

Irish Heritage

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

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2013

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Dear Friends,

We have enjoyed a very successful year in 2013 with Irish Heritage events and other activities. We have significantly developed our direct contact base with other Irish organisations and indeed outside the Irish community. We have developed stronger and more tangible ties with artists who have performed with Irish Heritage or who might wish to in the future. This is consistent with our objective of assisting young Irish classical musicians in developing their careers in Britain.

In this newsletter, I would like to highlight the next major event on 12th February 2014 and to tell you more about the events and achievements of many of the artists who have recently contacted us with their stories, achievements and forthcoming events. So the Newsletter is a bit longer than usual but I hope you find it informative and even interesting!

We will be writing out soon with details of next year's Friends of Irish Heritage subscriptions and donations, explaining how we are dependent on your support to keep our organisation thriving and developing further in 2014 and beyond.

NEXT IRISH HERITAGE EVENT

Wednesday 12th February 2014. We present ***Una Hunt (piano) in Irish Composers – their music and their stories*** at Regent Hall, 275 Oxford Street, London W1C 2DG [a new venue for us see <http://regenthall.co.uk>]. Una is one of Ireland's leading pianist and has performed, recorded and broadcasted the work of many Irish composers, such as Tomas Moore, William Wallace, John Field and many lesser known Irish composers whose works she has brought to our attention. She is world-renowned for her work on Irish composers and has spearheaded the new Archive of Irish Composers at the National Library of Ireland. Tickets will shortly go on sale for this unique opportunity to hear Una Hunt in London.

OTHER EVENTS AND NEWS OF THE ARTISTS

JEAN KELLY will be playing harp in a world premiere by Julie Cooper - 'Still Silent' - at **St. Martin-in-the-fields Church** with the Locrian Ensemble on **Thursday 19th December at 7.30pm.**

The concert - "Spirit of Christmas by Candlelight" - will feature the Locrian Ensemble, led by renowned Irish violinist Rita Manning.

<http://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/event/music/concerts/spirit-of-christmas-by-candlelight>

DAIRE HALPIN will be giving a lunchtime recital at **St Martin in the Field's**, Trafalgar Square on the **17th of December at 1.00pm (free entry)**. This recital is part of the Northern Lights Symphony Orchestra 2013/14 concert season and will feature NLSO's musical direction Adam Johnson at the piano. The concert celebrates Benjamin Britten and his influences and includes works by Frank Bridge, Purcell and Britten's arrangements of Irish folk songs. <http://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/event/free-lunchtime-concert-daire-halpin/>

Daire and Jean Kelly are founding members of **The Identity Project**. *The Identity Project* will be a new work for harp and voice featuring Daire Halpin and Jean Kelly. **Composed by David Wallace and with original texts by Guardian journalist, Dan Milmo**, *The Identity Project* takes as its starting point our experiences as Irish people living in London in the twenty first century and includes stories from many different Irish people in London including members of the Southwark Irish Pensioner's Project and the artists themselves. *The Identity Project* explores issues around displacement, isolation, integration and identity through the creation and the performance of the work. We will be launching the project in the spring. If you are interested in offering support for the project, please contact daire@dairehalpin.com.

DAVID KEATING (classical guitar) following his November recital in Bolivar Hall, London, David was honoured to be invited to perform at a master class for the renowned classical guitarist **John Williams**. His current projects in Manchester include the inception of a guitar quartet with fellow members of the RNCM, preparations for a master class with guitarist Gordon Crosskey, and a number of soon to be confirmed dates for 2014, including a solo lunchtime recital at the historic **St Ann's Church, Manchester M2 7LF on Feb 26th 2014**, with music by Walton, Piazzolla, and David Russell.

GAVAN RING (baritone) is currently rehearsing in Leeds with Opera North; he will be playing the 'tuneful' role of Jake Wallace in Puccini's *La Fanciulla del West* in the New Year. Concurrently, Gavan is recording with Sir Mark Elder for Opera Rara's forthcoming recording of Offenbach's *Fantasio*. There will also be a live concert performance of *Fantasio* with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment wherein Gavan will be making his début at the **Royal Festival Hall** in the role of Hartmann on the **15 December 2013 at 7:30pm**. Conducted by Sir Mark Elder, the cast is a star-studded line up with Sarah Connolly in the title role.

HAMISH DUSTAGHEER (Organist and Director of Music at St Joseph's Church Highgate Hill N19 5NE) is giving an **organ recital at St Joseph's** on Thursday **February 6th** on their wonderful Grade 1 Hill organ of 1898. Hamish says that his Irish parish priest would be thrilled to see some fellow friends – all welcome!

PIERRE O'REILLY (composer) graduated from the Royal College of Music last July and was recently awarded the **Worshipful Company of Musicians Silver Medal (2013)** at an event at Goldsmiths Hall. Pierre has established, with a friend, a new orchestra in London called the Live Film Orchestra (LFO) (www.livefilmorchestra.com). We will be hearing a lot more about Pierre in the coming year – watch this space!

GARETH MCLEARNON (concert flute) was recently, appointed the **Professor of Flute at the Yuri Bashmet Academy in Russia**. The academy appointment involves teaching and performing concerts on Yuri Bashmet's annual summer course in Samara in Southern Russia, including as a soloist with The Moscow Soloists conducted by Maestro Bashmet himself; and then travelling throughout Russia with masterclass tours under the Yuri Bashmet Academy brand name. Gareth conducted the World Premiere of his Flute Choir composition "Single Yellow Line" at the Sir James Galway International Flute Festival in Weggis, Switzerland in August 2013. see <http://is.gd/SingleYellowLine>

August was a busy time for Gareth, **he married Abbie in August**. Congratulations to both of you. It was great to see Gareth at **Classic Meets Folk** at the Bolivar Hall last month – relaxing!!

MICHAEL MCHALE (piano) recently moved back to London, and was actually at Fiachra Garvey's recent recital at the Wigmore hall (see below) Michael be playing in the **Wigmore Hall's** main chamber music season for the first time **on Sat 11 January with clarinettist Michael Collins** - it would be great to have some Irish Heritage support there.

He is performing the Gershwin Piano Concerto with the RTÉ NSO in the NCH Dublin the previous evening, on Fri 10 January. Michael is always busy!

FIACHRA GARVEY (piano). Here is the link to the review of Fiachra's very successful recital on 20th October 2013 at Wigmore Hall
<http://seenandheard-international.com/2013/10/fine-varied-recital-fiachra-garvey/>

SIMON LEPPER (piano) is putting together a programme to celebrate the first Irish Lieder singer, **Harry Plunkett-Greene**. We look forward to hearing more about it and seeing Simon in action again

MICHELLE DALY (mezzo soprano) recently made her debut at the **ROH as Ninetta in Les Vepres** Michelle is from Dublin and has been studying and working in the UK since 2001. She studied at the **Royal Northern College of Music** and the **Guildhall School of Music and Drama** where she obtained a master's degree in Vocal performance

MAIRE CARROLL (piano) was the 2012 recipient of the prestigious Royal Dublin Society Music Bursary Award, is currently pursuing her undergraduate degree at the **Royal Academy of Music, London** with Christopher Elton. Máire will be giving solo recitals in February and March in St.Paul's Church, Bedford, Colston Hall, Bristol, St.John's, Waterloo and at **St.John's Smith Square, London on April 6th, 2014** in collaboration with the London Sinfonietta. [see mairecarroll.com]

ALISON ARNOPP (soprano) is from Bandon, Co Cork. She studied at University College Cork and in London where she now lives at both the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music. This year she was awarded third prize in the international Lotte Lenya Competition in New York, a very prestigious singing competition organised by the Kurt Weill Foundation. During her visit to New York City, Allison was invited to perform at the St. Patrick's Day celebrations at the Irish Arts Centre. see <http://www.kwf.org/current-news/press-releases/633-extraordinary-talents-win-top-prizes-in-2013-lotte-lenya-competition>.

As an actress/singer, Allison will be appearing in an hour long episode of 'Obsession: Dark Desires' on Investigation Discovery, playing the lead role of Leandra Ramm, a stalked opera singer. This will feature on US and UK television in early 2014.

MESSAGE TO ARTISTS

We would like to thank all of you who have sent us information on your events (gigs) and achievements. Keep them coming!

An early Happy Christmas from the Committee and Friends of Irish Heritage

Niall Gallagher
Chairman

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