.*
2. Each group will have no more than a **maximum of 7 members**.
3. Competitors should be dedicated independent performing artists, or represent a music-focused organisation/ institution on the island of Ireland.

NOTE: Where a group does not meet the above criteria, they should contact mimi@michiganirish.org, and they will be dealt with on a case by case basis. The decision of the Michigan Irish Music Festival and Initiative committee is final.

4. It is a condition of participation in **MIMI** that a musical mentor/ willing

member or reliable person(s) take charge of each group. This person must have a sufficient knowledge of traditional Irish ensemble performance.

They will be the point of contact between **MIMI** and the participants and will facilitate and ensure distribution and the gathering of information regarding **MIMI**, to and from the group members, and seek information on their behalf.

This person **must encourage and undertake the promotion and publicity of all relevant event-related material** through media including, but not limited to **Facebook, Twitter and Instagram**, and be available to receive and respond to emails and telephonic or other direct communication from **MIMI, MIMF and relevant stakeholders**.

Most of the correspondence will be by email, and it is essential, therefore, that the address is clear on the initial entry form. No private contact details (e-mail or telephone number) will be shared with a third party.

In the event that the named mentor/ willing member/ reliable person(s) is no longer available, the group must **agree a new mentor/ willing member/ reliable person(s)** and **forward all relevant contact details** to **MIMI**.

It is **with the mentor/ willing member/ reliable person(s) only** that **MIMI** will correspond or deal with regarding any aspect of the group's participation in the competition*.

MIMI reserves the right to cancel participation of any artist or group if their representative **mentor/ willing member/ reliable person(s)** fails to communicate sufficiently.

Results, decisions and disputes are strictly between the mentors and **MIMI**. **MIMI** reserves the right of veto on all matters related to this competition.

***NOTE:** If participants find that their **mentor/ willing member/ reliable person(s)** is not representing them properly, they may contact us confidentially at mimi@michiganirish.org

5. There are two stages in the selection process:

- i) Adjudicators will listen to recordings and choose contestants for **The Final**.
- ii) **The Final** will be contested in the **Spirit Store, Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland on Saturday 14th April 2018**.

6. The number of groups a representative college/organisation may enter in **MIMI** is **3**.

7. Each group must have **no more than 7 members**.

7.1 It is the named group members who can be heard on the recording who are counted as members of the original group.

7.3 Musicians/Singers are allowed to participate in **MIMI** with their **original group only**.

7.4 In the event of illness; examinations; or for exceptional reasons, however, one change is allowed, either temporary or permanent, in the personnel of a group throughout the whole process. One substitute may replace another group-member on a temporary or permanent basis at **The Final**. Any temporary or permanent substitute or new member must be agreed beforehand through correspondence with MIMI representatives, please contact mimi@michiganirish.org

8. The final decision regarding the prizewinners rests with the adjudicators, and no subsequent correspondence will be entered into.

9. The **Michigan Irish Music Festival (MIMF)** and the **Michigan Irish Music Initiative (MIMI)** retain the rights to stream or broadcast all recordings of the artists or groups taking part in **MIMI** during the course of the competition and for promotional purposes thereafter including but not limited to online platforms such as **Youtube**, and on the **MIMI and MIMF** websites; and **additional media** as becomes appropriate.

10. **MIMF and MIMF** reserve the right to use any photographic or video material recorded at **MIMI** or **MIMF** run events in future publicity.

APPLICATIONS

- **Completed application forms and recordings must be returned to:**

MIMI Project Co-Ordinator
Éamonn de Barra
mimi@michiganirish.org

on or by **17:00 on FRIDAY 23rd MARCH 2018 (see The First Step above)**.

Groups are advised to keep a copy of their recording for posterity.

TRAVEL SUBSISTENCE FOR INDIVIDUALS

- A travel allowance may - in exceptional circumstances - be considered for individuals/groups taking part in the **MIMI** final at the **Spirit Store, Dundalk** depending on the cost and circumstance, and is entirely at the discretion of the Michigan Irish Music Festival (**MIMF**) and the

Michigan Irish Music Initiative (**MIMI**). Travel arrangements must, however, be made by the groups themselves, and discussed at least two weeks prior to **The Final** competition day (Terms and conditions apply. Please contact mimi@michiganirish.org for more details).

VISA & PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS

It is up to each group's mentor to ensure passports are valid and up to date for travel.

NOTE: passports of travelers to the USA must not be due to expire within six months after festival date. For example, if an individual travels to the USA on 10th September 2018, their passport must be valid until 10th March 2017).

All members must have **ESTA** forms filled out three months prior to departure date to **USA**, and send proof of this to **MIMI** at mimi@michiganirish.org. This is required for the timely purchase of flight tickets and to make travel arrangements. **Failure to comply will result in disqualification.** In the event of first prize winners being disqualified, the second prize winners will be offered their place et cetera.

FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION

Hotel rooms will be provided as part of the prize. Group members agree to share (male/male, female/female) if necessary. Breakfast and dinner will be provided by the festival. Any special food requirements must be forwarded to mimi@michiganirish.org at least two weeks prior to embarkation to the USA.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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Oscar Traynor Road
Dublin 17

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