

RUSSIAN BARITONE FOR CITY HALL



The 1989 'Singer of the World' winner Dmitri Hvorostovsky from the U.S.S.R. is just one of the many top class artistes performing at Cork City Hall on Sunday, February 4 in the first of an exciting series presented by Barra O Tuama entitled 'Great Operatic Voices of Today'. The concert is sponsored by Gaeleo Ltd., Little Island.

Thanks to the Cork impresario, Opera buffs are in for an exciting first year of the decade with some of the world's most renowned singers coming to the Munster capital in a unique series of gala evenings.

The Russian baritone will be joined by Welsh tenor Arthur Davies and leading Irish soprano Virginia Kerr. Accompanist again for the very popular gala evening is Belfast-born Ingrid Surgenor and concert narrator will be David McInerney who now has his own Saturday morning classic musical programme on Radio South.

"Hvorostovsky looks like Nureyev and sings like God" wrote a colleague of the remarkable baritone who is also known for his self-assured manner and good looks.

AN EXCITING STAR

Described also as potentially one of the most exciting opera stars of the future Dmitri shot to stardom when he won the 1989 'Singer of the World' competition in June and has since been signed up by all the leading Opera Houses including Covent Garden, London; La Scala, Milan; Paris, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Santa Fe. He will also be performing at concerts in 1990 at New York and Washington and has been signed up by Philips for classics recordings.

Arthur Davies will, like Hvorostovsky, be making his first appearance in Cork on February 4. Born in Wrexham, North Wales, he studied at the Royal College of Music and joined Welsh National Opera in 1973.

He has performed many leading roles in such operas as 'La Boheme', 'Madam Butterfly', 'La Traviata', 'Carmen' and 'Rigoletto' and toured the U.S.A. with the English National Opera Co. He has performed at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York and at Covent Garden.

The tenor has received rave reviews wherever he has performed and apart from the U.K. and U.S.A. includes France, Spain, Germany, Holland, Chile, Belgium and the U.S.S.R. He is also busy making a number of major recordings.

Making a most welcome return to Cork will be one of Ireland's leading sopranos, Virginia Kerr. A great favourite with opera audiences she has been very busy in the past few years including a lead role in 'Die Fledermaus' by the Cork-based Irish Operatic Repertory Co. and several T.V. and concert appearances.

Virginia attended the Royal Irish Academy of Music and gained a scholarship to the Guildhall School of Music in London. She has also performed in Spain, Hungary and Italy and is coming to Cork direct from the U.S.A.

Sponsors of this the first Barra O Tuama series of 'Great Operatic Voices of Today' is Gaeleo Ltd., pharmaceutical manufacturers in Little Island.

The presentation will be repeated in the National Concert Hall, Dublin on Wednesday, February 7.

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