

Don't miss the Irish Baroque Orchestra



The Irish Baroque Orchestra and chamber choir Resurgam return to Waterford for the fifth year to present the highlight of their season; Handel's Messiah on Wednesday 10th December at 7.30pm in the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, Barronstrand Street, Waterford. Presented by Garter Lane Arts Centre and kindly sponsored by Georges Court Shopping Centre and Caulfield's Supervalu, tickets are €25 (€20 Garter Lane Friends & concessions) and can be pre-booked on 051-855038. For Irish audiences the Irish Baroque Orchestra and Resurgam have become identified with superb performances of baroque music and Handel's oratorio Messiah in particular.

Following previous sold-out performances they make a welcome return to the restored Baroque splendour of the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, Barronstrand Street- surely one the finest settings imaginable in which to perform Handel's masterpiece.

Under the direction of conductor Gary Cooper the four soloists are: soprano Katherine Manley, countertenor Christopher Ainslie, tenor James Oxley and bass Martin Robson. Gary Cooper is now established as one of the foremost ambassadors of the harpsichord and fortepiano. His numerous recordings have received countless awards and accolades, including multiple Diapason d'Or awards and Gramophone Editor's Choices, and hailed as 'benchmark' recordings. "something of a genius" (The Times) "music-making rarely comes as impressive as this" (The Sunday Times).

The fresh invigorating vitality of period instruments and chamber forces reveal this much-loved work in all its original colour and splendour. "Some of the lightest, nimblest, clearest choral renditions of Messiah that it's been my pleasure to witness in Dublin" (The Irish Times) "...a Messiah to relish" (Irish Independent).

Since its inception in 1996, the Irish Baroque Orchestra has become a beacon of excellence in Ireland. The Irish Times has described it as "one of the brightest stars in Ireland concert life". They bring back to life repertoire from the 17th and 18th Century unveiling the true colours of well-known masterpieces. IBO counts amongst its members some of the most talented young musicians in the international music scene. In 2006, internationally renowned violinist Monica Huggett was appointed artistic director. Her leadership has taken the orchestra to international acclaim, as witness their reception at the Isabella Stewart Gartner Museum in Boston in 2008.

Resurgam was established in 2003 by Mark Duley, and is a project-based ensemble of up to 24 voices comprising some of Ireland's finest choral singers. A particular feature of the choir's work is the presentation of the great sacred repertoire of the renaissance and baroque periods, frequently in partnership with the country's premiere period instrumentalists. Resurgam has performed in many venues throughout Ireland and also in the UK, and has featured in several major Irish festivals, including the Cork International Choral Festival, Ardee Baroque and the Galway Early Music Festival. "Mark Duley directed a

deeply moving and expressive performance, obtaining splendid playing from his musicians...a memorable evening" Sunday Tribune.