

60 Years A Growing



Celebration Concert

with special guest John Banville



Stratford College
Co-educational Secondary School

60 Years A Growing

Today we are celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the foundation of Stratford College. To mark this significant milestone we are launching a book of memoirs and anecdotes from students and staff, past and present from the last 60 years.

Stratford is proud of its rich 60-year heritage. Originally founded by the Jewish Community in 1954, it was first located in a house called 'Stratford' on Terenure Road East. Later the opportunity to move the College to the present complex in Rathgar occurred. In 1981 a new building was erected and today only the elegant mid-Victorian facade remains of the original house.

The school welcomes students of all faiths and none, and embraces the future with a dynamic and diverse student population.

16th November, 2014



Our Book

Our book, '60 Years A Growing', looks at Stratford through the eyes of some of our past students and staff. What is striking about the various pieces, is the strong sense of community that pervades the school. Sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, nieces, mothers and fathers are represented through the ages. Their memories are not of syllabus and points but of the strong relationships they forged with fellow students and the teachers they had. It is a testament to the enduring and transformative power of the teacher in a young person's formative years.

Many people worked on the project, not least our current students who were the researchers – each year group worked on a decade and contacted, met, sourced or interviewed the contributors to our book. They dusted off old roll books, found photographs and made phone calls. Our editors, Ms Siobhan Reynolds, Ms Helen O'Kelly and Mr Brian Conaghan, our Graphic Designer and parent in the primary school, Ms Taryn Barling, who all worked long and hard on the project and have produced a beautiful book of wonderful memories.

In truth we have been '60 Years A Growing' and look to the future proud of the legacy and spirit of our school. I hope you enjoy reading this book as much as we have!

Ms Patricia Gordon





Celebration Concert Order of Events

- i. Patricia Gordon and Cormac Murphy – Welcome and thanks
- ii. Katie Richardson McCrea – Singing
- iii. John Banville – Guest Speaker
- iv. *60 Years A Growing Extract Reading*
- v. Stratford Music Society
- vi. Robert Downes – Monologue Performance
- vii. *60 Years A Growing Extract Reading*
- viii. Graeme Derham – Singing
- ix. Cormac Kelly and Ryan Baker – Drama Sketch
- x. Sian Colman-Black – Singing
- xi. *60 Years A Growing Extract Reading*
- xii. Sian Colman-Black and Graeme Derham - Duet
- xiii. Emma Mae West – Singing ‘Happy’
- xiv. Joy Malone – Closing Words

Special Guests



Katie Richardson McCrea

Katie began her singing training with Mezzo Soprano, Imelda Drumm in 2010, while still a student in Stratford College. During this time she competed in Feis Ceoils, Newpark Music Festivals and participated in school concerts and productions. As a member of the Lassus Scholars Choir, Katie has also taken part in the performance of many large-scale works both nationally and internationally. In 2014, Katie was accepted into the Royal Irish Academy of Music and is training as a Mezzo Soprano under Dr. Veronica Dunne.



John Banville

John Banville's novels include *The Book of Evidence*, *The Sea*, which won the Man Booker Prize in 2005, and, most recently, *Ancient Light*. He also writes crime novels under the name Benjamin Black. He has won the Franz Kafka Prize and the Asturias Award for Literature.



Robert Downes

Robert Downes is a past student of Stratford College and is currently in his final year in DIT's Drama Performance BA Honours Degree, at The Conservatory Of Music and Drama. During his time in Stratford College he performed in many schools production as well as directing a production in his Fourth Year. He is currently in the Final Year of his degree and will be performing in Smoke Alley Banquet Hall in a production of the *Canterbury Tales* and in a production of *At the Black Pigs Dyke* in DIT, Rathmines.

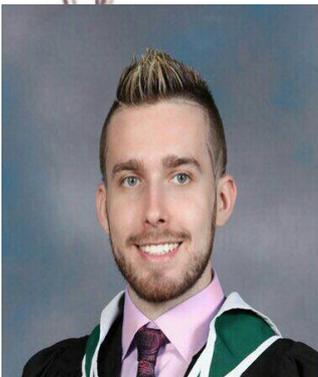
Sian Colman-Black

Sian Colman-Black began her classical voice training during her time in Stratford College and then was accepted to the DIT Music and Drama Conservatory to study Classical Voice. She completed her degree attaining a BA Hons in Music Performance and Teaching. Her career to date includes operatic productions, *Orpheus in the Underworld* (J. Offenbach) and *Die Fledermaus* (J. Strauss). She has also worked with Vivian Coates' Lyric Opera Productions as part of their Stage Management on *Tosca* (G. Puccini), *H.M.S. Pinafore* (Gilbert and Sullivan) and *Turn of the Screw* (Benjamin Britten).



Graeme Derham

After completing his Leaving Certificate, Graeme was accepted into The National University of Ireland, Maynooth where he studied Music Performance and Business Management. After graduating he was accepted into DIT's Conservatory of Music and Drama, undertaking vocal tuition with Robert Alderson. Graeme has won both Sligo and Dublin Feis Ceoils and has received private sponsorship from Des Derham. Graeme plans to undertake a Post Graduate Masters in Music Performance after completing his vocal tuition.



Emma Mae West

From a young age Emma had an interest in acting, singing and musicals. Stratford nurtured her talents and gave her multiple opportunities to perform in plays, musicals and for formal occasions. She has performed for the Queen and The Royal Family in St. Peters Palace, the opening performance for World Skills in The O2 in London and frequently in the National Concert Hall, Dublin and The Gaiety. Her biggest achievement to date is performing in *Hello, Dolly!* alongside her idol Rebecca Storm. Along with her musical theatre career she is in her Final Year of Nursing in Trinity College.



Special Thanks

- ◆ John Banville
- ◆ Cheryl Bondi
- ◆ Ms. Conlon
- ◆ Emma Coogan
- ◆ Ms. Donohoe
- ◆ Paul Downes
- ◆ Louis Gilmartin
- ◆ Ms. Gordon
- ◆ Ms. Kenny
- ◆ Joy Malone
- ◆ Ms. Mahon
- ◆ Brendan Meehan
- ◆ Ms. O'Kelly
- ◆ Moya Richardson McCrea

And To All Who Participated

Thank You

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60 Years A Growing €25
available in the School Hall