

BALFE'S "FALSTAFF"

THE NATIONAL CONCERT HALL, DUBLIN

Opera Ireland and RTÉ celebrate Michael William Balfe's bicentenary, and make music history on Thursday, 25th September, with first performance of Falstaff since 1838. It will be a concert performance in Italian with English subtitles.

FALSTAFF by Michael William Balfe

Venue: The National Concert Hall

Date: 25th September

Tickets: €20, €30 & €40

TICKETS ON SALE 14th JULY @ 10.00

CAST

Marcel Vanaud ... Falstaff

Majella Cullagh ... Mrs. Ford

Sam McElroy ... Ford

Barry Banks ... Fenton

Tara Erraught ... Annetta

Nyle Wolfe ... Mr. Page

Victoria Massey ... Mrs. Page

Brendan Collins ... Giorgio

Edel O'Brien ... Mrs. Quickly

National Chamber Choir of Ireland

Conducted by Marco Zambelli



The great Luigi Lablache created the title role in Balfe's opera in London in 1838

In Victorian England, **Michael William Balfe** was to **Opera** what **Charles Dickens** was to **literature**, with one major difference - Balfe was a Dubliner! Undoubtedly the most important Irish figure in the history of opera, Balfe was also major international opera figure.

His works were widely performed - not just in **London, Dublin and New York**, but also **Paris, Vienna, Berlin, Bologna, Palermo, Trieste, St Petersburg** and many other **non English-speaking** areas. He wrote **28 operas** altogether, the most famous of which - **The Bohemian Girl** - swept around the globe with unprecedented success, being translated into many different languages and securing Balfe's place as a genuine operatic phenomena.

Now opera-goers and music lovers have to chance to celebrate this legendary Irishman for themselves, as **Opera Ireland** and **RTÉ** celebrate the **200th anniversary** of Balfe's birth with the first performance his comic belcanto opera **Falstaff** since its hugely successful première in London, 170 years ago.

The show, which takes place on **25th September** in the **National Concert Hall**, will also be captured on CD - making it the first ever commercially available recording of the work. It will be broadcast on **RTÉ Lyric FM** on the **27th September**, and **throughout Europe** via the **EBU**, before being released for sale on CD at the end of October 2008.

So don't miss your chance to join the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, conductor Marco Zambelli and a host of Irish and international singers in becoming part of musical history! Book your tickets for this fantastic night from 10am on 14th July [online](#), or by calling the **NCH Box Office** on **(01) 417 0000**.

National Concert Hall

Earlsfort Terrace

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www.britishandirishworld.com
