

March 2011

ASPIRO NEWS



Aspiro World Premier
Performance September
2010
'What Did You See?'

SHELTER ME FROM THE RAIN

- An Opera for Carlow

The Youth Ensemble of Aspiro is currently preparing for their performance as part of Carlow Local Authorities commissioned Opera for Carlow '**Shelter Me From The Rain**'.

The Opera will premier in the GB Shaw Theatre Carlow on **Thursday 5th May and run till Saturday 7th May.**

This new opera was commissioned and developed by Carlow Local Authorities Art Office through the 'Per Cent for Art Scheme.'

As well as **Aspiro**, the Opera will be performed by a specially assembled company of *over 100 singers of all*

backgrounds from Carlow and surrounding areas and will be accompanied by the RTE National Symphony Orchestra.

Music for the opera has been specially written by Brian Irvine with text by John McIllduff.

Musical direction is by Fergus Sheil.

Tickets are currently on sale from the GB Box Office, telephone no 059 9172400.

Parents are advised to book now as tickets are flying out!



Aisling Phelan
Performing recently at the World Premier of 'What Did You See?' in the GBS Theatre.
Aisling also starred as Cinderella in the Christmas Panto in the GB Theatre.

PHOTO CALL



Photographed above:

- I. Emmet Jones with Chime Bar
- II. Mary with Composer Elaine Agnew
- III. Movement Director Bryan Burroughs and Accompanist Maeve Lyons preparing for the performance.

WORLD PREMIERE OF “What Did You See?” At VISUAL & The GB Shaw Theatre.

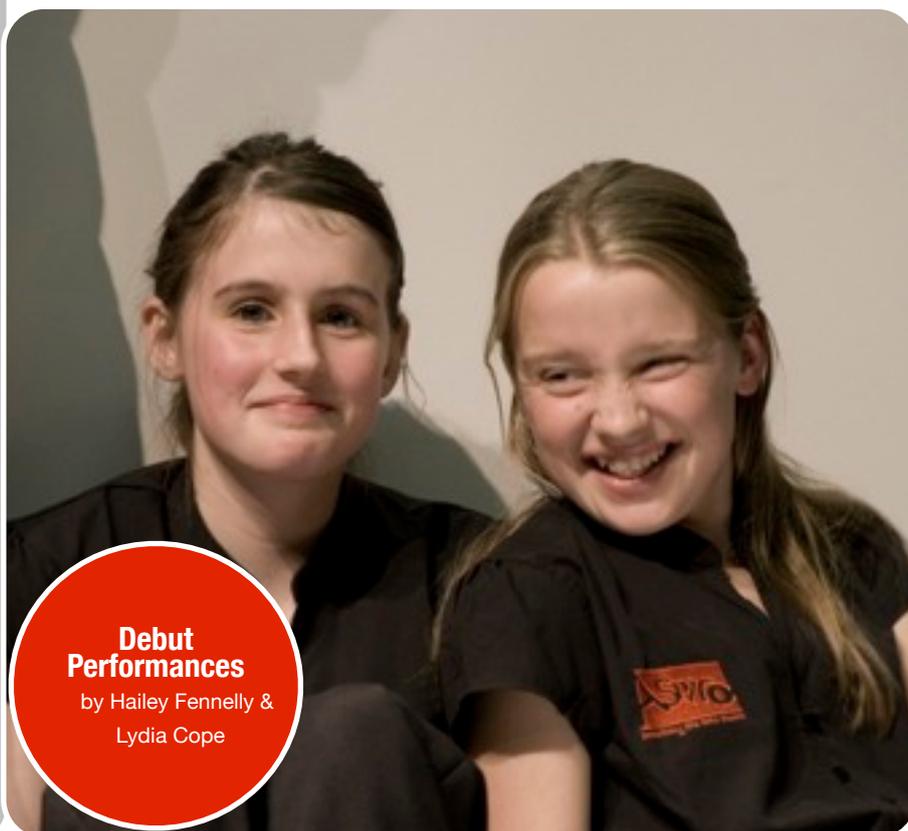
On 25th September last Visual played host to the world premiere of a collaborative commission between Elaine Agnew (Composer), Sean Hardie (Writer), Bryan Burroughs (Movement Consultant), Mary and the members of Aspiro Youth Ensemble with support from the Arts Council Commissions award.

“What Did You See?” explored ‘aural’ and ‘visual’ and the physical spaces and surrounds of VISUAL, Centre for Contemporary Art and The George Bernard Shaw Theatre, in Carlow. For the performance element of this project Aspiro members worked with movement consultant Bryan Burroughs.

The piece is written for four part mixed choir with piano and chime bars. The piano was played by Maeve Lyons our valued and much loved accompanist. The chime bars were played by Aspiro members.

On the night the performance took place in the Link Gallery where work from Michael Warren’s installations became part of the performance piece. A big thank you is due to Michael for giving us this opportunity

We performed the piece again on 28th October in the National Library as part of a showcase for politicians in advance of the budget to create awareness of the importance of the arts in the lives of our young people.



Debut Performances

by Hailey Fennelly &
Lydia Cope



Aspiro Groups

Aspiro Junior - ages 7/8/9

Aspiro Girls - ages 9+

Male Voice Squad - ages 9+

Aspiro Youth Ensemble - ages 13+

Aspiro Alpha - past members



Aspiro take Dundrum Shopping Centre By Storm!



Last Saturday Aspiro took part in it's first ever Flash Mob!

A flash mob is a large group of people who assemble suddenly in a public place, perform an unusual act for a brief time, then quickly disperse.

Our purpose was to raise awareness for the Third Aid Foundation, Third Age is an organisation which promotes and celebrates the contribution of older people to Irish life.

Over 70 Aspiro members travelled and joined with Cormíosa, Our Ladies Choral Society and Get Vocal Choir and performed Handel's Hallelujah Chorus to pleasantly surprised shoppers in the busy Dundrum Centre.

It was a great experience which we would love to repeat!

Thanks to the chaperones who travelled and helped us out so well.

The Irish Kidney Association express thanks to Aspiro for their performance.

It's lovely to receive positive feedback after a performance - it is so reaffirming for the Choir members to know of the importance of living the music. Well done to all!



Ms Mary Amond O'Brien
Musical Director
Aspiro Youth Ensemble
Brownhill Road
Carlow

December 2010

Dear Ms Amond O'Brien

RE: IKA 25th Service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving

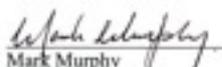
On behalf of the Liturgy Committee of the Irish Kidney Association - Vera Frisby, Ellen Flanagan, Peggy Eustace, Angela McKinney and on my own behalf - I would like to thank you, and Ms Maeve Lyons, your Soloists and your Choir Members, for their truly magnificent performance at our Service on Saturday 6th November.

The feedback we have received from the congregation, and in particular from Donor Families, have been so incredibly positive. Music can convey such emotion and be both inspiring and uplifting. Occasions, such as our Service, are special and unique and your Choir's passion and heart moved many of the congregation to tears. The Liturgy Committee are acutely conscious that each member put personal family commitments to one side, on a precious Saturday, and travelled to Dublin to participate in the Service. It is vital that we let you know just how appreciative our Chairman, Officers, Board and Members of the Association are.

When our next edition of our quarterly newsletter "SUPPORT" is published, I will forward on several Newsletters for your Choir Members as it will contain a report and photographs of the Service.

Renewed thanks for your interest and support in our Service.

Yours sincerely


Mark Murphy
Chief Executive



HEAD OFFICE
Donor House, Block 43A Park West, Dublin 12.
Telephone: 01- 620 5350 - Fax: 01- 620 5366 - e-mail: info@ika.ie
Patron: Mary McAleese, President of Ireland.
Registered in Ireland No. 66109 - Charity No. 6327





'What Did You See?'

Laura Brennan
Michael Stapleton
Brian Glynn

'I Wish You Christmas' Concert

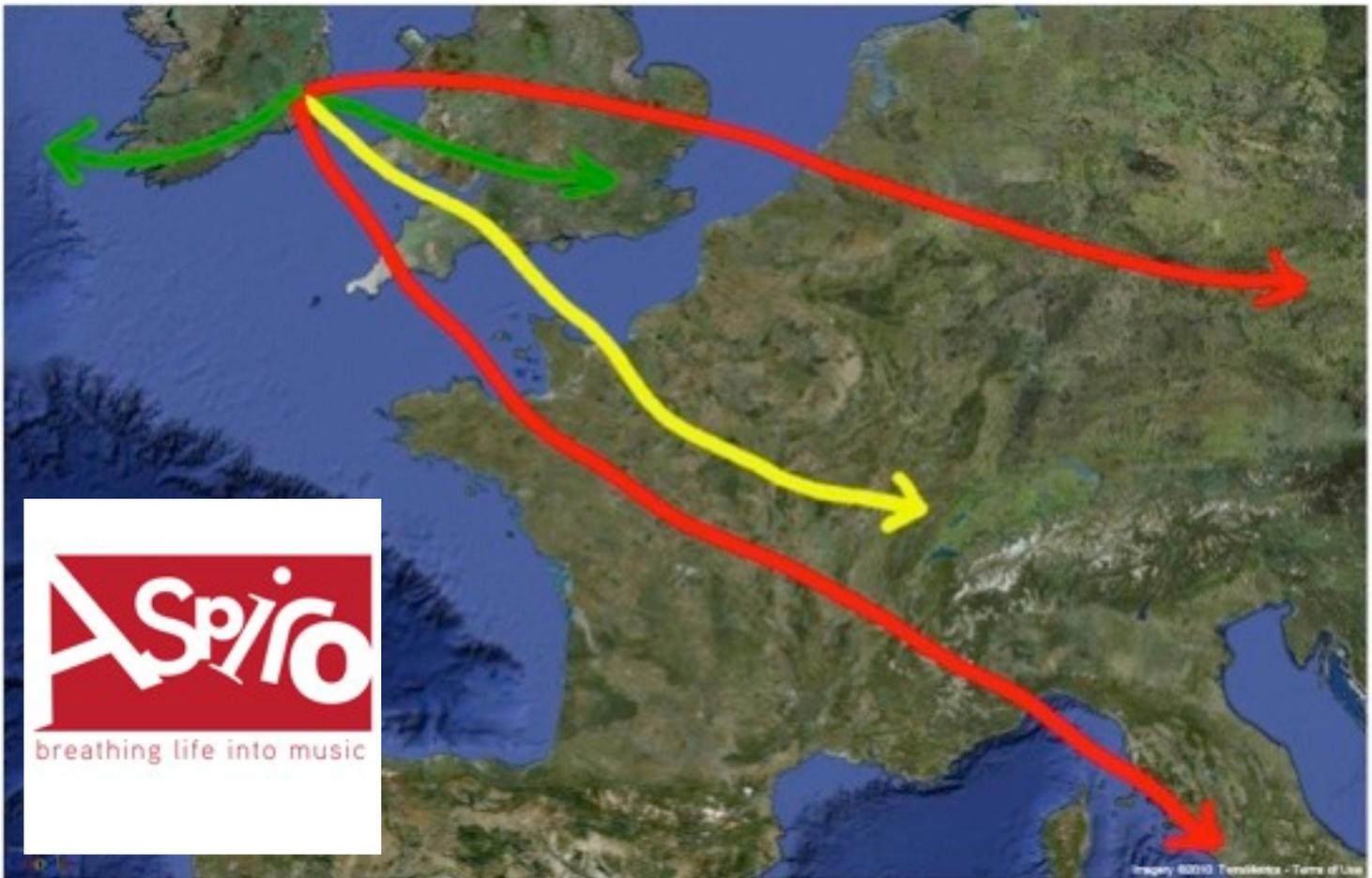
Our recent concert in Askea Church was a wonderful occasion for all our 120 Choir members and visiting guests *and* raised €4,800 for three local charities - Saplings, Delta Centre and World Youth Day.

CATHEDRAL ORGAN CONCERT

The major restoration project to repair the beautiful and historic Cathedral organ was celebrated last night with a formal blessing and Concert last night

featuring renowned organist Professor Gerard Gillen, Cathedral Parish Choir, Cathedral Youth Coir, Cathedral Schola, Carol Choral Society, Cór Míosa, Aspiro and soloists Liam Lawton

and Kathleen McDermott. Aspiro performed a beautiful solo piece 'Cantique de Jean Racine' as well as other combined choruses. Well done to all who took part!



ASPIRO TO EUROPE AND BEYOND!

Since our formation Aspiro has always placed great emphasis on broadening the horizons of our members, of challenging them and opening their minds to develop self confidence and social skills .

Choir members have availed of wonderful opportunities to perform in many parts of the World and this has been of tremendous benefit to both the individual members and to the group.

Aspiro has performed in [Toronto Canada](#), [Prague Czech Republic](#), [England and Wales](#), [Dole France](#) and [Rome Italy](#) as well of course in all corners of Ireland.

In doing so Aspiro has proudly represented and promoted Carlow to International audiences.

The Choir has performed internationally and undergone professional development as choir in residence for CME

(Choral Music Experience, Institute for Choral Music Education).

These trips have been about more than performances and have provided our members with exposure to new cultures, allowed them make friends, allowed them visit spectacular sites such as Niagra Falls, Ancient Rome and the Vatican, Historic Prague, our twin town of Dole in France.

We hope to continue to explore new avenues as time and finances permit.

On every trip abroad Aspiro has been exemplary in their promotion of Irish Arts abroad and have been recognised by Culture Ireland for their efforts.

Aspiro on the Web
 Keep in touch with Aspiro between newsletters by visiting our website:
www.aspirochoir.ie