

International Uilleann Piping Centre

# Uilleann Pipes



- Uilleann Piping is inscribed on the UNESCO representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity – 1<sup>st</sup> Irish element
- A uniquely Irish instrument, played throughout the island of Ireland and worldwide
- Uilleann pipes are often referred to as “the sound of Ireland”
- Na Píobairí Uilleann (NPU) was formed by uilleann pipers in 1968
- Dublin Pipers’ Club formed in 1900
- Na Píobairí Uilleann formed in 1968 and based in Dublin

# NPU and Uilleann Piping

When NPU was formed in 1968 there was an ageing population of less than 100 players in the world and just one full-time pipemaker

Today NPU has 1,500 members in more than 40 countries and pipers now number in the thousands worldwide

The sound of the uilleann pipes is instantly identifiable and uniquely associated with Ireland

# Uilleann Piping Today

- UNESCO recognition brought increased interest and a focus on uilleann piping.
- NPU promoted the idea of UNESCO nomination for uilleann piping by the Irish Government in 2017.
- NPU programmes include:
  - weekly tuition in piping in 30 locations throughout the island of Ireland
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> level instrument making training modules and traineeships at our dedicated training centre, PipeCraft
  - regular performance and publication programmes
- NPU is a vibrant arts organisation with a track record of successful delivery of significant projects.
- Inclusive transformation of demographics effected– many female pipers and pipers’ clubs have been formed around the world.

# An Island of Ireland Tradition

- Uilleann piping has always been an inclusive tradition.
- The first committee of NPU in 1968 had members from Derry, Armagh and Tyrone.
- Membership of the Board of NPU continues to be drawn from all 32 counties and abroad.
- The current Irish membership of the organisation is spread throughout Ireland and represents the demographic diversity of the entire island.
- Uilleann pipes are played, taught and made in locations throughout the island of Ireland.
- Today in Northern Ireland, NPU teaches in Enniskillen and Derry, supports tuition in Belfast and works with the Armagh Pipers' Club.

# “Sharing the Sound of Ireland”

NPU Mission: to promote the playing and making of uilleann pipes

Our strategic pillars :

- **Access** – to instruments and information about the pipes
- **Education** – in person and online tuition in piping and pipemaking, mentoring and development
- **Performance** – public performances, engaging artists
- **Preservation** – documenting and making available all elements of the piping tradition

# International Uilleann Piping

Interest in uilleann piping has now developed outside of Ireland and beyond the Irish diaspora.

People around the world are drawn to “the sound of Ireland”.



Cuba



Blackhorn Siet / Lark In the Morn  
Faliq, Raja, Rivetino & Amiral

Malaysia



Argentina



Japan

# 15 Henrietta Street

The headquarters of NPU is 15 Henrietta Street, one of the most historically significant streets in Dublin. The building was in a ruined state when NPU signed a 99 year lease with Dublin Corporation in 1982.

Through fundraising and volunteer activities NPU managed the significant renovation of the building, completed in 2006.



Before



After



# International Uilleann Piping Centre

NPU is committed to expanding its home on Henrietta Street to create the new International Uilleann Piping Centre.

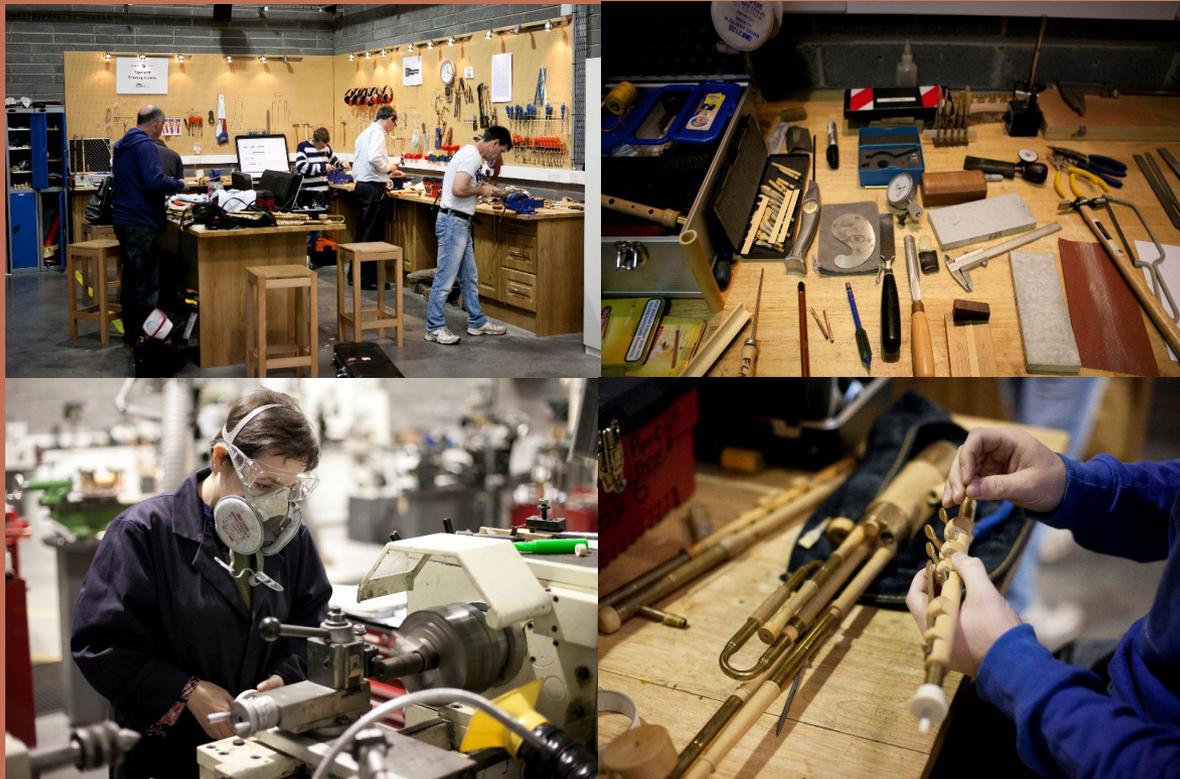
## **The new facility will include:**

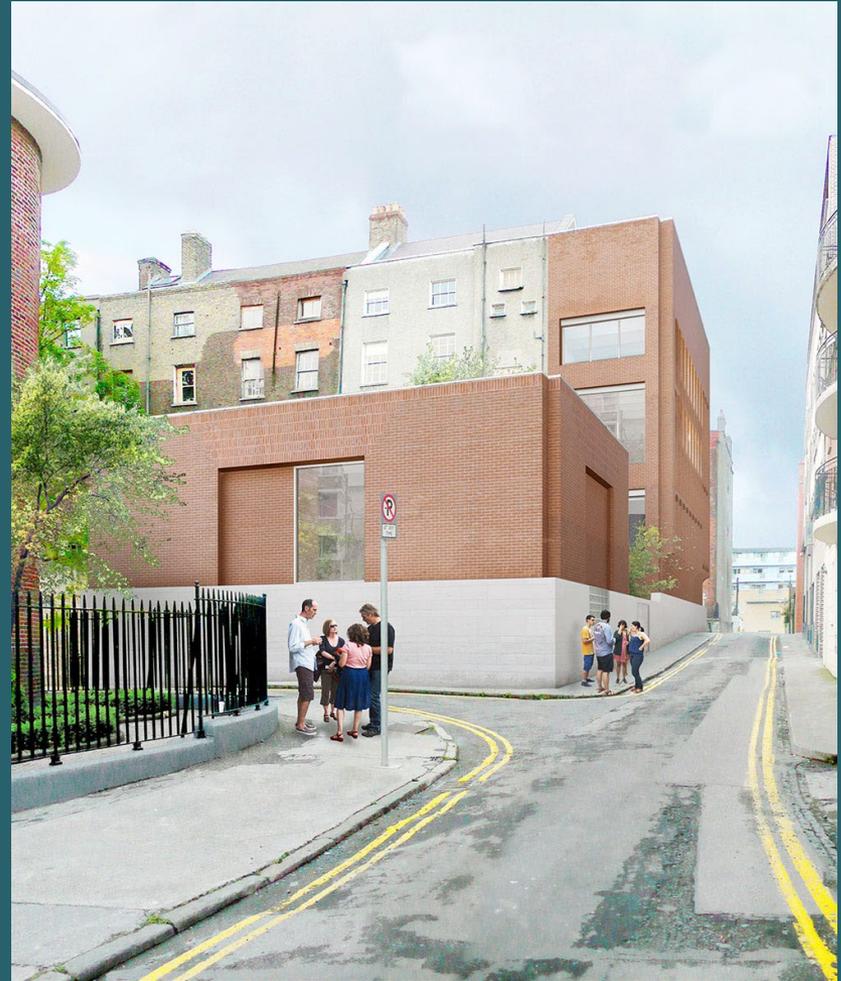
- A visitor centre with museum and exhibition spaces making it an essential stop on the Dublin tourist route.
- Expanded and enhanced performance areas. The new theatre is specifically designed for exemplar artist and audience experiences.
- An instrument making training centre.
- Fully accessible teaching spaces.
- A community and cultural hub for the city as well as for traditional arts enthusiasts worldwide.

The project is shovel ready for completion by  
December 2024.

# Instrument Making Training

PipeCraft is NPU's instrument making training centre, currently based in Clonshaugh, Dublin 17. The project will allow NPU to transfer the instrument making training facility inhouse which will be part of the visitor experience.





These images of the project designed by the award winning practice of Ryan W. Kennihan Architects, illustrate the future buildings from the front and rear. To the front is proposed a redevelopment of a vacant site that was formerly part of no.15 to provide for the visitor centre and PipeCraft training workshops. To the rear is the proposed mews theatre for the performance of traditional arts which will also function as a community hub.



These images of the project illustrate the proposed new theatre, workshop and central courtyard spaces.

# Milestones Completed to Date

- Award-winning design by Ryan W. Kennihan Architects has been adopted.
- Part 8 planning permission has been granted.
- Heads of Agreement in place with DCC to develop the site.
- Cost Benefit Analysis Report has been completed.
- Detailed cost estimate completed. €8m inclusive of fees and fit-out.

# Community, Cultural and Artistic Benefits

- Enhanced cross-border relationships, engaging with all communities and traditions.
- The project will consolidate and expand NPU programmes at Henrietta Street creating an essential hub for traditional arts for the whole island and abroad.
- Cultural tourism - to experience uilleann piping and pipe making as a UNESCO recognised artform.
- New dedicated teaching spaces expanding access to piping.
- Instrument making training facilities relocated to the new building, resulting in synergies and reduced establishment costs.

# Commercial & Economic Benefits

- New visitor centre will expand NPU's reach and, in conjunction with the 14 Henrietta Street Museum, will help to make Henrietta Street an essential stop on every tourist's visit to Dublin. These visitors will be an important revenue stream for NPU and the North inner city.
- The theatre will greatly increase audience capacity for public performances. It will also be a space available to the wider community for events and performances.
- There will be expanded teaching and mentoring programmes.
- Independent Cost Benefit Analysis Report completed – positive Net Present Value. The project will positively impact the finances of NPU.

# Next Stages

The project has support from Dublin City Council, The Arts Council, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media as well as the local community, the project is shovel ready and can be delivered in 24months.

The next stages:

- Secure €8m funding
- Tender Stage – Approx. 6 months
- Tender Action Stage – Approx. 2 months
- Construction Stage – Approx. 14 months
- Completion by December 2024

# Project Summary

Na Píobairí Uilleann's project at no.16 Henrietta Street and the construction of a mews theatre is a visionary and unique opportunity to support the art and culture of the island of Ireland. This single construction project will advance all aspects of the uilleann piping tradition, while breathing new life into the most architecturally important historic street in Ireland. The theatre building will be an exemplar space for both artist and audience experiences. The visitor centre will offer the opportunity to learn about and experience this UNESCO recognised artform.

The work completed to this point has created a beautiful and timeless design for the extension of No.15/16 Henrietta Street and the theatre. The project has secured planning permission and the Memorandum of Agreement for the development of the sites, clearing the way for the project to proceed. The detailed and accurate costings carried out provide a realistic budget for the project to be completed. The project has widespread support within government, the city and piping and traditional arts community. Funding will ensure project completion by December 2024.



# NPU

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UILLEANN

International Uilleann Piping  
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