



# IRISH HERITAGE

Promoting young Irish musicians and Irish composers

1<sup>st</sup> December 2015

## NEWSLETTER

### Dear Friends, Supporters and Musicians

In the last newsletter I promised you further information on the Inaugural Irish Heritage Music Bursary and it is provided below. But first a word about our *Christmas by Candlelight* concert on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December** in St George's Church, Hanover Square – the first time we have organised a “Christmas special”.

*Christmas by Candlelight* will celebrate the festive season in the beautiful Handel's Church, St George's, Hanover Square, London W1S 1FX on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 7.00 pm. We are pleased to have the support of the *Irish Literary Society* for this event.

We have an outstanding line up of performers: **Jessica Costelloe** (mezzo soprano), who sang with us to great acclaim in February at our *Irish Opera Stars of the Future* concert and subsequently had a highly successful Season at *Grange Park Opera*; organist, **Hamish Dustagheer**, Masters Student (MPhil P) New College Oxford, and Organist and Director of Music, Blackfriars, Oxford; and we have the successful and energetic **London Irish Pensioners Choir**, who launched their most recent CD “*Ceol agus Soul*” on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November at the Irish Embassy; and we have two Celebrity Guest Readers, **Nora Connolly**, Abbey-trained actress, poet and committee member of the Irish Literary Society, and the indomitable Limerickman, **Sir Terry Wogan**, who needs no introduction.

This will be a perfect start to Christmas celebrations. The concert will feature well-loved Christmas music and poetry, Irish songs, excerpts from Handel's Messiah and Carols for All.

**Tickets** are £15 (incl. reception) or £40 for a Family Ticket (two adults and two children) from Kathy O'Regan, [kathy.oregan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kathy.oregan@hotmail.co.uk) : Tel. 020 7226 4578, or on our website [www.irishheritage.co.uk](http://www.irishheritage.co.uk) , click on DONATE (no booking fee)

**You are strongly advised to book soon as this event may well be a “sell-out”**

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### Irish Heritage Inaugural Music Bursary

We recently announced that Carolyn Holt (mezzo-soprano) and Máire Carroll (piano) are joint winners of the Irish Heritage Music Bursary 2015. Each will receive an award of £2,500 towards their further education and a performance appearance with Irish Heritage. Carolyn and Máire graduated from the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin and are studying at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Their reaction was immediate and appreciative:

**Carolyn says:** *"I am thrilled and very proud to be the joint winner of the Irish Heritage Music Bursary, which will be an enormous help in my development as an artist. I am so grateful to Irish Heritage for their belief in me. I feel honoured to be associated with an organisation that has supported so many young Irish musicians in the early part of their careers."*

**Máire says:** *"Winning the inaugural Irish Heritage Music Bursary is a great honour and privilege. I am excited to begin a collaborative partnership with Irish Heritage and I am incredibly grateful for their support now and in the future"*.

The widespread and positive reaction we have had from many people in the music world in Britain and in Ireland and from the media is an indication of the success of this, our first Bursary. We are determined to continue to help young Irish musicians in this way and we are very grateful for the support, financial and otherwise, that we continue to receive from our Friends.

## About the Bursary

The Irish Heritage Music Bursary was established to provide much needed financial assistance towards the education of young Irish classical musicians working or studying in Britain. The Bursary was funded for 2015 by a generous donation from Mrs Allison McGrath.

The bursary attracted eleven Irish students nominated by the four London Conservatoires [The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, the Royal Academy of Music, the Royal College of Music and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance]. On 23<sup>rd</sup> October, nine of these talented young musicians were auditioned and interviewed in the Wigmore Hall by a distinguished panel of judges, chaired by our Patron, John Gilhooly OBE, Director Wigmore Hall and Chairman of the Royal Philharmonic Society. The other distinguished members of the jury were Ailish Tynan, (soprano), David Strange, Professor Emeritus and former Head of Strings, Royal Academy of Music, and Antony Lewis-Crosby, General Manager, St Luke's Music Society, London. We are very grateful for their considerable time and expertise in judging the Bursary.

The standard of applicants was extremely high and, in the event, the Irish Heritage Joint Artistic Directors, Katie Rowan and Jean Kelly, agreed that the Bursary should be shared by **Carolyn Holt** and **Máire Carroll**. Their winners' recital with Irish Heritage will take place in Autumn 2016 and details will be announced early in 2016.

Details of the **2016 Irish Heritage Music Bursary**, including the nomination process, will also be announced in early 2016 and auditions will take place in November 2016.

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**Friends of Irish Heritage:** We are grateful to those of you who renewed your **Friends of Irish Heritage membership** (£50 per household) or joined for the first time and to those Friends who purchased a **Season Ticket** (£60 or £110 for two). If you would like to join as a **Friend of Irish Heritage**, or rejoin, please contact Kathy O'Regan (details below) or log on to our website where secure payments can be made. We offer you this unique opportunity to help young Irish musicians at the time they need it most for their continuing education. Friends Liaison Officer: Kathy O'Regan, [kathy.oregan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kathy.oregan@hotmail.co.uk) Tel. 020 7226 4578.

## A Note to Musicians

We are always pleased to hear from you about your achievements and future engagements – particularly in the London Area. Please let us know in good time – a minimum of 6 weeks in advance - and we will publish in our Newsletter or on our Website [www.irishheritage.co.uk /blog](http://www.irishheritage.co.uk/blog). Why not tweet @HeritageIrish.

Thank you all for your continuing support and we hope to see you on 21<sup>st</sup> December.

*Niall Gallagher*

Chairman, Irish Heritage

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