

THE IRISH FELLOWSHIP CLUB  
OF CHICAGO *presents*

# I AM IRELAND

*featuring* PADDY HOMAN  
*with* The City Lights Orchestra  
CONDUCTED BY RICH DANIELS



A concert being presented at Old Saint Pat's  
in Chicago for broadcast on PBS

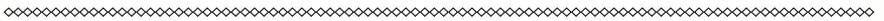


The I AM IRELAND show is a homegrown Chicago production—featuring internationally recognized Irish musicians from the Chicago-land area.

The uniqueness of this production, through its use of original speeches of the great leaders of Ireland—from Theobald Wolfe Tone to Robert Emmet and Michael Collins, interwoven with the songs of this period is outstandingly captured by Homan’s performance. This theatrical presentation seamlessly illustrates the story of a nation’s quest for freedom, and has touched the hearts of all who have seen this program. Viewers come away with a deep sense of belonging as they connect with the spirit of Irish American ancestry, which speaks to freedom loving people from all cultures. The themes and story are as relevant today as they were 200 years ago. Today, some 36 million Americans claim Irish ancestry.

Senator Billy Lawless, the first Irish government appointed Senator representing the Irish Diaspora across the world and based in Chicago, recently commented in a speech, “that for those Irish fleeing persecutions from their native home, America always represented liberty and justice for all, with endless possibilities for those who were willing to work hard”. Senator Lawless aptly puts it, ‘the *rhyming of history continues— same story but different countries.*”

Our filmed program will capture this story of Ireland’s road to freedom for generations to come. More than ever, the people in America need to hear the story presented by the I AM IRELAND show.



**HONORARY CHAIRMAN**

**ENDA KENNY**

*Former Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland*

**PROJECT CO-CHAIRS**

**DEVON BRUCE ♦ JIM COYNE ♦ KEVIN FLOOD**

**JACK HARTMAN ♦ BRIDGET GAINER ♦ SENATOR BILLY LAWLESS**

**EILEEN MITCHELL ♦ PETER O’BRIEN**

*We are seeking to raise \$500,000 to cover the cost of production and create scholarships for the **Irish Fellowship Educational and Cultural Foundation.***

# Sponsorship levels for Individual and Corporate Partners

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## **I AM IRELAND: PRESENTING SPONSOR**

**\$100,000**

Entitles the sponsor to featured credit of both the LIVE CONCERT and the subsequent TELEVISION BROADCAST.

Ability to provide a representative from the presenting organization to acknowledge all the guests at the concert from the stage.

Recognition in all print and media publicity and publications.

40 VIP Seats to the filming of the concert.

50 DVD copies of the program once edited for broadcast.

Private reception for 25 guests with Paddy Homan, Rich Daniels and the I AM IRELAND team at a date, time and location to be mutually agreed upon.

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## **JAMES CONNOLLY SPONSOR**

**\$50,000**

Entitles the sponsor to featured SECONDARY credit of both the LIVE CONCERT and the subsequent TELEVISION BROADCAST.

Recognition in all print and media publicity and publications.

30 VIP Seats to the filming of the concert.

30 DVD copies of the program once edited for broadcast.

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## **SPIRIT OF CORK SPONSOR**

**\$25,000**

Recognition in all print and media publicity and publications.

25 VIP Seats to the filming of the concert.

25 DVD copies of the program once edited for broadcast.

(SPONSORSHIP LEVELS CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE)



# I AM IRELAND

## Host Committee

(INFORMATION)

Given the monumental nature of this project, an Irish American Transatlantic Committee, largely based in Chicago, is being created to steer this project through to completion. *Please join our Legacy Committee and help to capture this story for generations to come.*

We will be in touch with all of you individually asking for you to participate as a committee member. The role of the LEGACY COMMITTEE members will be to;

- Support the program by accessing your network of co-workers and associates inviting them to attend the live concert and taping.
- Help us to identify potential sponsors for the concert and broadcast.
- Consider purchasing a sponsorship package that will help with the creation of the production.

Our goal is to create a concert program that will not only tell this important story, but to create a legacy piece that can exist for many future generations. We would love to have you and your organization associated with this production in perpetuity.

The I AM IRELAND show with Paddy Homan

was officially recognized by the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago on April 21, 2016

*“as one of the city of Chicago’s contributions to telling this unique Irish American story, and is recognized as a show of international importance”.*

# Background of the I AM IRELAND show

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**T**O HONOR THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1916 RISING IN IRELAND, celebrated traditional Irish tenor **Paddy Homan** developed and presented the “**I Am Ireland**” concert. The show premiered at the Beverly Arts Center in Chicago in October, 2015 and has been presented at the United Irish Cultural Center of San Francisco, North Central College Fine Arts Center, Naperville, and in Ireland at the Cork Arts Theatre, Wexford Arts Theatre, Kilworth Arts Theatre. This one man show takes audiences on a journey through the songs, speeches and images of the time to honor and celebrate the Irish road to freedom. Originally produced by **Michael Londra’s** theatrical production company, **Wexfordhouse**, “**I Am Ireland**” is a personal conversation about the songs of Ireland that inspired all those who came before 1916 to continue that great journey to reclaim Ireland’s independence.

**PADDY HOMAN**, the renowned Chicago singer, has a strong history with the songs: “These songs and speeches give the narrative of Ireland’s road to independence during that period. To fully appreciate what took place in 1916, one must look back at the totality of everything that happened up to that point. I believe that songs are the best way to tell the story. As an Irishman, I am only the messenger here. But it is my true honor to represent my country in doing this and to walk in the emotional footsteps of those who sacrificed so much for me and our land.” Homan brings the songs to life, and weaves through the original words of the great statesmen of that time. This performance is presented in two acts, and is supported by **The City Lights Orchestra**, under the direction of acclaimed music director, **Rich Daniels**, and some of Ireland’s best known traditional Irish musicians. Together they celebrate the glory of Irish music and the glory of the Irish nation.

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# SONGS OF THE RISING

## *featured in* I AM IRELAND

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Róisín Dubh [My Dark Rosaleen] ♦ Rising of the Moon

Far From the Land ♦ The West's Awake

Boolavogue ♦ Wearing of the Green

Mo Ghile Mear [My Gallant Darling] ♦ The Boys of Wexford

A Nation Once Again ♦ Kelly the Boy from Killane

The Famine Song ♦ Skibbereen

The Minstrel Boy ♦ By Memory Inspired ♦ John Mitchel

Ar Éireann Ní Neosfainn Cé Hí [For Ireland I Dare Not Say Her Name]

The Bould Thady Quill ♦ Mná na hÉireann [Women of Ireland]

Óró, sé do bheatha abhaile [Welcome Home] ♦ The Foggy Dew

Amhrán Na bhFiann [The Soldier's Song-National Anthem]

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*“The history of a people can be taught and learned in many ways.*

*The I AM IRELAND is another way of knowing. Because song and story are a particular way of knowing for the Irish, it is especially attractive to all who would know and learn of this critical chapter in Irish history.*

*As someone who has experienced this program at its debut,*

*I can confirm that it leads to a deeper understanding of Irish history.*

*With all the talent and passion provided by such a superb performer, Paddy Homan's I AM IRELAND is a learning experience for learners of all ages.”*

**DR. NONA LYONS, VISITING RESEARCH SCHOLAR,  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK**

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[www.iamirelandshow.com](http://www.iamirelandshow.com)