



Irish American Heritage Museum

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www.irishamericanheritagemuseum.org

For Release Immediate:

Contact: Jeff Cleary (518) 427-1916

Irish American Heritage Museum Welcomes National University of Ireland Maynooth Chamber Choir For Saint Patrick's Day

"I am pleased and excited to announce that one of the great Chamber Choirs will be in Albany, New York on Saint Patrick's Day. The Irish American Heritage Museum is proud to partner with the Maynooth Chamber Choir on their first North American Tour". Said Jeff Cleary, Executive Director, Irish American Heritage Museum.

******Maynooth Chamber Choir Press Release Attached******

Who: National University of Ireland, Maynooth Chamber Choir

What: Free Concert

When: Sunday, March 17, 2013 (Saint Patrick's Day) 2:00 PM, Seating begins at 1:30PM

Where: Cathedral of the Immaculate conception, Eagle Street Albany, NY



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND
MAYNOOTH

22th February 2013

Press Release

For Immediate Release

National University of Ireland Maynooth Chamber Choir on first ever U.S. Tour to Perform Special St Patrick's Day Concert at The Cathedral of Immaculate Conception, Albany

The Chamber Choir of the National University of Ireland Maynooth has announced details of their forthcoming St Patrick's Day concert in The Cathedral of Immaculate Conception Albany. As part of their first ever US Tour the Chamber Choir will perform on Sunday 17th of March – St Patrick's Day 2.00pm (doors open at 1.30pm).

This choir of twenty four singers under the musical direction of conductor Michael Dawson will perform an imaginative and exciting programme of Irish, European and American choral music. Included in the repertoire are pieces in the Irish language and pieces by Hanlon, Mc Glynn, Gorecki, Dove, O'Carroll, Stroepe and Stanford.

Maynooth's Director of Choral Groups, Dr John O Keeffe, will be guest organist for the concert which will include solo items on the fiddle and the Uilleann Pipes along with music in the Irish traditional "sean nós" song tradition.

The choir, recently described as "a jewel in the Maynooth musical crown" is recognized as one of Ireland's leading university choirs, and the performance promises to be a memorable experience for all those attending.

Commenting on the visit, the University's Head of Music, Dr Alison Hood said "it is a great honour for the National University of Maynooth that our Chamber Choir have been invited to perform at the Cathedral of Albany, the State Capital, a city that has always had such a strong Irish influence and presence, Performing here on St Patrick's Day will make our tour all the more special".



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND MAYNOOTH CHAMBER CHOIR
United States Tour 14-24 March 2013

Music Department, NUI Maynooth. Tel: +353 1 708 3733, Fax: +353 1 6289432,
Email: music.department@nuim.ie or chamberchoir@nuim.ie



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND
MAYNOOTH

Jeff Cleary, Executive Director of the Irish American Heritage Museum in Albany who was instrumental in encouraging the University to include Albany on their first tour of the US added that “he was delighted that such a prestigious Chamber Choir had agreed to make Albany their home for St Patrick’s Day”.

“Part of their performance includes some of our Musical Heritage that could never be captured and put on display in the Irish American Heritage Museum” but will fit beautifully in the grandeur of our Cathedral”

The concert will be free admission

For further information:

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or

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**About - The National University of Ireland Maynooth Chamber Choir
and US Tour March 2013**

The Chamber Choir of the National University of Ireland Maynooth was founded in 1986.

Part of the Music Department within the faculty of Arts, Celtic Studies and Philosophy at the university, the Chamber Choir has been in existence for over twenty-five years

It consists of twenty four singers under the musical direction of Conductor Michael Dawson and is overseen by Dr. John O'Keefe, who is responsible of all choral groups in NUI Maynooth and Alison Hood acting head of the Music Department.

The Chamber Choir has gained recognition as one of the leading university choirs in Ireland and the tour to the United States this year is to further enrich the students' learning and cultural opportunities.

The tour which is the first ever undertaken by the Chamber Choir who will arrive from Dublin of Thursday 14th of March and perform two recitals in New York City, the first at The annual Ireland -US Council St Patricks day lunch on the Friday the 15th.

The following day Saturday the 16th the choir have been invited to perform at Governor Como's Official St Patrick's Day breakfast, hosted by the Irish US Chamber of Commerce

On St Patricks Day the choir will perform the first of three concerts in The Cathedral of Immaculate Conception in Albany .The second concert will be held at The Leighton Concert hall in the De Bartolo Performing Centre, Notre Dame on Wednesday 20th of March and the final concert will be held in the Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago on Saturday the 24th.

If you would like further information, to attend any of the performances or support the tour in any way please let us know.

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Dr. Alison Hood, Head of Music Dept
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About the Conductor

Michael Dawson

A singer, multi-instrumentalist and conductor born in 1989 from Malahide Co. Dublin, Ireland. Michael graduated with a first class honours degree in music from the National University Of Ireland Maynooth in 2011. In this his final year conducting the National University of Ireland Maynooth Chamber Choir, Michael will lead the choir on their first ever North American Concert Tour.

Michael has also been assistant conductor of Dún Laoghaire Choral Society and of the Supertones children's choir under renowned Irish Conductor David Brophy. He is currently assistant director of Sónas, a multi-cultural choir specializing in world music in the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, Limerick.

Along with conducting, he is a member of Enchiriadis Chamber Choir, the Autotunes Barbershop Quartet and is a former member of the internationally famous choral group Anúna directed by composer Michael Mc Glynn.

Michael has previously performed in the US and across Europe in the UK, Sweden, Spain, the Netherlands and China. In 2010, he took part in the premiere of Eric Whitacre's opera *Paradise Lost* in Carnegie Hall, New York with Enchiriadis.

In addition to choral music Michael also has a keen interest in Celtic music. From the age of ten Michael's proficiency in the playing of the Highland Bagpipes and Low whistle brought him to perform in many places around the world including Italy, the famous Pan-Celtic Festival in Lorient, Brittany and the remote Maggie Valley in North Carolina.

Michael is currently continuing his studies with a Masters in Ritual Chant and Song at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance.

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