

Anáil Dé: The Breath of God

A Sacred Music Festival and Cultural Diversity in Ireland

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This presentation involves a case study exploration of the relationship between DORAS Luimní (Development Organisation for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) in Limerick, Ireland and the MA in Chant and Ritual Song at the Irish World Music Centre, University of Limerick. It focuses on the emergence of an annual festival of sacred music (Anáil Dé: The Breath of God) directly related to this interaction.

The festival provides a point of departure for exploring:

- the role of religion and ritual in community-based expressions of cultural diversity in Ireland.
- the partnership of a university programme and a voluntary organisation in the development of the festival.
- the application of methodologies studied in the Chant and Ritual Song programme to the documentation of the festival. These include qualitative fieldwork techniques drawn from cultural studies, ritual studies, performance studies and ethnomusicology.
- the creation of a framework which facilitates the interaction of students with the refugee and asylum seeking community in Ireland through ritual and music.
- the development of an interactive, performance-based model providing pedagogical, cultural and religious access to culturally diverse communities in Ireland.