

BIOGRAPHY

Anthony Kearns Operatic Tenor



Anthony Kearns, acknowledged as Ireland's Finest (Living) Tenor at the Dublin National Concert Hall's Silver Jubilee in 2006, performs an extraordinary repertoire, with music from Ireland to Broadway, to Viennese romance to Italian Classics, French art songs, and traditional German Lieder, the inspirational to the spiritual, and from operetta's light comedy to the sweeping drama of grand opera.

With his rich lyrical tenor voice, flawless technique, and skillful interpretation of these many and varied musical genres, Anthony Kearns is becoming recognized as the heir apparent to John "Count" McCormack and Mario Lanza, as he takes his place on the world stage. Considered the best interpreter of Irish music alive today, he is also a respected ambassador of Ireland to the world and has presented the music of his homeland across the globe.

Career Overview

Thrust upon the world scene at the first 1999 U.S. PBS broadcast of the 1998 taping of "The Irish Tenors in Dublin," Anthony Kearns and his two colleagues achieved instant stardom. As they began performing on the world's most prestigious stages, The Irish Tenors became a world-wide sensation as Ireland's most famous touring musicians, second only to the rock band, U2. Kearns, the group's only remaining original member, has sung with the trio for over a decade, with 10 audio CDs to their credit, always listed on Billboard's Top Ten upon release.

Anthony Kearns is increasingly in demand as a solo performer world-wide. He performs concerts with piano accompaniment in a recital format, as a guest soloist with some of the world's finest symphony orchestras, and on opera stages in Europe and America.

The Early Years

Music has always been a part of his life, since he made his debut into the world on August 17, 1971 in Kiltalea, County Wexford. From a very early age, Kearns began mastering Irish music's traditional instruments, and at the age of 10, he specialized in the beautiful, trilling Sean Nós (Old style, unaccompanied) singing of his homeland, competing in and winning various All-Ireland singing competitions.

Winning Ireland's Search for a Tenor Competition

The turning point in Kearns' career was in 1993. While working in sales in Dun Laoghaire, Kearns heard of a contest: "Ireland's Search for a Tenor," in conjunction with The Bank of Ireland's release of a new 10-pound note, commonly called a tenner. He sang "Danny Boy" over the telephone, hitchhiked to Dublin for the finals, and won the competition singing "The Impossible Dream" and "Danny Boy" as an encore. Kearns was the only untrained singer competing.

The Irish Tenors: An Overnight Sensation

After winning the talent competition, Kearns studied for three years with Ireland's renowned voice teacher, Veronica Dunne, at the Leinster School of Music. He was attending The College of Music in Wales, when he received the call from The Irish Tenors. Kearns has appeared with this Irish trio since its very beginning in 1998.

NOTABLE QUOTES:

After singing a memorial recently for President John F. Kennedy in County Wexford's New Ross, the President's sister, who is a former U.S. Ambassador to Ireland, Jean Kennedy Smith, complimented Kearns: "I've never heard a better Irish Tenor voice!"

*"Ireland's foremost tenor, Anthony Kearns is a great ambassador for Ireland."
- The Honorable Michael Collins, Ireland's Ambassador to the U.S.*

*"Kearns is a superb singer; a confident, compelling performer."
- The Nashville Scene*

*"Anthony's voice is lovely
from top range to bottom.
He connects thoroughly
with both the music
and the audience."*

— *The Palm Beach Post*

*"Kearns created many truly
sublime moments."*

— *The Boston Herald*

*"It can be folly to talk
of the great John McCormack
having a modern successor.
But if Anthony's recent
tribute to the Count here at
the National Concert Hall
is any kind of a yardstick,
then the mantle surely falls
comfortably on the shoulders
of Anthony Kearns."*

— *Ryan Tubridy*
(Presenting "Ireland's Finest" at
Dublin's National Concert Hall,
November 2006)



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Ireland's Finest Tenor

In 2006, Kearns was invited to record and perform with the most celebrated artists in Ireland at the Dublin National Concert Hall's Silver Jubilee, where the finest entertainers in Ireland shared the stage. At that event, he was billed as "Ireland's Finest Tenor." Kearns has sung at the Gaiety Theatre (Dublin); performed with the Dublin National Symphony Orchestra; and often sang at major performances held at the National Concert Hall in Dublin and the University Concert Hall in Limerick.

Performances in World's Most Prestigious Venues

He has also been guest soloist for both the Boston Pops and the Chicagoland Pops. When touring with The Irish Tenors, Kearns performs in many of the most prestigious venues in America, among them: Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall, Madison Square Garden, Boston's Fleet Pavilion, The Hollywood Bowl, on the grounds of the Capitol on the Fourth of July, and for the funeral of President Ronald W. Reagan.

Awards and Recognitions

Anthony Kearns has won several prizes as an adult, including the Dermot Troy Trophy for oratorio in 1995 and 1996, the Best Male Singer at the 1995 Waterford International Festival of Light Opera, and the ESB Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition in 1999. In 2010, he was recognized as Best Irish Tenor (individual) by the Irish Music Association.

Latest Projects: PBS Special, Solo & Operatic Performances

Anthony Kearns has a busy solo career, touring several times each year in both Ireland and the U.S., as well as at least twice annually with The Irish Tenors.

His latest solo projects include performing at the prestigious Capitol Hill Club in Washington D.C. in December of 2009, at the inauguration of Virginia's Governor-Elect Bob McDonnell in January of 2010, taping a PBS Special in Prague called "Halleluiah Broadway" with three other brilliant singers (February 2010), singing Romeo for Naples [FL] Opera company's production *Romeo & Juliet: Then and Now*, and singing *Carmen's* Don Jose for Glashule Opera Company, Dun Laoghaire, Ireland, in June 2010. Other operatic roles to his credit include: Fenton in *Falstaff* (in Italy), Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicci*, and lead tenor in Gounod's *Faust*, which was nominated for best production in The Irish Times Theatre Awards.

Besides performing in his homeland and from coast to coast in America's performing arts centers, churches, cathedrals, and many other splendid venues, Anthony Kearns also lends his name and considerable talent to many charitable fund-raising events each year.

Largest Repertoire of Irish Music of Any Living Performer

For all his devotion to the opera, Kearns has a deep, abiding love for the music of his beloved homeland. He has perhaps the largest repertoire of Irish music of anyone living, and delights in presenting it to the world. "I take great pride delivering these songs of the Irish people all over the world," says Kearns.

From Irish opera to character songs, from haunting songs of emigration to the stirring music of the Troubles, Anthony Kearns sings Irish music like no one else. He is the true Irish Tenor, cut from the same piece of linen as John McCormack, whose personal letters Kearns was asked to read on the new DVD "John McCormack: The People's Tenor." Kearns is carrying on the tradition of the finest Irish Tenors of all time, even having been giving the honor of being asked to sing at the funeral of the great Josef Locke a few years ago.