



# IRISH HERITAGE

Supporting young Irish musicians and Irish composers

1<sup>st</sup> February 2017

## NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends and Supporters and Artists

**Next Event Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February - Royal Over-Seas League: see below**

### *The Ireland Fund of Great Britain Award 2017*

We were pleased and honoured to receive *The Ireland Fund of Great Britain Award 2017* on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017, presented by the IFGB Chairman, Garrett Hayes, at a reception in the Embassy of Ireland, hosted by the Ambassador, his Excellency Daniel Mulhall, and in the presence of the Minister for the Diaspora, Mr Joe McHugh TD.

The award acknowledged the contribution that Irish Heritage has made to the cultural life of Great Britain since our establishment in 1974 and the foresight of our founders, the late Ethna and Charles Kennedy, who identified the need for wider public recognition of the excellence of Ireland's musical and literary traditions and the contribution that young Irish musicians could make in furthering these aims. The Ambassador and Garrett Hayes both paid generous tributes to Irish Heritage and the award was graciously received by Joint Artistic Director, Katie Rowan, on behalf of the Board, and Friends of Irish Heritage.

Katie Rowan thanked the Ambassador and the Irish Government for their support through the Emigrant Support Scheme, and Garrett Hayes and the Board of the Ireland Fund of Great Britain for granting us this award. Katie highlighted some recent developments of Irish Heritage, in particular the Irish Heritage Music Bursary and its extension into additional music colleges; our partnerships with the RDS and with the Irish Traditional Music Archives (ITMA) in Dublin, which will enable us to bring a major event on the story of Traditional Music – the Goodman Collection - to a London audience in October 2017. Katie acknowledged that we are justly proud of the support given by Irish Heritage to many young musicians and Irish composers who have benefitted from the platform we provide in advancing their careers in Britain and represent in Britain the finest quality of our culture and traditions.

To illustrate the point, Jean Kelly, Joint Artistic Director, introduced the 2016 winner of the Irish Heritage Music Bursary, Christopher Quaid, violin, who played his unique arrangement of *The Minstrel Boy* to a rapt audience at the Embassy.

Again, our thanks to The Ireland Fund of Great Britain for this most prestigious award and to the Ambassador and his staff at the Embassy for the wonderful reception and kind words.

### OUR NEXT EVENT

**"A Night at the Opera"** at the Princess Alexandra Hall of the Royal Over-Seas League, St James's, SW1A 1LR on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 pm** will feature 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 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 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.

Aoife's delightful programme will feature, Lieder, a wide variety of opera arias, including operas by Mozart, Puccini, Massenet, Offenbach and Gounod, and songs from other great composers including, Delibes and Rachmaninov. This is a real treat for all music lovers.

We will be delighted to welcome on the night the **President of the RDS, Bernie Brennan**, and other RDS guests from Dublin, together with a significant number of their UK members.

**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. **See note below about on-line booking.**

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### News of our Artists

Jessica Grimes and her Jacquin trio is a good example of our long-standing relationship and support for young artists - and how we like to stay in touch.

*"The Jacquin Trio really enjoyed playing for Irish Heritage a few years ago (16<sup>th</sup> February 2012). Since playing for you we went on to win the St Martin-in-the-Fields Chamber Music Competition 2012 and the Royal Overseas League Ensemble Prize 2016, and are now busier than ever with engagements booked into 2019!*

*We wanted to let you know of a fundraiser concert we're putting on at Bob Boas' Music at 22 Mansfield Street address on 14th March at 7pm, and wondered if anyone at Irish Heritage would be interested in supporting us or coming along.*

*We are commissioning award winning composer Charlotte Bray (<http://charlottebray.co.uk/>) to write a new trio for us which will get a world premiere at St John's Smith Square on 27th April this year, and are working to raise the final funds for the commission fee, having been partly sponsored by the RVW (Vaughn Williams) Trust and the Ambache Charitable Trust. It's really an exciting project, expanding some already exciting repertoire with a work by such an exciting young female composer!"*

### Well done to Jessica and her enterprising Trio!

**Note:** we are always pleased to receive news of "our artists" and where possible publicise your events and achievements. Just let us know in good time please.

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### Friends of Irish Heritage: Special Offer

We welcome new Friends of Irish Heritage at any time of the year but as we are now half way through our event programme we are offering new members (or those who would like to re-join) a **special offer of £60** for Friends membership + a Season Ticket for our three musical events (**15th February, 12<sup>th</sup> April and 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017**). [www.irishheritage.co.uk](http://www.irishheritage.co.uk) for details. This guarantees your seat at our events which have frequently been sold out in advance + preferential booking for the very popular Savile Club Dinner on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 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 on our website or contact Kathy O'Regan, Friends Liaison Officer: [kathy.oregan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kathy.oregan@hotmail.co.uk) Tel. 020 7226 4578.

### **A NOTE ON BOOKING ON-LINE:**

We are pleased to offer a facility to book on-line using our website [www.irishheritage.co.uk](http://www.irishheritage.co.uk). The facility is used by many of you and offers no-fee booking through a secure site of our supplier **ammado**, an Irish company established to cater for small charities and aid projects. Because of its charitable remit, **ammado** uses the **blue** icon **DONATE** with our description "Irish arts in London". On hitting this prominent display on our website, you will access the options for booking tickets for each event or for joining Irish Heritage – or you can make a donation. You will receive an immediate response of confirmation from **ammado** and we are immediately notified of your "donation" for our records. The acknowledgement from **ammado** will act as an e-ticket to bring with you to our event OR, if you join or re-join Irish Heritage, our Membership Liaison Officer, Kathy O'Regan, will send out to you the Membership and Season Ticket card. We hope you will use and appreciate this facility with ease. **You can of course contact Kathy by e-mail: [kathy.oregan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kathy.oregan@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 020 7226 4578.**

*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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DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF IRELAND