



THE 3RD ANNUAL LISMORE MUSIC FESTIVAL 2012

A UNIQUE SUMMER MUSIC, OPERA FESTIVAL IN THE STUNNING SURROUNDINGS OF LISMORE CASTLE AND GARDENS AND ALONG THE BLACKWATER RIVER

KINDLY SUPPORTED BY: LORD & LADY BURLINGTON, LISMORE CASTLE; THE ARTS COUNCIL SMALL FESTIVALS AND EVENTS; FAILTE IRELAND; WATERFORD COUNTY COUNCIL; JONATHAN ACKROYD JEWELLERS; POWER & SMULLEN WINE MERCHANTS LTD. RTE LYRICFM; MICHAEL & GIANCARLA ALEN BUCKLEY, DAVID ROSS FOUNDATION, THE IRELAND FUND GB & FRIENDS OF LMF

LMF is an eclectic mix of musical genres with classical music and opera at its core and is fast becoming a much anticipated annual event on the European Music Festivals calendar attracting music lovers and visitors to the region.

The 2012 expanded programme of events takes place over the June bank holiday (Fri 1st to Sun 3rd) weekend in the historic and picturesque town of Lismore, County Waterford.

This year, the festival presents:

- Two performances of a new production of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* at Lismore Castle
- A special schools education and audience development performance in the presence of **President Michael D Higgins**
- **A Rossini concert at St. Carthage's Cathedral**
- A recital at Salterbridge House
- A festival barn dance at Fort William Farm
- A variety of free events in the town of Lismore over the festival weekend.

LMF Concert at St. Carthage's Cathedral:

The festival will also present a very special concert of **Rossini's** masterpiece, ***Petite Messe Solennelle*** at the wonderfully atmospheric **St. Carthage's Cathedral** (originally constructed in the 12th century and home to a very beautiful stained glass window designed by pre Raphaelite artist Burns Jones, the only one of it's kind in Ireland) on **Sunday 3rd June**. Featuring **Anthony Kearns, Mairead Buicke, John Molloy & Maire Flavin**, with members of the Carlow Choral Society & Dun Laoghaire Choral Society conducted by Italian Maestro **Marco Zambelli** with pianist **David Adams** on piano. *By kind permission of the Dean of Lismore, The Very Revd. Paul Draper.*

Rossini is remembered primarily for his immense contribution to the Italian operatic repertoire, but he also produced two important pieces of sacred music that are notable, amongst other things, for their overtly operatic style. This incorporation of the music of the opera house into the sacred repertoire may appear to have been a bold innovation, but in terms of dramatic content it was a well-established practice. Most composers who were familiar with the theatre as well as the church used elements of the operatic style in order to give their sacred compositions greater impact. A prime example is Handel, but the tradition goes back to Monteverdi, the first great opera composer, who even borrowed his own overture to *The Coronation of Poppea* for the opening movement of his 1610 *Vespers*. **What is original about Rossini's sacred music is not so much its dramatic power, impressive though that is, as its unashamed romanticism.**

The ***Petite Messe Solennelle*** is the most substantial of the works written during Rossini's Indian summer of composition. It was composed in 1863 for private performance and is scored for four soloists and chorus, with harmonium and piano accompaniment.

It was not heard in public until 1869, the year after his death, when it was performed in the composer's own orchestral version at the Théâtre Italien. The work's title is misleading, since the *Petite Messe Solennelle* is neither *petite* nor particularly solemn. It lasts well over an hour, and despite the religious text is unmistakably operatic in style, in common with the *Stabat Mater* of twenty years earlier.

The music ranges from hushed intensity to boisterous high spirits, and abounds in the memorable tunes and rhythmic vitality for which Rossini became justly famous.

The Lismore Music Festival (LMF) box office is now open to the public following priority booking for Friends of LMF. Tickets cost €25 and are available from Lismore Heritage Centre **00 353 58 54975 OR 00 353 58 52769 OR ONLINE AT www.lismoremusicfestival.com**. Tickets and accommodation sell very quickly, early booking is highly recommended.

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