



IRISH HERITAGE

Promoting young Irish musicians and Irish composers

1st January 2016

NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends, Supporters and Musicians

Firstly, I want to wish you all a very Happy and Healthy 2016.

I briefly reflect on an eventful year for Irish Heritage in 2015 and then look to what 2016 has to offer you, starting with the first of our cultural commemorations of a momentous century in the history of Ireland – ***A Century of Song and Opera in Ireland - on 17th February 2016.***

The past year has seen significant progress in our development as a leading arts organisation promoting the appreciation and understanding of classical music and music composed by Irish composers, performed by young Irish musicians in Britain. We are dedicated to helping young musicians through their continuing education and in the early part of their careers – where their need is greatest.

Among the key developments in 2015 were:

- The establishment of Irish Heritage Artistic Advisory Panel
- The inaugural Irish Heritage Music Bursary with joint winners, Carolyn Holt, mezzo soprano, and Máire Carroll, piano
- The London Debut recital for winner of the 2014 Royal Dublin Society Music Bursary, Clara Daly Donnellan, trombone
- Our first Christmas event, Christmas by Candlelight on 21st December
- The inaugural Irish Heritage Fundraising Golf event – which was a great success.

In all we had nine successful events in 2015 – with considerable variety. A special thanks to our Joint Artistic Directors, Katie Rowan and Jean Kelly.

Thank **you** for your support throughout the year. Our Patrons and Friends are an invaluable part of our efforts in supporting young Irish musicians and composers.

1916- 2016 Commemoration - a Century of Song and Opera in Ireland

2016 is a very special year of commemoration of Ireland's history and cultural identity. Ireland's Global and Diaspora Programme is an exciting international programme of creative, community and commemorative events to mark the centenary of the Easter Rising. Events in Britain will explore Irish history, culture and heritage as well as celebrating the important role of the Irish Diaspora in Britain. For further details of the extensive programme of events see <https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/great-britain/news-and-events/2015/ireland-2016-global-programme/>

Irish Heritage is proud to be part of this extensive cultural programme, starting with ***A Century of Song and Opera in Ireland***, on 17th February 2016 in the Princess Alexandra Hall, Royal Over-Seas League, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR at 7.30 pm.

For this event, we have brought together three outstanding young Irish musicians working and studying in Britain, Jennifer Davis, soprano, Aaron O'Hare, baritone and Maire Carroll, piano. See below. The programme will include music from important performances and opera that took place during the period, and works by Irish composers including the UK premier of song settings of poems by Padraig Pearse by his contemporary, the composer Ina Boyle (1889-1967). Further details of the programme will be announced soon and will be in the next Newsletter and on our website www.irishheritage.co.uk.

The Artists

Jennifer Davis (soprano), joined the prestigious Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, in September 2015. She received critical acclaim for her recent performance in *Orpheus* at the Sam Wannamaker Playhouse, Shakespeare's Globe, London. She is an Alumna of the National Opera Studio; London, gained a first class

honours for her Masters in Vocal Performance at DIT's Conservatory of Music and Drama, Dublin; and was awarded the Bernadette Greevy Bursary and Gerard Arnhold Prize for the most promising young singer at Wexford Opera Festival in 2013. Jennifer previously appeared with Irish Heritage in "A Celebration of 40 Years of Irish Heritage" in May 2014.

Aaron O'Hare (baritone), from Warrenpoint, Co Down, is completing his Masters in Music at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, having graduated from the University of Ulster in 2011 with his B MUS (Hons.). In 2012/13 he was a member of the NI Opera's Young Artist Scheme. Aaron won the Northern Ireland Opera "Voice of 2015" prize, competing with top performers from the 32 counties during their Festival of Voice in August 2015. He has worked with leading opera companies in Ireland and England including NI Opera, Wide Open Opera, Nevill Holt Opera and Buxton Festival Opera. It will be Aaron's first appearance with Irish Heritage.

Máire Carroll (piano) is completing her Masters (MMus) at the Royal Academy of Music, London, being one of three candidates to be selected for this intensive one year Masters Programme and following her undergraduate degree in the RAM. Máire started her studies at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin. She has won many prestigious awards; including the RDS Music Bursary (2012); the Feis Ceoil Mabel Swainson Award; the William Finlay Award in association with the Dublin International Piano Competition; and is a recipient of the Jim McNaughton/Tilestyle Artist Bursary (Business to the Arts Award – Ireland, 2015). Máire was recently announced as the Joint Winner of the Inaugural Irish Heritage Music Bursary (2015) following auditions at Wigmore Hall.

The venue, The Princess Alexandra Hall, Royal Over-Seas League, St James Street, SW1A 1LR, is an ideal location for this fine concert and is conveniently located close to Green Park Underground Station.

Tickets: £20 (incl. wine reception and programme). Students £5 if booked on-line.

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On-line: www.irishheritage.co.uk click on DONATE

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 when they need it most for their continuing education. Friends Liaison Officer: Kathy O'Regan, 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. Why not tweet @HeritageIrish.

Thank you all for your continuing support and we hope to see you on 17th February 2016.

Niall Gallagher

Chairman, Irish Heritage

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