

Irish Heritage

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

NEWSLETTER

March 2013

Dear Friends

Welcome to our March Newsletter. It contains details of our forthcoming event ***Enchanted Isle – Ireland in picture song and story*** and gives you information on other future events and items of interest which we are pleased to support. If you think one of your colleagues would be interested in reading it as well, please pass it on.

*O, Ireland! isn't grand you look -
Like a bride in her rich adornin'
With all the pent up love of my heart
I bid you the top of the morning
(Locke, John: The Exile's Return)*

These are the opening lines of ***Enchanted Isle – Ireland in picture, song and story***, our major event on **17th April** in St John's Smith Square, London SW1P 3HA. The original script has been devised and written by Irish Heritage Artistic Director and co-founder Ethna Kennedy. So what might you expect?

Without revealing too much, the story takes you on a journey through the counties of Ireland, North, South, East and West, with stories, readings and verse, (Joyce, Gogarty, Seamus Heaney and many others) on the major cultural and scenic attractions (Wexford Festival Opera, West Cork Chamber Music Festival, The Book of Kells) and historical events told by actor/storyteller John Cormack, with music to match from Fiona Murphy (soprano), Aaron Cawley (tenor), Ciara Moroney (piano) and Robert White (Uilleann Pipes), including songs by Percy French, Sean O'Riada and many traditional airs. Pictures and scenes of Ireland will fit the story and show the beauty of the landscape and the context of the story. The programme will be stage directed by Moyna Cope. Profiles of the performers are on our website www.irishheritage.co.uk

Apart from being a lively and entertaining evening, it will whet your appetite to visit Ireland in the year of ***The Gathering***. We encourage you to book early.

Tickets: £18, £15 and £10

From: Box Office St John's Smith Square: +44 (0) 20 7222 1061.

On-line www.sjss.org.uk booking fee £1.50, per booking

Sponsored by ClancyDocwra, Tullamore DEW Visitor Centre

With the support of DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF IRELAND, Tourism Ireland and Lee Travel, Cork.

Events and items of interest

Breda McKinney, the Musical Director of St Patrick's Church, Soho Square (where we had a wonderful concert in November 2011) has asked me to include the following information about a series of organ recitals in St Patrick's:

"We recently had our 18th century organ restored and work on its re-installation in the church is being completed this week. The organ was built by brothers William and Robert Gray in 1793. It has been beautifully restored and has not been heard played in living memory.

The recitals will begin on 8th May at 7pm with the inaugural recital given by

***Martin Baker, Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral;** followed by*

***William Whitehead, Associate Organist of Lincoln's Inn** – 5th June at 7pm;*

***Robert Quinney, Sub-Organist, Westminster Abbey,** who most notably played at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge – 19th June at 7pm;*

*The series will close with a recital by **Patrick Russill, Director of Music, London Brompton Oratory** – 10th July at 7pm*

No tickets for sale – retiring collection."

Here is an interesting mail I received from **Basil Walsh**, a fine historian of Irish Opera, on the great Irish composer Michael W Balfe:

*"The important Irish composer **Michael W. Balfe** (1808-1870), not only composed more than 20 operas for London during the 19th century but he also created 21 operatic works with French, Italian and German librettos with great success. Some were augmented versions of his English operas reworked with recitatives, additional arias and scenes and ballets.*

*His relatively unknown international musical fame and foreign language operas which had their premieres or early performances in cities such as **Paris, Vienna, Milan, Palermo, Trieste, Berlin, Leipzig, Frankfurt, Munich, Madrid, Lisbon, Brussels, London, Dublin, New York, Boston and San Francisco** are detailed here for the first time in the following:*

<http://balfcontinentaloperas.wordpress.com/>"

I hope you found this an interesting Newsletter. I would be pleased with your feedback. We encourage all our friends and artists to contribute to the Newsletter. Please keep doing so.

Yours sincerely
Niall Gallagher
Chairman

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