

Irish Heritage

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

NEWSLETTER

December 2010

Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of 2010 and reflect on a busy and successful year, we would like to thank all of you who have given us support and encouragement for our ambitious programme of 7 events over the past 12 months. We would also like to thank the artists who provided such fine entertainment over the period, the hard-working committee of Irish Heritage who give significant time on a voluntary basis, our Patrons, our sponsors and donors, and our good friends in the Irish Embassy for their continued support. We hope that you will continue to support us in the coming year and promise you an exciting programme of events.

In **February** (Wednesday 16th) we have our Young Musician Programme in the Irish Club with Michael Trainor (violin), with a further programme in this series on 18th **May** with Gareth McLearnon (flute).

Our major event on Friday 8th **April** in St James's Catholic Church, Spanish Place, London W1 is "Refuge in Rome". It will tell the amazing story of Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty during the war in occupied Rome, where he and his associates hid and saved the lives of over 6,500 escaped prisoners of war, Jews and other civilians. We have a great line up of artists, Carolyn Dobbin (mezzo-soprano), Owen Gilhooly (baritone), Ciara Moroney (piano) and Iarla McGowan (actor). You will find details on our website www.irishheritage.co.uk and also see www.hughoflaherty.com for the background story.

On 10th **June** Dean Power (tenor) will give a recital with Mairead Hurley (piano) in St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, EC4.

Our programme for the second half of 2011 will be announced in early summer.

May we, on behalf of the Committee of Irish Heritage, wish you a peaceful and happy Christmas, and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Niall Gallagher *and* *Ethna Kennedy*
Chairman Artistic Director

Previous Event

Extract from a review by **Michael O'Sullivan** of the recital by Aisling Ennis on 17th November 2010.

*"Irish Heritage held another of their occasional Young Musician Programme concerts at the Irish Club Tudor Street EC4 on Wednesday the 17th November. The programme for the evening consisted of a bold and interesting blend of music from Baroque to Modern with a strong Irish emphasis, and all written or arranged for the harp...An interesting and carefully chosen selection of short and fairly well known pieces made up the programme, beginning appropriately with two offerings from Ireland's national composer Turlough O'Carolan.....A technically demanding piece, *Etude de Concert*, from the brilliant 19th century Belgian harp virtuoso and composer Felix Godefroid, something of a patron saint to harpists, was delivered with considerable finesse and close attention to detail.... Like O'Carolan, the 20th century Irish composer TC Kelly sought to*

construct a specifically Irish musical voice out of what he saw as a common European heritage....etc...

You can read the **full review** on our website www.irishheritage.co.uk

News of Irish Heritage Artists

John Molloy (bass-baritone) got excellent reviews for his appearance in the current ENO's production of *Don Giovanni*, where he sings the part of Masetto.

Owen Gilhooly has a busy schedule in early 2011, singing The Official Registrar in 16 performances of Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* at the Royal Albert Hall between the 24th February and 12th March.

Carolyn Dobbin will be singing the part of Maddelena in Verdi's *Rigoletto* in Grange Park Opera in the Spring, as well as appearances in The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and the ENO.

[Owen and Carolyn will be finding time in their busy schedules to sing with Irish Heritage on 8th April – see above.]

Special event on 29th December at the Wigmore Hall

Two young Irish artists, who have not [yet] appeared with Irish Heritage, **Héloïse Geoghegan** (violin) and **Michael Joyce** (piano) are performing in a delightful concert in the Wigmore Hall on **Wednesday 29th December 2010** at 7.30 and would be delighted for the support of Irish Heritage members and Friends - bookings through the Wigmore Hall www.wigmore-hall.org.uk.

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