

## Media Release

### Culture Ireland Grant gives welcome boost to Festival

**Gundagai's Turning Wave Festival** is excited and privileged to have been awarded a grant in Culture Ireland's summer funding round. In just two short years this festival has established itself as an outstanding celebration of Irish & Australian Music and the Related Arts, catering for all tastes. From music fanatics to families wishing to enjoy a safe festival, to those who come to soak up the atmosphere and the friendliness, from "the pure drop" to Celtic inspired folk, blues, country and world, the festival offers an innovative and inclusive event of the highest calibre.

**This year the festival program** has received a welcome boost through the **Culture Ireland** grant. Culture Ireland is Ireland's national agency for the promotion and advancement of Irish arts worldwide and the Turning Wave Festival grant was one of 80 awarded to arts projects across Europe, USA, Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Australia.

**The grant** will assist the Festival in bringing Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh, Eithne Ní Chatháin and Enda Ó Catháin, to conduct Master Classes and Workshops in their chosen fields of Irish traditional music and, to present Recitals and Concerts, providing a unique opportunity for practitioners and enthusiasts of Irish music in Australia to be informed and inspired by, and to learn from, these three highly skilled artists. As fluent Irish speakers Caoimhín, Eithne and Enda will also highlight the connection between Irish language, and expression in the traditional art forms of music, song and dance.

**Master Classes**, Workshops, Recitals and other associated events in Irish music are an integral part of the festival is its education and cultural program in recognition of Ireland and her lasting and ongoing impact and influence on the Australian tradition.

Made possible by



**The 2008 Turning Wave Festival**  
will be held from Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September.

To find out more about Irish Musicians at The Turning Wave  
or for more information visit  
[www.turningwave.org.au](http://www.turningwave.org.au)

Contact the Festival's Artistic Director: Pam Merrigan (02) 9489 5786  
email: [pam.merrigan@turningwave.org.au](mailto:pam.merrigan@turningwave.org.au)

## **ARTIST PROFILES:**

### **Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh**

Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh is perhaps best known for playing Irish traditional music on the fiddle, but he also plays flute and whistle, as well as the uilleann pipes. In recent years he has diversified and entered into collaboration with artists from other musical worlds, while also continuing to draw on the deep well of tradition at home. He learned whistle and flute from former *Chieftains* member Michael Tubridy. He holds an All-Ireland fiddle title, teaches every year at the Willie Clancy Summer School and tours regularly in Ireland, Europe and the USA. Caoimhín has two solo and two duet albums (with Mick O'Brien and Brenndán Begley) to his credit and frequently performs and works with some of the best known musicians in Irish traditional, folk and contemporary music circles – artists such as Iarla Ó Lionáird, Liam Ó Maonlaí and Martin Hayes.

### **Eithne Ní Chatháin**

As well as writing and singing her own songs in Irish and English, Eithne Ní Chatháin continues to perform, and add to, her treasure-throve store of sean-nós and traditional songs. Fiddle, piano and guitar are her other main instruments. She is also an accomplished sean-nós dancer and has performed, taught and given workshops in Irish music, dance and language since graduating from university. She is an All-Ireland sean-nós singing champion and has supported and recorded with singer-songwriter Luka Bloom (brother of Christy Moore) on many occasions. Since the release of her debut album, Eithne has performed solo in Ireland and will tour Germany in February 2008. Last year she featured in Irish Music Magazine and appeared on national TV and radio. She has a solo tour of Ireland in April, May and June of this year.

### **Enda Ó Catháin**

Enda Ó Catháin is no stranger to Australia having first set foot here in 2000 at the start of a sixteen-month spell of traveling, teaching and performing in predominantly English-speaking parts of the globe, and then again in 2006. He has completed an MA in Modern Irish on the *sean-nós* song 'An Draighneán Donn', recorded a stunning solo, unaccompanied fiddle CD entitled *Ó Inné go Inniu* (From Yesterday to Today) and taught Irish language and aspects of its literature and culture. Enda was brought up with Irish and English in a musical household based in Kildare, where his grandfather, a renowned player of slow airs and respected fiddle teacher, was his forming musical influence. Enda is currently based in northern Spain where he teaches Irish and English in the University of the Basque Country. In a rich musical career Enda has taught workshops and one-on-one fiddler classes, busked, gigged and played for fun from Adelaide to Zagreb, from northern Ontario to the south of France and from eastern Australia to the west of Ireland.