

Irish Heritage

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

NEWSLETTER No.3

July 2010

In this Newsletter we report on a very successful recital by Michael McHale in the Wigmore Hall on Monday 28th June, with a review by one of our Friends, Michael O'Sullivan (see below) , and a second review by Una Frances Clarke [Http://www.musicalcriticism.com/concerts/wigmore-mchale-0610.shtml](http://www.musicalcriticism.com/concerts/wigmore-mchale-0610.shtml). We look forward to your company during the coming season, starting with an event on 15th October 2010 in The Royal Over-Seas League, St James's Street, London. The response to our first two Newsletters has been very positive, so please continue to tell us what you would like us to include, especially news of other cultural events in London and elsewhere.

Niall Gallagher, Chairman

NEXT EVENT

Music from the Lee. With John Molloy (bass and storyteller), Jean Kelly (Irish and concert harps) and Patricia Moynihan (flute)
Princess Alexandra Hall, Royal Over-Seas League, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR

Friday 15th October 2010 at 7.30 pm.

Tickets £25 (£20 for Friends of Irish Heritage)

From Kathy O'Regan, 28 Northolme Road, London, N5 2UU (with SAE)

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Music from the Lee will tell the story of the life and times of Aloys Fleischmann (composer, collector and Professor of Music in University College Cork 1936-1980) with some of his compositions and those of his contemporaries, and popular music from Cork.

FUTURE IRISH HERITAGE EVENTS

We are currently finalising our programme for the 2010/11 year and booking venues. We hope to have the full programme agreed by the time of the next newsletter in August.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Eoghan Kelly, who played with his Jazz Quartet in our Young Musician Programme in the Irish Club in May, is launching his new **Crossbones** album in Dublin on 8th July with a concert in Whelans, Wexford Street, Dublin at 9.00 pm.

The first major London Revival of Martin McDonagh's great comedy **The Beauty Queen of Leenane** with David Ganley, Terence Keeley, Rosaleen Linehan and Susan Lynch, opens in **The Young Vic**, 66 The Cut, SE1 8LZ, on 15th July running until 21st August, previews until 20th July tickets £10. Normal price £19.50 but various discounts apply. See www.youngvic.org tel 0207 922 2922.

Barbara Stanley has two exciting events at **the Barbara Stanley Gallery**, 279 Upper Richmond Road London, SW15 6SP see www.irishartinlondon.com – Annual Show of Paintings and Sculpture July 7th 6-9 pm and Prints and Pimms, Limited Print Edition Weekend 17th and 18th July 12-4.00 pm.

The first **International Conference on Irish Music and Musicians** is being hosted by the Music Department at the University of Durham on 12-15th July 2010. The conference is being run in conjunction with a major three-year research project on Irish Music being carried out at the University of Durham by Prof Jeremy Dibble, Dr Patrick Zuk and Dr Alasdair Jamieson and will feature presentations by prominent academics and musicians, including Dr Ruth Fleischmann, as well as recitals covering a wide range of Irish classical, traditional, jazz and popular Irish Music. Also featured is a book launch by the Irish Ambassador, His Excellency Bobby McDonagh, of new publications on Irish music. Dr Zuk, who was born in Cork and studied with the late Prof Fleischmann, has offered to include the flyer for our October tribute to Aloys Fleischmann with the conference papers. (For further details see www.dur.ac.uk/music/irishmusicconference/).

MICHAEL McHALE: Wigmore Hall June 28 2010 - Review by Michael O'Sullivan

Irish Heritage organised yet another outstanding evening of great classical music on 28th June when the young award-winning Belfast-born pianist Michael Mc Hale delighted a large audience at the Wigmore Hall with a varied and formidable programme of solo piano pieces from the Classical, late Romantic and contemporary repertoires.

Mozart's lively and playful 1783 Sonata in B flat was a fitting start to the evening, beautifully chromatic and beguilingly dissonant, with an exciting and joyous finale.

Two short companion pieces by the Irish composer Ian Wilson were next, For Eileen, after rain, a thoughtful and contemplative study, and the livelier and technically more demanding Sonnenwende.

Liszt's violently passionate Ballade No 2 with its dark menacing chord sequences and alternating moods was handled with extraordinary technical precision and absolute control, and closed the first half of the evening.

After the interval, tragedy, loss, torment and great tenderness all came together in Brahms's poignant and beautiful set of Four Ballades from 1874, undoubtedly the high point of the concert. The virtuosic challenges thrown up by each of these deceptively lyrical pieces were competently met by the pianist with clarity, precision and a subtle combination of power and delicacy.

Rachmaninov's notoriously complex and multi-textured Etudes-tableaux 1917 require considerable mental dexterity and tireless hand movement. McHale however exercised total control throughout over both his material and his instrument in each of these pieces to round off a triumphant and hugely impressive Wigmore Hall debut.

For encore we were treated to a beautiful and haunting rendition of the incomparable My Lagan Love, in a (to me) unfamiliar arrangement, which I suspect may have been the performer's own.

The excellence of the Wigmore Hall acoustics and the presence of a discerning and appreciative audience made this a never to be forgotten musical evening.

Michael O'Sullivan: July 2010

END