

# *Irish Heritage*

*Promoting the best of Irish and Anglo-Irish literature, music and young performers and celebrating  
40 years – 1974-2014*

## **NEWSLETTER**

**16<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

Dear Friends and Supporters

*It is with deep regret that we advise you of the death of our Co-Founder and Artistic Director, Ethna Kennedy. Ethna died peacefully at her home in Manchester on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Her last contribution to Irish Heritage was devising and scripting, **Enchanted Evenings – 40 years of Irish Heritage** which was presented to a large and appreciative audience on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May in St George's Church Hanover Square and dedicated to her memory. Ethna was laid to rest with her husband Charles on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May in Bridgemount, Co Mayo, following requiem mass in Knock. May she rest in peace.*

### **NEXT EVENT**

Our **Summer Recital in Leighton House**, 12 Holland Park Road, London W14 8LZ, is on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at 7.30**. It features **The McDonagh Sisters**, Ailbhe (cello) and Orla (piano), in a programme including Beethoven (Sonata in A major, Op 69), Cassado (Requiebros), Debussy (Sonata), Popper (Hungarian Rhapsody Op.69) and a world premier by Irish based composer, Liam Bates, entitled: "Dancing with Gioconda - Andantino".

**The McDonagh Sisters** are an Irish cello and piano duo based in Dublin. They are both graduates of the Royal Irish Academy of Music ("RIAM") and furthered their music studies in the USA, with degrees from the Juilliard School of Music, New York, Eastman School of Music, Rochester NY and Indiana University School of Music. Following their return to Ireland, they released their debut album, "It's a Cello Thing" in 2012 which was named CD of the week on RTE Lyric FM and described as a "stunning debut album" by the *Irish Independent* and they followed with a sell-out concert in the National Concert Hall, Dublin. In addition to their active performance careers, The McDonagh Sisters are on the faculty of the RIAM in Dublin.

Tickets are £20.00 including wine reception and programme and access to the wonderful Leighton House Museum (see: [www.rblc.gov.uk/museums](http://www.rblc.gov.uk/museums)). They are available from Kathy O'Regan: Kathy.oregan@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 020 7226 4578, or **on-line** at [www.irishheritage.co.uk](http://www.irishheritage.co.uk), click on **Donate The McDonagh Sisters** (no booking fee).

**You are advised to book early as capacity in Leighton House is strictly limited to 100.**

### **NEWS OF THE ARTISTS**

**Una Hunt (piano)** gave a wonderful recital/lecture on Irish Composers - their music and stories, on 12<sup>th</sup> February in Regent Hall London. It was recorded live by **British Music Radio** and is now available on [www.britishmusicradio.net](http://www.britishmusicradio.net). It is, I assure you, a stunning recording.

**Claudia Boyle (soprano)**, who appeared with *Irish Heritage* in April 2010, received a great write up in the *Irish Sunday Independent* in advance of her lead role as First Lady Pat Nixon in the opera by John Adams, **Nixon in China**, which opened in Dublin on 11<sup>th</sup> May (See

<http://www.independent.ie/entertainment/books-arts/unlikely-opera-star-whose-career-is-hitting-high-notes-30260729.html> ) The Opera, and Claudia, got great reviews in Dublin but it also starred John Molloy, bass, (*Irish Heritage* April 2012) who, in the words of the critic, “brings an element of comedy to Secretary of State [Henry Kissinger](#)... as he enters a fantasy ballet sequence as the fictitious hooligan Lao Szu and does so with nimble vocal and physical acrobatics”. We always knew John has great stage presence, as well as a fine voice.

### **RESERVE THE DATE**

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014, *Irish Heritage* will be holding a fundraising dinner with entertainment by young classical musicians and a guest speaker in The Savile Club, 69 Brook Street, London W1K 4ER. Details will be advised shortly, but you may contact us at [Irish.heritage1@gmail.com](mailto:Irish.heritage1@gmail.com) with an expression of interest.

*Niall Gallagher*

Chairman

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