



JOHN FIELD

A Russian Irishman

Born, Dublin, Ireland 1782.
Died, Moscow, Russia, 1837.

PRESS RELEASE

On March 19, 2009, as part of the annual St Patrick's Day festivities in Moscow, the Embassy of Ireland in Russia, together with the State Museum of Musical Culture and the All-State Library of Foreign Literature, have great pleasure in presenting an exclusive performance of the works of Irish composer John Field.

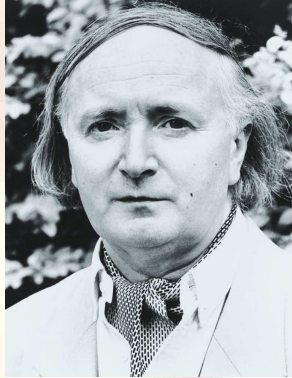
Field spent the majority of his adult life in Russia, contributing greatly to the Romantic movement in classical music, heavily influencing other composers such as Chopin and, appropriately, Mikhail Glinka, whom he taught for some time in Russia. Field is best known however as the author of the 'nocturne', and for his mesmerising performance style which won the hearts of audiences particularly in St Petersburg and Moscow.

The concert of Field's nocturnes will be performed in the Glinka Museum's concert hall by internationally renowned, prizewinning pianist Miceal O'Rourke who is traveling to Moscow for this event. To underline the significance of this concert, a state-of-the-art Yamaha CFIII grand piano will be loaned to the Museum by Yamaha Music Russia.

Following an invitation-only VIP reception, and prior to the concert, a biography of John Field, specially commissioned by the Embassy of Ireland, together with the Glinka Museum and the International Library, and prefaced by the Ambassador of Ireland to Russia, His Excellency Justin Harman, will be presented by Museum Director Mikhail Bryzgalov, the Ambassador, International Library Director Ekaterina Genieva, and Lord Mayor of Dublin Evelyn Byrne, who is visiting Moscow for the St Patrick's Day Week. A copy of the book, published by Vagrius Press, will be presented to all attending.

The concert and book presentation are part of a series of events arranged with the participation of the Embassy of Ireland in Russia including the 17th Annual St Patrick's Day Parade (to be attended by Mayor of Moscow, Mr Yury Luzhkov, and Lord Mayor of Dublin, Ms Evelyn Byrne), the Irish Club Charity Ball, and the second Irish Film Festival in Moscow.

Míceál O'Rourke



"A tremendous virtuoso, playing with the simplicity of a child singing" commented the *Boston Globe* on Míceál O'Rourke performing Rachmaninoff's Third Concerto. His unique *cantilena* sound, technical mastery and total musical commitment have made O'Rourke a favourite in many of the world's musical capitals.

Míceál O'Rourke has gained international renown for his performances of Field and Chopin. He has performed more than fifty different works with major orchestras in such venues as Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Washington Kennedy Center, Boston Symphony Hall, Brussels Palais des Beaux Arts, Royal Festival Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, Moscow Conservatory Great Hall, Saint Petersburg Philharmonia, Paris Salle Pleyel, and the National Concert Hall in Dublin.

Festival appearances include the Saint Petersburg White Nights, Paris Chopin Festival, Wexford Festival, Festival in Great Irish Houses, Krakow Festival and Les Nuits Pianistiques in Aix-en Provence.

In recognition of "outstanding Chopin interpretation" O'Rourke was awarded the Fryderik Chopin Medal at the Polish composer's birthplace, and his eight best-selling CDs featuring the music of John Field have won many awards including the Classic CD Award (Great Britain), 'Disques de l'Année' of le Monde de la Musique (France), Penguin Awards (USA/Great Britain). His televised recordings of Chopin's complete nocturnes have been screened throughout Europe, Australia and the United States.

Forthcoming engagements will take him to Washington, Dublin, Vilnius, Hong Kong, and the Saint Petersburg Philharmonia.

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