



Cruit Éireann
Harp Ireland

Resonance: Bridging Tradition and Tomorrow

Strategic Summary 2025-2030



Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland (CÉHI)
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Introduction

Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland (CÉHI) is at an exciting moment in its evolution. As the national advocacy and resource organisation for the Irish harp, CÉHI has played a key role in the revival and growth of Irish harping over the past decade. Now, through our 2025-2030 strategic plan, Resonance – Bridging Tradition and Tomorrow, we are setting out a clear roadmap to secure the future of Irish harping, expand opportunities for harpers, and create a permanent home for the tradition in the form of the World Centre for Irish Harping in Dublin.

Our strategy is built on three interconnected pillars:

- **Place:** Establishing the World Centre for Irish Harping and strengthening CÉHI's infrastructure.
- **People:** Supporting harpers, harp makers, and the wider community through education, mentorship, and professional development.
- **Programme:** Expanding our artistic and outreach initiatives, ensuring Irish harping thrives locally, nationally, and internationally.

This plan will benefit harpers, audiences, cultural organisations, and funders, positioning Irish harping as a key part of Ireland's national and international cultural landscape.



Context: The Growth of Irish Harping

Irish harping is experiencing a remarkable resurgence. Over the past 30 years, the number of harpers has grown significantly, Irish harping has been recognised by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, and CÉHI has built a national network supporting harpers of all ages and abilities.

Since its establishment in 2016, CÉHI has:

- Delivered over 50 flagship concerts, 1,000 workshops, and hundreds of events across Ireland.
- Created performance opportunities that have reached over 7 million people through live and digital events.
- Successfully delivered seven annual Lá na Cruite | Harp Day celebrations, with over 100 events in 2024 alone.
- Established strong partnerships with cultural organisations, including the Arts Council, Irish Traditional Music Archive, Na Píobairí Uilleann, and Music Network.

Despite this progress, there is still much to do. Harpers have told us they need more performance platforms, access to professional development, and a dedicated space for collaboration, research, and education. CÉHI is committed to meeting these needs through the creation of the World Centre for Irish Harping and the expansion of our programmes.



The Strategic Plan: 2025-2030

Our vision is to create a world-class environment where Irish harping flourishes. To achieve this, our strategy focuses on three key pillars:

1. Place: Establishing the World Centre for Irish Harping

- Secure funding for the Centre and CÉHI's long-term sustainability.
- Develop high-quality spaces for performance, education, and research.
- Strengthen CÉHI's operational capacity to support harpers nationwide.

2. People: Supporting Harpers and Building Capacity

- Provide mentorship, education, and professional development opportunities for harpers.
- Expand community engagement, outreach, and partnerships.
- Support harp makers by fostering innovation and public awareness of their craft.

3. Programme: Expanding Artistic and Outreach Initiatives

- Commission new works and foster collaborations that preserve tradition while embracing innovation.
- Expand Lá na Cruite | Harp Day into an internationally recognised festival.
- Ensure CÉHI's programming reaches across Ireland and engages diverse audiences.



A Phased Approach to Growth

CÉHI will implement this strategy through a three-phase roadmap:

Phase 1: Find Our Place (2025-2026)

- Strengthen core programming and expand our audience reach.
- Conduct feasibility studies and secure initial funding for the Centre.
- Build partnerships with cultural institutions and funders.

Phase 2: Make It Our Home (2027-2028)

- Begin development of the Centre and deliver pilot programmes.
- Secure major capital funding and expand operational capacity.
- Strengthen governance, staffing, and infrastructure.

Phase 3: Welcome the World (2029-2030 & Beyond)

- Open the Centre and deliver world-class programming.
- Establish the Centre as an international cultural hub.
- Integrate Centre operations with CÉHI's national and international outreach.

Sustainability and Funding

The successful implementation of this strategy requires a sustainable funding model. CÉHI will secure resources through:

- Public Grants: Ongoing Arts Council support, Department of Culture funding, and national heritage funding.
- Philanthropy & Sponsorship: Engaging corporate and individual donors.
- Earned Income: Generating revenue through events, space hire, retail, and digital programming.
- International Partnerships: Leveraging global networks to expand funding opportunities.

Impact and Legacy

By 2030, CÉHI aims to have:

- Opened the World Centre for Irish Harping, providing a permanent home for harping.
- Significantly increased national and international engagement with Irish harping.
- Created sustainable career pathways for harpers, educators, and harp makers.
- Established CÉHI as a leading force in Irish cultural preservation and innovation.

Through Resonance –
Bridging Tradition and Tomorrow,
we will honour the rich legacy of
Irish harping while shaping its future
for generations to come.

