



Irish Heritage

in association with

THE Irish Post

are proud to present

Brendán – voice of our people

A literary and musical tribute to
the late Brendán Mac Lua
and his wife Maeve

Friday, November 6, 2009
St. John's, Smith Square, London SW1



Irish Heritage

in association with **THE Irish Post**

Proceeds from this evening will benefit

 THE IRELAND FUND OF GREAT BRITAIN &



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Irish Heritage

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Present

BRENDÁN - VOICE OF OUR PEOPLE

A Tribute to Brendán and Maeve Mac Lua

With

Paula Greenwood (soprano), Owen Gilhooly (baritone)
Ciara Moroney (piano), Jean Kelly (concert harp)
Brendan Mulkeré (violin), Claire Egan (violin)
Stephen Darcy (actor)

Devised and Written
Ethna Kennedy

Directed
Moyna Cope

Irish Heritage acknowledges the support of the Irish Government for its artistic programme



Irish Government Emigrant Support Programme



Brendán and Maeve: Champions of the Irish in Britain

BRENDÁN AND MAEVE MAC LUA have left behind an Irish community in Britain greatly enriched by their tireless efforts.

Neither sought the limelight for their achievements – but together they raised the standing and self-worth of the community and championed its causes.

They both shared a strong political viewpoint and a love of their Irish homeland, its history and its language.

Brendán was the co-founder and long-serving Editor of *The Irish Post* newspaper. Its mixture of national stories and community issues was critical in giving the Irish in Britain a voice and a sense of pride in their identity.

A proud native of his beloved north Co. Clare and a fluent Irish speaker, Brendán began his distinguished career as a journalist with Gael Linn on a weekly radio programme and cinema newsreel.

He wrote for the *Sunday Review* and after its demise for the *Sunday Press* as Donal O'Connell. He also penned a boxing column with the *Irish Press* for 10 years under the name Sean O'Neill.

After editing the weekly *Gaelic Sport* he became one of the first two full-time executive officers of the GAA at Croke Park and

became a member of the GAA's central council policy committee.

Thereafter, he joined the National Publishing Group – then Ireland's largest magazine publisher – as Editorial Director.

His 1967 work *The Steadfast Rule: A History of the GAA Ban* is seen as the definitive book on the GAA's controversial ban on foreign games.

Following its publication, Brendán was chosen by the late Tommy Moore to be the sole, secret custodian of the only volume of GAA founder Michael Cusack's 1880s weekly newspaper *The Celtic Times*.

Brendán later donated the complete volume to the Clare County Library.

Michael Cusack's ethos of a newspaper for the preservation and cultivation of the language, literature, music and pastimes of the Gaelic race was the template Brendán brought with him to London when he established *The Irish Post*.

The first edition appeared in February 1970 and sold out its initial print-run of 84,000.

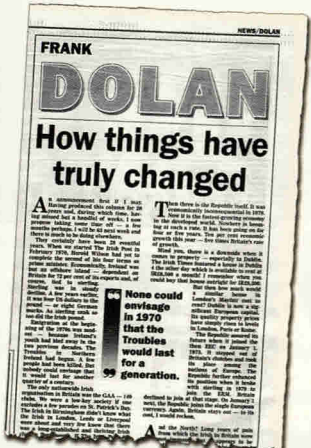
Brendán chose to base the offices of *The Irish Post* in Southall as it was convenient for Heathrow Airport and the newspaper's printers.

The *Sunday Times* speculated that the true reason was because it was a heartland of the Asian community and *The Irish Post* was engaged in ethnic linkage for social as well as political significance.

Brendán chose not to deny this suggestion saying: "Why deadhead a favourable headline?"



The first edition of *The Irish Post*.



Brendán's popular Frank Dolan column.



Soon after The Irish Post's launch the Troubles descended and so too did anti-Irish sentiment.

Brendán never flinched. Events such as internment, and Bloody Sunday received outright condemnation in the editorials and letter pages of The Irish Post.

Of Bloody Sunday he said: "It is beyond human forgiveness. Not even the reunification of Ireland will erase its memory."

Never one to shy from controversy, Brendán would often reflect on the apparent foolhardiness of publishing a newspaper with the word Irish emblazoned in green ink on its masthead during the height of IRA bombing campaigns in England.

The Irish Post's distinctive logo of the British Isles in green over the words "An Nuachtan Eireannach" took command on the front page.

Brendán spoke with equal force after the first bombings in London: "It must be said clearly and unequivocally that the Irish in Britain totally disapprove of the bombings which took place in London – irrespective of the nationality or motivation of whoever was responsible. If those bombings were placed by the IRA – and if further such incidents are planned – those who direct these operations should know that they will earn only the anger of the Irish in this country."

Controversial issues were highlighted weekly in The Irish Post.

The Irish Post provided a vehicle for protest – for highlighting injustice and for arguing the case. Brendán campaigned consistently against the Prevention of Terrorism Act which led to numerous miscarriages of justice.

He was also one of the first journalists to champion the causes of the Birmingham Six, Guildford Four, Maguire family and many other Irish prisoners who had become the victims of miscarriages of justice before other media outlets followed suit.

Under Brendán's direction The Irish Post was instrumental in forging a sense of collective Irish identity in Britain – connecting the communities in London, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Liverpool and far beyond.

Concern for the weaker sections of society was always the hallmark of his career.

Through The Irish Post he provided active support for the community and was personally involved and derived immense satisfaction from The Irish Post's project to reunite missing Irish relatives.

With the assistance of Irish Post readers and The Salvation Army, many Irish relatives were reunited – including children put up for adoption many years ago by their young Irish mothers.

Throughout all this Brendán's name never appeared in The Irish Post. He preferred to write under pen-names.

One of those was Frank Dolan – whose essential weekly column inspired the newspaper for 28 years.

During the worst years of the Troubles, Dolan articulated for the Irish in Britain a moderate, unapologetic Nationalist perspective unavailable elsewhere.


With typical modesty Brendán never wanted the readers to know he was the man behind Dolan.

When many years later, the truth was revealed one reader concluded he had believed Frank Dolan had been at least three people – one from Trinity, one from Queen's and the other from the Maze!

Brendán continued to contribute to The Irish Post but ended his Dolan column in 1998. After 28 years he believed he had said all he had wanted to.

He felt the readers of The Irish Post were getting younger and he was by then a grandfather.





He declined frequent requests to change his mind – except for one memorable occasion when Frank Dolan's voice echoed from The Irish Post again to back Ken Livingstone's bid to be re-elected Mayor of London.

Brendán issued a rallying cry to the Irish in Britain to vote for Ken on the basis that Ken had always been a friend of the Irish – and the time was right to repay that loyalty.

Away from the editor's chair Brendán was active in all areas of Irish life. He was the prime force behind the creation of the Federation of Irish Societies and worked tirelessly for this concert's charity beneficiaries – the Irish Youth Foundation and the Ireland Fund of Great Britain.

Through all these achievements Brendán had his greatest ally of 46 years in his beloved wife Maeve. A native of Dublin, Maeve was the daughter of Michael Mullen – who in the 1960s resigned his safe Labour Dáil seat to become head of Ireland's largest trade union the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union.

Like her father, Maeve was a committed socialist with a passion for social justice.

She spoke four languages but instead of pursuing her own career chose to become a loving wife and mother.

Brendán commuted to England weekly whilst setting up The Irish Post in 1969 leaving Maeve and their young family behind in Dublin.

After that gruelling year they moved the family to England in 1970.

Maeve shared Brendán's vision and understood all he was trying to achieve and overcome. She was at his side every step of the way.

They had a young family and few friends in England. But Maeve encouraged the move, investment and sacrifice – to a country which presented no welcoming environment for the creation of a newspaper viewed as pro-Republican.

Brendán worked extremely long hours to ensure The Irish Post was produced each week and there were no family summer holidays for years.

Worse still, Brendán and Maeve's

family received life-threatening phone calls and other forms of abuse from those who misunderstood the purpose of The Irish Post.

At one stage police protection was required. Despite this there was never any suggestion The Irish Post should tone down its views.

Brendán and Maeve were a team. All issues were brought home for discussion around the kitchen table where decisions were made and articles formulated.

Maeve made many major contributions to The Irish Post and encouraged and developed a succession of exclusive news stories.

Like Brendán she was not afraid of highlighting the controversial issues of the day and was a fierce a defender of the marginalised.

She was also the perfect host at functions, well read and eloquent but never afraid to air her fervently-held views.

Brendán and Maeve were also great supporters of Irish Heritage in its early days and helped establish it as part of the cultural scene in London.

Both remained active until their deaths.

Maeve passed away on 10th April 2007 and Brendan on 13th January 2009.

Rather poignantly, in an article celebrating the Irish Post's 21st anniversary, Brendán was quoted as saying: "There is an old Irish saying: Fiche blain ag fás, or 20 years a' growing. We have done that and I now hope we have 20 years a' flowering".

The newspaper they came to Britain to found celebrates its 40th anniversary next year and the Irish in Britain now stand tall and in full bloom.

This did not just happen; it was hard fought for.

Thank-you, Brendán and Maeve.

It is fitting that Brendán and Maeve – who gave so much of their lives for the good of the Irish in Britain – should be remembered in this evening's community-wide event involving family, friends, colleagues and professional associates.

A celebration

This programme has been specially put together to celebrate the lives of Brendan and Maeve, as well as their interests — Brendan's great love of sport, their love of country and the Irish language, of literature and of traditional music. The words of 'The cloths of heaven' are by W. B. Yeats, 'O men from the fields' and 'She moved through the fair' by Padraic Colum, 'Padraic the fiddler' are by Padraic Gregory, while 'Love's old sweet song' the time honoured international favourite, used by Joyce as a recurring theme in 'Ulysses' is by James L. Molloy from Offaly, and the words of 'The West's awake', 'Clare's dragoons' and 'The battle eve of the brigade' are by the patriot poet, Thomas Davis.

Ethna Kennedy would like to thank Mrs Sinéad Osobase (Mac Lua) for her great kindness in giving her valuable information about her parents, and the many friends who called or wrote to recount their personal memories.

She would also like to thank Miss Helen Walsh, Clare County Librarian and her staff including, Local History Librarian, Mr Peter Beirne, for producing local information.

Also the artists who worked so hard to make this a worthy tribute.

Ethna Kennedy
October 2009.

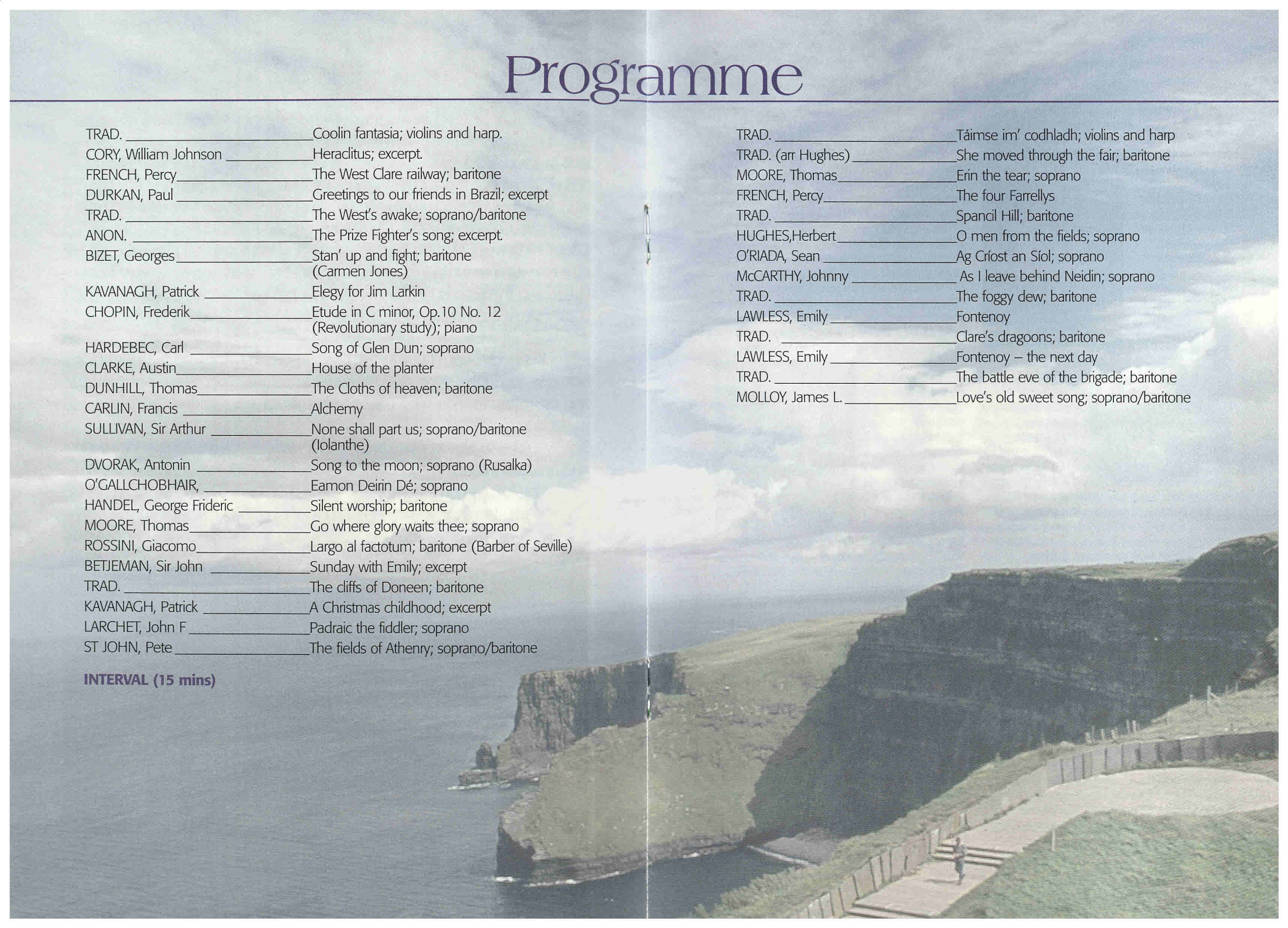


Programme

TRAD. _____ Coolin fantasia; violins and harp.
CORY, William Johnson _____ Heraclitus; excerpt.
FRENCH, Percy _____ The West Clare railway; baritone
DURKAN, Paul _____ Greetings to our friends in Brazil; excerpt
TRAD. _____ The West's awake; soprano/baritone
ANON. _____ The Prize Fighter's song; excerpt.
BIZET, Georges _____ Stan' up and fight; baritone
(Carmen Jones)
KAVANAGH, Patrick _____ Elegy for Jim Larkin
CHOPIN, Frederik _____ Etude in C minor, Op.10 No. 12
(Revolutionary study); piano
HARDEBEC, Carl _____ Song of Glen Dun; soprano
CLARKE, Austin _____ House of the planter
DUNHILL, Thomas _____ The Cloths of heaven; baritone
CARLIN, Francis _____ Alchemy
SULLIVAN, Sir Arthur _____ None shall part us; soprano/baritone
(Iolanthe)
DVORAK, Antonin _____ Song to the moon; soprano (Rusalka)
O'GALLCHOBHAIR, _____ Eamon Deirin Dé; soprano
HANDEL, George Frideric _____ Silent worship; baritone
MOORE, Thomas _____ Go where glory waits thee; soprano
ROSSINI, Giacomo _____ Largo al factotum; baritone (Barber of Seville)
BETJEMAN, Sir John _____ Sunday with Emily; excerpt
TRAD. _____ The cliffs of Doneen; baritone
KAVANAGH, Patrick _____ A Christmas childhood; excerpt
LARCHET, John F _____ Padraic the fiddler; soprano
ST JOHN, Pete _____ The fields of Athenry; soprano/baritone

INTERVAL (15 mins)

TRAD. _____ Táimse im' codhladh; violins and harp
TRAD. (arr Hughes) _____ She moved through the fair; baritone
MOORE, Thomas _____ Erin the tear; soprano
FRENCH, Percy _____ The four Farrellys
TRAD. _____ Spencil Hill; baritone
HUGHES, Herbert _____ O men from the fields; soprano
O'RIADA, Sean _____ Ag Críost an Siol; soprano
McCARTHY, Johnny _____ As I leave behind Neidin; soprano
TRAD. _____ The foggy dew; baritone
LAWLESS, Emily _____ Fontenoy
TRAD. _____ Clare's dragoons; baritone
LAWLESS, Emily _____ Fontenoy – the next day
TRAD. _____ The battle eve of the brigade; baritone
MOLLOY, James L. _____ Love's old sweet song; soprano/baritone



Artists appearing this evening

Owen Gilhooly trained with Jean Holmes at the Limerick School of Music and subsequently at the Royal College of Music in London.

He continued his studies at the National Opera Studio supported by the Belfast Classical Music Bursary, the Irish Arts Council, the RVW Trust, the Sibyl Tutton Trust and Chris Ball.

In 2007 he represented Ireland at BBC Cardiff Singer of the World.

He made his début at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden singing the Fauré Requiem for the Royal Ballet and at the BBC Proms singing Bill Bobstay in HMS Pinafore. Further engagements included Mercury The Coronation of Poppea, Marcello La Bohème, Brahms Requiem at St. Albans Abbey, Duruflé Requiem for the Ulster Orchestra, Messiah for the Irish Baroque Orchestra, Mozart Mass in C Minor at the National Concert Hall in Dublin and Anthony Powers' From Station Island at the West Cork Chamber Music Festival.

His recordings include Joyce Songs – James Joyce's Musical Dublin with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra.

Recently Owen has sung Tooley in The Mines Of Sulphur and Bob in The Old Maid And The Thief for Wexford Festival Opera.

Owen has performed a number of times with Irish Heritage.



Paula Greenwood is a renowned Irish soprano. She graduated with an M.Mus. from the DIT Conservatory of Music (Dublin) in 2004.

During that time she became a multiple prizewinner in the Siemens Feis Ceoil competitions – winning the Geoghegan Memorial Cup for opera, the Pearl Atcock Trophy, the Percy Whitehead Cup, the Young

Cup, the Veronica Dunne Cup and the John McCormack Bursary.

She was also awarded the Blyth-Buesst Opera Prize and A.M. Parker Prize at the Royal Academy of Music in London in 2007.

She went on to study on scholarship with renowned tenor Dennis O'Neill at the Cardiff International Academy of Voice.

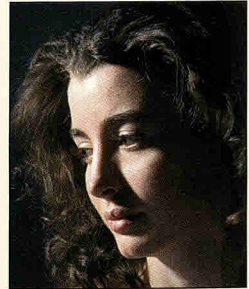
Paula's performances include Currency (Denis Roche, Diversions Festival) as well as Michael Gordon's Van Gogh Opera with the Crash Ensemble, productions of Andrea Chenier (Giordano), Queen of Spades (Tchaikovsky) and Orfeo ed Euridice (Gluck) with Opera Ireland.

Paula sang the role of Barbarina in Le Nozze di Figaro for Lyric Opera in the National Concert Hall in Dublin as well as on tour with Opera Theatre Company.

Extensive oratorio performances include Haydn's Nelson Mass, St. Nicholas Mass and Mozart's

Coronation Mass, Handel's Messiah, Vivaldi's Gloria in D, Handel's Dixit Dominus and Charpentier's Te Deum, Dvorak's Mass in D major, Malcolm Archer's Requiem, Britten's Rejoice in the Lamb and Te Deum in C.

Paula's most recent engagements include Brahms Requiem in Brecon, Rossini Petite Messe Solennelle in Richelieu, Sea Symphony for the Three Choirs Festival and Haydn's Stabat Mater in Worcester Cathedral.



Jean Kelly hails from an Irish family of several generations of professional musicians.

In 1996 she won a scholarship to study harp at the Royal College of Music in London.

Since graduating she has based herself in the capital and has led a busy life as a professional harpist.



She regularly tours with the Locrian Ensemble performing harp concertos and her own arrangements of Irish music and has recorded three CDs with the group including

Chamber Music by Richard Arnell which was Editor's Choice in Gramophone Magazine.

Jean played the harp at Buckingham Palace for HRH Prince Charles's birthday and has performed at Highgrove and St. James' Palace on several occasions.

She played harp on several film scores including *The Lord Of The Rings* and recently recorded with Katie Melua and The Chieftains and has played on BBC radio and television.

She appeared on RTÉ Television playing duets with Sir James Galway for the closing ceremony of Cork City of Culture 2005.

Jean also performed alongside Nobel Prize-winner Seamus Heaney at the opening night of the World Harp Congress in Dublin 2005 and accompanied Irish President Mary McAleese on a State visit to Austria.

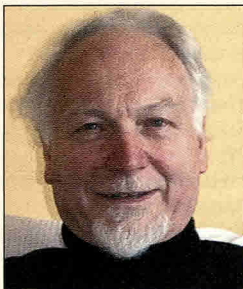
Jean has played Celtic Harp with renowned Israeli Sephardic singer Yasmin Levy.

She enjoys playing traditional Irish folk music and also plays harp with Medieval band Jogalessa.

Brendan Mulker

(Mulker Academy of Music) comes from Co. Clare and is director of the renowned traditional Irish Music Programme at the Irish Cultural Centre in Hammersmith.

He brings an inspirational character and tremendous experience to the role – having taught music for many years in primary and



secondary schools in London.

Past students include some of the most celebrated young musicians.

His teaching talent is evidenced by the fact that many of these are now successful recording artists performing and living in different parts of the world.

Brendan holds Master Violin workshops in Britain and Ireland.

He is also a visiting tutor to the undergraduate and post-graduate Masters Degree courses at the University of Limerick in Ireland.

Ciara Moroney

performs throughout Ireland and Britain specialising in duo playing, chamber music and accompaniment.

The Irish pianist has a Postgraduate Diploma in Accompaniment from the Royal Academy of Music. During her studies she won the Scott Huxley Prize for Piano Accompaniment and the Douglas Cameron Prize for Duo Playing and has also participated in the prestigious Song Circle concert series.

Since then she has worked as a trainee ròpòtiteur at the Cardiff International Academy of Voice.

Ciara began her studies in her native Cork and completed her BMus and MA degrees at the Cork School of Music. During this time she won many competitions and prizes – most notably the Yamaha Piano Scholarship.

Ciara has appeared as soloist with the Cork School of Music Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, Cork Symphony Orchestra, Wexford Sinfonia and the Kilkenny Youth Orchestra. She has performed at the West Cork Chamber Music Festival and in concerts with the Irish Youth Choir and the Cork Children's Chorus.

Ciara has taken part in concerts at the Cork City Hall, the National Concert Hall in Dublin, St. Martin-in-the-Fields and St. James' Church in Piccadilly and the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall.



Ciara has worked with Keith Pascoe (violin), Brian O'Kane (cello), Louisa Dennehy (flute), Clare Southworth (flute) and Ian Clarke (flute) among others.

Claire Egan

studied at The Watford School of Music with Angela Amato.



After A Levels she studied and graduated from Goldsmith College, University of London with a Bmus (Hons.) Degree and then Birmingham Conservatoire where she

received a Post-graduate Diploma.

She then studied with Professor Devorina Gamalova and currently Igor Petrushevski – both great violinists from the Russian School of Violin.

Claire has just been offered one of the very few places available on the Masters Degree course at The Royal Academy of Music in London.

As well as her classical music achievements, Claire is highly-regarded as a traditional Irish musician. She is a former pupil of Brendan Mulkere.

Stephen Darcy

has worked as an actor, singer and director in theatre, television, film and radio.

He was educated at St. Columba's College, Dublin, Trinity College Dublin (BA Hons. Drama) and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London.

Since leaving RADA his theatre work has included The Shaughraun at The Abbey in Dublin and The Noel Coward in the West End,



Trance, Twelfth Night, The Rover at Southwark Playhouse, Aspects of Love, and Nana at the Samuel Beckett Centre in Dublin.

His television work includes: The Take (Sky), The Tudors (HBO), Silent Witness (BBC), Teenage Kicks (BBC NI), Aifric (Telegael), Paddywhackery (Maxicorp), Ros na Rún (TG4), Frongoch (ITVI) and Mystic Knights (Sky TV).

He has appeared in various films including 100 Mornings, The Longest Ditch and Villains. Stephen hails from Abbeyfeale in Co. Limerick, and is a proud follower of Munster rugby club. He now lives in London.

Ethna Kennedy

is a graduate of University College, Galway, with post graduate studies at UCD and London. At an early age she was the County Librarian for Louth and then for Monaghan before being appointed to set up the library service for the newly-founded Longford/Westmeath authority. Following her move to London with Charles, her late husband, she became Music Librarian at Camden, at the time the busiest library in London. Focusing on music and literature, she has written numerous scripts for radio and television, programme notes and record sleeves. In 1974, with her husband Charles, she founded Irish Heritage and since that time she has researched and written scripts and chosen the music and artists for its many programmes.

Moyna Cope

has very wide experience in all branches of theatre. She spent nine years with the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden followed by nine years with Kent Opera playing many leading roles. She has had huge success in West End productions playing leads in "The Dancing Years", "Call Me Madam", "The King and I" and "The Boyfriend". She toured with the Abbey Theatre production of "The Plough and the Stars". On television she has appeared in "Who Sir? Me Sir", "Don Giovanni", "The Message", "Hollyoaks", and most notably, as Alice Stanwyck in "Doctors" in 2008. For the Belfast Festival (October 2009), she appeared in the play "Black Milk" as Petrovna at the Brian Friel Theatre, Queen's University.

An introduction to...



Irish Heritage

Patrons:

His Excellency Mr Bobby McDonagh – Irish Ambassador

Lady (Mary) Clancy-Hatch

Mr John Gilhooly

Mr Seamus McGarry

IRISH HERITAGE is a voluntary organisation that promotes Irish arts and culture in Great Britain to all people with an interest in Ireland's cultural heritage.

It was founded in London in 1974 by Ethna Kennedy and the late Charles Kennedy.

They recognised at that time the need to enhance the image of Ireland in Britain and chose to do so through promotion of culture, heritage and the arts to the highest professional standard to a wide audience.

Ethna has remained the Artistic Director and devised, scripted and promoted a wide range of events, which demonstrate the richness and variety of Ireland's cultural heritage.

The image of Ireland has changed positively over the last 30 years in Britain and Irish Heritage has made a significant contribution to this change.

Irish Heritage has moved with the times but holds to its founding principles of promoting the best of Irish literature, music and young performers.

In over a third of a century, Irish Heritage has staged countless musical recitals, theatre evenings highlighting the lives and works of the great Irish and Anglo-Irish literary figures, art exhibitions, lectures, photography and film

history, poetry readings, book reviews and London debuts for young musicians.

A list of events and artists who have appeared with Irish heritage from 1974 to date appears on the website.

One of the most significant achievements has been the support it provides to young Irish classical musicians in the early stage of their careers.

By promoting concerts and recitals in renowned venues in London Irish Heritage assists in the professional development of many young talented singers and instrumentalists.

Many of these have subsequently made successful careers in the great concert halls and opera houses of the world.

■ Friends of Irish Heritage

Anyone can become a Friend of Irish Heritage. The present membership fee is £25 a year (£40 for family membership). Friends receive regular information of Irish Heritage events and other cultural activities in London and a discount to the ticket prices of most Irish Heritage events.

Niall Gallagher, Chairman.

E-mail: irish.heritage1@googlemail.com

www.irishheritage.co.uk



THE IRISH YOUTH FOUNDATION (UK) has now raised nearly £4million for Irish welfare, education and cultural groups working with disadvantaged young Irish people and their families in Britain and Northern Ireland.

The charity was established in 1989 by a small group of Irish men and women concerned about the consequences of sustained emigration from Ireland to Britain.

In the decade of the 1980s tens of thousands of young Irish people came to Britain to seek a new and better future – but many were unprepared for life in a different culture and environment.

The Irish Youth Foundation (IYF) is the only national charity in Britain specifically aimed at helping young Irish people and its Patron is the President of Ireland Mary McAleese.

The IYF and its founders raise money to support organisations and projects which aim to

improve the lives of children and young Irish people under the age of 25 in Britain and Northern Ireland who are socially, economically or culturally disadvantaged and assist them in leading a more integrated and fulfilling life.

These projects offer help for the homeless, employment and training schemes, support for women and children escaping domestic violence, young offenders, drug and alcohol rehabilitation schemes, cross-community initiatives as well as cultural and social activities.

Grants are awarded annually to a range of community groups and welfare organisations selected by the independent Advisory Committee.

Brendán Mac Lua was a stalwart supporter of the IYF and gave generously of his time as a valued member of the Advisory Committee.

His comprehensive knowledge of the Irish community and his carefully considered opinions were invaluable.

The IYF is aware of the changing needs of young Irish people. Reduced emigration from Ireland in the past few years has changed the structure of the Irish population.

While there were still those arriving in Britain fleeing from difficult circumstances in Ireland there was a renewed focus on the needs of the second and third-generation Irish people born in Britain.

Now, as the Irish economy falters and unemployment rises, we have seen a return of emigration. So on our 20th anniversary the need for our help is becoming greater than ever.

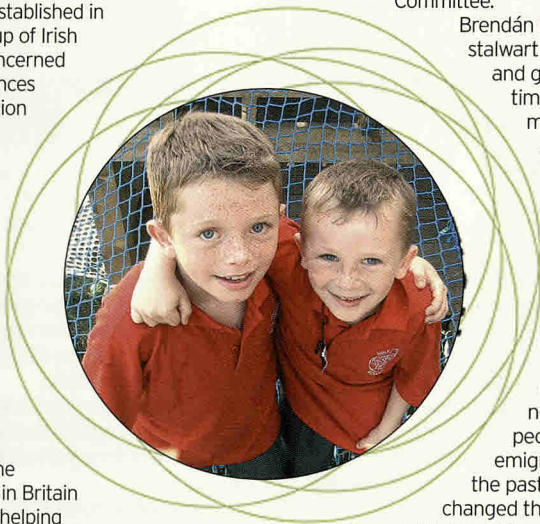
The highlight of our activities this year is the Irish Youth Foundation's 20th Anniversary Ball on Saturday, November 28 at the London Hilton on Park Lane.

For further information contact Linda Tanner on 020 8748 9640 or e-mail:

linda@irishyouth.f2s.com.

Website: www.iyf.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 328265.



Remembering...

THE FORGOTTEN IRISH

Brendán Mac Lua was an esteemed Council member of the Ireland Fund of Great Britain (IFGB) since its inception over 20 years ago.

Brendán's knowledge and experience of the Irish community was invaluable to the grant assessment committee, and his support will be missed by all at The IFGB.

Established in 1988, The Ireland Fund of Great Britain distributes funding to community organisations across the UK.

Current Focus – The Forgotten Irish Campaign

IFGB Patron Peter Sutherland launched our campaign for the Forgotten Irish in London with President Mary McAleese in June 2007 to raise awareness and substantial funds for the vulnerable and elderly Irish community in the UK.

Most of the forgotten

Irish came to Britain following World War II during one of the darkest and most impoverished periods of Ireland's history.

The majority came to find work and sent billions of pounds home to their families. Thousands of others came to escape the hardship, marginalisation and, all too often, the abuse of institutional life.

At the end of their working lives many had

the means to go home however many are still here often living in isolation, poverty and deprivation – without the support of friends or family.

Given the age of those involved and the hardships they have faced it is likely that many will not survive the next decade.

"They left an Ireland which had very little to offer them. We have a solemn duty to support them. Time is not on their side. At this time of economic uncertainty, we must stay focussed on our obligation to them. They will be forgotten no longer."

Peter Sutherland, IFGB Patron

The Forgotten Irish Remembered

The IFGB has awarded over £500,000 in its latest grant round to community organisations across the UK that seek to address the needs of the forgotten Irish.

This is the largest grant round The IFGB has ever distributed to date with over 47 organisations being supported in cities like Leeds, London, Manchester, Glasgow,

Birmingham, Nottingham, and Newcastle.

The changing financial climate affects us all – and none more than those already vulnerable.

The IFGB would like to thank Irish Heritage for kindly donating some of the



Photograph: Brendan Farrell, The Irish Post

proceeds of this evening's tribute to our campaign.

For more information on The IFGB, or to make a donation please visit our Website:

www.theforgottenirish.org

Tel: 0845 872 5401

Please make a donation to The IFGB for the Forgotten Irish so we can help those that need it most.



Irish Heritage

in association with

THE Irish Post

Would like to thank the following for their help and generosity in making this evening possible:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| John Kennedy, CBE | Dr Ronnie Delany |
| Bank of Ireland | John O'Neill |
| Deutsche Bank | Basil Geoghegan |
| Allied Irish Bank (GB) | Peter Newman |
| Irish Youth Foundation (UK) | Lady Mary (Clancy) Hatch |
| The Ireland Fund of Great Britain | Kevin McNamara |
| John Taylor, M R Salvage LLP | Lord Soley |
| Thomas P Kelleher | Gene and Maeve Mangan |
| Bryony Bethell | Pauline Purcell |
| Derek Warfield, The Warfield Press | Patricia Nolan |
| Anne Starr | Alice O'Dowda |
| Sinead O'Toole | Karen Cohen |
| Andrew O'Rourke | Margaret McInnes |
| Clr. Jim O'Sullivan | Kevin Pakenham |

**A full list of those who have donated to the Tribute Concert will be published in
The Irish Post in its edition of November 21, 2009**

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