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ESB FEIS CEOIL 2010 - 15TH to 26TH MARCH

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ESB Feis Ceoil 2010 - now in its 114th year - was launched today (Thurs, 4th March) in the National Concert Hall, Dublin. Two thousand musicians and singers from all over Ireland will take part in over 180 competitions later this month.

Speaking at the launch, ESB Chief Executive, Padraig McManus, said it is vital that support for Irish culture and the arts remain strong in recessionary times. This is ESB's second consecutive year as title sponsor of Feis Ceoil.

"ESB is very proud to be the title sponsor of Feis Ceoil for the second year. In addition to providing enormous enjoyment to the participants and their audiences, Feis Ceoil has been the launching pad for many successful careers throughout the decades and its enduring success is an eloquent indication of the depth of musical talent and aptitude that we have in Ireland", he said.

"ESB's sponsorship focus is on the community and youth. We are particularly pleased to have Feis Ceoil rank alongside ESB's support for the GAA Minor Hurling and Football Championships as well as Girl's and Women's Hockey. Young people carry the future of our society and their engagement in sport, culture and the arts must be encouraged and valued", Mr McManus added.

Mr. McManus welcomed the incoming President Mrs Carmel Naughton and paid tribute to outgoing President Mr. Maurice Flynn.

Dr. Veronica Dunne, the doyenne of the Irish classical music scene, stressed the significance of Feis Ceoil in advancing the musical careers of so many young Irish people throughout the decades.

ESB Feis Ceoil takes place in Dublin from 15th to 26th March at the RDS, Merrion Road; St. Mary's Church, Donnybrook, and St. Bartholomew's Church, Clyde Road, Ballsbridge. Competitions comprise all musical disciplines from Piano to Strings, Vocal to Brass, Choral to Chamber music. 32 Choirs will be competing for the title of "ESB Feis Ceoil School Choir of the Year".