

Cork lands an opera coup

By Declan Hassett

THE man most likely to become the superstar of opera is poised to visit Cork on February 4 and Dublin (Feb 7) and it looks as if it will be his only appearances in this part of world.

There is more than usual media interest in the performance of Dmitri Hvorostovsky, the young Russian baritone, with *Time Magazine* sending in their own man to Cork.

Dmitri, current Singer Of the World, performs in the City Hall preceded by a rocketing reputation. The experts are marvelling at the mature power of the 28-year-old's voice and the opera houses of the world are tripping themselves up in seeking his signature. He is concentrating on concert performances before being tied down to full opera performances.

Barra Ó Tuama scooped the field when he secured Dmitri actually prior to his winning the world title in Cardiff.

Dmitri will not leave a dry eye in the house as his proposed programme, that of tenor Arthur Davies and soprano Virginia Kerr, is a veritable feast of classic favourites with no less than ten Verdi pieces, intermingled with works by Dvorak, Tchaikovsky, Puccini, Strauss and Giordano.

Cork radio listeners experienced the Dmitri voice when he sang *Di Provenza* from *La*



■ **Hvorostovsky... Singer of the World.**

Traviata on 89 FM last Thursday. He will be singing this, plus *O Maria* from *Mazeppa*; a duet from *La Traviata* with Ms Kerr; *Pieta Risposta Amore* from *MacBeth*; *Yeletzky's Aria* from the *Queen Of Spades*; *Eri Tu (Masked Ball)*; *Rodrigo's Aria*

from *Don Carlos* and that marvellous duet from *Don Carlos* with Arthur Davies.

Ms Kerr's programme will include: *Song To The Moon (Rusalka)*; *In Quelle Trina Morbidi (Manon Lescaut)*; *Csardas (Die Fildermaus)* and *Pace*



Kerr... Cork's own super soprano

Pace Mio Dio (Force Of Destiny).

Welsh tenor Arthur Davies will sing *Recondita Armonia (Tosca)*; *Non Piangere Liu (Turandot)*; *Donna non Vidi Mai (Manon Lescaut)*; *Come un Bel Di di Maggio (Andrea*

Chenier); *La Donna Mobile (Rigoletto)*.

The Opera Supper, introduced at the December concert, will be held on February 4 at the Silversprings Hotel, with tickets limited and confined to concert ticket holders.