

Irish Music Association Announces Presentation of 'Best Irish Tenor' Award to Anthony Kearns on Eve of April 9 Irish Heritage Performance in London

INDEPENDENCE, Mo., April 8 -- The Irish Music Association/IrishMusicAwards.com presented its "Best Irish Tenor" award to Anthony Kearns, an internationally-acclaimed solo performer and founding member of The Irish Tenors, at a recent concert in Williamsburg, VA, it was announced today.

Irish Music Association Director Bob Reeder said he is pleased that the official announcement of the award presentation to Kearns comes on the eve of Kearns' performance with prize-winning soprano, Claudia Boyle, at Irish Heritage's Spring Recital. The event takes place on Friday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m. at the Britten Theatre, Royal College of Music in London. (www.irishheritage.co.uk)

Kearns was voted the award for 2009 Best Irish Tenor in Ireland, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union through the IMA's process of internet polling and elections. He received his award before a March 28 benefit concert at Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall in Williamsburg, VA for the Heritage Humane Society Auxiliary. Kearns' performance, with his accompanist Patrick Healy, received strong praise in the award-winning newspaper, *The Virginia Gazette*.

"A man with a huge voice and spine-tingling talent, Mr. Kearns is well known for his kind heart and his willingness to raise funds for charities," Reeder said. IMA Representative William Hull, who presented the award to Kearns, echoed Reeder's sentiments.

"It's truly an honor to receive this recognition from the Irish Music Association," said Kearns from London. "I appreciate their support of Irish music and Irish performers around the world."

Reeder said the IMA's mission is to promote Irish music worldwide by producing shows, sponsoring festivals, and producing the Annual Irish Music Awards every January honoring the best in Irish music. (irishmusicassociation.com)

In addition to his upcoming April 9 Irish Heritage concert, Kearns' spring tour includes engagements in Dublin (April 16), Callicoon, NY (April 23), DeWitt, NY (April 25), Worcester, MA (May 2), Delta B.C. (May 7), and Redlands, CA (June 25). On June 16-20, Kearns will perform as Don Jose (tenor) in *Carmen* with the Glashule Opera Company in Dun Laoghaire, Ireland.

For more information about IMA, contact Bob Reeder at 816.699.9950.

For an interview or to book a special performance with Anthony Kearns, contact Kirsten Fedewa (Kirsten Fedewa & Assoc., L.L.C.) at 202.365.6936