



MAY 2017

Northern Ireland Opera & Irish Youth Opera
in association with Irish Chamber Orchestra

David Brophy Conductor
Oliver Mears Director
Annemarie Woods Set & Costume Designer
Kevin Treacy Lighting Designer

RADAMISTO (an opera by G.F. Handel)

A family feud sparks a fight for power. Sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, all are pitted against each other in a tale of illicit passion and deception conquered by love and heroism.

Following the success of Northern Ireland Opera and Irish Youth Opera's *Agrippina* (winner of the Best Production Award at the Tiger Dublin Fringe 2015), Northern Ireland Opera continues their outstanding partnership with the Irish Chamber Orchestra to present the Irish première of Handel's *Radamisto*. A story of lust, political intrigue, and the fight for power, *Radamisto* is considered one of Handel's masterpieces, and features some of the composer's most inspired music. A cast of seven is brimming with the very best of Irish singers.

Saturday 6 May Lime Tree Theatre, Limerick
061 774 774 www.limetreetheatre.com

Tuesday 9 May Everyman Theatre, Cork
021 450 1673 info@everymancork.com

Thursday, Friday 11 & 12 May O'Reilly Theatre, Dublin
01 858 6644 info@oreillytheatre.com

Sunday 14 May Grand Opera Theatre, Belfast
00-44 28 90277734 info@niopera.com



The Irish Chamber Orchestra (ICO) is Ireland's finest chamber orchestra, combining high quality performances with an expansive artistic vision. Virtuoso, innovative and creative, the ICO blazes a trail with its unique collaborative approach and its rich relationships with an array of creative partners.

The orchestra has successfully toured across Europe, Australia, South Korea, China and the US and has recorded numerous CDs. The Irish Chamber Orchestra is resident at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at the University of Limerick and is funded by the Arts Council of Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

SUNDAYS IN THE STUDIO

A Series of 3 Talks on the ICO Season

Tragedy and comedy, religion and politics, beauty and pain, love and death, are recurrent themes in classical music. Michael Murphy (Department of Music, Mary Immaculate College) brings into sharp focus the emotions and ideas that inspire and inform the works in the Irish Chamber Orchestra's Spring Season 2017. **Cost:** €15 per session or €40 for all 3 sessions. 10% discount applies to ICO Friends. Book now on: 061-202620

SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY at 3.00pm - *A Letter of Rights*

SUNDAY 12 MARCH at 3.00pm - *Reformation*

SUNDAY 2 APRIL at 3.00pm - *New World*

ICO FRIENDS TOUR TO HEIDELBERG

(27-31 March 2017)

There will be a Spring Tour to Heidelberg from **Sunday 27 - Thursday 31 March**. The highlight will be the ICO's performance at the Heidelberg Stadthalle, as part of the *Heidelberger-Frühling Festival*. The trip will feature interesting excursions to nearby Mannheim, the gardens at Schwetzingen and more. Contact margaret.kelly@ul.ie (061-20260) for details.

Irish Chamber Orchestra at the Heidelberg Stadthalle
Jörg Widmann Principal Conductor/Clarinet
Igor Levit Piano

REFORMATION

(See March Panel for programme details)



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FEBRUARY 2017 - MAY 2017



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FEBRUARY 2017

Irish Chamber Orchestra
Chamber Choir Ireland
Paul Hillier Director

A LETTER OF RIGHTS

Tarik O'Regan *A Letter of Rights*
Handel *Dixit Dominus*

The Great Charter of Ireland (*Magna Carta Hiberniae*) arrived in Ireland in February 1217. Noted as an international symbol of freedom and rights, its greatest legacy is that it established the principle of the law, even though most of its 63 clauses are no longer part of Irish or UK law. It paved the way for the democratic systems which exist in Ireland and the UK today. British-born composer, **Tarik O'Regan** was commissioned to write a commemorative work to mark the 800th anniversary of *Magna Carta* in 2015, and in February 2017 **Chamber Choir Ireland** and the **Irish Chamber Orchestra** bring *A Letter of Rights* to tour Ireland - marking the 800th anniversary of its arrival here. Coupled with this, is the great *Dixit Dominus* by Handel. Completed in 1707, it is thought to be Handel's earliest surviving manuscript.

Thursday 23 February

St Thomas' Church, Eglantine Avenue, Belfast @ 7.30pm
www.belfastmusicsociety.org
€15 / Concession - Students/unwaged €5
(Belfast Music Society International Festival of Chamber Music)

Saturday 25 February

St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick @ 8pm
061 202799 www.irishchamberorchestra.com
€25, €22 and €10 students

Sunday 26 February

Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin @ 7.30pm
061 202799 www.irishchamberorchestra.com
€25, €22 and €10 students



MARCH 2017

Irish Chamber Orchestra
Jörg Widmann Principal Conductor/Clarinet
Igor Levit Piano

REFORMATION

Mozart *Don Giovanni Overture*, K. 527
Mozart Adagio and Fugue in C minor, K. 546
Mozart Piano Concerto No. 21 in C Major, K. 467
 Elvira Madigan
Mendelssohn *Andante* from Sonata for Clarinet and
 Piano in E flat major for Clarinet,
 String Orchestra and Celesta
 (arr. Widmann 2016)
Mendelssohn Symphony No. 5 in D, Op. 107 *Reformation*

Mozart's *Don Giovanni Overture* suggests an impending tragedy, but the music evolves into something quite magnificent. It counterbalances the powerful close of **Mendelssohn's Reformation Symphony** (No. 5), a work written to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation that affords an instructive insight into the composer's use of Lutheran church music. **Mozart's** piano concertos are some of his greatest works. His wildly popular Concerto No. 21 is among the most technically demanding of all of **Mozart's** concerti and is the most recorded since featuring in the 1967 film, *Elvira Madigan*. With **Igor Levit's** smooth refined pianism, we are in safe hands. **Mozart's** C major Fugue was first composed for two pianos, but the composer later re-arranged it for strings - adding an introductory Adagio reminiscent of a French overture. **Mendelssohn's Clarinet & Piano Sonata**, features **Widmann** on Clarinet and **Levit** exchanging the Grand Piano for the Celesta.

Tuesday 21 March

University Concert Hall, Limerick @ 8pm
061 331549 www.uch.ie
€25, €22 and €10 students

Wednesday 22 March

National Concert Hall, Dublin @ 8pm
01 417 0000 www.nch.ie
€25, €22 and €10 students



APRIL 2017

Irish Chamber Orchestra
Thomas Zehetmair Conductor

NEW WORLD

Dvořák Serenade in E major for Strings, Op. 22
Barber *Capricorn* Concerto for Flute, Oboe,
 Trumpet and Strings, Op. 21
Schoenberg Verklärte Nacht, Op. 4 *Transfigured Night*

Internationally acclaimed, **Thomas Zehetmair** is much sought after as a conductor, violinist and chamber musician. His debut with the ICO is eagerly anticipated!

Dvořák's much-loved *Serenade for Strings*, Op. 22 is one of his most popular works. **Samuel Barber** was one of the most celebrated US composers of the 20th century. His *Capricorn Concerto* was very much influenced by **Stravinsky** and named after his house *Capricorn* for the maximum sunshine that it received in winter. Meanwhile, **Arnold Schoenberg's** remarkable *Verklärte Nacht (Transfigured Night)* is warm and expansive, and remains one of the composer's most popular works. The music follows the narrative of an eponymous poem by Richard Dehmel, dealing with newly found love, confession, forgiveness and transfiguration: the intensity of the protagonists' love overcomes all and their lives become transfigured during the moonlit night.

Wednesday 12 April

The Large Room, City Hall, Waterford @ 7.30pm
(In association with Symphony Club of Waterford & Waterford Music)
Tickets: 051 855038 www.garterlane.ie
€20, €18

Thursday 13 April

University Concert Hall, Limerick @ 8pm
061 331549 www.uch.ie
€25, €22 and €10 students

