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ROYAL ALBERT HALL

LONDON


ON

THURSDAY 6th MARCH 1969

Souvenir Programme — — — — —

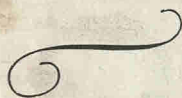
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Foreword



Once again it is our pleasure to welcome you to our Annual St. Patrick's Festival Concert.

We thank you for your support for this event which offers something of the best in our Irish culture and tradition, and at the same time helps a worthy cause. The work of The Irish Centre and the Emigrant Chaplaincy Scheme, and your support of it, are an expression of the best in our faith, and at the same time a practical expression of true patriotism — that patriotism which urges us to help our fellow-exiles.

Our sincere thanks to His Eminence, Cardinal Heenan, and His Excellency Mr. John G. Molloy for their patronage of this Concert, and to all our distinguished guests for the honour of their presence.

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Producer of this Concert, Mr. T. Leslie Jackson of BBC-Television, who has given so much of his time in planning this programme. Our thanks are due also to the Artistes, and the Management & Staff of The Royal Albert Hall for their courtesy and kindness.

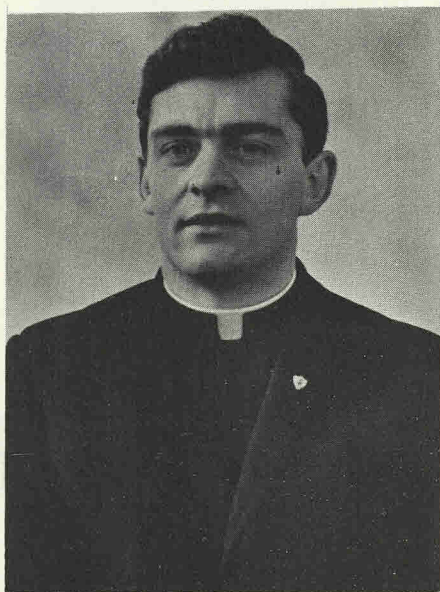
Last, but by no means least, our gratitude to you good people — our audience, for your loyal support without which this Concert would not be the success it is.

We hope you will enjoy the evening's entertainment, and to all we extend a very happy St. Patrick's Day.

Sincerely,
(Rev.) P. Hackett, O.M.I.,
Senior Chaplain,
for the Organising Committee.

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Above is pictured our new Douglas Hyde Lounge which was opened on the 16th January 1969 by H.E. The Irish Ambassador, and blessed by His Lordship Bishop Casey. There are Ballad Sessions in the Lounge every Monday evening, and Traditional Irish Music on Thursday evenings. The other Members' Bars are open every evening and lunchtime. Dances, Bacon & Cabbage Dinners and Bingo are held regularly in the John F. Kennedy Hall. Parties, Wedding Receptions, Reunions etc. catered for – bookings taken. (For catering requirements contact the Manager, Mr. B. Brennan).

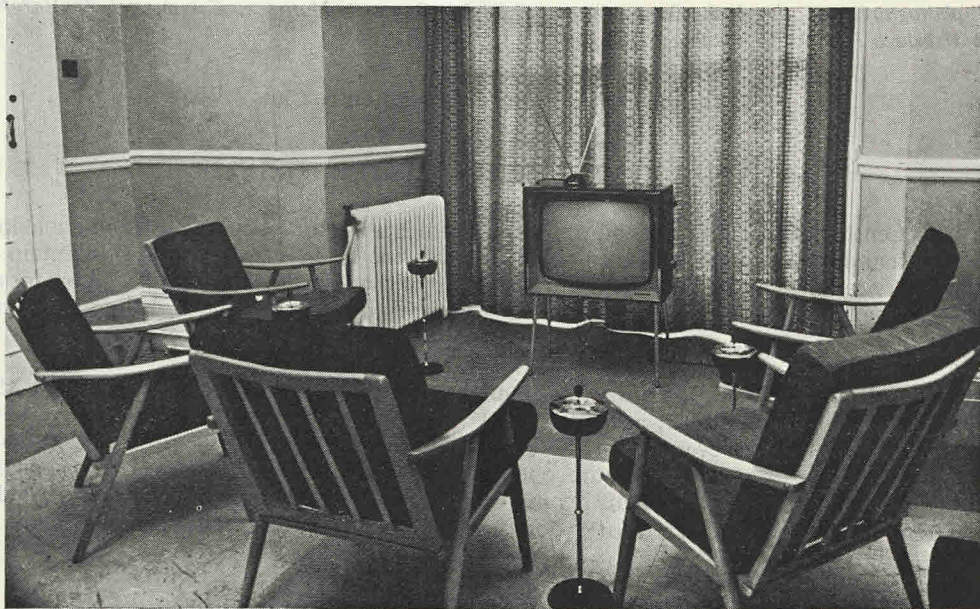
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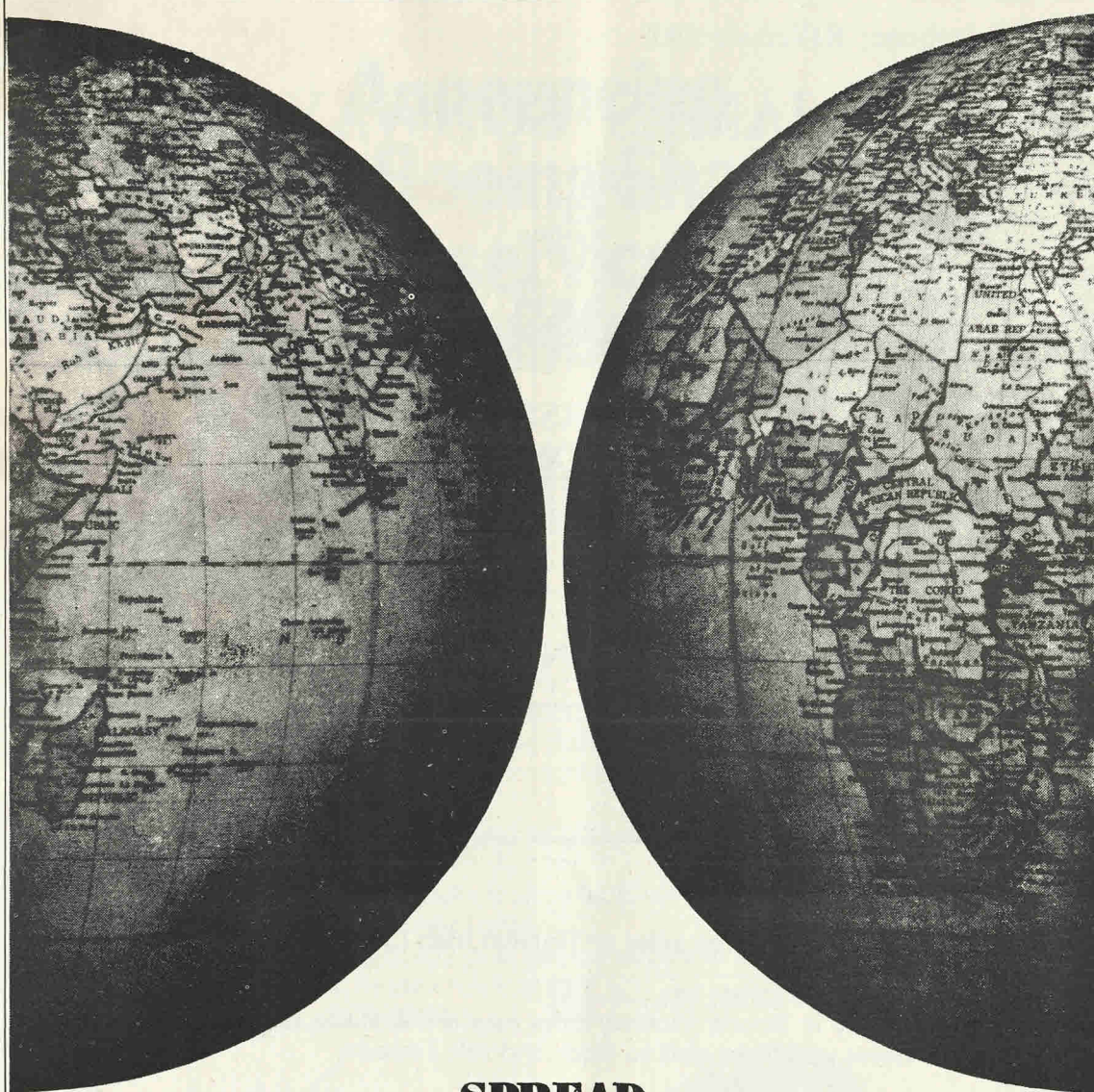
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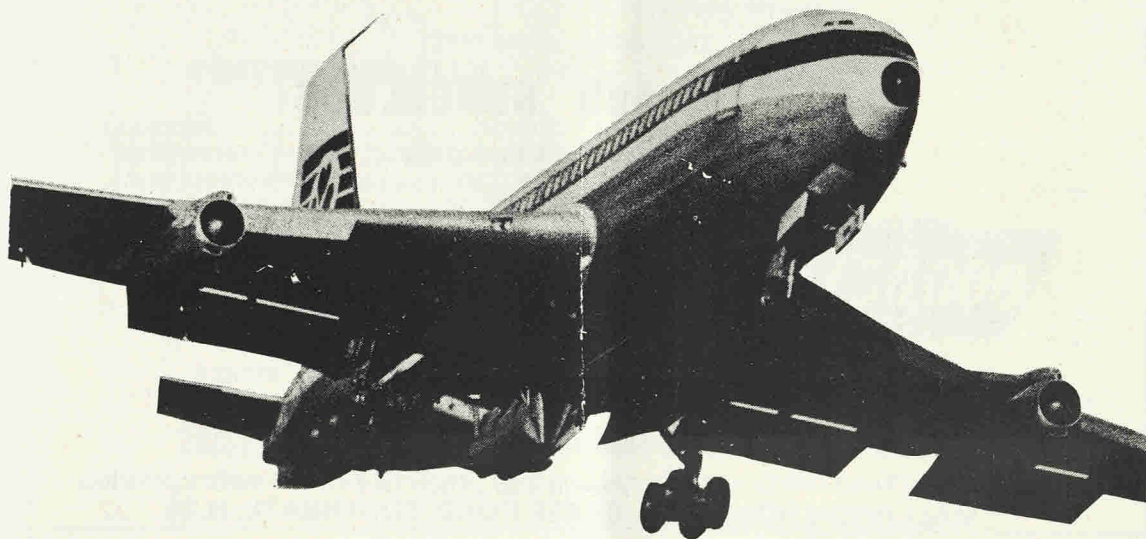
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The City of London Girl Pipers have appeared at the Royal Albert Hall, Wembley Stadium, London's leading Hotels and Clubs, the Mecca Circuit, all T.V. & Radio Networks including Irish and Continental. From its formation, they have been a success, and continue to be one of the most popular bands in the country, culminating in British Council sponsorship to represent Great Britain for cultural and friendship visits abroad.

Appearances at functions usually result in requests for a return visit. In order to maintain a high standard the Band frequently enter competitions held in various parts of the British Isles. At the Cowal Highland Games, Dunoon, Scotland they were the highest scoring ladies Band in the Contest.

T. LESLIE JACKSON

This famous BBC-TV Producer, renowned for such successes as "What's My Line" and "This is Your Life", was trained at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin. He went on to play in Repertory and London Theatres, until 1940 when he joined the Navy serving for six years, and starting as an Able-Seaman he finished as a Lieutenant. He has been in Television since 1946, first as a Studio Manager, and then as a Producer since 1951. He has been associated with many Drama and Light Entertainment Productions and is currently Executive Producer with Quiz and Panel Games.

MISS KATHLEEN O'CONNOR

Miss Kathleen O'Connor was the Musical Director of "The Hostage"; London, Paris and Broadway. Musical Director and Accompanist for "Brecht on Brecht" and "The Fire Raisers" at the Royal Court Theatre, also for the original production of "Fings aint wot they used t'be", "The Scatterin" etc. etc.

She was the Musical Adviser to the film "The Quare Fella" and arranged and directed music for various I.T.V. and B.B.C. productions; also on sound radio and for various LP records.

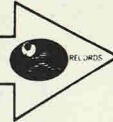
She was the Accompanist at numerous social functions, operatic and variety Concerts.

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ARTISTES

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DEIRDRE O'CALLAGHAN

THE TED KAVANAGH DANCERS

LOUIS BROWNE

KEVIN CASEY

THE JOHNSTONS

ORGANIST: JOHN JACKSON

COMPERE — KEVIN HILTON

* INTERMISSION *

THE TED KAVANAGH DANCERS

THERESA DUFFY

DONAL DONNELLY

DERMOT O'BRIEN & HIS CLUBMEN

ACCOMPANIST: KATHLEEN O'CONNOR

PRODUCED BY — T. LESLIE JACKSON

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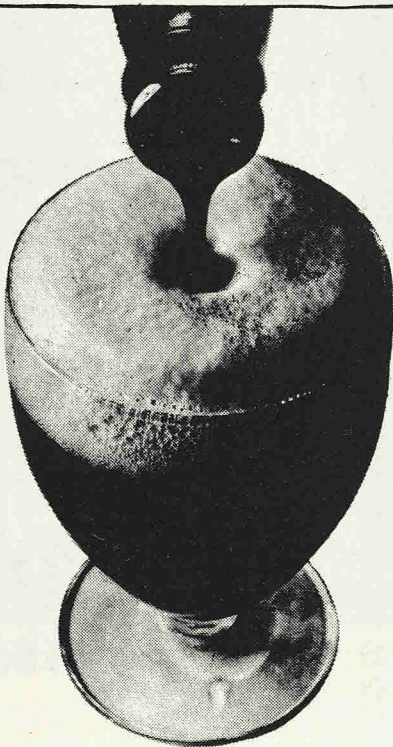
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KEVIN CASEY

Another newcomer to the St. Patrick's Festival Concerts, Kevin Casey was born in Roscommon and started in Show Business in Dublin. He played all the leading theatres there and later toured all over Ireland, England and Scotland as a light entertainer. In 1960 he went to the States and since then he has entertained all over the world.

His billing is — "Kevin Casey — Songs and Humour with an Irish Twist".



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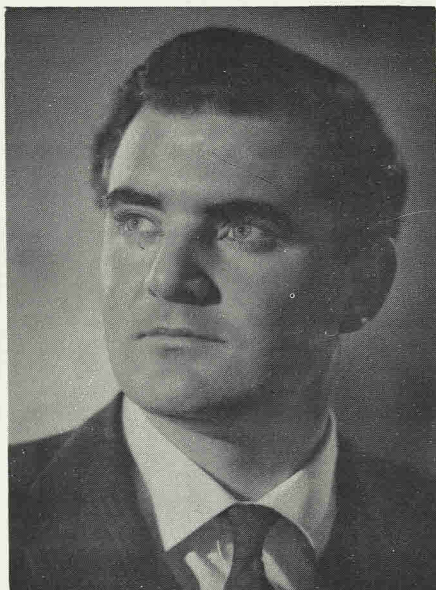
DEIRDRE O'CALLAGHAN

In the Dominican Convent, Sion Hill, Dublin, Deidre O'Callaghan studied the harp. This started her on a successful career, which eventually led to her touring England with Bridie Gallagher, Patrick O'Hagan, and Kenneth McKellar.

Deirdre's first Royal Albert Hall Concert was with Bridie Gallagher, and then she toured America for two years; appearing on the Ed Sullivan Show, for American Television.

Married to Noel Carroll, the Irish Olympic Runner, and they have three children.

Deirdre has made L.P's., and appeared on B.B.C. T.V., Telefis Eireann, N.B.C., and Scottish T.V., as well as on the Concert Platform.



LOUIS BROWNE

Louis Browne has in recent years become Ireland's leading tenor. Like the famed John McCormack, he too comes from Athlone. Having won the Gold Medal at the Dublin Feis Ceoil, he was invited to tour the U.S. and Canada in 1956. He came to study in London in 1957 and was awarded a scholarship at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where he won many prizes. In 1960 he sang at the Glyndebourne Festival and later that year went to Sadler's Wells Opera Company, where he now appears regularly as a principal tenor in Opera and Operetta. His engagements take him all over Britain and Ireland and to the Continent and vary from Opera and Oratoria to Cabaret and Variety.

Louis Broadcasts regularly from B.B.C. and Radio Eireann and has appeared on Telefis Eireann, I.T.V. and B.B.C. T.V.

Louis believes that his classical training has been a great help to him in his efforts to do justice to the music he loves best – The Songs of Ireland.

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THE TED KAVANAGH DANCERS

Fourteen years ago Ted Kavanagh, who hails from Derry, came to London to give an exhibition of Irish Dancing at the Irish Club. Parents pleaded with him to teach their sons and daughters this art, so Ted never went home. He started with six pupils in North London and now he has classes for over a thousand pupils throughout the country. His boys and girls are well known in London Irish Circles where they frequently appear on stage.

The Kavanagh School of Dancing are making yet another return visit to the Albert Hall having been widely acclaimed in other years for their magnificent performances.



DERMOT O'BRIEN and THE CLUBMEN

Once a Ten Pound a week Council clerk, Dermot O'Brien first hit the headlines as Captain of the County Louth Football Team. While still at school he learned to play the piano and when he left school he joined the Emerald Ceili Band as a piano player. He lost this job when he had to spend some time in hospital with a leg injury received during the All-Ireland Football Semi-Final against Kerry in 1953. He then formed his own five piece band earning £4 on a Sunday night entertaining parents at the Lourdes Boys' Club in Drogheda. In 1961 Dermot made his first Dublin appearance with the Clubmen—his fee £12. It was in this year Dermot gave up football for music. Now married, with three children, pipe-smoking Dermot commands the highest fees in Irish show business. His appearances on Telefís Éireann on a number of programmes made his brand of accordion music extremely popular and he was in much demand. Dermot and the Clubmen toured Ireland, England and U.S.A. and crowds flocked to hear his accordion. Then he began to sing. His "I Walked the Line" reached No. 3 in Irish Charts and then came "The Merry Ploughboy"—which became the fastest selling record ever issued by an Irish Group. While Dermot thought he had the crowds before, he could not believe his eyes when "The Merry Ploughboy" was released. Now thousands turn up wherever he is billed.



TERESA DUFFY

Teresa Duffy was born in Ballyshannon and until she came to England lived with her parents, brothers and sisters in Bundoran, Co. Donegal.

She was educated at St. Louis Convent, Bundoran, where she took commercial exams. She sang in the school choir and at local activities and when she left school at sixteen a local band asked her to join them. When she was nineteen she decided to take up singing professionally and proved to be a very popular singer in most of the major cities of Great Britain. She has also toured New Zealand, Australia and the United States.

Some of her recordings are as follows:-

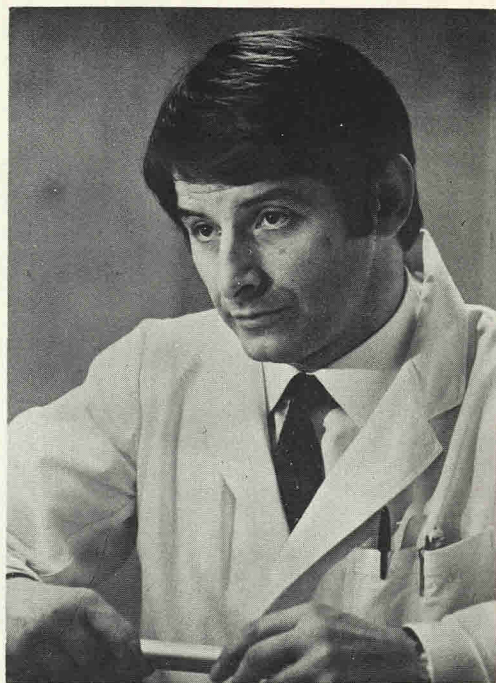
"Songs of Freedom" LP

"Little Bit of Irish" LP

"New Sounds in Irish Music" LP.

DONAL DONNELLY

Donal Donnelly is as Irish as draught Guinness although he was born in the Northern English City of Bradford. However, he "left hastily at the age of four", he jokes, and was taken home to Dublin. He went to school in the same establishment as Milo O'Shea, Jack MacGowran Patrick Bedford and Eamonn Andrews. Started acting at the Gate Theatre at the age of 19, and progressed to Cyril Cusack's production company at the Globe Theatre, Dublin. After this he came to London and won a part on the West End stage in Sean O'Casey's "Shadow of a Gunman". His acting successes include co-starring with Siobhan McKenna in "Playboy of the Western World", "Finian's Rainbow" (in which he met Patsy Porter a dancer, and married her); and thence to Broadway to star in "Philadelphia Here I Come"; and "Joe Egg". It was, however, the screen, which made him the well-known favourite he is now, and his starring part was with Rita Tushingham and Michael Crawford in "The Knack". He is now adding ballad rendering to his other accomplishments, and describes himself as a "trenchant renderer". The MCA company have issued one LP and another is due



KEVIN HILTON

Our Compere, making his first appearance in a St. Patrick's Festival Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, has compered shows throughout the length and breadth of Ireland, mostly for charity. He has been associated with the entertainment business for many years including the Miami Showband Show, and for eight years "The Rose of Tralee" in Tralee.

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The Johnstons comprise Adrienne and Luci Johnston, Mike Moloney and Paul Brady. Adrienne — the red-head — and Luci — the blonde — are sisters from the Boyne Valley. Their first appearance singing together was in their family choir — made up of the seven Johnston sisters! They met Mike and Paul while the boys were students at University College, Dublin, where Mike was reading Politics, Philosophy and Economics and Paul French and Celtic studies. Mike combined his studies with folk singing in ballad bars while Paul also worked in a beat group, playing organ and lead guitar.

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