

Míceál Ó Rourke, Concert Pianist - a Profile



Míceál Ó Rourke, the internationally acclaimed Irish pianist, will give a recital at a Femmes d'Europe fund raising event **at the Salle du Conservatoire Royale de Bruxelles on October 17th 2019.**

Ó Rourke's lifelong commitment to music-making and his extensive repertoire have earned him great critical acclaim. His highly distinctive sound, presence, and ability to communicate musically have gripped public and critics alike. *"A tremendous virtuoso, playing with the simplicity of a child singing"* commented the ***Boston Globe*** on his performance of Rachmaninoff's Third Concerto.

O'Rourke was awarded the Chopin Medal by the Fryderyk Chopin Society of Warsaw in recognition of his 'outstanding Chopin playing' in 1994.

As well as Chopin and the romantic repertoire, Míceál is highly accomplished in the interpretation of the compositions of John Field. Field, an Irish pianist and composer (1782-1837) spent much of his highly respected career in St. Petersburg and Moscow. Field is credited with creating the nocturne and was much admired by Franz Liszt and Chopin.

Míceál Ó Rourke has done much to revive interest in and increase the availability of John Field's works through his recordings of all the piano concerti, sonatas, and nocturnes. Irish born Ó Rourke has played all over the world from his base in Paris, he has appeared as soloist with the Royal Philharmonic, London Mozart Players, Boston Pops, Hong Kong Chamber Orchestra, Irish National Symphony Orchestra and many others.

A highlight of the 2017/2018 season was a new solo programme of *“Night Music”* encapsulating the many moods of the night, from the quiet of Chopin’s Berceuse to the drama of Ravel and Samuel Barber.

At his concert on 17th October Míceál O'Rourke will take us on a sentimental journey with masterworks from the romantic repertoire. From Beethoven to Mussorgsky, from Irish-Russian composer Field to Chopin, O'Rourke will explore the many facets of this glorious page of European musical history, showing how composers influenced and inspired each other.

Femmes d’Europe are very happy that he is playing for us in Brussels on 17th October next and we hope you will join us to enjoy his concert. **Tickets: 33€ per person.** Registration: via www.assocfemmesdeurope.eu. IBAN: BE47 3100 7081 9180. Please mention Recital 17/10, your name and the number of tickets required.

Míceál has established a close bond with the Saint Petersburg Philharmonia, frequently performing as their concerto soloist in a repertoire ranging from Mozart and Chopin to Szymanowski and Lutoslawski. He regularly

performs solo recitals and chamber music in Saint Petersburg.

Ó Rourke's master classes and lectures are appreciated world- wide, at the Juilliard School, Royal Irish Academy of Music, Beijing and Nanjing Music Academies, Chopin Academy of Music, State Music Academy in Minsk among others. He is a visiting Professor at the State Conservatory in Novosibirsk.