

Irish Heritage

Promoting the best of Irish and Anglo-Irish literature, music and young performers since 1974

NEWSLETTER

February 2013

Dear Friends,

We are looking forward to bringing you our next event ***Classic Meets Folk*** on **Thursday 21st February 2013** at The Bolivar Hall, Grafton Way, London at 7.30pm.

Our very successful ***Young Musician Programme***, now in its third year, has allowed us to broaden our appeal and reach new audiences as well as giving our existing loyal friends something “*distinctively different*”. The programme introduces new, young performers in a relaxed atmosphere, without compromising on the quality of performances.

Classic Meets Folk is a double header featuring, in the first half, **Conor Collins (tenor) and James Vaughan (piano)**, two fine young classical musicians trained in the Royal Northern College of Music, followed by **CrossHarbour**, an exciting new band from the thriving London Irish music scene who play a range of traditional and newly composed material.

To give you a taste of what to expect, here is a short introduction to the artists:

Conor Collins is an operatic tenor and actor recently graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) under the tuition of Stuart Macintyre. His opera appearances include Carmen (Longborough Opera); Káťa Kabanová, La Belle Hélène, La Clemenza di Tito (all RNCM). His musical theatre appearances have seen him in roles such as *Peter* in Jesus Christ Superstar, and *Grantaire* in Les Misérables. As an actor Conor has appeared in roles of *Henry V* in Henry V and *Olivia* in Twelfth Night and was awarded Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of Simon Hutton in the award winning play ‘What’s Wrong with Angry?’ in Manchester’s In-Fringe Theatre Festival 2012. In his free time Conor is an expressionist painter with several galleries exhibiting his works. Conor is also an accomplished Irish Dancer.

James Vaughan is currently a Masters student in piano accompaniment at the Royal Northern College of Music, under the tutelage of renowned pianist David Jones. James has given numerous recitals and concertos. He is also heavily involved in duo playing and other chamber music, including recently performing in the final of the Barbirolli Prize for cellists at the RNCM.

CrossHarbour, named after a London tube station, play a range of traditional and newly composed material that will soon feature on their debut album. They will play “unplugged” and line up with five performers:-

Órlaith McAuliffe 19-times All Ireland Champion on both flute and whistle and a prolific composer. Many of her tunes feature in the CrossHarbour sets;

Sam Proctor’s 2008 solo album *Natural Progression* was chosen by The Irish Times as one of the traditional albums of the year. He also works as a recording engineer, producer and lecturer in Music Production at the London College of Music;

Philippe Barnes, MA in Irish Music Performance from University of Limerick, toured with the David Munnely Band, Celtic-Jazz group, All Jigged Out, Dizraeli and the Small Gods;

Tad Sargent is a session musician and teacher of the bodhrán and an accomplished bouzouki player. He has recorded with Brian Kelly and Guy Ritchie's Punchbowl Band and is a member of contemporary Celtic band Ranagri;

Rosie Hodgson is both a singer and a songwriter and won several awards including 'Best Newcomer' at Ely Festival in 2011 and was nominated as a finalist in the 2013 BBC Radio 2 Young Folk award.

Tickets, **to include wine reception**, can be purchased online www.irishheritage.co.uk – click on **ammado/donate here**, (£10 for on-line with no booking fee) and from **Kathy O'Regan**, Kathy.oregan@hotmail.co.uk Tel 020 7226 4578 (£12: £10 for members)

Please book early as seating is limited

“AN ENCHANTING PRODUCTION OF IRISH CULTURE” *The Irish Post (26th January 2013)*
“IRISH HERITAGE TO SUPPORT GATHERING WITH ITS OWN CULTURAL SHOWCASE”
The Irish World (26th January 2013)

This is how the launch of **Enchanted Isle – Ireland in picture, song and story**, our major event on 17th April in St John's Smith Square, London SW1P 3HA, was reported by the press. **Enchanted Isle** was officially launched at a press reception in the Irish Embassy on 16th January, hosted by the Embassy's Community and Cultural Officer, Jane Connolly. Representatives of the Press, Tourism Ireland, Cork-based Lee Travel and the major commercial sponsors (Clancy Docwra Limited and Tullamore DEW Visitor Centre) joined with the Irish Heritage committee and some of the performers from **Enchanted Isle** (including Uilleann Piper, Robert White and storyteller, John Cormack) to help provide the perfect platform to bring this major event to the public.

See www.irishheritage.co.uk/events for further details. The next Newsletter in March will give extensive coverage to this event.

Other events of interest

Message from Donal Cox (actor/producer): *“Many Friends of Irish Heritage, as well as members of the Irish Literary Society, have expressed the wish to see a London performance of my show 'Journey to the Fifth Province'. As a result the production will have a specially scheduled performance at the Irish Cultural Centre Hammersmith on **Sunday 10 March at 4pm**. Tickets are £12 with a £10 concession for all Friends of IH. Booking online is available via <http://bit.ly/WMMn27>. Our website www.fifthprovinceproductions.org.uk carries background details including audience feedback and a video trailer”.*

A gentle reminder - The annual membership subscription was due for renewal on 1st January. Thank you to those of you who have already renewed membership or recently joined. For those of you who wish to join for the first time, please drop an e-mail to Kathy O'Regan, Membership Secretary, e-mail Kathy.oregan@hotmail.co.uk and she will arrange a membership form and the relevant details. Membership is £30 per annum (£50 for family membership). Your membership subscription is vital for us to maintain the quality and variety of events and to further our support for young Irish performers.

Yours sincerely,
Niall Gallagher

Chairman

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Keep up to date by visiting our website www.irishheritage.co.uk