

Irish Heritage

Promoting the best of Irish and Anglo-Irish literature, music and young performers since 1974

NEWSLETTER

March 2011

Dear Friends,

We are now starting the Spring/Summer programme with three big events planned for April, May and June and we promise you three entertaining and interesting events.

Our immediate focus is, however, ***Refuge in Rome***, the story of Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty and his Associates in the Rome Escape Organisation. Telling the story itself is quite a challenge because it covers such an interesting period in history with such heroic deeds. Putting it to music is an even greater challenge; but such is the ingenuity and experience of our Founder and Artistic Director, Ethna Kennedy, that the results are always successful, entertaining and original. Combining Monsignor O'Flaherty's love of Opera, Delia Murphy's unique style of Irish Balladry and songs appropriate to the times is just part of Ethna's great skill. Another part is in identifying the best young musicians and actors to present the story, along with Moyna Cope's professional staging skills.

Friday 8th April 2011 in St James's Church, Spanish Place, London W1 will be a night to remember and we urge you to support it by getting your tickets as soon as possible from Kathy O'Regan (contact: Kathy.oregan@hotmail.co.uk. Tel 020 7226 4578). All the relevant details are on our website www.irishheritage.co.uk.

This major event is a very significant financial and organisational commitment for Irish Heritage and we urge you to help us spread the word (and help sell tickets) with all your friends and contacts. We have written to over 120 Catholic Parishes in London and the Home Counties and it would greatly help our efforts if you would directly contact your local parish or community organisation, irrespective of denomination, to encourage people to come on the night and support this unique event. You can also direct friends to the Hugh O'Flaherty Memorial Society website www.hoghoflaherty.com where there is much more information about the people of many nationalities who supported Monsignor O'Flaherty and his Organisation and honoured those who contributed so much to directly saving over 6,500 lives during the Nazi occupation of Rome.

If you have any contacts to pass on to us – community, press, military, etc. – please send us an e-mail at irish.heritage1@googlemail.com and we will follow up.

With best wishes and looking forward to your support

Niall Gallagher

Chairman

News of Irish Heritage Artists

Owen Gilhooly (baritone), who is appearing with Irish Heritage in *Refuge in Rome* on 8th April is, amongst other things, making a return visit to the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra for Mozart Requiem. He is performing the role of the General in the world premiere of 'Seven Angels' with The Opera Group at the Linbury Theatre, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and the Father in Hansel and Gretel with NI Opera, Northern Ireland's new Opera company.

Gareth McLearnon (flute), who will feature in our Young Musicians Programme on 18th May, is performing a concerto in April with the Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra, playing the Mozart Flute Concerto in D on the 9th April, and then heading to Beijing to play a recital in the British Embassy on the 12th April. He is giving a flute masterclass at the Beijing conservatoire on the 11th. Before that he is taking two flute masterclasses – one in Durham on the 24th March, and one in Hollywood Co. Down on the 30th March and on St Patrick's Night in London he will be appearing at the Ireland Fund of GB Charity event at the Middle Temple.

Michael McHale (piano), features on a new CD: 'The Lyrical Clarinet' with Michael Collins (clarinet) which was chosen as Classic FM 'CD of the Week' and on May 7th, performs in a Family Concert at Wigmore Hall, London with Michael Collins, featuring the premiere of Luke Bedford's "Igor, the Bird Who Couldn't Sing".

He has an Argentina Concert Tour in April with three solo recitals and a concerto début with the Moscow Symphony Orchestra, April 14th-20th. May 13th-15th he performs at the Wexford Chamber Music Festival, Greenacres Gallery and St Iberius' Church, with Ensemble Avalon and special guest artists Patricia Rozario (soprano) and Michael d'Arcy (violin).

Events that might be of interest to you

The Irish Cultural Centre is hosting the 1st **London Irish Writers Festival from 2nd-8th March**. Further details can be found at http://www.irishculturalcentre.co.uk/files/writers_fest.pdf.

12 Star Gallery The Embassy of Ireland and the European Commission Representation in the UK invite you to a private view "London is London, England is England", recent works by Jonathan O'Dea at the 12 Star Gallery, Europe House, 32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3EU – 8th March 6.30pm-8.30pm. The exhibition then continues 10am-6pm until 11th March. For further info see http://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/information/exhibitions/index_en.htm

St Patrick's Night, 17th March 2011 Concert at St Martin-in-the-Fields with Jean Kelly, harp, with orchestra, Irish fiddle player Dermot Crehan, St Patrick's Singers, Locrian Ensemble and Justin Pearson, cello. Music will include: O'Carolan - Traditional Irish Melodies for Harp and String Orchestra, T C Kelly - Suite of Irish Tunes for Strings, Honey - St Patrick's Suite for Violin and Orchestra, Trad - 'An Irish Blessing' and songs from the heart of Ireland, Julie Cooper - 'Cariad' for Cello and Strings. For details see www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org

Keep up to date by visiting our website www.irishheritage.co.uk