

to the salmon weir and, possibly, the Abbey River. The popularise the river as a recreational amenity.

Gold Medallist at Feis Ceoil

THE talented Limerick singer, Joe Malone, had a major success at the recent Dublin Feis Ceoil when he was awarded the gold medal for the bass solo competition with the exceptionally high mark of 90. The previous Limerick winner of the event was Joseph Dalton, who was awarded the medal in 1958.

It was in 1958, too, that Joe Malone began his singing with the Augustinian choir, and later, in the competitive field, he took first place in the bass and lieder sections of Feile Iulmni. He followed this success by winning the light opera section at Sligo Feis.

Joe, who has also sang with the Limerick Choral Union, has enjoyed success in a varied field. His performance at a folk festival in Germany was subsequently televised there, and at home he has sang on TV in the O'Reilly Show and with Joe Linnane.

His solo contribution, "Shenendoah," on a tape recording made here with a local group, was very enthusiastically received by his energetic Boston Radio, and brought him many letters of appreciation.

Joe next teamed up with Gerry O'Halloran, Stephen O'Shea, Denis Noctor and Eddie O'Sullivan as a ballad group for three years, and they had a very successful programme for six weeks on Radio Eireann.

When the group dissolved, Joe resumed more serious singing and realised an old ambition with his recent success in Dublin. He is employed with Messrs. Ranks (Ireland) Ltd., Limerick.

Other Limerick successes at the recent Dublin Feis Ceoil include Alice Foy, second in the Geoghan Cup; Nora Vaughan, third in the soprano solo, and George Vaughan, third in the Plunkett Greene Cup.

Both Joe Malone and Joseph Dalton studied under the well-known Limerick singing teacher, Mrs. Baker.



Joe Malone won the gold medal for bass solo at Dublin Feis Ceoil.

reception at the Mansion House and a visit with Lord Mayor Thomas Stafford. They will lay a wreath at Arbor Hill in memory of the men of the 1916 Rising, and will then disband to visit friends and relatives. They will return to Chicago on June 21. The band was founded by Limerick man, Thomas Ryan, in Chicago, Illinois, 1926, as a fife and drum band, and in the 1930s switched to bagpipes. From the foundation year, Tommy Ryan has been its guiding hand, and three of his sons, Jerry, John and Robert, are members. Jerry is the band manager. The band's first major recognition came with concerts at

belonged Chicago. It performed festival in had the five, Pres States. The band h rick's Day Mayor Rich has hono many occ brought it tic City National (The membe come from and inclu tricians, bakers, er teachers. bond is music.

DONIZETTI AND FAVORITA

Mr. Robert Potterton of Pembroke Park, Dublin, takes a lively interest in operatic matters, and about two years ago treated readers of the "Limerick Chronicle" to an excellent account of the career of the Limerick tenor, Joseph O'Mara. Writing to us last week-end, he says that many opera lovers from Limerick and the surrounding area will be in Dublin for the opera season, and, for their benefit, he gives some interesting information on Donizetti's rarely heard "La Favorita". He writes:

The Italian, Gaetano Donizetti (1797-1848) turned out so many operas in his 50 years that his output was likened to the fertility of a rat or a rabbit. Told that Rossini had composed "The Barber of Seville" in three weeks, Donizetti replied: "Oh yes, I know. He was always very slow!" He himself numbered the best part of 100 operas.

"La Favorita" is one of the finest of these, though somewhat less well-known than "Lucia di Lammermoor" and the comic operas "Don Pasquale" and "The Daughter of the Regiment". It was first produced at the Paris Opera on December 2, 1840, and was at first also known by no less than three other titles — "Dalla", "Riccardo e Matilda" and "Leonora di Gusman".

There appears to be only two other Dublin productions this century — by the Moody-Manners company at the Theatre Royal in January, 1905, with Madame de Lussan and Wilson Pembroke; and by the Dublin Grand Opera Society in December, 1942, at the Gaitey, with Patricia Black, Michael O'Higgins and a Polish tenor named Herman Simberg, who knew no English and sang his role in Italian.

The first Dublin performance was by the Italian Opera on September 20, 1856. (Theatre Royal) with the famous married duo of Grisi and Mario. Mario, the son of an Italian Count, was one of last century's finest tenors and Fernando in "Favorita" was the last role he was to sing before his death many years later. He and Grisi had two pretty

little daughter once asked how are 'Grisettes', 'Marionette', 'The famous Gentil', 'another I Duca d'Al sert it i tenors re according, glory of r and prefer by the sim known ar "Q Mio Fe battle hor mezzos. I and "Carn the "Leon —though filched las leading se and Tietje rewarding Nowadays, h mostly pre opera is n side Italy, grateful to singing m exactly ho voice, and never too ing. Like the M pany, the season "C Favorita" it on tour, Gaitey in with Mari Donizetti's e ing from a his mind died in 184 home. He attached several o Works w there. Henry Pleas writer, sta Leonora w great mez inspired (Trovatore (Aida), as Delilah s Wagner's grin." Fa ballet, t element opera for complete, of this is ing and se the opera

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