



IRISH HERITAGE

Promoting young Irish musicians and Irish composers

1st December 2016

NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends and Supporters

I am delighted to announce details of our Christmas concert - ***Christmas by Candlelight*** - which we are again organising this year, with the support of the ***Irish Literary Society***, in the beautiful Handel's Church, St George's, Hanover Square, London W1S 1FX on Monday 19th December at 7.00pm to be followed by a wine reception.

We have an outstanding line up of performers, musicians and readers and we hope you will again support this "start of Christmas" event, in the same numbers as last year, when it was a sell out.

The evening will feature excerpts from Handel's Messiah, Christmas favourites for soprano and choir including 'O Holy Night', jazzy Christmas songs, Irish folk songs and carols for all.

Our Music Performers: *Sinéad O'Kelly - soprano, The Arb Vocal Ensemble, organist/pianist - Jonathan Beatty.* [see below for further details]

Our Guest Readers: *Roy Foster, writer and historian; Joe Lynam BBC TV business correspondent, (who will present the evening); Bernard O'Donoghue, poet and President, Irish Literary Society; Petroc Trelawny, BBC Radio 3 and BBC Proms presenter and Shevaun Wilder, actress.*

Venue: St George's Church, Hanover Square. W1S 1FX. Nearest stations Oxford Circus or Bond Street

Tickets are now on sale: On-line www.irishheritage.co.uk click on DONATE (no booking fee) or through our Friends Liaison Officer ***Kathy O'Regan***, kathy.oregan@hotmail.co.uk Tel 020 7226 4578.

Price: £20.00 incl. wine reception and programme. Family ticket (2 + 2) £45.00.

Note: the concert will start at 7.00pm and, without an interval, run to approximately 8.45pm. The reception will follow until 9.30pm. Also note a slight change in the advertised programme. The Oratory School Choir was unavailable on the evening, but we have a terrific replacement + another guest reader.

About the Musicians

Sinéad O'Kelly is a soprano from Belfast who studied for 6 years at the Royal College of Music (RCM), graduating in 2014 with a First Class Honours Degree and in 2016 completed her Masters with Distinction. She was NI Opera's "Voice of 2013" and is a Young Artist with NI Opera for 2016/17 season. Sinéad participated in the inaugural Irish Heritage Bursary in 2015, nominated by the RCM.

The Arb Ensemble, directed by Jonathan Darbourne, is a London-based group formed in 2011. Its singers are all soloists in their own right, and so much of the group's repertoire indulges individual voices, especially in the arrangements made by their director. This year, these will include 'Silent Night,' 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary' and 'You Raise Me Up.'

Jonathan Beatty, organist, pianist was a chorister in the Choir of Westminster Cathedral, and was one of the youngest coaches to be taken on at the Guildhall, having completed his Masters there in accompaniment and his first degree at Clare College, Cambridge. He has

performed recently at Wigmore Hall, the Royal Opera House and Bridgewater Hall, as well as regular broadcasts on the In Tune programme on BBC Radio 3.

News of the 2015 Irish Heritage Music Bursary Joint Winner, Carolyn Holt, mezzo-soprano

We are particularly pleased to bring you news of our Bursary winners, our most recent 2016 winner Christopher Quaid, violin, featured in last week's Special Newsletter and now **Carolyn Holt**, mezzo-soprano, has written to us with some forthcoming concerts which you or your friends might be interested in.

*"On **Saturday 3rd December** I am singing the alto solo in a Messiah in St. Edmundsbury Cathedral in Suffolk.* <http://www.stedscathedral.co.uk/whats-on/794-handel-s-messiah/>

*I am then singing the alto solo in another Messiah on the **23rd December** in Oxford University Church.* <http://www.concert-diary.com/concert/1008500758/Handel-s-Messiah-Oxford-Voces>"

Carolyn will have a busy 2017 and we will keep you informed through the Newsletter and our website.

Friends of Irish Heritage: We are grateful to those of you who renewed your *Friends of Irish Heritage membership* or joined for the first time and to those who purchased a Season Ticket. If you would like to become a *Friend of Irish Heritage*, or rejoin, please contact Kathy O'Regan (details below) or log on to our website www.irishheritage.co.uk where secure payments can be made.

Friends Liaison Officer: Kathy O'Regan, kathy.oregan@hotmail.co.uk Tel. 020 7226 4578

Thank you all for your continuing support and we hope to see you on Monday 19th December and in festive mood.

Niall Gallagher

Chairman, Irish Heritage

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