



# A magical night despite the weather

By Brendan Keane

WHILE THE weather last weekend certainly left a lot to be desired one event that took place left people captivated by its brilliance - despite what nature was doing outdoors.

On Saturday night St. Mary's Church in New Ross played host to performances by two of the world's foremost classical artists.

**Michael McHale** is one of Ireland's premiere contemporary pianists and his repertoire on the night, added to the manner with which it was executed, showcased his prodigious talent in exemplary fashion.

The audience, which the organisers were delighted with considering the conditions for travelling, was spellbound as Mr. McHale took them on a magical journey with renditions of well-known numbers by Schubert and Liszt.

He reminded those in attendance that he had performed at the first ever New Ross Piano Festival.

Mr. McHale also performed pieces from his latest CD which is based around music by Irish composers as well as his own version of 'The Culainn'.

The vocalist on Saturday night needed no introduction to those with a discerning interest in classical music.

Patricia Rosario has performed at the Proms eight times, is a multi-award winning vocalist, and has graced the stages of the world's most famous and iconic venues.

She showcased her versatility with a programme of songs that was as varied as it was brilliant.

From standard classical works including operatic arias from Rigoletto and La Rondine to her rendition of 'Down By the Sally Gardens' Ms. Rosario enthralled the audience.

For those at the concert it was a magical night of music and song from two inimitable artists.

The introduction on the night was undertaken by Connie Tantrum, from Music for New Ross.

"It is remarkable that in our town on such a wet and windy night we have the privilege of listening to two musicians who have played and sung in the world's best concert halls," she told the appreciative audience.

Ms. Tantrum also acknowledged the support of Foras Eireann in organising the concert which was part of a **Music Network** tour.



**Patricia Rosario** performing in St Mary's Church, New Ross. Pic: Jim Campbell.

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