

**PRESS RELEASE 13 May 2024**

**Wexford County Council signs new 3-year partnership agreement with Wexford Festival Trust incorporating Wexford Festival Opera and the National Opera House**.

Wexford County Council as a leader in the economic, social, and cultural development of County Wexford, has negotiated a new 3-year strategic partnership with the National Opera House and Wexford Festival Opera. The agreement is designed to provide overall support to the House and Festival, together with promoting community participation and increasing access to the National Opera House for local communities. Supporting **Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann** in Wexford town in August 2024 and 2025 as well as a developing several social inclusion outreach initiatives will be key elements of the partnership.

This partnership builds on the long-standing relationship between the National Opera House, Wexford Festival Opera and Wexford County Council and will facilitate a further focus on artistic content, audience participation, cultural awareness and educational opportunities promoting access for all.

*As Cathaoirleach of Wexford Co Council I am delighted to support this continued partnership with our World Class National Opera House which we are so blessed to have on our doorstep.  This allows the continued development of our close and strong working relationship with the National Opera House and Wexford Festival Opera and this new 3-year partnership offers an opportunity to further strengthen these ties of cooperation towards continuous improvement of the performing arts in the County.”*

John Fleming, Cathaoirleach, Wexford County Council

*“We are excited and thankful to Wexford County Council for the continued sponsorship which will help provide a forum for the Wexford community to share projects involving education, community relationships and the arts. We already have a full programme planned for this year, and with this sponsorship we will be able to continue to do this for the next 3 years”.*

 John Warburton, General Manager, National Opera House.

Director of Services for Wexford County Council, Carolyne Godkin said *“Having worked with colleagues in the National Opera House and Wexford Festival Trust for many years now, I am pleased to see Wexford County Councils new 3-year partnership take shape. Both the Festival Opera and National Opera House are key tourism assets for our County and play a critical role in supporting professional arts forms as well our emerging and developing arts practitioners across community and amateur fields as well. I wish the Boards of the Festival and Opera House every continued success and look forward to working with them over the next three years”.*

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