



# IRISH HERITAGE

Supporting young Irish musicians and Irish composers

1<sup>st</sup> January 2017

## NEWSLETTER

### Dear Friends and Supporters and Artists

Welcome to our January 2017 Newsletter. I would like to thank you for your support to Irish Heritage during 2016 and wish you a happy and healthy 2017.

We were particularly pleased with our *Christmas by Candlelight Concert* on 19<sup>th</sup> December in St George's Church, Hanover Square which was a great start to Christmas celebrations and a fitting end to our 2016 programme. Thank you for your support and that of the Irish Literary Society; we had a full house and many people new to Irish Heritage whom we hope to see again throughout 2017. See below.

We do wish to make **an apology** for the poor quality of the lectern sound system in St George's, which did not affect the music but did make it difficult to hear our very fine Guest Readers. We have corrective action in hand for future events where this problem might arise.

### NEXT EVENT

We start 2017 with a "***Night at the Opera***" at the Princess Alexandra Hall of the Royal Overseas League, St James's, SW1A 1LR on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 pm**. It features the winner of the Royal Dublin Society (RDS) 2016 Music Bursary, **Aoife Gibney, soprano**, with **Killian Farrell, piano**, and special guest, **Carolyn Holt, mezzo-soprano**.

**Aoife Gibney** is the 2016 recipient of the €15,000 RDS Music Bursary. She recently completed her undergraduate studies in Dublin at the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama where she was awarded a first-class honours degree and the Michael McNamara Gold Medal for Outstanding Performance. She is now continuing her vocal studies, a Masters in Opera, under Hedwig Fassbender at the Hochschule Fur Musik Und Theater in Frankfurt.

**Killian Farrell**, répétiteur and conductor, is a first-class honours graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, where he studied musicology. In 2012 he was the first conductor to be appointed to Opera Theatre Company's Young Associate Artist Programme. He is currently on the 2016/17 Young Artist Programme at the National Opera Studio, London.

Aoife and Killian will be joined by special guest, **Carolyn Holt** – mezzo soprano, winner of the inaugural Irish Heritage Bursary in 2015. Carolyn performed with Irish Heritage in September 2016 as part of her Bursary prize.

Their delightful programme will feature an array of opera arias including extracts from Balfe's *Bohemian Girl*, Puccini – *La Bohème*, and charming songs by Delibes, Rachmaninov and Gounod.

**Venue: Royal Over-Seas League**, Park Place which is off St James's Street, SW1A 1LR. The nearest underground station is Green Park, 5 mins. walk.

**Tickets: £20 (incl. wine reception and programme)** can be booked on-line at [www.irishheritage.co.uk](http://www.irishheritage.co.uk) click on DONATE (no booking fee), or through **Kathy O'Regan**, Tel: 020 7226 4578, E-mail: [Kathy.oregan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Kathy.oregan@hotmail.co.uk). We offer a special price of £10 for under 30's booking on-line and subject to availability.

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## News of our Artists

**Caoimhe De Paor** is an outstanding young Irish recorder player who has been based in London since finishing her studies at the Guildhall School of Music. She performed with Irish Heritage in October 2015.

Caoimhe has written to us to tell us that her early music group **Palisander** have been selected for the prestigious St John's Smith Square Young Artists' Scheme 2016-2017. This provides training in professional development, funding for a new commission and marketing project, outreach work opportunities and three performances at St John's. Palisander was described as 'outstanding' and 'thrilling', in reviews of the quartet's performance at Brighton Early Music Festival last autumn.

Their next recital in St John's Smith Square is on **Thursday 16 February at 7.30pm**. Details including the programme are on the St John's website <https://www.sjss.org.uk/youngartists> and you can keep up to date with Palisander Quartet via their excellent website, [www.palisanderrecorders.com](http://www.palisanderrecorders.com)

**Note: we are always pleased to receive news of "our artists" and where possible publicise your events and achievements.**

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## Friends of Irish Heritage: Special Offer

We welcome new members, Friends of Irish Heritage, at any time of the year, but we are now half way through our event programme and we are offering new members (or those who would like to rejoin) a **special offer** of Friends membership + a Season Ticket for our three musical events (February, April and June 2017 – see [www.irishheritage.co.uk](http://www.irishheritage.co.uk) for details) for a total of **£60**. This guarantees your seat at our events which have frequently been sold out in advance and enables you to support our work of supporting young Irish musicians and Irish composers. Further benefits of Friends membership and Season Tickets are on our website – see Join us.

You can purchase this **Special Offer on-line** through our website or contact Friends Liaison Officer: Kathy O'Regan, [kathy.oregan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kathy.oregan@hotmail.co.uk) Tel. 020 7226 4578.

Again, wishing you a peaceful New Year and big thanks for your support in 2016.

*Niall Gallagher*

Chairman, Irish Heritage

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