

DOMINICAN
COLLEGE
SION HILL

GALA CONCERT

COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAMME

FEBRUARY 16 AND 17 2008



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This programme was designed and produced by Frances O'Rourke with Ciara Reid and Gary Glynn

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The Concert Hall is that special place where the whole school community meets regularly to give expression to the joyful spirit of Sion Hill in many different ways, including through music, dance, drama, general assemblies and prayer. It is also a place where we meet in times of sadness, to celebrate Mass and to reflect on the lives of students and teachers who have been taken from us unexpectedly.

We have witnessed the deterioration of the Hall over many years and it was our dream to see it restored to its former glory and its equipment updated to modern day standards. When we started this journey by launching a fundraising drive in November 2006, I could not have anticipated that our dream would be realised a little over a year later.

This journey has been truly exciting for many reasons, not least of which were the links forged with past pupils stretching back to the 1930s, just a few short years after the construction of the Hall in its present form. Many past pupils recounted, in letters accompanying contributions, special memories of events in the Hall as far back as 1936. It was wonderful to realise that the Dominican values as experienced in Sion Hill have not altered over the generations.

Watching the Hall transform, over the past few weeks, from building site to the state-of-the-art theatrical venue you see tonight, has been really exhilarating. Greg O'Donnell, our Project Manager, his team of workers and Sarah Brown, our designer, managed the transformation with great skill and courtesy despite the many additional demands placed on them.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the generosity, and in some cases the exceptional generosity, of our donors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for your kindness. Very special thanks to the fundraising committee, to Fergus Finlay for his invaluable advice and help, to Gerry Killion, Deputy Principal, for all his support, to Sr Eilís, Sr Carmel and all the Dominican sisters for their encouragement and support.

All who have contributed in any way to the creation of this unique setting have made it possible for future generations of students to generate special memories, as a result of their experiences in the Hall, that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

Finally, I would like to say that we are truly honoured that President Mary McAleese is here with us tonight.

**Sheila Drum
Principal**



A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

Oifig An Aire Oldeachais agus Eolaíochta.
Sráid Maoilbhríde,
Baile Átha Cliath 1.

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Music, fun and laughter are all part of the heart of Sion Hill – the Concert Hall. As a teacher and as Minister for Education and Science, some of my happiest memories of the school are centred in the Concert Hall – the wonderful stage, the lovely wooden floor, the high windows, the side benches and the beautiful balcony. A historic building in itself, worth admiring anytime, but when filled with girls in the red and grey uniform it becomes a centre of creativity and an essential element in the holistic Dominican education that characterises Sion Hill.

Chaith me 17 mbliana ag múineadh i gCnoc Síon. Blianta taitneamhacha a bhí iontu agus is cúis áthais dom i gconaí bualadh le hiar-scolairí agus, dar ndóigh, daltaí na scoile inniu.

My memories of the Concert Hall include assemblies, musicals, concerts, dramaí agus céilís i rith seachtain na Gaeilge, parent nights, guest speakers, T4 Graduations and 6th year Commencements. Nervous first years were put at ease as they arrived on their first day and six years later, the tears returned as they waved goodbye to Sion Hill and commenced the next stage of their lives. As Transition Year Co-ordinator, the Concert Hall was at the centre of our activities. It was where we listened to guest speakers, prepared for social work, practised first aid and decided on our school tours. One memorable graduation was the visit of Jean Kennedy Smith, US Ambassador, who addressed the assembled students, staff and parents. My budding modelling career began in the Concert Hall as “I strutted my stuff” with our much loved colleague Gráinne Lavelle RIP to the strains of “Simply the Best”. Luckily I was more successful as a politician!

Imagine my great sense of pride when my first official function as Minister for Education and Science in September 2004 was to re-visit the Concert Hall for an emotional return to Sion Hill having made the journey from teacher to minister.

The restoration of this majestic Concert Hall is a great opportunity for all of us to recall wonderful education moments, to celebrate the joy that is evident in Sion Hill and to look forward to an equally proud future.

Mary Hanafin

Le gach dea-ghuí,
Mary Hanafin TD
Minister for Education and Science



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT McALEESE

It gives me great pleasure to send greetings and good wishes to the staff, students and supporters of Dominican College, Sion Hill, as we gather at this Gala Concert to celebrate the refurbishment of the College's Concert Hall.

The Concert Hall has, since 1928, played a central role in the life of the school, hosting all manner of events, from assemblies to debates, from plays to exhibitions. It forms an important backdrop to the memories of countless families associated with the College, and its refurbishment ensures its continuing role right into the future.

I congratulate all involved in this splendid achievement, and offer my best wishes for Sion Hill's continuing success.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary McAleese".

MARY McALEESE
PRESIDENT



A MESSAGE FROM THE DOMINICAN REGIONAL PRIORESS

On behalf of the Irish Region of Dominican Sisters, I would like to offer my heartiest congratulations to the Board of Management, the Principal Ms Sheila Drum, her staff and all the pupils and parents of Dominican College, Sion Hill on their wonderful achievement in the realisation of their first concert performance in the newly refurbished Concert Hall.

The refurbishment of the Concert Hall is a remarkable achievement and is the fruit of great inspiration, collaboration and hard work. It was good to hear how past pupils were mobilised and how well they responded. I know the refurbishment of the Concert Hall is only one of many projects at present being undertaken by the school and I wish the College the same success in all their other projects.

It is said of all great organisations that they embody five 'F' characteristics, i.e., they are Focused, Flexible, Friendly, Fearless, and Funloving and might I add two more myself, namely, Fixed on Christ and Filled with a sense of mission.

Dominican College, Sion Hill has always had a wonderful tradition of nurturing the Arts which goes right back to the origins of its history which began in 1840. Many can still remember pageants scripted and produced by Mother Joseph, the wonderful Shakespearean experiences, the many concert performances which included music, dance, drama, singing and harp playing. Many functions for other organisations also took place in the hall free of charge, such as functions for people with disabilities. St. Kilian's German School also held its concerts here before getting its own hall. With this long tradition of education in the Arts, it is heartening to see the Hall restored to "a state of the art" venue.

Someone once described school concert halls as the nurseries of great cathedral music and I am sure there is some truth in this. Sion Hill pupils are so lucky to be the recipients of such a broad cultural education, something they will treasure for life.

Again, congratulations to all and I look forward to this performance which is the first of many to come.



**Helen O'Dwyer OP
Regional Prioress**



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

For staff, students, parents and friends of Sion Hill, the re-opening of the Concert Hall is a dream come true. Generations of students learned the excitement of music, song and drama here.

For years, the Hall rang often with laughter and applause. It was the first place a new student met the whole school in assembly, and the last place students came to say goodbye.

As a parent, I can remember Masses, plays, musicals, fashion shows, American Tea Parties, Commencement speeches. I've even danced to Hurricane Johnny and the Jets here. I associate the Concert Hall, as hundreds of other parents do, with great moments of pride in the achievements of my children. And with more than a few evenings of memorable craic!

Many of us have watched with sadness as the Concert Hall began to deteriorate, especially as all the other pressures of running and managing the school, and all the other demands of fundraising, made it impossible to give this grand old Hall, with all its memories, the attention it deserved.

So the success of the Concert Hall Restoration Project, and the wonderful job that has been done in bringing the Hall back to its former glory, is a source of great pride. It will be a gift from the generations of students who have been here already, to the generations of students still to come.

This wouldn't have happened without the passion and commitment of Sheila Drum and Gerry Killion, our Principal and Deputy Principal. They have worked through holidays and weekends to bring it about, and left no stone unturned to raise the necessary funds. They were hugely helped and supported by a dedicated and enthusiastic committee (Sr Carmel Warde, Ciara Reid, Mary O'Dwyer, Pat McAuliffe, Peter Lowry, Mags Flood, Melissa Brennan, Emer Dempsey, Laura Fitzgerald) whose role was vital. Core support – absolutely vital in different ways – was given by Sister Eilís Ní Mhongáin. The project was brilliantly managed – and brought in on time and on budget – by Greg O'Donnell. The whole school owes them all a huge debt of gratitude.

If I were to single anyone out for special mention, it would however be those who gave so generously to make this project possible. I could easily mention a number of people whose generosity we simply couldn't have done without, but I think they all know the debt we owe them. Their names will be recorded on a special long-life plaque in the Hall, and the memory of their kindness will last even longer than that.

In contributing to the restoration of the Sion Hill Concert Hall, our donors, and everyone associated with the project, are helping to rekindle the spirit and atmosphere of this great school. With a major capital project to extend and modernise the school itself already approved, the future of Sion Hill is bright. And tonight, we're going to celebrate that future in style!



Fergus Finlay
Chairman of the Board of Management



PLATFORM AND STAGE:

The history of the Concert Hall in Sion Hill is a story of both the bricks and mortar and the plethora of events which took place there. Tonight we are celebrating another moment in its history as we mark the installation of new technology equipping it to meet the needs of the 21st century. As each phase in its building brought change, there has been one overwhelming constant spanning the years, that is,



A scene from *Mise Eire*, 1931

the spirit of the educational experience witnessed within its walls. This spirit emanates from the Dominican ethos of preparing the child to be the best it can be and to use all of its talents. This article is a fleeting glance at a long and proud tradition of music, dance, drama and debate and all the staged events whose value is intangible yet everlasting. It is not a complete review and, as such, cannot fully do justice to the Concert Hall's rich legacy.

In 1836, the Dominican Sisters opened Sion Hill school in a small villa style house on nine acres of land. This was a mere seven years after Catholic Emancipation and a time when the country was emerging from the dark days of the Penal Code. The house was already called Sion Hill because it was built on a hill and the grounds contained many rare shrubs brought from the Holy Land.

Over the years music and drama has played a central role in the life of the girls educated in Sion Hill and myriad numbers took part. The Sion Hill annual *Veritas* of 1907 refers to the "Jubilee Hall, a large corrugated iron building with a splendid stage". *Veritas* 1907 tells us that on Easter Sunday the school enjoyed "what must be termed a variety Entertainment. The Concert Hall was filled with an eager and excited throng". The original Jubilee Hall lasted until 1927 when a new building venture was undertaken. Such was the fondness for the Hall and so saddened by its demolition was she that Agnes Kelly, a 6th year student, was moved to write verse:

"Oh! See yon building made of tin
And hear the sound of awful din,
For ruthless men knock down the wall
Of this our own beloved hall"

Maire McHale in 4th year wrote "That old tin hall harbours memories ... plays, drill displays and merry night recreation ... how many roots our affections had taken in it." A 4th year, M Kathleen Ward, wrote "we are to have a new concert hall, complete with gallery, stage and dressing rooms. Concerts, plays, drill-displays, meetings (and perhaps - who knows? - many a literary battle by our Debating Society) will be held in it; occasionally, an inspector may glare ... at the trembling Sionians as their minds try to convoke past knowledge of Irish poetry, French verbs and oh! so many other things".



THE CONCERT HALL HISTORY



Prize Day in the Concert Hall c1950

In the 1930s, *Veritas* reported on the activities of the Dramatic Society under the title “Platform and Stage”. The hall’s central importance in the educational scheme was reflected in an article entitled “Sion Hill’s contribution to the Catholic Dramatic Movement” printed in the 1936 *Veritas* where the writer tells us “we have used the stage to develop what is best in our girls”. In 1904, a trilogy of religious plays was staged including *Ben Hur*; 1909 saw *The Martyrdom of St. Philomena* and on St. Patrick’s Day 1915 *An Tobar Naomhtha* was produced entirely in Irish.

The triumph of drama in the Catholic tradition was deemed to be *Eire: the handmaid of the Eucharist*, the Eucharistic Pageant of 1932 which was written by a member of the community. It was staged seven times in nine months and mirrored “our national and religious culture ... an allegorical representation of our own educational ideal”.

President Eamon de Valera attended the pageant and we are told he “thanked the Prioress and Sisters ... saying it was a work of art and had been marvellously well executed and that it would inspire boys and girls to be constant to the Faith and to Eire”. It is worth noting that the President was also attending as a proud father. His daughter Emer de Valera is recorded in the cast as an Angel.

Such was the breadth of productions that the 1931 *Veritas* reports on the staging of an Opera evening, a Nativity play, an Irish play, a comi-tragedy called *The Chinese Mother*, An Evening with Shakespeare, Tableaux on St. Thomas’s Day, *Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp* and finally The Annual Concert on May 14th!

In the decades of the late twentieth century and in the first years of this century, the commitment to performance remained unabated under the principalships of Patricia Fitzsimons, Michael Brady and today, Sheila Drum.



The school has staged many large productions of the popular musicals of our time under the direction of Peter O’Driscoll, Mary White and Sean Leahy and the musical direction of Wendy Stephens.

Carol-Ann O’Gorman
Teacher in Sion Hill

Thanks to Carmel Shanahan for historical research



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Sion Hill on their newly refurbished Concert Hall.

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CONCERT HALL MEMORIES

Sister Carmel Warde, former Principal

I am delighted to be asked to write a few lines for the Gala Concert Programme. As a past Principal of the school, I warmly congratulate Ms Sheila Drum and all concerned for their vision and hard work in bringing the project to a splendid conclusion. As I look back over the years, the Concert Hall has been the centre of our enjoyment and education. For example: in the 1930s and 1940s, Mother Joseph's pageants; in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, Shakespearean plays; shows, e.g. International Song and Dance; The Hound of Heaven; Harp Recitals; Dancing classes; Drill classes; Debates; Sales of Work for the Missions. I look forward with optimism to future years when the vision set out by Ms Drum becomes a reality.



Glynis Casson, actor/singer

Last year Cormac de Barra and myself performed our show *The Harp that Once* in Sion Hill as a fundraiser for the renovation of the Concert Hall and it was a most memorable evening for me. As I stood on the stage and looked down at the audience in the Hall, all sorts of memories flooded back to me. These memories went right back to my time as a very young pupil in the Junior School performing in Mother Joseph's renowned Religious Pageants. I could see myself all excitement waiting to go on stage, stuffed into the tiny dressing room with a crowd of other young angels all adorned with very large cardboard wings! Another performance I remember was going on stage with my best friend Patsy McManus, both of us holding St Vincent de Paul's hands. I was definitely the plumpest best dressed orphan in the business!

Another special memory is as a 10-year-old sitting in the front row of the Hall proudly watching my grandparents, Sybil Thorndike and Lewis Casson, give a wonderful recital. In fifth year in the Senior School, our class produced *She Stoops to Conquer* directed by Sister Margaret MacCurtain and I really knew then that acting was to play an important part in my life. Other memories of the Hall that come back are Morning Assemblies, Debating Competitions, singing in the Choir, the agonies of going into the Hall for the Inter. and Leaving Certs and the wonderful sounds coming from the music room with Sister Angela's singing classes and Mrs Ferriter's harpists.

The Concert Hall has played an important part right through my school days and I was so delighted and moved to be performing on its stage again, remembering all the wonderful sisters, teachers and the great friends I made there.

I am so thrilled that the Concert Hall has been restored and applaud everyone involved in the fundraising, particularly Sheila Drum, who has been such a driving force behind the whole project. May this beautiful Hall give opportunities and joy to all who use it in the future.





PROGRAMME

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH

- 1 Who Will Buy? from Oliver by Lionel Bart Chamber Choir
Conductor Wendy Stephens; Movement Yvonne Prendergast; Accompanist Cormuin O'Raghallaigh
- 2 Meditation from Thais by J Massenet Violin solo by Alice Moynihan
Accompanist Cormuin O'Raghallaigh
- 3 Beat It by Michael Jackson Senior Dance Club
Teacher Sarah Canning
- 4 Sonata Op 81 Les Adieux, 2nd and 3rd movements by Beethoven Piano solo by Ayane Yamanaka
- 5 O My Beloved Father by Puccini; I Feel Pretty by Bernstein Vocal solos by Sarah Byrne
Accompanist Cormuin O'Raghallaigh
- 6 Pié Jesu by Lloyd Webber; Excerpt from Spring by Vivaldi Orchestra
Conductor Emer O'Keeffe
- 7 He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven (Poem W B Yeats, Music by Roche)
Brian Boru's March Harp and Vocal solos by Claire Roche
- 8 15 minute Hamlet by Tom Stoppard Director Sean Leahy
- 9 Unusual Way by Yeston; Stars and Moon by Brown Vocal solos by Fiona O'Carroll
Accompanist Cormuin O' Raghallaigh
- 10 When I'm 64 by Lennon & McCartney Past Students' Choir
Conductor Wendy Stephens; Accompanist Liza O'Riordan
- 11 Poetry Reading Kathleen Watkins
- 12 The Silver Swan by Gibbons
In These Delightful Pleasant Groves by Purcell Chamber Choir
Conductor Wendy Stephens
- 13 It's About Time by Callum Claire Neville, Claire Tynan, Mick Brady
- 14 For Good from Wicked by Schwartz
Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend by Styne Vocal duet by Fiona O'Carroll, Sarah Byrne
Accompanist Cormuin O'Raghallaigh
- 15 Blackbird by The Beatles ... Guitar solo by Louise Byrne
- 16 Oklahoma (final chorus) by Rodgers & Hammerstein Senior Choir and Orchestra with Past Students
Conductor Wendy Stephens; Movement Yvonne Prendergast

Director
Musical Director ...
Co-Musical Director .



OF EVENTS

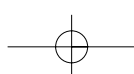
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH

- 1 Who Will Buy? from Oliver by Lionel Bart Chamber Choir
Conductor Wendy Stephens; Movement Yvonne Prendergast; Accompanist Cormuin O'Raghallaigh
- 2 Meditation from Thais by Massenet. Violin solo by Alice Moynihan
Accompanist Cormuin O'Raghallaigh
- 3 Thriller by Michael Jackson Junior/TY Dance Club
Teacher Emer O'Keeffe
- 4 Romance op 28 no 2 by Schumann Piano solo by Liza O'Riordan
- 5 When I'm 64 by Lennon & McCartney. Past Students' Choir
Conductor Wendy Stephens; Accompanist Liza O'Riordan
- 6 O My Beloved Father by Puccini; I Feel Pretty by Bernstein Vocal solos by Sarah Byrne
Accompanist Cormuin O'Raghallaigh
- 7 Any Dream Will Do by Lloyd Webber; Oh Won't You Sit Down - Trad Junior Choir
Accompanist Cormuin O'Raghallaigh
- 8 15 minute Hamlet by Tom Stoppard Director Sean Leahy

INTERVAL

- 9 Excerpt from Spring by Vivaldi; Pié Jesu by Lloyd Webber Orchestra
Conductor Emer O'Keeffe
- 10 Preludes 1-3 by Gershwin Piano solo by Nuala Timoney
- 11 The Silver Swan by Gibbons
In These Delightful Pleasant Groves by Purcell Chamber Choir
Conductor Wendy Stephens
- 12 Selection of original material Louise Byrne and Shane Cullen
- 13 American Chants - Trad Senior Choir
Conductor Wendy Stephens
- 14 Run by Snow Patrol Michelle Smith, Claire Tynan, Mick Brady
- 15 Beat It by Michael Jackson Senior Dance Club
Teacher Sarah Canning
- 16 It is the Evening Hour by Fraser; A Whole New World from Aladdin Junior Chamber Choir
Conductor Laura Burke
- 17. He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven (Poem W B Yeats, Music by Roche)
Brian Boru's March Harp and Vocal solos by Claire Roche
- 18. Oklahoma (final chorus) by Rodgers & Hammerstein. Senior Choir & Orchestra with Past Students
Conductor Wendy Stephens; Movement Yvonne Prendergast

- **Sean Leahy**
- **Wendy Stephens**
- **Emer O'Keeffe**



THE ARTISTS

Wendy Stephens has taught in Sion Hill since 1979. From 1989, she spent three years in Hungary studying Kodaly's principles of music education after which she taught Musicianship at The Leeson Park School of Music. On her return to Sion Hill, with the help and support of then principal Dr Michael Brady, she set up the music department as it is today. Last year the Orchestra came second at the Wesley Inter-schools Music Festival, and the Chamber Choir won the overall prize for second level choral singing at the Arklow Music Festival. Ms Stephens is the musical director of the annual musical.



Sean Leahy has been involved in theatre for over 30 years as an actor, director and lighting designer. He has directed over 100 shows with various groups and schools. More recently, he has worked with Sion Hill on many different musicals and been involved with Transition Year drama projects and competitions. He holds an MA in Theatre Studies from DCU.

Emer O'Keeffe, who has been teaching French, Music & EFL at Sion Hill for two years, is a graduate of music and French from UCC and has a Masters degree in French with Music from King's College London. She has recently embraced Kodaly's principles of music education with the support of Wendy Stephens. She works with the Sion Hill orchestra, junior choir and dance club and gives instrumental tuition in flute and piano



Claire Roche studied harp and singing with Mrs Máirín Feiritéar and Sister Angela, and English with Ms Veronica O'Brien at Sion Hill. In her career as a singer/harpist she has performed traditional Irish tunes and Irish dance music as well as composing songs for harp and piano. She has performed in the National Concert Hall and on radio and TV in Ireland, and abroad. Claire has recorded a number of CDs and is currently working on a CD of piano and harp songs. Some of these can be heard at www.claireroche.com

Nuala Timoney graduated with a diploma from the London School of Music after leaving from Sion Hill in 2000. She is now studying physics in Gemany



Claire Neville studied at the Gaiety School of Acting and Performing Arts at Bray VEC. Since leaving Sion Hill she has performed with Bray and Dun Laoghaire Musical Society and is currently starring in the Hot Mikado.



THE ARTISTS

Kathleen Watkins, who was a boarder at Sion Hill for five years, became a singer/harpist touring Ireland and abroad. She was the first announcer to appear on Irish TV on opening night and made the RTE TV series Faces & Places for six years. Kathleen has been a member of the Arts Council for 10 years.



Fiona O'Carroll played many leading roles in Sion Hill musicals before graduating in 2002. She studied for a degree in Drama Performance at the Conservatory of Music and Drama, DIT before winning a scholarship to the Guildford School of Acting in Britain where she is in her second year. In her first year, she was awarded the Musical Theatre's Principal's Award and is part of the GSA singers who perform around the UK.

Sarah Byrne, who began to study singing at nine, has won many Feis prizes and starred in Sion Hill musicals. She is in her Leaving Cert. year



Ayane Yamanaka was born in Japan and studied piano from the age of two. A graduate of Sion Hill in 2007, she is studying music in DIT.



Alice Moynihan, a TY student, has been playing violin since she was seven and is member of three orchestras.

Louise Byrne, who left Sion Hill in 2000, writes/records music, has written short film scores and broadcasts on Phantom 105.

Claire Tynan started to study guitar in her first year in Sion Hill. Graduating in 2005, she is studying science in NUI Maynooth.

Michelle Smith is studying music in college after graduating from Sion Hill.

Liza O'Riordan studied music in TCD and DIT and teaches piano.

Sarah Canning, teacher in Sion Hill, started and runs the Senior Dance Club.

Yvonne Prendergast is a teacher of speech and drama in Bray.

Cormuin O'Raghallaigh is a pianist and an accompanist.



THE ARTISTS



THE CAST OF HAMLET

Shakespeare Kate Hoare
 Bernardo Simone Geyer
 Francisco Danielle Geyer
 Claudius Siobhan Bolton
 Hamlet Hannah Vero
 Gertrude Sarah Byrne
 Horatio Sinead Regan

Ophelia Kate Hoare
 Polonius Julie Ann Brannick
 Laertes Bronagh McAuliffe
 Grave Digger Mankuba Moleba
 Osric Raissa Perez
 Ghost Niamh Ní Aonghusa
 Fortinbras Laura Durnin

Stage Managers:
 Caoimhe Madill, Emma Boardman

THE ORCHESTRA



Lisanne Delaney
 Emma Devlin Owens
 Kate Hoare
 Alice Moynihan

Miyu Noguchi
 Raissa Perez
 Alina Suvajeva

PAST STUDENTS' CHOIR

Pearl Barcoe
 Amy Bartlett
 Tegan Cantwell
 Alison Daly
 Niamh Herrity
 Jessica Hyland
 Ruby Kearns
 Clare Kelly
 Josefa Kelly
 Orla Kirwin
 Jacqui Lacy

Claire Neville
 Grainne Neville
 Aoife O'Connor
 Ruth O'Connor
 Liza O'Riordan
 Michelle Orr
 Helen Shaw
 Michelle Smith
 Claire Tynan
 Nikki Wallace

PAST STUDENTS FOR OKLAHOMA

Marianne Doyle
 Blaitnaid Healy
 Orla Kirwin



THE ARTISTS



THE SENIOR CHOIR

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Siobhan Bolton* | Laura Doyle* | Sorcha Ni Nualláin* |
| Caitriona Brennan* | Emily Hand* | Miyu Noguchi |
| Laura Burke* | Kate Hoare* | Annemarie O'Neill* |
| Sarah Byrne* | Helen Kelly* | Elina Osoianu |
| Alison Cosgrave* | Theresa Kugler | Raissa Perez* |
| Amy Curran* | Alex Juszcak | Jessica Pritzel* |
| Kristie Alley Delgado | Mankuba Moleba | Sinead Regan |
| Shelley Delgado | Bronagh McAuliffe | Alina Suvajeva* |
| Lisanne Delaney* | Niamh Ni Aonghusa | Johanna Terjung |

*Also members of the Senior Chamber Choir

THE JUNIOR CHOIR



- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Kristelle Abellana | Johara Garay | Gráinne Ní Nualláin* |
| Grace Carandang | Rebecca Holmes* | Katherine Patawaran* |
| Rita Jasmine Ceria | Hazel Jay | Sophie Paulmann* |
| Floe Davis | Nansy Labadlabad | Aoife Redmond |
| Coje Delmo | Laleina Limjoco Escobar | Jasmine Talukder |
| Kyra Dionela* | Freya McMorrow | Stephanie Villanueva |
| Ciara Doyle* | Krisnalou Mirador* | Shemenith Ynot |
| Jhosen Driz | Lila Motairek-Reynolds* | |
| Sophie Duggan* | Brendene Navarro | |

*Also members of the Junior Chamber Choir



THE ARTISTS

SENIOR AND JUNIOR DANCE GROUPS



Junior/TY Dance Group

Kristelle Abellana
Amy Behan
Anne Byrne
Kyra Dionela
Meggan Harrison
Isabela Langaro
Aisling McManus
Sophie Paulmann
Aoife Redmond
Shohsanam Tojeboeva
Shemenith Ynot



Senior Dance Group

Yusrah Abrahams, Jireh Abellera, Emily Barkevicha, Rebecca Conway, Sonia de Barros Rodrigues, Lisanne Delaney, Kristie Delgado, Shelly Delgado, Tina Gabuza, Emily Hand, Mary Jones, Alex Junyent, Jodie O'Connor, Elina Osoianu, Jessica Pritzel, Monika Schmickler, Liara Somers, Alina Suvajeva, Alex Tajonera, Amira Talukder, Iryna Veskera, Tania Zorrilla

CONCERT HALL MEMORIES

Sister Eilís Ní Mhongáin, OP, Dominican Education Officer

Apart from daily assembly and being a centre for all major examinations, the Concert Hall was the nerve centre for many school activities. Musical activities included general year group choirs, Sacred Choir, and a special choir from across the school in the 1960s. Concerts of various kinds took place there, singing with the harp being particularly strong at the time. Sadly the orchestra had gone by the late 1950s. 5th years traditionally produced a play, while *Catherine of Siena* was produced using a cast drawn from across the years. A Festival of International Folksong and Dance also included students from across the school, and was produced in conjunction with the PE Teacher Training College then on site. Inter-school debates, training in ballroom dancing, viewing of films, the Annual Mission Fair, and prizegiving all took place there, and it was also the main centre for quiet relaxing during the seniors' three day silent retreat. (As remembered with memory prodding from Denise Germaine (nee Purcell), and Joan O'Donovan OP)



CONCERT HALL MEMORIES

Mick Brady, Principal 1993 - 2004

If we were to believe what we read in the media, we would think of schools and education solely in terms of examinations, league tables and points. Those of us who have been part of Sion Hill always understood that there was a whole other dimension to school life. In Sion Hill that other dimension has always been represented by the Concert Hall. This room was the pulse, the heartbeat of the school. It was where we could stop being teachers and pupils, where we became a community. Everything that happened here, apart from exams, was towards the fun end of the education spectrum. This was where we got to know each other, where we welcomed our First Years and said goodbye to our Sixth Years, where we celebrated our successes, performed our rituals, developed our artistic and social skills, enjoyed each others' talents and, sadly, once or twice, where we mourned the loss of members of our community. For me, the Concert Hall was always a refuge from the Department of Education, discipline issues, paperwork, tricky phone calls, financial affairs and all the other pressing issues that seemed to be very important at the time. For students and teachers, it was an escape from the daily routine and the serious business of teaching and studying. For all of us, the times that we spent in the Concert Hall were the best of times, the most important times and the most beneficial times of all.



Molly Joyce, Head Girl 2006-2007

I'm standing behind the curtains hidden in the dark with 13 other prefects. There's sweets and crisps and fizzy drinks laid out on tables on the stage and we're waiting for first years to arrive for their first ever class party. When they finally do all arrive and we know they're all there, we shout "surprise" and pull back the curtains. You'd have to ask them if they were actually surprised but we enjoyed the suspense! This Concert Hall has been a café for TY Hospice Mornings, a disco for danceathons, an exhibition hall for International Day and for TY Graduation Night. For me the Concert Hall was the place where I cut my teeth on public speaking, from Irish debates in first year to my last speech as head girl on Graduation Night. The concert hall was never just about music. I don't know if they'll allow fizzy drinks into the new hall, but I think students will still manage to have as much fun as we did!



Elaine Mooney, Head Girl 2007-2008

It was my first day of first year and I was very nervous. The whole school seemed enormous mainly due to the sheer size of the Concert Hall. It's where I first met all my teachers and the other girls I was to spend my six years with. I'm scared on the opening night of the Musical and that I'll fall up the steps to the stage on Prize Day but I'm constantly excited by the fun that's possible in this hall. Musical rehearsals, funny Christmas plays, the danceathons and the day I got my Head Girl badge make up my best memories of my time in Sion Hill. I'll miss it when I go but I'm sure all who come after me will have just as much fun here as I've had.



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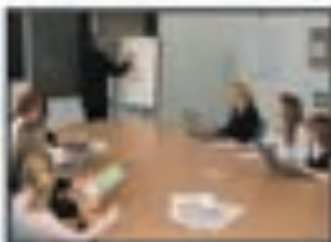
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CONCERT HALL MEMORIES

Niamh Bhreathnach, former Minister for Education

This was where I began my school day in the 1960s. The Concert Hall was our assembly hall. Lined up, our classes said a morning prayer and filed out to walk “on the right” up the stairs to our classrooms. In the classrooms we were taught the subjects that earned us our Leaving Certificate.

But I learned much more when I returned to the Hall during, and after, school hours to debate, to act or to listen to the musical performances given by Mrs Ferriter's harpists or Sister Angela's singers. In adult life I was called on to perform, perform as Minister for Education. During my five-year term of office, I was invited to address many school assemblies and national and international conferences. Without my experience of this Concert Hall, as a performer, a debater or as a member of the audience, I believe that I would not have communicated my enthusiasm for education with such gusto.

I want every pupil in today's Sion Hill to have access to the same experiences as I had. Congratulations to you all on the success of this project, the old girls remember your Hall with affection, we want you to too.



Mary O'Dwyer, History and German teacher, Sion Hill

Two different personae - one Concert Hall - a common thread running through my roles as pupil and then teacher in Sion Hill - the location of significant events - the unifying force in school life, like the kitchen hearth in family life. From my school days my memories are of morning assemblies with Sister Michelle and Sister Carmel; the annual silent retreat day; sometimes films on Sunday afternoon. I remember Gael Linn debates where we only had half an hour to prepare the topic; fundraising fortune telling; sitting my Inter. Cert. exam in the Concert Hall to the strains of the harp being practised in the harp room - now a changing room. A fond memory is of Jo Corr RIP, a renowned and much respected teacher and colleague, in her academic gown, busily organising the exam centres and holding order with a mere twinkle of the eye. Now as a teacher I know that events don't “just happen”. They require a great deal of organisation and teamwork - again that unifying force. I associate the Concert Hall with Masses to mark the beginning of the school year and other significant moments in our lives; with welcoming First Years - full of awe and anticipation; with sharing in the pride and joy of 4th and 6th Year Graduation ceremonies; with assemblies to impart important news - like the announcement of the plans for this great refurbishment of our famous Concert Hall!



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have
changed often”

John Henry Newman