

Press Release
Malvern Civic Society

Musical Drama in Malvern

Gala Concert in honour of Jenny Lind and her love for Chopin

Malvern, 16 July. – The audience in Malvern’s fully-packed Christ Church last Saturday lived through magical moments listening to masterpieces of Chopin’s music and the recital of dramatic elements of Jenny Lind’s secret and tragic love story with the composer.



Daniel Blumenthal and Jennifer Simpson
(photo by Icons of Europe, 13 July 2013)

A standing ovation concluded the brilliant performance of the renowned American pianist Daniel Blumenthal, who played some of Chopin’s most demanding pieces including the Revolutionary, two Ballades, and the Polonaise Heroic.

The young Malvern-born mezzo soprano Jennifer Simpson performed beautifully, in German, the first of Chopin’s Polish Songs and his Mazurka in A-flat major arranged by Jenny Lind, set to words in Italian: “Faithful love will never die ... no, no, no”.

The story was narrated by Cecilia Jorgensen, Swedish co-founder of Icons of Europe, drawing on the historical research she has conducted on the

subject over many years. Swiping away earlier assumptions, she told the captivated audience that Jenny Lind was the daughter of the king of Sweden and Norway (alias Napoleon’s former marshal Jean Bernadotte) and that she fell in love with Chopin already in 1841 when she became a pupil of his in France – a love that she later transformed into an elaborate and lasting cult in his memory.

The Jenny Lind Gala Concert was staged by Icons of Europe (Brussels) in collaboration with Malvern Civic Society as an important step in reviving the legacy of the Swedish Nightingale who was buried in Malvern 125 years ago. The event also marked the opening of Malvern Civic Week 2013.

The booklet entitled *Chopin’s Dream*, with the complete concert script reinforced by annotations of key points as well as artwork images, is already available at Icons of Europe’s website. Roger Sutton, Chairman of Malvern Civic Society speaks of the event: “It’s being talked about as the best concert in Malvern for a long time ... which could inspire the whole community in many different ways”.

For further information

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[Chopin’s Dream](#) [Concert programme](#)