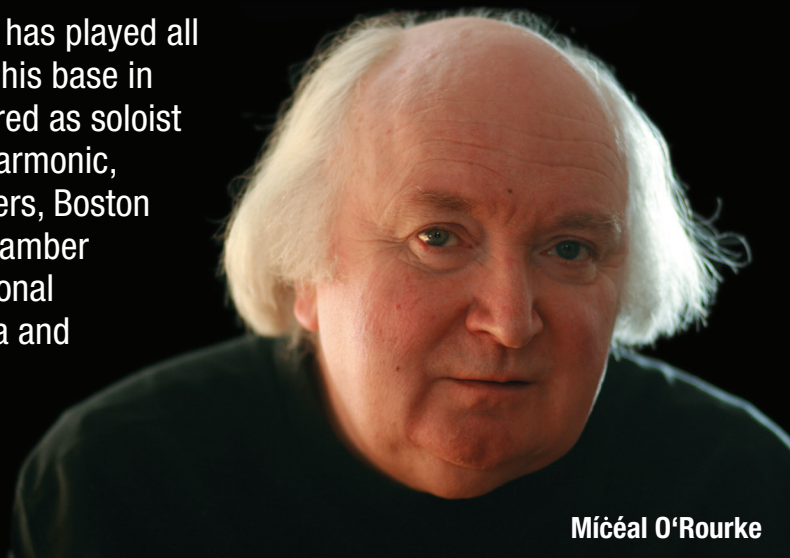


The Pianist

Mícéal O'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.

Irish born **O'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.



Mícéal O'Rourke

Our Sponsors

Our sincere thanks to Mícéal for his presence this evening and also to our sponsors, listed below, for their generous financial and in-kind support. This will allow the Association to help more people in need.



Ambasáid na hÉireann
Embassy of Ireland



Piano Recital

of

Romantic Music

by

MÍCÉAL O'ROURKE

Internationally acclaimed Irish pianist

Thursday 17th October 2019

at the

**Conservatoire Royal
de Musique de Bruxelles**

All proceeds go to the small-scale humanitarian projects of Femmes d'Europe
"Helping those in need"



Inspiration and influences

Tonight, **Mícéal O'Rourke** will take us on a musical journey across Europe and beyond, performing masterpieces from the romantic piano repertoire. This recital will illustrate the extent to which some great composers admired and influenced each other.

Chopin deeply admired Beethoven who inspired him for several of his compositions, thus showing what one genius actually hears in the work of another.

Irish Russian composer John Field invented the "*nocturne*" - a musical genre which many musicians, including Chopin, developed and made their own. In his preface to his edition of John Field's nocturnes, Franz Liszt wrote:

"None have quite attained these vague eolian harmonies, these self-formed sighs floating through the air, softly lamenting and dissolved in delicious melancholy. Nobody has ever attempted this peculiar style, and especially none of those who heard Field himself play, or rather who heard him dream his music in moments when he entirely abandoned himself to his inspiration".

As a talented nine-year-old pianist, the composer Modest Mussorgsky played one of Field's piano concertos. More recently American composer Samuel Barber wrote a nocturne as a tribute to John Field.

We are very grateful to **Mícéal O'Rourke** for taking us through such a delightful and enlightened programme.

Programme

Ludwig van Beethoven

Piano Sonata n° 14 in C# minor (1801)

Adagio Sostenuto

Allegretto

Presto Agitato

Samuel Barber

Nocturne Opus 33 (1959)

Homage to John Field

John Field

Nocturne n° 10 in E minor (1816)

Frédéric Chopin

Ballade n° 4 in F minor (1842)

Ten-minute interval

Modest Mussorgsky

Pictures at an Exhibition (1874)

Promenade

The Gnome

Promenade

The Old Castle

Promenade

Tuileries (Children's Quarrel after Games)

Cattle

Promenade

Ballet of Unhatched Chicks

"Samuel" Goldenberg and "Schmuyle"

Promenade

Limoges, the Market

Catacombs

With the Dead in a Dead Language

Baba Yaga (the Hut on Hen's Legs)

The Great Gate of Kiev

"Verre de l'Amitié"

sponsored by the Embassy of Ireland