



# IRISH HERITAGE

Promoting young Irish musicians and Irish composers

1<sup>st</sup> February 2016

## NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends

### **Next event: A Century of Song and Opera in Ireland - 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

Irish Heritage is proud to be part of the extensive world-wide cultural programme commemorating the many historic events covering the century from 1916 to the present. Our programme for this year is starting with ***A Century of Song and Opera in Ireland***, on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016** in the Princess Alexandra Hall, Royal Over-Seas League, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR at 7.30 pm in the presence of His Excellency the Irish Ambassador, Mr Dan Mulhall and Mrs Greta Mulhall.

For this unique event, we have brought together three outstanding young Irish musicians working and studying in Britain, **Jennifer Davis, soprano, Aaron O'Hare, baritone and Máire Carroll, piano** (ref. January Newsletter and our website [www.irishheritage.co.uk](http://www.irishheritage.co.uk))

The concert draws on a wealth of music heard in Ireland over the last one hundred years: music by Irish composers – male and female; British composers inspired by Ireland, and music made famous by Ireland's finest opera singers. As Jean Kelly, our Joint Artistic Director writes:-

*"The opera houses of Dublin, Belfast, Cork and Wexford saw regular performances from homegrown and visiting opera companies, including The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company which was in Dublin during the Easter Rising of 1916 and had been due to perform several shows by Gilbert and Sullivan. Unfortunately, the performances were cancelled.*

*Ireland has produced an incredible array of vocal talent over the last century – singers who have made huge international careers and appeared in all the major opera houses, from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, to The Metropolitan Opera, New York, including:-*

- *Margaret Burke Sheridan, lyric soprano, also known as 'Maggie from Mayo' (1889-1958)*
- *Bernadette Greevy, mezzo-soprano (1940-2008)*
- *Harry Plunket Greene, baritone (1865-1936)*
- *E.J. Moeran (1894-1950) a British composer who had a great affinity with Ireland and died in Kenmare in 1950*
- *Herbert Hamilton Harty (1879-1941) whose setting of 'My Lagan Love' was recorded and performed by Ireland's beloved tenor Count John McCormack.*

*Three Irish female composers feature in the programme:-*

- *Joan Trimble (1915-2000)*
- *Bernadette Marmion (b.1938) who was commissioned to write 'The Thoughtful Moon' in 2014 for Jennifer Davis – who had won the Bernadette Greevy Bursary*
- *Ina Boyle (1889-1967), a prolific female Irish composer whose works were not well-known in her lifetime but are now being "rediscovered" and performed in Ireland and in Britain with Irish Heritage.*

*The programme includes settings of 3 poems by Pdraig Pearse: two [UK premiers] by Ina Boyle and one by TC Kelly (1917-1985) - 'The Mother' - set to music in the 1960s and initially banned for broadcast by RTE, being considered to be too inflammatory.*

*How wonderful to hear the new generation of Irish artists providing us with a snapshot of a century of Irish musical life".*

**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.

**From:** Kathy O'Regan: 28 Northolme Road, London N5 2UU. Tel: 020 7226 4578

**E-mail:** [kathy.oregan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kathy.oregan@hotmail.co.uk)

**On-line:** [www.irishheritage.co.uk](http://www.irishheritage.co.uk) click on DONATE

**Please book early for this outstanding concert**

**A note from our Patron John Gilhooly OBE, Director Wigmore Hall**

*I am helping to organise a gala concert to raise funds for the Corpus Christi Maiden Lane restoration appeal, which will take place on 19 February at 49 Queen's Gate Terrace (SW7 5PN). I would be most grateful for the support of Irish Heritage and its Friends.*

*The concert will be given by Ailish Tynan, soprano, Benjamin Appl, baritone, and James Baillieu, piano, and will include songs and duets by Mendelssohn, Schubert, Brahms, Rubinstein and Britten.*

*More details about the appeal and the concert can be found here:*

*<http://www.corpuschristimaidenlane.org.uk/restoration/>*

I look forward to your support on 17<sup>th</sup> February and in the coming months when we have some great musical events.

*Niall Gallagher*

Chairman, Irish Heritage

E-mail: [contact@irishheritage.co.uk](mailto:contact@irishheritage.co.uk) web: [www.irishheritage.co.uk](http://www.irishheritage.co.uk)

Facebook: IrishHeritageLondon, Twitter: @HeritageIrish



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