



Irish Heritage

Irish Heritage was established in 1974 by Ethna and Charles Kennedy to promote the best of Irish and Anglo-Irish music, literature and drama to audiences in Britain. It had its first performance on 4th April 1974 in the Hall of the Inner Temple in London – a bi-centenary tribute to Oliver Goldsmith.

Ethna and Charles recognised, at the time, the need to enhance the image of Ireland and its cultural heritage through the promotion of high quality musical and other artistic events. From the beginning they set a standard of professional performances which has endured to this day. Charles Kennedy died in 1979 but Ethna has remained as Artistic Director and is the driving force of Irish Heritage.

The listing of events below is a reminder of the breadth and variety of performances down through the years. A separate listing of the artists who have appeared in Irish Heritage performances has also been produced and is also displayed on this website. These listings are up to date as at June 2011 and have been compiled from records held by Ethna and Committee members. We regret if there are any omissions or errors.

Niall Gallagher
Chairman
August 2011

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1974

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| April | "Citizen of the World" | Bi-centenary tribute to the poet Oliver Goldsmith
In the Hall of the Inner Temple
Wreath laid on his tomb by Irish Ambassador,
Dr Donal O'Sullivan
Black-tie reception in the Queen's Room afterwards |
| April | "Tipperary Remembers" | Programme put together for the Portsmouth
Irish Society
Performed at Portsmouth |
| November | "Tipperary Remembers" | Special programme for the Tipperary Association,
mainly works of Kickham
London Tara Hotel |

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1975

- June** "The Friends so linked together"
The friendship of Thomas Moore and Lord Byron
Black-tie reception, descendants of the original
friends of Moore and Byron guests
Reynolds Room, Royal Academy
- June** "The Friends so linked together"
London Tara Hotel
- October** "The Friends so linked together"
Purcell Room, South Bank Halls
- November** "Some aspects of my work"
Talk by Michael Scott on occasion of his winning
the R.I.B.A. Gold Medal
London Tara Hotel

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1976

- April** "The West's Awake" Music and literature of Connaught; presenting
Mary O'Hara in her first London appearance
London Tara Hotel
- October** "Dark Rosaleen" New programme on Ireland
Black-tie reception and full supper
Irish Embassy
- December** "Dark Rosaleen" London Tara Hotel

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1977

- February** "Irish Heritage Party" Several personalities present.
Cheque presented to the Hospital of SS John
and Elizabeth
Ireland House
- March** Irish Heritage won "Irish Post/Allied Irish Banks Community Award"
for cultural contributions to the community
- May** "May Ball" London Tara Hotel
- May** "Dark Rosaleen" Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage
- June** "The Heart's Undoing" Irish lovers famous and infamous
Purcell Room, South Bank
- October** "Music for All Seasons" Poetry, drama and music
London Tara Hotel
- November/
December** "Kiernan Lectures" In association with NUI Club -
relating to Irish literature and music

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1978

- February** "Music to Delight" Baroque evening given by the Douglas Gunn Ensemble from Cork
London Tara Hotel
- June** "Michael MacLiammoir Commemorative Dinner"
Stars of screen and stage present
London Tara Hotel
- October/
November** "The time of Singing has come"
BI-centenary programme on Catherine McAuley for the Sisters of Mercy. UK Tour incorporating London, Liverpool, Wolverhampton, Bristol, Abingdon, Oxford
Major halls with capacity of 2,500+ - totally sold out
- November** "Rich and Rare" Evening of Irish and Welsh poetry and music
Reardon Smith, University Theatre, Cardiff
- December** "Rich and Rare" London Tara Hotel

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1979

- March** "The West's Awake" St. John's Hotel, Solihull
- April** "A Song of Grace and Favour"
Story of Knock Shrine Gramophone record featuring Jean Holmes, Theresa Kennedy and Charles Kennedy.
Black-tie reception, Ireland House
- May** "The Minstrel Boy"
Bi-centenary celebration of the birth of Thomas Moore
Original manuscript of the song "The Minstrel Boy" presented to Irish Centre, St. John's, Smith Square
- November** "Dublin's Fair City" London Tara Hotel

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1980

- April** "In Happy Moments" Selections from the three Irish Operas
Purcell Room, South Bank
- November** "In Happy Moments" London Tara Hotel

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1981

- May** "A Ring for Every Finger"
Music and light verse.
Conway Hall, Bedford Square
- November** "Girl of the Golden West"
Programme on Margaret Burke Sheridan
Ireland's international opera star
Commonwealth Institute

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1982

- February** "Brendan Bracken - The Man and the Myth"
Charles Lysaght talks about his book
Leighton House
- March** "Ringabella Plurabelle" Joyce centenary celebration
Commonwealth Institute
- November** "Ringabella Plurabelle" and "A Ring for Every Finger"
Belfast Music Festival
- November** "Debut Recital" Colette McGahan (mezzo-soprano)
Yvonne Egan (soprano)
Purcell Room, South Bank
- December** "A Foxford Blanket" Talk on Foxford Mills by Mary Mullin
Supper served afterwards
Leighton House

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1983

- February** Ringabella Plurabelle" repeat
Queen Mary Concert Hall
- April** "An Affair of the Heart" Love songs and poems
Queen Mary Concert Hall
- November** "Night Song of Mirth" Silver Jubilee of Irish Georgian Society
Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith
- December** "Christmas Party" Carols with Courtney Kenny and supper afterwards
Leighton House

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1984

- April** "John McCormack Centenary"
Introductory talk by Liam Breen
President of the John McCormack Society
Irish Club
- June** "John McCormack Centenary Concert" followed by reception
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank
- November** "Celebration" 10th Anniversary Evening
Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith

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1985

April "An Evening with Percy French"
Fortune Theatre

October "To Meet Mr Oscar Wilde"
Fortune Theatre

November "Autumn Soiree" Leonora Carney (piano)
Leighton House

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1986

March "Stars of Tomorrow" Young Irish Artists
Kensington Town Hall

May "Irish/Spanish Evening"
Songs and guitar, Jean Holmes (Mezzo), Carmen
Harman (guitar)
Leighton House

November "The Great Victor Herbert"
Songs from the shows
Fortune Theatre

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1987

March "Stars of Tomorrow" Kensington Town Hall

September "An Evening with Percy French"
Ardhowen Theatre, Enniskillen

October "Autumn Party" Introducing Benedict Kiely
Leighton House

November "No More a-Roving" New programme on Moore/Byron
Ambassadors Theatre

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1988

April "Spring Soiree" Introducing Mary Hegarty (soprano),
Blaithneadh Murphy (piano)
Leighton House

October "Music for an Autumn Night"
Introducing Niamh Murray (soprano),
Blaithneadh Murphy (piano)
Canning House

November "Joycenight" New Programme on Joyce
Ambassadors Theatre

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1989

April "Spring Soiree" Introducing Finbar Wright tenor),
Blaithneadh Murphy (piano)
Canning House

November "A Piece of my Mind" New programme on Shaw
Fortune Theatre

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1990

April "Jazz Evening" Contemporary Jazz
Kenneth Edge / Neil Cooney (piano)

November "French Supreme" New Programme on Percy French
Fortune Theatre

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1991

April "Spring Soiree" Introducing Cara O'Sullivan (soprano),
Blaithneadh Murphy (piano)
Canning House

June "Music for Summer" Patricia Wright (soprano), Darina Ni Chuinneagain
(piano)
Leighton House

November "An Oscar of Great Importance"
New Wilde programme
Fortune Theatre

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1992

April "Summer Recital" Helen Houlihan (soprano), David Harper (piano)
Leighton House

November "She bid me take love easy"
Yeats and Maude
Fortune Theatre

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1993

April "The Spell of Poetry" Brendan Kennelly
Leighton House

September "Press Reception" Preparation for Kylemore Abbey Night
Irish Club

November "I Never Apologise" New Shaw programme for Kylemore
Playhouse Theatre

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1994

February "Love songs and duets" Declan Kelly (tenor), Paul McNamara (baritone)
Pitshanger Manor

April "Love songs and duets" repeat
Leighton House

June "Images of Life" Fr Browne's photographs
Fr Eddie O'Donnell
Irish Club

November "Company at Coole" Lady Gregory and friends
Duke of York's Theatre

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1995

May "Old Times, Old Friends" 21st Anniversary
Britten Theatre, followed by reception

June "Lafcadio Hearn" Talk by Paul Murray
Irish Club

October "Autumn Soiree" Neil Cooney (piano)
Leighton House

November "Belfast Harp Orchestra" with Janet Harbison
St. James's Piccadilly

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1996

April "James and Nora" Programme on James and Nora Joyce
Fortune Theatre

June "Summer Soiree" Owen Gilhooly
Queen Alexandra's House

November "A Night at the Opera" Selections from three Irish Operas
Fortune Theatre

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1997

April "Anuna" Much feted Irish Group
St James's Piccadilly

June "Hazel, Lady Lavery" Talk by Sinead McCool
Queen Alexandra's House

October "Autumn Soiree" Finghin Collins (piano)
Leighton House

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1998

- March** "Keeping an Eye on Ireland"
Talk on his photographs by Mark Fiennes
Linnaean Society, Royal Academy
- April** "To be Found Out"
Tribute to Michael MacLiammoir
Fortune Theatre
- June** "Summer Soiree"
Introducing Franzita Whelan (soprano)
Leighton House
- October** "Fr Browne's Titanic"
Talk by Dr Eddie O'Donnell, S.J. on
Fr Browne's Titanic pictures
Cophthorne Tara Hotel
- November** "Romancing Rebellion"
1798 and the songs of Thomas Moore
Kathleen Tynan (soprano), Dublin Piano Trio
St James's Piccadilly

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1999

- April** "Piano Recital"
Professional London debut for Finghin Collins
Wigmore Hall
- June** "Summer Soiree"
Introducing Robin Tritschler (tenor)
Leighton House
- July** "A Celebration of 25 Years of Irish Heritage"
"One to Remember"
Irish Embassy
- October** "To be Found Out"
Tribute to Michael MacLiammoir
Vaudeville Theatre

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2000

- April** "An Evening with Paul Durcan"
Poet
Cophthorne Tara Hotel
- May** "The Magic of the Guitar"
Stephen Reck (classical guitar)
Jury's Hotel, Kensington
- June** "Summer Soiree"
Elizabeth Cooney (violin), Cathal Breslin (piano)
Leighton House
- October** "Excavating Nora"
Talk by Brenda Maddox on her research into
Nora Barnacle and the film on James and Nora Joyce
Cophthorne Tara Hotel
- November** "Oscar, Oh Oscar"
Centenary celebration of the life of Oscar Wilde
Mayfair Theatre

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2001

April "Sounds Delightful" Flute and Harp recital
Jean Kelly (concert harp), Louisa Dennehy (flute)
Jury's Kensington Hotel

May "Three Centuries of Irish Art"
Discussion on Irish art
Kenneth McKonky
Royal College of Art

June "Summer Soiree" Callino String Quartet
Leighton House

November "The Splendour of the Organ"
Deirdre Benians (organ)
The Temple Church

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2002

April "Take Love Easy" Yeats and Maud
Mayfair Theatre

June "Summer Soiree" the Gilhooly Family
Noreen Gilhooly (soprano), John Gilhooly (tenor),
Owen Gilhooly (baritone)
Leighton House

October "50 Years of Irish Cinema" with Lelia Doolin
Royal College of Art

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2003

April "Aisling" Theatre Dinner with entertainment
with Daire Halpin (soprano), Jean Kelly (concert harp)
and Donal Cox (actor)
Lansdowne Club.

May "Magic of Maytime" Ailish Tynan (soprano) and Simon Lepper (piano)
Leighton House

June "Summer Soiree" Maria McGarry (piano)
Leighton House

September Irish Chamber Orchestra Gala Concert
Wigmore Hall

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2004

- March** 30th Anniversary Celebration dinner with performance of “The Wild Geese”
with Anne Marie Gibbons (mezzo soprano)
Owen Gilhooly (baritone), Jean Kelly (concert harp)
and Donal Cox (actor)
Lansdowne Club
- May** Joyce’s Dublin Family Ken Monaghan (Joyce’s nephew)
Cophthorne Tara Hotel
- June** “Summer Soiree” Catherine Leonard (violin), Charles Owen (piano)
Leighton House
- October** Friends Evening Maureen Mullally, LLB and Ethna Kennedy, editor
Discuss Dame Judy Coyne’s “Providence my Guide”
Brompton Oratory
- November** Professional London Debut
Maria McGarry (piano)
Wigmore Hall

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2005

- February** “French Supreme” Owen Christopher Lynch (baritone), Deborah Kelleher
(piano), Donal Cox (actor)
Lansdowne Club
- May** “Summer Soiree” Mairead Buicke (soprano), Deborah Kelleher (piano)
Leighton House
- October** “An Evening with Friends and Young Musicians”
Launch of a new Chamber Orchestra – the London
Irish Camerata
Brompton Oratory

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2006

- February** "Debut Concert of the London Irish Camerata"
with Nicola Sweeney (leader and violin)
St James's, Piccadilly
- April** "The Importance of Being Irish", theatre evening and supper with Maria Kelly (soprano), Donal Cox (actors), Sinead Campbell (soprano), Eamonn Mulhall (tenor), Louise Dennehy (flute) and Jean Kelly (concert harp)
Queen Mary Concert Hall, Jurys Hotel, Gt Russell St
- May** "When Bach came through Borrisokane"
Professor Frank Corcoran
Leighton House
- June** "Summer Soiree" Carolyn Dobbin (mezzo-soprano) and
Lindy Tennant-Browne (piano)
Leighton House
- October** Friends Evening with Courtney Kenny (piano and songs)
Queen Alexandra House, Kensington Gore
- November** "Ireland's Influence on Victorian Art", illustrated talk by Alan Kirwin
Leighton House

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2007

- February** London Irish Camerata with Maria McGarry (piano)
St James's, Piccadilly
- April** "The Importance of Being Irish"
Theatre evening with Maria Kelly (soprano)
Sinead Campbell (soprano), Eamonn Mulhall (tenor),
Louise Dennehy (flute) and Jean Kelly (concert harp),
Donal Cox (actor)
Shaw Theatre
- May** Contemporary Irish Art Lecture by Michael Canavan
Barbara Stanley Gallery, Richmond
- June** "Summer Soiree" Norah King (soprano) and Fionnuala Moynihan (piano)
Leighton House

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2008

- February** Valentine's Night Recital with Owen Flood (Classical Guitar)
St Wilfred's Hall, Brompton Oratory.
- April** "Historic Night at the Opera"
with Sandra Oman (soprano), Caroline Dobbin
(mezzo-soprano), Joseph Roche (tenor), Owen
Gilhooly (baritone), Ciara Moroney (piano)
St James, Piccadilly.
- June** "Summer Soiree" with Michael McHale (piano)
Leighton House.
- October** "Music from the Heart" with Celine Byrne (soprano), Paul McNamara (tenor),
Derbhla Brosnan (piano)
St James, Piccadilly.
- November** "Michael William Balfe – the Irish Composer who conquered London"
An illustrated lecture by Raymond Walker
(Chairman, Victorian Opera)
Cophthorne Tara Hotel, Kensington

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2009

- February** "Tonos, Music of the Wild Geese"
Róisín O'Grady (soprano) and Eamon Sweeney
(baroque guitar)
The Royal Society of Arts
- March** St Patrick's Night Concert (supported by Irish Heritage)
St Martin-in-the Fields
- June** "Songs for a Summer Evening"
with John Molloy (bass baritone) and Ciara Moroney
(piano)
St Paul's Church, Covent Garden
- September** Annual General Meeting followed by Film/Lecture
"The Theft of the Irish Crown Jewels"
by Malcolm How
The Irish Club
- October** Inaugural Young Musician Programme
with Brian O'Kane (cello)
The Irish Club
- November** "Brendán – voice of our People"
Tribute to the late Brendán and Maeve MacLua
Paula Greenwood (soprano), Owen Gilhooly (baritone),
Jean Kelly (harp), Stephen Darcy (actor)
St John's, Smith Square, London

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2010

- February** Young Musician Programme
with The Brooks Quartet
The Irish Club
- April** Spring Recital with Claudia Boyle (soprano), Anthony Kearns (tenor)
and Mairéad Hurley (piano)
Royal College of Music, London SW7
- May** Young Musician Programme
Classical Jazz with Eoghan Kelly Quartet
The Irish Club
- June** Summer Recital with Michael McHale (piano)
Wigmore Hall
- September** Annual General meeting and Friends Social Night
The Irish Club
- October** "Music from the Lee" Centenary Tribute to Aloys Fleischmann
with John Molloy (bass baritone), Jean Kelly (harp)
and Patricia Moynihan (flute)
Princess Alexandra Hall, Royal Over-Seas League.
- November** Young Musician Programme with Aisling Ennis (harp)
The Irish Club

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2011

- February** Young Musician Programme with Michael Trainor (violin)
The Irish Club
- April** "Refuge in Rome" the story of Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty in Wartime
Rome
with Fiona Murphy (soprano), Owen Gilhooly baritone),
Ciara Moroney (piano) and Iarla McGowan (actor)
St James's Church, Spanish Place
- May** Young Musician Programme
with Gareth McLearnon (flute) and James Longford
(piano)
The Swiss Church
- June** "Songs for a Summer Evening"
with Dean Power (tenor) and Brenda Hurley (piano)
St Bride's Church

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