

Irish Composer Ciarán Hope Tapped for Movie's Musical Score

Upon setting out to make *Screw Cupid*, writer/director Sanjeev Sirpal knew from the beginning that, as in love, the musical textures and sonic gestures within the film would be a key component in the effect and impact of the story. The task of handling both the audio mix and creating the perfect musical score for Sirpals' hilarious ode to love went to Irish Composer Ciarán Hope.

Making its World Premiere in the bright lights of Beverly Hills this July, Mircea Monroe (FoxTV's *Drive, The Ultimate Gift*) and Chris Boyd (*Fifty Pills, What We Do Is Secret*) star in this

razor sharp, hilarious, and sometimes all too real after-love story dealing with the different ways people navigate the fallout of love.

When it came time to writing the musical score for *Screw Cupid*, Hope proceeded to assemble an astonishing array of musical talent which would ultimately allow him incredible freedom to truly compliment and bring alive the directors vision for the movie. A closer look at the musicians featured on the score, suggests a very strong Irish presence throughout the recordings. Celebrated Irish classical violinist

Cora Venus Lunny (Nigel Kennedy, The Donal Lunny Band, Sinéad O'Connor) worked in close collaboration with the composer to sculpt a series of beautiful and evocative melodies on both violin and viola.

Also drafted in to contribute to the score was close friend and fellow Los Angeles based Irish composer Tim Boland, fresh of his recent success as composer for the hit movie *Stomp the Yard* which opened number one at the box office earlier this year. Boland added both electric and acoustic guitar touches throughout the score to help bring life to Ciarán's vision for

the musical themes and soundscapes. Another Irish composer-guitarist Ed Dunne who had recorded on several previous scores by Hope, recorded all of the soundtracks glorious classical guitar in his New York studio. The final Irish touch was provided by a string quartet hurriedly formed by current and former members of the Irish National Concert Orchestra who recorded several exquisite quartet cues in Dublin.

To complete the international cast of musicians, Ciarán hired world renowned Canadian percussionist and drummer Satnam Ramgotra, who divides his time between recording major movie scores for film compos-

ers such as Academy Award winning composer Hans Zimmer and Aaron Zigman and touring with acts such as Beck, Sting, Seal, and the Black Eyed Peas. Ramgotra spent several days in studio with both director and composer carefully texturing the score with his infectious rhythms and sonorities. For the final touch, Ciarán drafted in his old band-mate and current Tatu bassist Domen Vajevic, who originally hails from Slovenia, to add his vibrant bass performance to the music.

Hollyridge Music Inc. is located at 2736 Hollyridge Dr., Hollywood, CA. 90068. Tel: 323.461.6787. www.ciaranhope.com or ciaran@pangeamusica.biz

27th Annual Erin Feis Comes to Riverfront August 24-26

The "Luck of the Irish" awaits you August 24-26 at the 27th annual Erin Feis - Peoria's Irish Festival on the riverfront. Sponsored by the St. Patrick Society of Peoria and the Peoria Park District, Erin Feis has grown from a one-day event to a weekend festival with an attendance of more than 25,000 people.

Erin Feis features Irish bands, dance troupes, storytellers, and other performers providing on-going entertainment throughout the weekend against the backdrop of the Illinois River. In addition, visitors will enjoy the Irish Market Place, the Cultural Village, O'Neill's Irish Pub, food vendors, the Irish Tea Tent, and Wee Folks Fun Area.

A "Liturgy for Peace and Justice" mass is scheduled on Sunday at 10:30 a.m., with Bishop Daniel Jenky serving as the celebrant. Also on Sunday at 10:30 a.m., a Celtic Worship Service will be held at the Celtic Cross on the grounds of Erin Feis. The service is led and sponsored by Rev. Anna Saxon and members of Westminster Presbyterian Church. The service is based on liturgy resources and music of the Iona Community in Scotland and the Northumbria Community in England.

The festival will be held August 24-26, 2007 during the following hours: Friday, August 24, from 5:00 to 11:00 p.m.; Saturday, August 25, from noon to 11:00 p.m.; and Sunday, August 26, from noon to 6:00 p.m. Admission is free from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. on Friday night.

Popular Irish-American singer-songwriter Cathie Ryan returns to Erin Feis this year. Ryan, a former member of Cherish the Ladies, was named Irish Traditional Female Vocalist of the Decade by the *Irish American News* for the 1990's. Her sound is a unique mix of traditional Irish music and the folk music that flourished in the U.S. in the 1960s. In addition, the Searsons' from Canada return with their

energetic, original, and entertaining "pop-rock Celtic" music. The band includes a drummer, three step-dancing and musically versatile sisters, and



Cathie Ryan

their father.

New this year to the weekend festival are Beoga and the Larkin and Moran Brothers. Beoga is a five-piece traditional band based in County Antrim, Ireland. Their unique sound features the twin dueling accordians of Sean Og Graham and Damian McKee, along with four time All-Ireland bodhran champion Eamon Murray and pianist Liam Bradley. With the addition of one of Ireland's premier young singers, Naimh Dunne,

Beoga have confirmed their reputation as one of the most exciting acts to emerge from Ireland in recent years. The Larkin and Moran Brothers hail from Chicago and play in pubs and at festivals throughout Illinois.

Other favorite bands returning to the music stages are Bloomsday, Exorna, Sullivan and Burton, Switchback, the Kells, and the Bogside Zukes.

A favorite among many is the fancy footwork of Flynn's Irish Dancers featured on the North Stage. The Performing Arts Tent features musical entertainers, Gaelic singers, and storytellers, as well as demonstrations on how to play the Irish flute and accordion.

The Wee Folks Fun Area includes Irish arts and crafts, children's games, Fun on the Run inflatables, the red hair and freckle contest, and other activities.

The Cultural Tent returns featuring historic exhibits and workshops for the public on speaking basic Gaelic and touring Ireland. A special video about the Peoria Irish is presented by WTVP.

Admission at the gate is \$7 for adults and children under 12 are free. Admission is free on Sunday with the donation of a canned good prior to the mass. The canned goods will be donated to area charities. In addition, admission will be free between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. on August 24.

Advance tickets may be purchased by mailing a check or money order to the St. Patrick Society, PO Box 117, Peoria, IL 61650. Single day passes may be purchased, and a full weekend pass sells for \$12 for adults.

Sponsors of Erin Feis are Budweiser, Pepsi, South Side Bank, The Drive 93.3, Journal Star, WMBD Channel 31, Fox 43, Peoria Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau, REMAX, Guinness, and Leonard A. Unes Printing Co.

www.stpatpeoria.com, www.peoriaparks.org, or 309-689-3019.

Screw Cupid Composer Ciarán Hope (left) with fellow composer and *Screw Cupid* Guitarist Tim Boland (right)



IAHC Sunday Music Concerts



Ken Gaines

The IAHC will continue its Sunday evening acoustic/folk music performances this summer. In the Fifth Province Lounge on the second Sunday of each month, at 7pm. Tickets are \$15.

The series showcases Chicago's top acoustic/folk performers, as well as visiting artists. Local musician, Kat Eggleston, emcees the series. The performance is August 12 and features Kat Eggleston, Barbara Barrow and Ken Gaines. Call the IAHC at 773-282-7035, or Gary Tuber at 847-882-9723. Visit www.secondsundayconcerts.com.

Sligo Theater Brings Classic to IAHC

The IAHC will host the Coolera Dramatical Society this fall for a production of John B. Keane's *Sive*. The Sligo theatre company will perform the play for two nights only; September 5 and 6 at 8pm.

John B. Keane was one of Ireland's most prolific literary figures. His massive volume of work includes 18 plays and 32 works of prose and poetry. *Sive* was Keane's first play and was an immediate success when it premiered in 1959, earning the budding playwright the prize at that

year's All Ireland Drama Festival.

Set in a remote area of North Kerry, *Sive* tells the story of the promise in marriage of the young and beautiful Sive to a much older man. Written 40 years ago, it is a rich character and social portrait of mid-century rural Ireland and a morality tale about the consequences of greed and bitterness.

Tickets to *Sive* are \$15 and reservations are recommended. To purchase tickets, call the IAHC at 773-282-7035.