



arts news

■ With Pauline Scott

Celtic Tenors in Longford

On Sunday 27th June a musical and choral spectacular will take place in The St. Mel's Cathedral Centre, (on the grounds of St. Mel's College, Longford) at 8 pm.

Known and loved throughout the world, the Celtic Tenors are musicians and have established themselves as the most successful classical crossover artists ever to emerge from Ireland.

Matthew Gilsenan, James Nelson and Darryl Simpson, with musical director Colm Henry, are looking forward to their visit to Longford. On this occasion, they are joined by special guests, The Celtic Philharmonic Chorus. This chorus combines The Longford County Choir, Riverside Chorus, Newtownforbes Church Choir, and Suaimhneas Choral Singers. The Directors are Catherine Killoran and Derek Mahady. Accompanist: Fintan Farrelly. The joining together of these local choirs has already been a unique experience for the hundred voices involved.

The proceeds are towards the beautifully restored Newtownforbes Parish Church Restoration Fund and the programme is one that will lift all hearts. Tickets priced at €20 each and are available from Smyth Gala Stores and Bells Foodstores, Newtownforbes; Dennistons and Music Centre, Longford or from any member of the four choirs.

Boystown Players AGM

Boystown Players will hold their Annual General Meeting this Friday (June 25th) at 9.30 pm in the Fr. Flanagan Memorial Centre, Ballymoe. All members are asked to attend and new members are welcome as always.

Entries invited for Solas summer exhibition

Submissions are now being invited for the Summer Group Show at Solas art gallery in Ballinamore, which takes place from July 16th to August 11th, during Ballinamore Festival.

Work can be accepted in any medium and subject up to three pieces. Size up to 60 cm x 60 cm including frame, or one slightly larger piece may be considered. Work must be clearly labelled on back, ready to hang with two rings on back and framing to gallery standard. A panel of adjudicators will select the work and artists will be notified as soon as possible afterwards giving them collection details.

There is a non-returnable fee of €5 per piece of work, members are covered by their membership fee. Artists can also become a member, €30 annually entitling them to three (two selected and one not) open exhibitions a year as well as an opportunity for a solo exhibition.

Drop off is Saturday, 3rd July from noon to 5 pm at the Solas Gallery in Ballinamore or by arrangement at a venue in Carrick on Shannon between June 29th and July 2nd. For further information contact Gail or Ben at the gallery on (071) 96 44210, email info@solasart.ie or visit the website at www.solasart.ie. For Carrick on Shannon drop off contact Sandra on (071) 96 25276 or email Sandra@solasart.ie.

Through the looking glass

Children aged five to one hundred and five will love the magical adaptation of 'Alice Through the Looking Glass' by London's Quantum Theatre, in Roscommon Arts Centre on Saturday 24th July at 12 pm. This theatrical treat for all of the family promises fantasy, songs and stagecraft. The story follows Alice's fantastical adventures in the strange world she enters through the mirror above her drawing-room fireplace and as she crosses a giant chess board she meets some of Lewis Carroll's most memorable and fantastical characters.

Lots to learn at Percy French Summer School

Teachers, parents and local history enthusiasts will be helped to introduce prominent local figures such as Percy French to their pupils and children at this year's forthcoming Percy French Summer School.

Apart from the offerings for the wider public, the Percy French Summer School also features a Department of Education-approved summer course for primary teachers. The summer course aims to give teachers the tools to return to their pupils in September armed with sources, presentations and lots of ideas on how best to help their students engage with the contribution of local historical figures such as Percy French.

The course will help teachers introduce students to topics such as life in 19th century Roscommon, transport and local songs and help develop cognitive abilities through receptiveness to language, as well as through mu-

sic, art and drama. Teachers and pupils will also be enabled to re-examine their own local areas with a sense of pride and encourage use of local and indigenous knowledge and skills.

The summer course particularly for primary teachers begins on Monday, July 12th with an introductory lecture on Percy French, a lecture on accessing online resources on Percy French and a guide to the sources available for further studies, including websites, archive collections, maps, photographs and other resources. The agenda of day two for teachers includes a cello and harp concert and music workshops.

Day three, when the Percy French Summer School gets underway proper and at this point opens to the public, also has interesting speakers and topics, including an illustrated talk on religious sites in County Roscommon, a lecture on writing

historical fiction, a lecture by Roscommon-born author Brian Leyden on 'the art of the memoir' and a guided tour of Donamon Castle and the La Tene Stone in Castlestrange.

'The songwriter as social historian' is examined on day four, and teachers will also enjoy a lecture entitled 'Finding our future in the past: The enduring inspiration of Percy French'. A further lecture and recital of poems, recitations and monologues of Percy French concludes day four. Day five features further talks, with a talk on Percy French's paintings, a lecture on Thomas Moore and Percy French and a lunchtime recital.

The Percy French Summer School concludes on Saturday with lectures on Percy French's words and music, and Berrie O'Neill from the North Down Percy French Society will reflect on his personal journey with Percy French.

Support from the Department of Education is enabling people from all walks of life to explore the life and times of Percy French and make his work more accessible by placing it in its historical context. Lecturers from various universities will give their insights and expertise into this very important aspect of Percy French the historical figure. His contribution in this regard has never been fully explored and indeed remains unacknowledged.

To learn more about Percy French at this level, visit the second international Percy French Summer School, which takes place at Castlecoote House and Roscommon Library from July 14th to 21st. Tickets for daytime events are just €7 or €5 concession. For further information on Percy French Summer School phone (090) 66 63794, email info@percyfrench.ie or visit the website www.percyfrench.ie.

Jedward return

After selling out their last two Castlebar shows and their Irish Tour last April Jedward are back again in mid August just in time to enjoy a great night out before schools back!

"Jedward are a phenomenon, the crowds just go mad for them and they don't hold back on stage, it's a show full of energy, dance song and music. If you have never seen them book tickets now and if you have already seen them, well you know you want to see them again, they are addictive viewing," according to Sandra Hunt of the Royal Theatre

The show combines some of their great hits from X Factor as well as new cover songs. 'Ice Ice Baby', which sam-

ples the bassline of the Queen/Bowie classic 'Under Pressure,' was originally written by Vanilla Ice and DJ Earthquake. The success of the single led Ice's album 'To the Extreme' to sell over 15 million copies, making it one of the most successful selling rap records of all time.

Mayo native Louis Walsh said: "Jedward really captured the public's imagination whilst on The X Factor and love them or hate them, you can't deny that they were the talking point of the series."

Tickets are available from €25.50 on ticketmaster.ie or from the Royal Box Office on 0818 300 000.



Boyle Musical Society receive three AIMS awards

Boyle Musical Society who walked away with three gongs at this year's HB Association of Irish Musical Societies (AIMS) Awards held at the weekend in the Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney.

The society was awarded Best Modern Opera and Best Overall Show, with Adrian King winning Best Male Singer. All three awards were for the Boyle Musical Society's production of the much-loved Jesus Christ Superstar.

Two adjudicators travelled the length and breadth of the country to view almost ninety shows in two categories: Gilbert & Sullivan and twenty-nine societies in all emerged as winners. However, this year's awards were dominated by two shows in particular: The Pirate Queen staged by Ballinrobe and Beauty and the Beast, which had been released for amateur production in 2010.



Adrian King, Boyle Musical Society, County Roscommon, winner of Best Male Singer, Sullivan Section, for Jesus in Jesus Christ Superstar receiving the winner's trophy from Mary Heaney, President, AIMS and Colette Reid of HB Icecream at the annual HB / AIMS musical society awards in the INEC, Killarney at the weekend. Picture by Don MacMonagle