

= Pan Celtic Festival =

The Pan Celtic Festival (Irish : Féile Pan Cheilteach) is a Celtic @-@ language music festival held annually in the week following Easter , since its inauguration in 1971 . The first Pan Celtic Festival took place in Killarney , County Kerry , Ireland . Its aim is to promote the modern Celtic languages and cultures and artists from all six Celtic nations : Brittany , Cornwall , Ireland , Isle of Man , Scotland and Wales .

Each participating Celtic Nation undergoes their own national selection event in order to determine their representatives for the annual Pan Celtic Festival . The most successful Celtic nation is Wales , with fourteen wins , with Cornwall following closely behind having won ten times . Benjad , who represented Cornwall in 2012 and 2013 , became the first artist in the festival 's history to have won twice . Isle of Man is the least successful nation , having only won once in 2014 . The current winners , as of April 2016 , are Wales , represented by Cordia with the song " Dim Ond Un " .

= = Origins and history = =

Formed in Killarney , County Kerry , Ireland , the Pan Celtic Festival was organised as a music festival to be held every Spring , to promote the modern cultures and Celtic languages through the medium of music . It was originally entitled " Gwyl Gerdd Bach " (English : " Small Music Festival ") , by Con O 'Connaill , but later changed to the name it is currently known by today . In May 1971 , the first festival took place in Killarney ; and featured performers from Wales (Phyllis and Meredydd Evans) , Ireland (Scoil na Toirbhirte) , and Brittany (Les Tregerezh Group and Alan Stivell) .

Meredydd Evans engaged in discussions with the event organiser , O 'Connaill , following the 1971 Festival , and invited him to the National Eisteddfod of Wales . At the Eisteddfod , O 'Connaill met with members from other Celtic nations , forming a committee for the Pan Celtic Festival . Participants from the six Celtic nations of Brittany (Breizh) , Cornwall (Kernow) , Wales (Cymru) , Scotland (Alba) , Ireland (Éire) and the Isle of Man (Mannin) took part in the second Pan Celtic Festival held again in Killarney in 1972 . It was during this festival that the core structure of the event was finalised following a meeting with committee members . These principles of the event are to promote the languages , musical talents and cultures within the six territories recognised as Celtic nations .

= = Participation = =

Eligibility to compete at the Pan Celtic Festival is for Celtic nations , which are territories in Northern and Western Europe where Celtic languages or cultural traits have survived , and are members of the Celtic League . The term " nation " is used in its original sense to mean a community of people who share a common identity and culture and are identified with a traditional territory . It is not synonymous with " sovereign state " .

= = National selections = =

= = = Brittany : Gouelioù Etrekeltiek An Oriant = = =

The Gouelioù Etrekeltiek An Oriant (translated as English : Inter @-@ Celtic Festival of Lorient , or French : Festival Interceltique de Lorient) is an annual Celtic festival , located in the city of Lorient , Brittany , France . The event also acts as a national selection process to determine the Breton representative for the annual Pan Celtic Festival . It was founded in 1971 by Polig Montjarret . This annual festival takes place every August and is dedicated to the cultural traditions of the Celtic nations (pays celtes in Brittany) , highlighting celtic music and dance and also including other arts such as painting , photography , theatre , sculpture , traditional artisan as well as sport and gastronomy .

== Cornwall : Kan Rag Kernow ==

Kan Rag Kernow (English : A Song for Cornwall) is a Cornish annual song contest to find a representative for Cornwall at the Pan Celtic Festival , held annually in Ireland . The Cornish group , The Changing Room , won the 2015 Kan Rag Kernow on 30 January 2015 . The group went on to represent Cornwall at the 2015 Pan Celtic Festival , finishing in first place with the song " Hal an Tow " (Flora Day) .

== Ireland : Comórtas Amhrán Náisiúnta ==

The Comórtas Amhrán Náisiúnta (English : National Song Contest) is the Irish selection process to determine the representatives for Ireland at the annual Pan Celtic Festival . In 2015 , the selection show was held at the Seven Oaks Hotel , in Carlow , on 7 March .

== Isle of Man : Arrane son Mannin ==

The Arrane son Mannin (English : Song for Manx) is the Manx selection process for the Pan Celtic Festival , held annually in Ireland . In 2015 , Shenn Scoill was chosen to represent the Irish Sea island .

== Scotland : Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail ==

The Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail (English : Royal National Mòd) is the Scottish Gaelic selection process , organised by the An Comunn Gàidhealach , to find the Scottish representative for the Pan Celtic Festival , held annually in Ireland . The Scottish band , Na h @-@ Òganaich , were the first representatives for Scotland at the 1971 Pan Celtic Festival . The represented Scotland again in 1972 , with the song " Mi le m ? Uillin " , finishing in first place .

== Wales : Cân i Gymru ==

Cân i Gymru (English : A Song for Wales , Welsh pronunciation : [?ka?n i ???mr?]) is a Welsh television show broadcast on S4C annually . It was first introduced in 1969 when BBC Cymru wanted to enter the Eurovision Song Contest . It has taken place every year since , except in 1973 . Cân i Gymru is different from most talent shows ; whereas the majority invite the public to participate , Cân i Gymru welcomes only professional artists . The winner of the contest represents Wales at the annual Pan Celtic Festival held in Ireland and is also awarded a cash prize .

== Festival hosts ==

The festivals , since 1971 , have been held in various towns and cities in Ireland . Below is a list of the host cities and their respective years of hosting . The 2001 festival was cancelled due to the foot @-@ and @-@ mouth outbreak . As is shown below , County Kerry have hosted the festival twenty @-@ nine times since 1971 , with the most recent the 2011 Festival , in the town of Dingle , who first hosted the event in 2010 . County Clare have only hosted once in 1997 .

== List of winners ==

== By festival ==

The table below lists all of the annual Pan Celtic Festival winners since its inaugural event in 1971 .

= = = By Celtic nation = = =

The table below lists all of the Pan Celtic Festival winners by Celtic Nations , since its inaugural event in 1971 . Wales is the most successful nation to date , with fifteen wins ; with Cornwall coming in second with ten wins . Isle of Man achieved their one and only win to date in 2014 .