

March 5, 2010

## **Après Match as The River Tenors kick off RTÉ Concert Orchestra Spring/Summer Season**

Filed in Music Events on March 5, 2010

‘All the members of the RTÉ Concert Orchestra are great artists individually - put together you can imagine. Dublin is very fortunate to have an orchestra of this calibre.’

Lalo Schifrin

Big names and big bands, comedy and choral, a Grammy-winning star of children’s music and an IFTA-winning composer, listeners’ choices, an Irish jazz first and the first outing of a saxophone concerto - all in the RTÉ Concert Orchestra Spring/Summer Season of 10 concerts at the National Concert Hall.

At a Glance

Après Match as The River Tenors in an evening of music and comedy - Thursday 8 April

Singing phenomenon Russell Watson as part of the RTÉ Concert Orchestra’s Signature Series - Thursday 15 April

Best UK Male Big Band Vocalist Matthew Ford and inspirational conductor John Wilson in Celebrating Sinatra, with all the original orchestrations - Thursday 22 April

Mooney Tunes - after last year’s sell-out concert, Derek Mooney introduces more choices made by listeners to his RTÉ Radio 1 programme - Wednesday 5 May

One of the world’s great voices and most charismatic performers, bass-baritone Willard White, as part of the RTÉ Concert Orchestra’s Signature Series - Wednesday 12 May

Celebrated film composer and jazz performer Richard Rodney Bennett and top British jazz singer Claire Martin make their first Irish appearance together in a critically acclaimed duo for The Great American Songbook Part 1 - Thursday 27 May

Duruflé’s moving Requiem, composed for his father, and Icelandic star tenor Garðar Thór Cortes in a mass by the young Puccini, in a concert with the Galway Baroque Singers - Friday 11 June

Multiple Grammy Award-winner Tom Chapin, star of children’s music, in a special family concert - Sunday 13 June

Britain’s favourite soprano Lesley Garrett as part of the RTÉ Concert Orchestra’s Signature Series - Thursday 17 June

IFTA winner Brian Byrne conducts hits from the popular ‘Swingin’ at the.’ concerts as well as his own new saxophone concerto, commissioned by RTÉ - Thursday 24 June

David Brophy, Principal Conductor of the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, will conduct four of the concerts, Principal Guest Conductor John Wilson will conduct two and Conductor Laureate Proinnsías Ó Duinn will conduct one. Brian Byrne and Gearóid Grant, both of whom enjoy long and successful relationships with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, will conduct

# Irish Press Releases

a concert each, and William Hayward returns to conduct the Russell Watson Signature Series concert.

RTÉ Concert Orchestra Spring/Summer Season

April-June at the National Concert Hall

Programme

The River Tenors (aka Après Match)

Thursday 8 April, 8pm

A very special evening of musical guests and comedy with Après Match stars Gary Cooke, Risteárd Cooper and Barry Murphy. They'll entertain us with their tenor creations, The River Tenors, live with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, guests including soprano Claudia Boyle and conductor David Brophy.

'the writing is superb and savagely funny' Evening Herald re Après Match

Tickets: EUR15-EUR40 (conc. EUR13-EUR36)

Dinner/Concert Deal: EUR62pp

Russell Watson with guest choir New Dublin Voices

Thursday 15 April, 8pm

as part of Signature Series 2010

Russell Watson's life has never been short on drama, whether it's a breakthrough performance of Nessun Dorma at Old Trafford, the amazing success of his multi-million-selling albums or battling his way back from two tumours. His genre-defying appeal as strong as ever, he remains one of the world's top classical crossover artists. In his RTÉ Concert Orchestra début last year, he was showered with flowers and gifts by an adoring audience. Now, joined by New Dublin Voices, 'The People's Tenor' returns for what is sure to be another memorable evening.

'Watson is a singing phenomenon, and enjoys the sort of front-row adulation reserved for hunky superstars. The poor old concert hall didn't know what hit it.' Sunday Business Post, 2009

William Hayward conductor

Tickets: EUR30-EUR70 (conc. EUR27-EUR63)

Dinner/Concert Deal: EUR75pp

Celebrating Sinatra

RTÉ Concert Orchestra & Big Band

Thursday 22 April, 8pm

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Singer Matthew Ford is 'the genuine article', says In Tune International, and conductor John Wilson is 'inspirational', says The Irish Times. They join the RTÉ Concert Orchestra & Big Band for an evening of Sinatra classics.

Since coming to public attention on Stars in Their Eyes in 1996, Matthew Ford has performed with top ensembles including the Syd Lawrence Orchestra and Pasadena Roof Orchestra, sung at the wedding of footballer Steven Gerrard and been voted Best UK Male Big Band Vocalist.

This concert offers the chance to hear the true Sinatra sound, with all songs performed in the original orchestrations created for Sinatra by master arrangers like Nelson Riddle, Billy May and Don Costa. Songs include Let's Face the Music and Dance, Come Fly with Me, You Make Me Feel So Young, I've Got You Under My Skin, My Kind of Town and New York, New York.

Tickets: EUR11-EUR38 (conc. EUR10-EUR34)

Dinner/Concert Deal: EUR60pp

Mooney Tunes - Listeners' Choice

Wednesday 5 May, 8pm

Following a sell-out performance last year, RTÉ Radio 1's Mooney and the RTÉ Concert Orchestra team up once again to present an evening of music selected by listeners of the show. Featuring popular pieces and songs and special guests.

Early booking advised!

Derek Mooney presenter

David Brophy conductor

Tickets: EUR11-EUR38 (conc. EUR10-EUR34)

Willard White

Wednesday 12 May, 8pm

as part of Signature Series 2010

From Jamaica to the Juilliard, and from there to a glittering career, bass-baritone Willard White has been thrilling audiences worldwide for almost 40 years. With his rich, powerful voice and compelling dramatic presence, he moves with ease from opera to musicals to his highly successful Paul Robeson tribute. His first performance with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra offers the chance to hear a glorious voice in full flight in an evening of wonderful songs, arias and spirituals.

'Pity anyone who appears on the same platform as baritone Willard White. He has so much presence he can eclipse an entire symphony orchestra and chorus with a mere twitch of an eyebrow.'

Guardian, 2009

David Brophy conductor

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Tickets: EUR15-EUR40 (conc. EUR13.50-EUR36)

Dinner/Concert Deal: EUR55pp

Richard Rodney Bennett & Claire Martin in The Great American Songbook Part I

Thursday 27 May, 8pm

The celebrated Richard Rodney Bennett, equally famous in the worlds of jazz, film and classical music.

The First Lady of British Jazz Claire Martin, 'the most gifted jazz singer this country has produced in 20 years' (The Sunday Times).

Together they form a witty, sophisticated partnership that has been critically acclaimed both sides of the Atlantic - 'this wise and cultivated engagement is altogether satisfying, heavenly and fulfilling' (New York Observer). The RTÉ Concert Orchestra is proud to present their first joint appearance in Ireland.

'The Great American Songbook' can mean so many things to so many people - a collection of the best American music from Broadway, Hollywood and Tin Pan Alley. This evening features music by Gershwin, Rodgers & Hart, Harold Arlen, Irving Berlin, Johnny Mercer, with a sprinkling of Cole Porter and Jerome Kern, all performed in the utmost style.

Richard Rodney Bennett piano & vocals

Claire Martin vocals

John Wilson conductor

Tickets: EUR11-EUR38 (conc. EUR10-EUR34)

An Evening of Sacred Music

with the Galway Baroque Singers & guests

Friday 11 June, 8pm

Also in Leisureland, Galway, Thursday 10 June, 8pm

Puccini *Messa di Gloria*

Durufié *Requiem*

The young Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* shares the invention, drama and expressiveness of the operas he went on to compose. The *Gloria* in particular is a breathtaking tour de force.

Durufié's deeply moving *Requiem* was written in memory of his father. Unlike the *Requiems* by Berlioz and Verdi, his setting is suffused with images of rest and peace rather than visions of hell and damnation. He created a perfect gem of sacred music, a piece of sublime beauty that combines the purity of Gregorian chant with lush, gorgeous harmonies.

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Joining the orchestra and the superb Galway Baroque Singers for the Duruflé Requiem are two fine Irish singers, baritone John Molloy and mezzo-soprano Sharon Carty - who left her job as a PE teacher to study singing in Vienna. Joining John Molloy as a soloist for the Puccini mass is Icelandic star tenor Garðar Thór Cortes.

Sharon Carty mezzo-soprano

Garðar Thór Cortes tenor

John Molloy bass-baritone

Galway Baroque Singers

Proinnsias Ó Duinn conductor

Tickets: EUR11-EUR38 (conc. EUR10-EUR34)

A Special Family Concert with Tom Chapin

Sunday 13 June, 3pm

Multiple Grammy Award-winner, gifted entertainer and a favourite with Irish audiences, Tom Chapin makes his debut with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra in a very special family concert. In children's music today Tom's great song-writing and personal warmth shine in his concerts, with plenty of audience participation, sing-alongs and word games. Come early for face painting and more!

Gearóid Grant conductor

Tickets: EUR10 child, EUR15 adult; EUR42 family ticket (2 adults, 2 children)

Lesley Garrett with guest choir the Mornington Singers

Thursday 17 June, 8pm

as part of Signature Series 2010

In her last concert with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, star soprano Lesley Garrett brought the house down with her warmth, exuberance and sensational performance. This blend of talent and charisma is guaranteed to charm her Irish audience again when, along with the Mornington Singers, she takes a musical journey across classical arias, show tunes, sacred music and popular songs, ranging from Mozart and Bizet to Cole Porter and Rodgers & Hammerstein.

David Brophy conductor

Tickets: EUR25-EUR55 (conc. EUR22.50-EUR49.50)

Dinner/Concert Deal: EUR68pp

In Concert: Brian Byrne with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra & Big Band

Thursday 24 June, 8pm

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IFTA-winning film composer, arranger and musical director Brian Byrne returns for a concert that features highlights from the immensely popular 'Swingin' at the' series - classics from the movies, Motown, the Beatles and more. His music for Zonad won Brian the IFTA for best original score this year, and his talent as a composer can be heard this evening in a saxophone concerto commissioned by RTÉ, getting its world première with brilliant Irish saxophonist Kenneth Edge.

Hazel Fernandes vocals

Fred Johanson vocals

Kenneth Edge saxophone

Brian Byrne conductor

Tickets: EUR11-EUR38 (conc. EUR10-EUR34)

## Booking Details

Book online at [www.rte.ie/concertorchestra](http://www.rte.ie/concertorchestra), by phone on 01 417 0000 or at the National Concert Hall box office, Earlsfort Terrace.

## Dinner/Concert Deals

The deals cover pre-concert dinner at the Terrace Café in the National Concert Hall and a ticket to the concert. Dinner offer based on main course with starter or dessert and tea or coffee. Limited availability. Terms and conditions apply.