



# IRISH HERITAGE

## Briefing for Colleges and Conservatoires and Invitation

### Irish Heritage 2020/21 Music Bursary for Composition

#### *£3,000 Award for successful young composer*

Irish Heritage is pleased to confirm that its Music Bursary for an original, classical music composition on an Irish theme by a young Irish composer based in Ireland or Britain will be awarded again this academic year.

The Bursary, which has a prize of £3,000, is open to young Irish composers studying at recognised music conservatoires and other colleges in Ireland and Britain.

Confirming that the Bursary would be awarded, Patrick Lennon, Chairman of Irish Heritage said, “Since its formation in 1974 Irish Heritage has focused on the celebration and performance of classical and Irish music of the past in the process encouraging and launching the careers of many now established Irish singers and musicians.

“We believe that we must continue to promote contemporary, classical music composition with Irish themes and nurture the composers of the music that will be performed by future generations.

“We are fortunate to have the funding that allows us to continue this exciting bursary. We hope it will attract interest and submissions from young Irish composers in both countries once again.”

The previous recipients of the Bursary are:

2018/19          Niall Tormey, a Masters of Composition student at NUI Maynooth;

2019/20          Aran O’Grady, A Masters of Opera Composition student at Guildhall School of Music.

### **Theme for 2020/21**

The theme for this year’s Bursary composition is “Inspiring the Spirit” – a response to the need to enable the joy of music to lift the gloom that has descended on these islands and the world in general as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic..

### **Conditions**

The conditions for submission of the new composition are as follows:

- All submissions must be received by **31st January 2021**.
- The age limit is 30 and composers must be first or second generation Irish.
- Compositions must feature a wind ensemble with piano – the latter is optional.

- Submitted pieces should not exceed 10 minutes. The duration of the work and the year of composition should be written on the score.
- Composers submitting an entry should not have had more than five fully professional performances of their music within the last year. *[Note: “fully professional performances” are those in which all the performers are regular professional performers -not teachers or fellow students for example, and are being paid a full fee for the performance, in a public context, with a royalty payable to the composer. Many concerts in universities and colleges are therefore not ‘fully professional’ in this context.]*
- Compositions must be unpublished, they must not have won in any other contest and they must not have appeared on YouTube or any other website.
- The submitted work must not have had a professional performance (see note above).
- No published works may be submitted.
- Only one piece may be submitted by a composer.
- All submissions should be emailed in pdf format with an MP4 file to: **audrey.mckenna@irishheritage.org.uk** Submission Forms (see guidance below) and other accompanying documents must be emailed along with the scores (also as pdf files). If this is impossible then three paper copies of the score (preferably A4), along with the submission form may be posted to: Composition Bursary, Irish Heritage, Second Floor, 17 Short’s Gardens, London WC2H 9AT.
- Composers are invited to send a pdf document of their musical background and experience, this information is not obligatory and will not influence the adjudicators’ decision.
- The five shortlisted compositions will be notified by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
- The adjudicators’ decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- The adjudicators reserve the right not to award the bursary if they consider that no submitted works meet the required standard.
- There is no submission fee.

### **Award**

The recipient of the successful composition will receive an award of £3,000 to be used in furthering their artistic and professional development. The award includes travel expenses associated with attending the world premiere of the composition.

Subject to government guidance, the composition will be premiered at an Irish Heritage event in London in the first half of 2021 which the composer is expected to attend.

### **Adjudicators:**

The panel of adjudicators, which will consist of leading, current professional performers and academics drawn from Ireland and Britain, will be announced in January.

### **Submission Form - Guidance**

Composers are requested to submit the following information with their composition.

1. Composer’s name
2. Date of birth
3. Email address

4. Mobile telephone number
5. Current place of study and name of course (if applicable)
6. Name of current professor/tutor (if applicable)
7. Personal statement, include any previous commendations (up to 250 words)
8. Introduction to composition (up to 250 words)

**The above information should accompany the composition which must be received by 5.00pm on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021. Composer information and composition to be sent preferably by email to: [audrey.mckenna@irishheritage.org.uk](mailto:audrey.mckenna@irishheritage.org.uk)**

### **Irish Heritage – An Introduction**

Irish Heritage is a registered charity, established in London in 1974, whose object is to advance public education and appreciation of the arts, particularly those of Irish and Anglo-Irish music, literature and drama of all genres and traditions to the benefit of the community.

It is the only Irish performing arts organisation in Britain dedicated to helping young Irish musicians and composers in the early part of their careers. It awards three valuable bursaries annually, one for performance, one for composition and another for vocal studies and a special accompanist's award..

Irish Heritage presents a programme of public events in established music venues and supports other organisations, including the Blackwater Valley Opera Festival that shares its aims in music and the arts. It has links with the Royal Dublin Society, the Irish Cultural Centre and conservatoires in Ireland and Britain to identify emerging, talented young performers and composers.

The charity's values: *Creativity, Encouragement, Collaboration, Enjoyment and Inclusivity*, reflect the legacy inherited from its founders Ethna and Charles Kennedy and are the inspiration for the organisation's Outreach and Community programme, delivered in association with the Irish Cultural Centre, which brings the joy of live music to people who cannot normally access it, to children in education and to those who benefit from music as therapy.

Visit [www.irishheritage.co.uk](http://www.irishheritage.co.uk) for more information.

-ends-

PL/101020/v1