

A Choral Concert

Daniel O'Connell Memorial Church
16 October 2011

*Raising funds for the
O'Connell Memorial Church Restoration Project*

*The Sneppen Choir of Tolga
The South Kerry Rosen Choir*

*Musicians Eli Storbekken, Olav Mjelva,
Tone Hulbaekmo and Hans Fredrik Jacobsen from Norway
and members of The Kerry Orchestra led by Adolf Packeiser*

**Welcome
from
Canon Crean**

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the Sneppen Choir and all our Norwegian visitors to the Parish of Cahersiveen. We are very grateful to the Sneppen Choir from Norway, the visiting Norwegian musicians, the South Kerry Rosen Choir and of course the Kerry Orchestra for giving their time and effort in putting on this Fundraiser Concert.

Phase Two of the Restoration work will see the refurbishment of the interior of the church together with the provision of a new Visitor Centre at an estimated cost of €3million which is of course a great deal of money. This concert is part of our ongoing efforts in fundraising over several years and none of what has been achieved to date would be possible without the help we receive from both our parishioners, visitors and donors.

This concert will be a unique collaboration between Norwegian and Irish musicians and we are honoured to be host to such a wonderful event. In fact, this concert is part of the unique cultural collaboration between Norway and Ireland, that is Norish Fest 2011.

With sincere gratitude to both choirs, the musicians and all those who support our fundraising,

*Canon William Crean. P.P.
Cahersiveen Parish
Sunday October 16th, 2011*



The Daniel O'Connell Memorial Church

The Daniel O'Connell Memorial Church of the Holy Cross, a Gothic Revival-style Church, was built as a result of strong conviction, great courage and tremendous sacrifice, both at home and abroad. Today, it stands testament to generations of devoted, faithful parishioners. The church bears the name of Daniel O'Connell, known as 'The Liberator', who was born in the parish and who worked in his political career in the early 19th century to bring about Catholic Emancipation. It is clear that this building is the most outstanding modern architectural structure in Iveragh. It was born of the vision of Canon Timothy Brosnan and his admiration of the accomplishments of Daniel O'Connell, a son of Cahersiveen, led him to honour his memory with this exceptional church.

Opened in 1902, the church has served our parishioners well. From 2000 to 2006, a total of €1million was raised. From 2007 and in order to coincide with the beginning of the Phase One Restoration works, a further €1.9million has been raised. All of this has been achieved from the generosity of the parish of Cahersiveen with the additional support of the Diocese of Kerry and the people of Ireland. The target for this next campaign is a hugely ambitious €3 million.

External Restoration Completed

The Daniel O'Connell Memorial Church of the Holy Cross is a magnificent 19th Century building and is listed and protected under the Heritage Council of Ireland. All of the restoration work undertaken has been within approved conservation practices and permissions. The Phase One works commenced in January 2008 and were completed per contract in April 2009. The exterior restoration included refitting the magnificent roof, installing a new roof plumbing system incorporating 35 tons of lead, restoration of over 100 windows, re-pointing and cleaning granite stone, restoration of railings and new landscaping

Internal Restoration Starting Soon

The majority of the interior of the Church has never been decorated. Considerable damage has been caused by dampness over the life of the building which has now been eliminated by the extensive restoration carried out in Phase One.

The internal works will include repairing decayed and damaged plaster and restoring existing mouldings, re-pointing and cleaning the extensive stonework including the ceiling, replacing the electrical services with new lighting, fire alarm system and emergency lighting, creating a new entrance lobby inside the main entrance to address safety and energy conservation. This building serves as a major link with our personal history and for this reason and more, we plan to provide a Visitor Centre with an audiovisual facility where visitors can access significant narratives of our history using touch screen technology with a multilingual service.

Canon William Crean P.P.

On behalf of the Restoration Committee



The Sneppen Choir of Tolga, Norway

Sneppen is Tolga's local choir and most of the members are from the village itself. The choir collaborates extensively with local musicians such as Eli Storbekken, Tone Hulbækmo and Hans Fredrik Jacobsen, both nationally and internationally renowned musicians. Tone Hulbækmo has also been Conductor of the Sneppen Choir.

The choir's director is English, a lady called Lindsay Winfield-Chislett, who has been living in Norway for many years. She took over the directorship in August so this trip will be quite an experience. The choir's repertoire is extremely varied and interesting. It ranges from local and popular characterized material for theme shows and church concerts.

Tolga's Sneppen Choir is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year! We are very honoured that they have chosen to mark this great occasion by coming to South Kerry for Norish Fest as part of their celebration. This year's anniversary year began with several church concerts in which the choir with soloists performed Schubert's Mass in G Major. The choir's jubilee year will end with the performance of a Christmas cantata by the late and renowned Egil Storbekken, from Tolga.



The South Kerry Rosen Choir

Dr Hans Waldamer Rosen was Director of the R.T.E singers from 1953 to his retirement in the late 1970s after which he retired to Gleesk in Sneem, county Kerry but often travelled to Dublin and Limerick to continue with his beloved music.

In 1988 Doctor Rosen Founded the South Kerry Choir at the suggestion of the Reverend Father Michael Murphy who was then Parish priest of Sneem. For Dr. Rosen, this was the first time he would direct a choir composed solely of amateur singers. All of his previous choirs were made up of professionals Dr Rosen was taken from us after a brief illness in 1994 after 6 years of dedicated service. The Choir was honoured to be invited to sing at Dr. Rosen's funeral and were the only amateur choir amongst all the professional singers. The Rosen Family made a presentation of a silver emblem to the Choir which shows the opening bar of a Bach Cantata. The choir always wear it with pride when performing.

The Choir was determined to continue after Dr. Rosen's death and from September 1994 went from strength to strength with the help of talented conductors like Fredeireck Laumans, Padraig McIntyre Veronica Whitehead to our present Director Emma Louise Plane a member of the Welsh Opera Company. Talented and versatile, Emma has been with the choir for the last three years.

In 1998 some of the Choir travelled to Rome to take part in UNICEF voices of the world. Now in its 23rd year, the choir is known today as the South Kerry Rosen Choir. Our repertoire ranges from Liturgical, Negro Spirituals, Irish traditional to modern Show arrangements and Christmas Carols.

Musicians visiting from Norway



Eli Storbekken

Eli is one of the most recognised and experienced folk singers in Norway and she has represented Norway in Russia, Ukraine, United States, Qatar and the Far East. She has a long and varied career in vocal folk music and collaborates with musicians in many genres. Eli has also participated in festivals in Scandinavia but Norish Fest will be her first festival in Ireland and she is really looking forward to playing with real Irish musicians!

Olav Mjelva

Olav is a brilliant young Røros fiddler. He won the Norwegian national competition for Hardanger fiddle in 2008. He is a member of several folk ensembles with a huge number of recordings to his credit. 2009 saw the release of Olav Luksengård Mjelva's debut album that made him an award winner during Spelemannprisen 2009 - the Norwegian equivalent to the Grammy Awards.



Tone Hulbækmo

Tone is lady of many talents. In addition to singing, she plays the Norwegian Harp, lyre, pump organ and percussion. Tone is noted for bringing a new lease of life to the Norwegian Harp, in Norway a long forgotten instrument, when she played it on her first CD in 1983.



Hans Fredrik Jacobsen

Hans is multi-talented playing flutes, bagpipe, accordion, guitar and the oud.



Both Tone Hulbækmo and Hans Fredrik Jacobsen are famous musicians in Norway, as individual artists and as members of the medieval group Kalenda Maya. They have released a string of CDs, 3 of them winning Spellemannprisen, the Norwegian Grammy. The musicians also compose their own music, and create musical arrangements around their more traditional music, and are equally familiar with playing in the church as in both small and bigger concert halls, as on the pub!

They have given concerts in all the major cultural events and scenes in Norway during their 30 year long career, and been touring in countries like USA, China, Vietnam, South Korea, Brasil, India, Spain, France, Germany, Estonia, Zimbabwe, Egypt, Zambia and more.

The Kerry Orchestra

The Kerry Orchestra was founded in 1990 by Adolf F. Packeiser and although it is based in the small town of Cahersiveen, it comprises students and session-musicians and even visitors from all over County Kerry.

Originally established as a youth orchestra, it quickly grew into a well known amateur orchestra which has flourished playing hundreds of concerts and it has even toured Germany & France.

It has a very broad repertoire which includes music ranging from the Early Baroque to Irish Traditional to Modern.

Norish Fest

Norish Fest is the result of collaboration between South Kerry businesses, Ballinskelligs Tourism and Norwegian businesses. In these challenging times, there is every reason to look for and nurture commercial opportunities and positivity wherever they appear.

The South West Kerry region shares an amazing amount of its heritage, culture and genealogy with Norway and of course, the Vikings. In developing the Norish Fest idea, we have discovered a lot of history and an immense interest in all things Irish amongst our Norwegian counterparts. Interestingly, two Swedish friends who are also musicians, have joined us this year and will be performing several Swedish songs over the weekend.

Norish Fest 2011 is an opportunity to showcase the best of South West Kerry, to share our experiences and to investigate our common history.

With the support of local businesses, our Norwegian colleagues, the Norwegian Embassy in Dublin, the Norwegian Irish Business Council and Ballinskelligs Tourism, we invite you to join us in this celebration of Norwegian and Irish Culture.

The Norish Fest 2011 weekend opens on Friday evening, 14th October with a welcome to our Norwegian friends followed by an evening of Norwegian and Irish traditional and contemporary music. The weekend will showcase the best of South Kerry and the best of Norway and will include entertainment, workshops, presentations, exhibits and networking opportunities.

We hope you will enjoy Norish Fest as much as we have really enjoyed working together to create this event.

Norish Fest Committee

Russell & Caroline Cunningham (Ireland)

Thorbjorn Liell & Ingrid Eide (Norway)

NORISH FEST

