

## **Celtic Christmas: A Cultural Celebration**

Friday, December 15, 2023.

Room G236, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia

Convenors: Department of British and American Studies and The Centre for Scholarship and Teaching at the Faculty of Art in cooperation with The Irish Embassy in Slovakia.

### **About:**

Celtic Christmas: A Cultural Celebration, scheduled for December 2023, at the Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, promises to be a exploration of Ireland's heritage of the holiday season. The event is designed for students and faculty members from the Department of British and American Studies, esteemed members of the Irish community in Slovakia and other interested colleagues. Attendees will have the privilege of engaging with three distinguished speakers throughout the day, delving into topics such as the cultural traditions of Ireland, the significance of Celtic Christmas music in shaping national identity, the basics of the Irish language, or the portrayal of winter in Irish literary classics. This event aims to deepen cultural understanding, foster connections, and share the magic of Celtic Christmas traditions in academic environment.

### **Outline:**

#### **9:00 AM - 9:15 AM: Opening Remarks**

- Welcome address by the event organizer (and Mr. McGauran, the Irish Ambassador?)
- Introduction of the day's schedule

#### **9:15 AM - 10:15 AM: Session 1 – “Learning the Basics of Irish Language”**

- Speaker: James O'Conaill, Matej Bel University
- Introduction to the Irish language with a special emphasis on seasonal vocabulary and interactive language exercises (45 minutes)
- Q&A session (the last 15 minutes)

#### **10:30 AM – 11:30 AM: Session 2 – Staging Irishness: Irish Identity on the Stage**

- Speakers: Tomáš Eštok, ActofKAA
- Reading a selected passage Irish play (Tomáš Eštok, ActofKAA)

#### **11:45 AM - 12:45 PM: Session 3 – “Celtic Christmas Music and National Identity”**

- Speaker: David Livingstone, Palacky University
- Presentation on the significance of Celtic Christmas music in shaping Irish national identity and musical demonstrations and examples (45 minutes)
- Q&A session (15 minutes)

**12:45 AM – 1:45 PM: Session 4 – “Winter and Christmas in Irish Literature”**

- Speaker: Matthew Sweeney
- Discussion on the representation of winter and Christmas in selected Irish literary classics (45 minutes)
- Q&A session (15 minutes)
- Light lunch served during this session.

**1:45 PM – 2:00 PM: Closing Remarks**

- Thanking the speakers and attendees
- Announcing future events and initiatives (Irish Studies course)