

The Grand Lodge of Ireland



Celebrating 300 Years of Irish Freemasonry

Tuesday, 24th June 2025

Dublin Royal Convention Centre

PROLOGUE

"The First Knock (1725)"

Presented by Bryan Dobson

Music

Adagio from Clarinet Concerto in A major (Mozart) second movement

Macdara Ó Seireadáin – Clarinet

Dearbhla Collins – Piano

SCENE I

"Thomas Moore and the Romantic Brotherhood"

Presented by Bryan Dobson

Music

Has Sorrow Thy Young Days Shaded

The Last Rose of Summer

Heather Sammon - Mezzo Soprano

Kelli-Ann Masterson - Soprano

Dearbhla Collins - Piano

SCENE II

"Balfe, Mozart, and the Sound of the Lodge"

Presented by Bryan Dobson

Music

I Dreamt I Dwelt in Marble Halls (Balfe)

Batti Batti, o bel Masetto (Mozart)

Il mio tesoro (Mozart)

Kelli-Ann Masterson - Soprano

Heather Sammon - Mezzo Soprano

Sean Tester - Tenor

Dearbhla Collins – Piano

SCENE III

"Strife and Solitude: The Hidden Light"

Presented by Bryan Dobson

Music

Der Hirt auf dem Felsen (Schubert)

Mon cœur s'ouvre à ta voix (Saint-Saëns)

È amore un ladroncello (Mozart)

Kelli-Ann Masterson – Soprano

Emma Power – Mezzo Soprano

Heather Sammon – Mezzo Soprano

Macdara Ó Seireadáin – Clarinet

Dearbhla Collins – Piano

SCENE IV

"The Weaver Poet: James Orr of Ballycarry"

Presented by Bryan Dobson

Music

Selections from Four Impressions (Charles T. Griffes)

Le Jardin

Impression du Matin

La Mer

Le Réveillon

Emma Power – Mezzo Soprano

Dearbhla Collins – Piano

SCENE V

"The Modern Lodge: Jazz and Reflection"

Presented by Bryan Dobson

Music

Be My Love (Nicholas Brodsky / Sammy Cahn)

Blues from An American in Paris (arr. Michele Mangani)

Sean Tester – Tenor

Macdara Ó Seireadáin – Clarinet

Dearbhla Collins – Piano

EPILOGUE

"A Toast to Light"

Presented by Bryan Dobson

Music

Libiamo from La Traviata (Verdi)

Kelli-Ann Masterson – Soprano

Emma Power – Mezzo-Soprano

Heather Sammon – Mezzo-Soprano

Sean Tester – Tenor

Macdara Ó Seireadáin – Clarinet

Dearbhla Collins – Piano

Byran Dobson *Spoken Word*

Bryan is a retired Irish journalist, newscaster and presenter with RTÉ in Ireland. He presented Morning Ireland, having previously presented RTÉ News: Six One, RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock and occasionally RTÉ News: One O'Clock.

He adended a media course in the Rathmines College of Commerce, Dublin Institute of Technology. Bryan previously worked for the Dublin pirate station Radio Nova, hosting their nightly Dublin Today programme. Before joining RTÉ in 1987, he worked for BBC Northern Ireland. Dobson joined RTÉ News and Current Affairs as a reporter in 1992. Before being the main RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock presenter, he was the RTÉ Business Correspondent. In September 1996, he was named as the co-presenter of the flagship early evening news programme, RTÉ News: Six One on RTÉ One, one of the most watched news programmes in Ireland. He lei his position as co-presenter on 25 October 2017 after 21 years to move to early morning radio on Morning Ireland.

Bryan also presents various special programmes such as RTÉ's coverage of general elections. In May 2011, he fronted RTÉ television coverage of Queen Elizabeth II's visit to the Republic of Ireland.

Dearbhla Collins *Piano*

Pianist Dearbhla Collins is a vocal coach at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and Artistic Consultant at the National Opera Studio, London. She is also the Artistic Director of the Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition.

Highly regarded internationally as a song pianist, Dearbhla has collaborated with renowned singers such as Sir Thomas Allen, Sir Simon Keenlyside, Benjamin Appl, Tara Erraught, and Anna Devin. Her performances have taken her across Ireland, the UK, Europe, and the US, as well as to China, where she has given masterclasses and recitals in Beijing, Shanghai, and Wuhan.

In 2013, she founded Dublin Song Series, which she curates in partnership with the National Concert Hall and Hugh Lane Gallery. Dearbhla also serves as a guest vocal coach at Mascarade Opera Studio, Florence, and the Young Artist Programme at the National Opera House, Warsaw.

As Artistic Director of the Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition, she has worked with distinguished jury members such as Richard Bonyngue and Ileana Cotrubas. Dearbhla was awarded an honorary doctorate by the National University of Ireland in 2017 for her services to music in Ireland and is currently Chair of Pan Pan Theatre Company.

Macdara Ó Seireadáin *Clarinet*

Macdara Ó Seireadáin, a Dublin native, holds First Class Honours degrees from the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hannover and the Royal Irish Academy of Music, where he studied with Johannes Peitz and John Finucane. A multiple competition prize winner, including the inaugural Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year in 2010, he has performed as a soloist with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, RTÉ Concert Orchestra, and Uelzen Kammerorchester, among others.

In 2019, Macdara joined the RTÉ Concert Orchestra and has since performed with prestigious ensembles such as the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, Staatsoper Hannover, and Ulster Orchestra. He has toured across Europe, the US, Canada, China, Chile, and India, and was a headline performer at the International Clarinet Association's *Clarinetfest* in 2024.

A dedicated chamber musician, he has collaborated with artists like Finghin Collins, Ailish Tynan, and the Vanburgh Quartet, and has performed at major festivals including the Kilkenny Arts Festival and Fredener Musiktage. Since 2017, he lectures on performance psychology and coaches musicians at academies in Lithuania and Germany, while also hosting the popular classical music podcast *Harmonically Speaking*.

Heather Sammon *Mezzo Soprano*

Heather Sammon is a Mezzo-Soprano from Ballymore Eustace, Co. Kildare. She is currently a member of the Opera Studio in Opera Royal de Wallonie-Liège in Belgium, where she is under tutelage of esteemed soprano Patrizia Ciofi. While in Liège, she made her debut as 'Roussette' in 'Le Chateau Enchanté' by Marco Tarelli and 'Hedwige' in *Petit Guillaume*, an adaptation of Guillaume Tell.

Prior to this, Heather was working professionally for Irish National Opera and was a member of their resident chorus from 2022-2024.

She completed her undergraduate degree from Maynooth University, where she studied Irish and Music, majoring in Vocal Performance. Heather went on to complete a Diploma in Vocal Pedagogy and Performance in the Royal Irish Academy of Music in 2021. She also studied part-time in TUD Conservatoire between 2021-2023.

Upcoming engagements include the role of Second Gespielin in *The Dwarf* is this year's Wexford Festival Opera. The roles of the Dog and the Innkeeper's Wife in *The Cunning Little Vixen* with Irish National Opera 2026 and she is also covering the role of Adalgisa in INO's *Norma* next May/June.

Kelli-Ann Masterson *Soprano*

Kelli-Ann Masterson, a Co. Wexford native, is an alumna of the Irish National Opera Studio and an associate artist with Cork Opera House. In 2022, she received the Bernadette Greevy Bursary from the National Concert Hall and won both the PwC Bursary for an emerging Irish artist and the Liam Healy Bursary from Wexford Festival Opera.

Her 2025 summer engagements include Yum-Yum in *The Mikado* for Opera Della Luna's UK tour, Belinda in *Dido and Aeneas* with the Irish Baroque Orchestra at Blackwater Valley Opera Festival, and Phyllis in *Iolanthe* at Buxton Opera House with the National Gilbert & Sullivan Company. She will also be a guest soloist at the Limerick Summer Proms.

A regular oratorio soloist, Kelli-Ann has performed Bach's *St Matthew's Passion*, Mozart's *Mass in C Minor*, and Handel's *Messiah*. Opera credits include Norina in *Don Pasquale* for Irish National Opera, Semele in *Semele* (Irish Times Theatre Awards 2022), and Amor in *Orfeo ed Euridice* at Blackwater Valley Opera Festival.

She holds a BMus.Ed. from Trinity College Dublin and an MMus from TU Dublin.

Seán Tester Tenor

Irish tenor Seán Tester, a recent graduate of the Royal Irish Academy of Music, was awarded the BVOF|RIAM John Pollard Bursary, enabling him to further his studies with a Master in Music Performance.

His international debut was as Rodolphe in Rossini's *Guillaume Tell* in Switzerland, a co-production between Irish National Opera (INO) and Nouvel Opéra Fribourg. Upcoming roles include Snout in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Blackwater Valley Opera Festival, Man with an Old Suitcase in Argento's *Postcard from Morocco*, and Mopsa in Purcell's *The Fairy Queen* at the Korčula Baroque Festival, Croatia. He has also covered Il Duca di Mantova in INO's *Rigoletto* and sung in the chorus for several INO productions, including *Guillaume Tell*, *Faust*, and *La Bohème*.

In concert, Seán has performed as a tenor soloist in works such as Handel's *Messiah*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, and Bach's *St. John's Passion*. He is currently the Series Ambassador for the Drogheda Classical Music Series and will debut as El Remendado in Bizet's *Carmen* with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland in October. He will also perform at the 2025 Wexford Festival Opera as Conte di Libenskof in Rossini's *Il viaggio a Reims*.

Emma Power Mezzo Soprano

Emma Power is a mezzo-soprano from Waterford. This year, Emma has graduated with a Masters in Music Performance at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, studying under Imelda Drumm and Dearbhla Collins.

Emma has performed as soloist with the NSO; as a bursary award winner of the John McCormack Society; and as recital artist for the Blackwater Valley Opera Festival 2024. They are the most recent recipient of the Gervase Elwes cup at Feis Ceoil, representing the Dermot Troy award. They were previously awarded the Mezzo Solo cup, The Margaret Burke-Sheridan cup, the Mrs P.J. Geoghegan Memorial Cup, The Lieder Prize and the Mahler Prize at last year's competition.

Emma has just completed their first season as a member of the INO chorus, and looks forward to returning for the upcoming 25/26 season.

Emma will compete for the RDS Bursary at the end of this month.

Conleth Stanley *Producer*

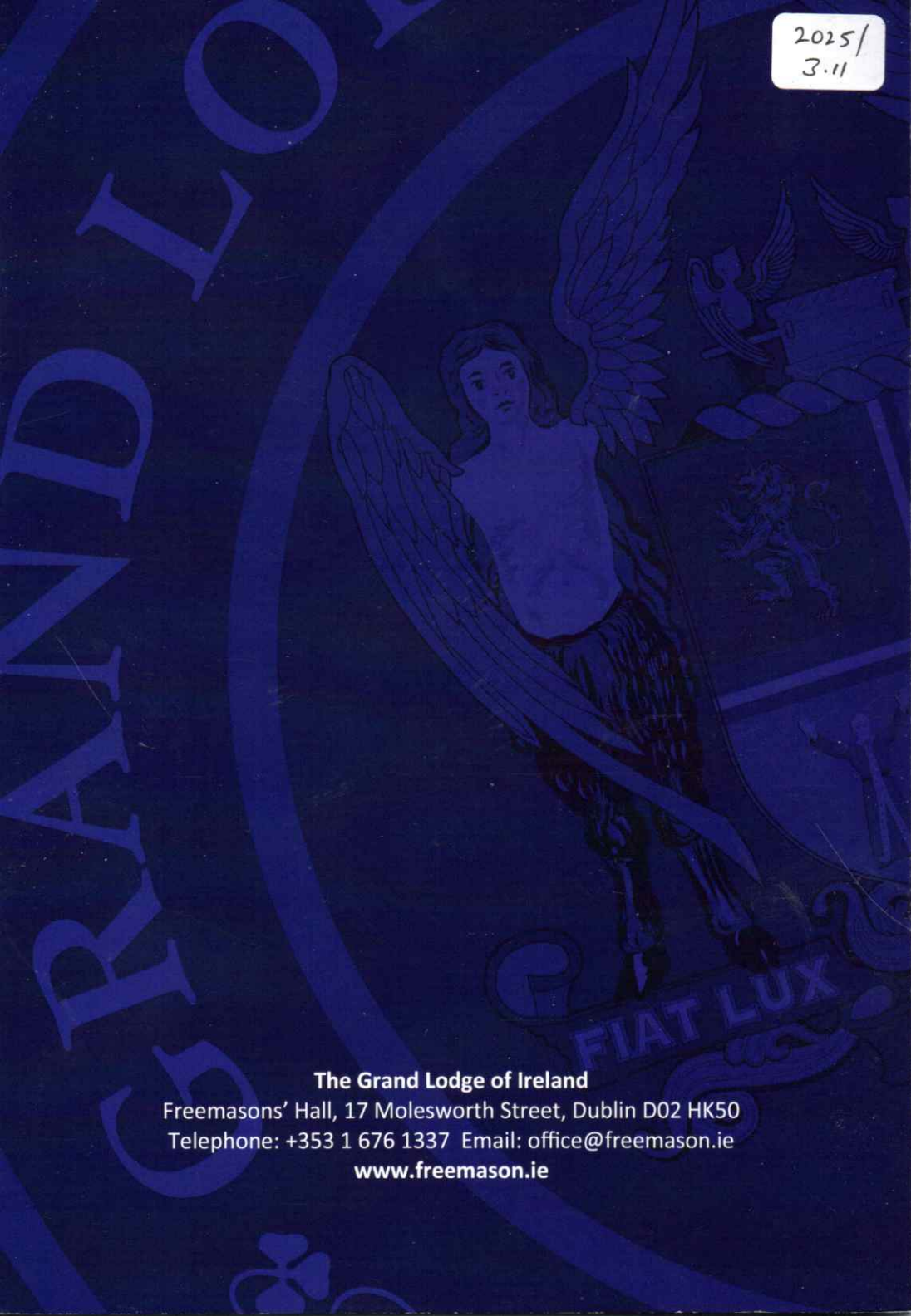
Conleth is an Irish Producer and Creative Arts manager working across Opera, Theatre, and the wider performing Arts. Based in Dublin, he is currently Producer of the Blackwater Valley Opera Festival, Veronnica Dunne International Singing Competition and serves as Production Coordinator with Chamber Choir Ireland.

With a background in stage and company management, Conleth has contributed to many of Ireland's leading cultural institutions, including Irish National Opera, the Abbey Theatre, the Dublin International Chamber Music Festival, the Royal Irish Academy of Music, Northern Ireland Opera, Technical University Dublin, the Irish Baroque Orchestra, Then This Theatre, Straymaker and Once off Productions, Pan Pan Theatre, Dublin Youth Theatre, Irish Modern Dance Theatre, and the Wexford Festival Opera to name but a few.

He has worked across a wide range of productions — from chamber music and contemporary dance to large-scale opera and national festivals. His work has featured at national festivals like; Kilkenny Arts Festival, Cork Midsummer Festival, Galway International Arts Festival, Carlow Arts Festival, and more.

Conleth is deeply committed to a collaborative approach to enable creative processes, solving complex challenges with professionalism and care. Whether at the laptop, on the phone, behind the curtain or in the rehearsal room, Conleth plays a vital role in bringing ambitious artistic visions to life.

2025/
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