

Irish Heritage

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

NEWSLETTER

March 2012

Dear Friends,

Firstly, a big thanks to those of you who supported our **Young Musician Programme** in the **Bolivar Hall**, on Thursday 16th February with **Jessica Grimes, the Jacquin Trio and Hamish Dustagheer**. We had a great turnout for this the fifth concert in our Young Musician series and the large audience was well rewarded with outstanding performances from the young artists. These events highlight the large number of talented young musicians in the colleges in London and elsewhere in Britain for whom we can provide opportunities for high quality recitals in fine venues. As evidenced by the number of young people in the audience, we are also broadening our appeal and introducing new friends to Irish Heritage and to classical music with our distinctly Irish-style hospitality.

Our **next event** is a major musical evening celebrating one of the greatest cultural achievements in Ireland - **60 Years of the Wexford Festival Opera**. Established by a small group of dedicated music-lovers in Wexford in 1951 led by the founding father, the late Dr Tom Walsh, the Festival has become world-renowned for the quality of its performances, its innovation and its world-class performers. It has also captured the imagination of the international opera community and brought countless thousands of cultural tourists to Ireland over the 60 years of its existence. Wexford (and Ireland) can well be proud of this achievement along with its reputation for excellence and the warmth of its hospitality. The building of a world-class Opera House in Wexford, which opened in 2008, marked another step in the proud history of Wexford Festival Opera. See www.wexfordopera.com

We are delighted to be able to present a taste of Wexford Festival Opera by staging a concert with excerpts from some of the most famous operas presented in Wexford over the years, and featuring outstanding young Irish performers who have already distinguished themselves at the Festival, and who are well known to Irish Heritage from our previous musical events.

60 Glorious Years - The Story of Wexford Festival Opera will be presented in the Princess Alexandra Hall of the Royal Over-Seas League, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR on **Tuesday April 24th 2012 at 7.30pm**. It will feature **Fiona Murphy - soprano, John Molloy - bass-baritone and narrator, and Ciara Moroney - piano**. The programme will include excerpts from *Le Nozze di Figaro* by Mozart, *Romeo et Juliette* by Gounod, *La Traviata* by Verdi and many more operas associated with the Wexford Festival. The story of Wexford Festival Opera will be told by John Molloy as he and his fellow artists perform their arias.

In our next Newsletter we will give you further details of the musical programme which, we can assure you, will delight all opera fans and help to introduce many more to the delights of opera performed by great young Irish performers.

Tickets are priced at £18 for paid-up members of Irish Heritage and £20 for non-members, and are available from Kathy O'Regan on 020 7226 4578, e-mail Kathy.oregan@hotmail.co.uk. or from irish.heritage1@gmail.com. You are advised to book early as this event is likely to be a sell-out and is also being promoted through the Friends of Wexford Opera in Britain.

We look forward to your support and please tell your friends not to miss this great event.

Kind regards,



Chairman

e-mail: Irish.heritage1@gmail.com

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