

# Celtic Nights – *The Emigrants Bridge*®

Wednesday, January 29, 2014; 7 pm

Thursday, January 30, 2014; 7 pm



## THE DANCERS

Gavin Boyle  
Aidan McGinley  
Leanne Phelan  
Heather Metcalfe  
Ciara Doyle

## PRODUCER/DIRECTOR

Michael Durkan

Drawn from the history and folklore of Ireland and her Celtic cousins, Celtic Nights will bring the audience on a stunning musical journey of a people leaving and arriving. Telling the tale of emigration and how people's lives would be spent in a world of traveling by rail, horses and ships.

With long days traveling on foot they would come and go, saving for fares and writing tales of their travels. Always having to compare what they had with what they might have elsewhere. A lot of time would be spent visiting others, always moving on the surface of a foreign land. A constant journey of meeting, conversing and comparing, searching for a place better than Ireland or even half as good.

The show Celtic Nights will bring you on this journey every second to a different place, filling you with laughter, sadness, melancholy, a sense of who we are and who our children will grow up to be. Passing the mantle of the legacy of their forefathers through music, song, dance and storytelling with pride and passion.

Celtic Nights will capture the essence of a great people from a small island and their journey of hope and desire. Beautiful imagery and costumes will enhance the experience.

Songs will be sung with the audience of the night becoming a part of the story on stage. Dances will be danced, music will be played and you will be left with a memorable evening of total entertainment for all who have come to be a part of Celtic Nights. Songs being heard will bring back childhood memories, from playgrounds to pubs, choruses where, even those who can't sing will want to join in!

The cast of three male vocalists and three beautiful female singers, six of Ireland's most talented and coveted international dancers and our fine musicians, will leave the theatre ringing with the sounds of Celtic music old and new.

Celtic Nights, a two hour showcase, of the rich heritage of the island and its culture, will bring us to that place that many emigrants now call home. The United States of America is where people from all lands have been welcomed through Ellis Island and the now adjoining airports of New York City and beyond.

The influence of the old music on what became American sounds - whether it be Bluegrass, Appalachian, Country and Western or the great songs and ballads, from *Shenandoah* to the songs of The American Civil War - will be a part of the Celtic Nights experience.

Many of the old favorites – "Danny Boy," "Isle of Hope," and "Whiskey in the Jar" will be in there with, "My Love is in America," "May We Never Have to Say Goodbye," and there may be a few surprises for the audience!

The show will be produced and directed both for the live performance and also as a TV special and DVD. The foot tapping percussive sounds of jigs and reels, hornpipes and polkas will make you want to dance.

The artists from Celtic Nights will meet with the audience during and after the performance. We want to continue the warm links that have forged the friendship and respect for each other between our two great nations.

# Celtic Nights – *The Emigrants Bridge*® continued



## ACT ONE

Opening Sequence  
Aislings Dance  
May We Never Have to Say Goodbye  
Jug of Punch  
Colcannon  
Wild Rover  
Carrickfergus  
The Spanish Lady  
Wild Rover  
Musicians Jigs and Reels  
Sailing By (Love Song)  
Her Dream – Celtic Night Dancers  
My Heart Will Go On  
Isle of Insihfree  
Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For  
My Grandfather's Emmigrant Eyes – Staten Island  
Puca Beast Short  
The Contender  
Dark Island Into Polkas – Into Reels  
Street Dance Celtic Nights  
Fly Where the Eagles Fly

## ACT TWO

Whiskey in the Jar  
Danny Boy  
Acappella Dance  
Fare Thee Well Love  
A Woman's Heart  
Hope is Born  
Ellis Final  
Star of the County Down  
Raglan  
Appalachian Polkas  
Shenendoah  
Unplugged – All Gods Creatures – Irish Rover – Katie Daly –  
Dear Old Donegal – When Irish Eyes Are Smiling –  
Tour A Lour A Loura  
Galway Bay  
Never Have to Say Goodbye  
Ireland  
Spanish Lady  
Old Bog Road  
It's a Long Way to Tipperary

## DEREK MOLONEY – Singer

Derek is Ireland's leading tenor, as established when he won RTE television's *Search for a Tenor* nationwide competition and one of the few Irish voices to truly follow in the footsteps of the great Irish tenors, such as Count John McCormack and Frank Patterson. In recent years, Derek has built on this success both as a recording artist with two #1 entries in the Irish Classical Charts and on stage with award winning performances around the globe. He has performed at home with Opera Ireland and collaborated with such international, high profile artists as the Chieftains and Sarah Brightman. The flawless technique and versatility of Derek's approach to singing puts him in command of many styles, from Handel's *Messiah* right up to contemporary pop. Now in demand from many corners, Derek's recent appearances in Germany with The International Magic Tenors, over 100 concerts last year, were marked by repeat standing ovations. His US concerts drew comparisons such as "Ireland's answer to Luciano Pavarotti," while back in Ireland, his frequent stadium performances of the National Anthem for the Irish Rugby Team have won millions of viewers via the airwaves. A voice you'll remember.

## REBEKAH ROBERTSON – Singer

Rebekah was born in Scotland but studied in London at the Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts. After graduating in London, she went on to work in musical theatre and choreography all around the world. With an Orkadian heritage, Rebekah's beautiful Celtic voice adds a new dimension to Celtic Nights *The Emigrants' Bridge 2014 Tour*. Rebekah's theatre credits include: *Thriller, Grease*, Maureen in *Rent, Heroes and Villains* (Wimbledon Theatre) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Rebekah's choreography credits include: *The International Magic Tenors, Thriller, Grease, Beatles*, and *Oh What a Night!* Rebekah is looking forward to touring again with Celtic Nights and would like to thank her family for their continued support.

## JOE WALSH – Singer

Joe is one of Ireland's most experienced performers. In a career spanning over 15 years, he has sung on television in Germany, Italy, Ireland, UK and coast to coast in the USA, as well as appearing on stage in over 35 different countries. Joe appeared in a Saint Patrick's Day performance on Capitol Hill in Washington DC attended by President George W Bush, Irish Prime Minister Bertie Aherne and the Irish American members of the U.S Senate.

Joe's first appearance on stage was at the tender age of 15. Since then he has appeared in productions as diverse as *Madam Butterfly, The Silver Tassie, Aida, MacBeth, Faust, Oklahoma* and *Guys and Dolls*. Proving his versatility, Joseph also spent several years touring as lead singer of the stars from the Commitments. During his time with the Commitments, he appeared in a historic once off concert in the old city of Jerusalem co-starring with Arrested Development and The Black Eyed Peas. He would like to thank his wife Michelle for her unflinching support

## REBECCA WINCKWORTH – Singer

Rebecca had her first major solo performance at 10 years old opening The Millenium Celebrations concert singing *One Voice* for a live audience of 10,000 people at The Point

# Celtic Nights – *The Emigrants Bridge*® continued



Depot, Dublin. At 11, Rebecca recorded her first album called *Wonder Child* raising £5,000 for a young boy suffering from Cerebral Palsy. Soon after, Rebecca was chosen as the understudy for the role of Cosette in the Cameron Macintosh Production of *Les Misérables* in Dublin.

Rebecca, who also plays piano and Irish harp, performed regularly as a soloist in prestigious venues across Ireland including performances for three Presidents of Ireland at Áras an Uachtaráin.

At the age of 17, Rebecca joined the world-renowned choral group Anúna, the original Riverdance Singers, with whom she has toured extensively across Europe, the U.S. and Asia. Rebecca features on several award-winning Anúna albums, DVDs and collaboration projects such as Blizzard Entertainment's soundtrack to *Diablo III*. With Anúna, Rebecca has performed solo at private parties for esteemed guests such as Bill Gates, Bono, and Séamus Heaney amongst others.

Rebecca has sung both in concert and for audiences of millions on TV shows including RTE's *The Late Late Show*, Fox television, PBS and other broadcasters in North America and Japan.

Last year, Rebecca released a self-entitled solo album of Irish song, which is regularly played on many national broadcasters across Ireland. She also traveled as lead female vocalist with *Ragús*, the show, on a sell-out tour of Europe and Asia and traveled on a highly successful tour of the U.S.A. with the "Maynooth Chamber Choir."

## **WILL MULVEY – Singer**

Will has been working as an Actor and Singer in London since graduating from the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA). He has just starred in the new musical *A Body to Die[It] For* and toured as a member of The International Magic Tenors in Europe. Will has also performed with The Twelve Tenors, led by Jonathan Ansell, rocked the stage as Jerry Lee Lewis in the UK tour of *Rock Around the Clock*, played Lemar

in the production of *Godspell* (directed by David Fawcett) and co-wrote and starred in a new musical by Che Walker, titled *The Ballad of Benny Junior*. He hopes you enjoy the show!

## **ÉABHA MCMAHON – Singer**

Éabha began her singing career at 9 years of age, when she was chosen by Veritas to record an album for the children's book, *Beo go Deo*. She then began singing in the traditional sean nós style, taught by famous singers such as Máire Ní Choilm, Séamus Mac Mathúna, Maya Brennan, and Íde Mac Mathúna. Éabha went on to win the under 18 All Ireland Oireachtais final at the age of 15, she was reigning Leinster champion from the age of 13 to 17 in the Fleadh Ceoil, and five time Dublin champion in the Fairview Feis ceoil age 14-18. At the age of 15, Éabha was approached to audition for Anúna, (the Original Riverdance choir) and in 2005, Éabha became the youngest member to join Anúna. In 2006, she went on tour to the US where the *Anúna Christmas Memories* DVD was recorded for PBS and reached the top 10 in the *Billboard* charts that year. She also went on tour to Holland and Germany with the group, as well as singing in venues such as the National Concert Hall with Anúna and the Rathmines and Rathgar musical society, Dublin Castle, Stormont, Farmleigh House and Kilmainham Jail.

Éabha has used her unique skill set to impress people such as Phil Coulter, who said, "Éabha has a gift from god, something special." She has also sung for the likes of Bono, Bill Gates and Séamus Heaney at his 70th Birthday party. Éabha has been singing at weddings and funerals for ten years and her unique approach to music always ensures that the mass, ceremony or event is a special and memorable one.

## **BEN GUNNERY – Musician**

Ben Gunnery is a multi-instrumentalist who studied at the Royal College of Music and Trinity College of Music, graduating with a first class degree in Classical Violin performance. Ben has gone on tour internationally with various companies/bands/orchestras such as: Barrage, Riverdance, Gaelforce, Dance Masters, Celtic Legends, Irish Celtic, Incantation, Shane MacGowan and the Popes, Calgary Philharmonic, Lost Music of the Gaels (to name a few) and is a regularly booked musician for Orchestral/Classical/Folk sessions in London for Film/TV/Contemporary composers.

## **STEVIE O'CONNOR – Musician**

Stephen O'Connor is a well-known and well-established musician. He started playing the Uilleann Pipes at the young age of 11. Stephen has been taught by some of the country's finest musicians, such as Sean Og Potts, John McSherry, Eamon DeBarra, Alan Doherty and Paul McGrattan. When Stephen graduated from school he was accepted by Ballyfermot College of Performing Arts and studied intensely under master flute player Paul McGrattan.