



At the Arts Council reception held at the Limerick Inn this week, where details of the council's and the Corporation's cultural agreement were announced.

## Suzanne Murphy concert: Irish, classical and modern in mood

THE concert by Limerick soprano Suzanne Murphy, next month at the Crescent Theatre, will feature over 20 songs, regarded as a major effort for any singer.

These will encompass modern, Irish and classical, a press conference was told. The concert will last at least 2¼ hours.

There will also be strict controls on times of admission for patrons: the doors will close at 8 p.m. sharp, and once Suzanne appears on stage, nobody will be allowed in.

### Patrons

"We have to enforce this strictly for the sake of the enjoyment of the other patrons," said a spokesman for the organisers.

"It is a lovely programme of songs, and well worth coming for."

Suzanne, who originally sang on the same stage in the mid-1960's with the Cecilians — the most recent being Adele in "Die Fledermaus" — spent a time with the Irish National Opera before eventually contracting with the Welsh National Opera.

"And she was flown in at very short notice to sing in the State Opera House in Munich, last year," said a spokesman for the Cecilian Musical Society, which is organising the Limerick visit.

Suzanne was born in Limerick, and her early musical training was at the F.C.J. Convent, Bruff. She was a member of the Cecilian Musical Society and the Jesuit Choir, and was one of the founder members of the Limerick Choral Union.

Some of her first singing lessons were with the late Mrs. Louis Baker in Limerick, and thereafter, with Veronica Dunne at the College of Music in Dublin.

### Opera

In 1974, she had her first taste of opera, singing the title role in Irish National Opera's production of Rossini's "La Cenerentola," the following year singing the role of Elisetta in Cimarosa's "Secret Marriage." Both productions toured Ireland extensively.

In 1976, she joined Welsh National Opera as their principal soprano, and her first role with that company was Constanze in Mozart's "Il Seraglio," which she subsequently recorded for the film "Amadeus."

Since joining Welsh National Opera, her roles for the company have included Ame-

lia, "I Masnadieri"; Elizabeth, "Don Carlos"; Leonora, "Il Trovatore"; Elvira, "Ernani"; Violetta, "La Traviata"; Gilda, "Rigoletto"; Queen of the Night, "Magic Flute"; Lisa, "Queen of Spades"; Hanna Glawari, "Merry Widow"; Musetta, "La Boheme"; and most recently Amelia, "Ballo in Maschera"; and to enormous critical acclaim, Elvira, "I Puritani," and the title role in Bellini's "Norma."

Other operatic engagements in Britain have included Constanze and Donna Anna for English National Opera; Donna Anna, all soprano roles in Tales of Hoffman, and Elvira, "I Puritani" for Opera North and Constanze for Scottish Opera.

Recent overseas engagements have included Amelia, "Ballo in Maschera," and Elvira, "I Puritani," in Vancouver during the 1984/1985 season. The title role in Norma at New York City Opera, with Richard Boyngue conducting, Fiordiligi, "Cosi fan tutte" at Pittsburgh Opera, Rezia, "Oberon" for Opera de Lyon, and Donna Anna during the 1986 Aix en Provence Festival.

### Debut

During the summer of 1985, Suzanne Murphy made a triumphant debut in Germany standing in at short notice for an indisposed Margaret Price to sing the title role in a concert performance of Norma at the Munich Opera.

Future plans include her first Lucia in a new production of the Bride of Lammermoor for Welsh National Opera, this autumn, Eletta, "Idomeneo," at the Vienna Staatsoper; Lucia di Lammermoor in Vancouver and Ophelia in "Hamlet" for Pittsburgh Opera in the spring/summer season 1987.

Suzanne Murphy has an active concert and recital career, and apart from regular concerts throughout Britain, overseas engagements have taken her to Sweden, Denmark and Vienna, and to festival in Wiesbaden, Dresden and Edinburgh.

Recent recordings are the soprano role in Beethoven's 9th Symphony with the English Chamber Orchestra and Michael Tilson Thomas conducting, and a recording of Russian music with Scottish National Orchestra, and Neeme Jarvi conducting, which is due for release in 1987.

For her Limerick visit, Suzanne will be bringing in her own accompanist, Ingrid

Surgenor, who hails from Belfast.

### Accompanist

Ingrid Surgenor was born in Belfast and began her studies at the Royal Academy of Music where she immediately specialised in piano accompaniment. Her work was greatly influenced by further study with Paul Hamburger, and in Master Class with the famous accompanist, Gerald Moore.

Her career to date has been many-sided. She has worked as a recital and competition accompanist, an opera repetiteur, orchestral pianist and continuo player and vocal coach.

Her operatic career took her to Glyndebourne where she worked on the music staff for 3 years, and she now works as a free-lance repetiteur with Welsh National Opera.

For 7 years, she worked as official accompanist for the Kathleen Ferrier Musical Scholarship and recently for the Cardiff Singer of the World Competition, which is

televised by BBC 2.

Her concert and recital work has taken her to many festivals throughout the country, to the South Bank, and most recently to Dublin and Belfast with the tenor Stuart Burrows.

### Radio

Her many radio appearances have included a Radio 3 recital with soprano Helen Field and most recently French Radio in a recording of a recital at the Aix en Provence Festival with soprano Suzanne Murphy, and a series of recordings with Stuart Burrows are planned for the new year.

She has appeared on television with Kyung Wha Chung the Korean violinist, with tenor Denis O'Neill, and she has recently recorded a new series with the treble Aled Jones.

Recent records include a recital with Denis O'Neill and two L.P recordings with Aled Jones.



Suzanne Murphy.

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### Footage

The film use of Thompson extracts from "The Bridge," shot in Belfast. A special information documentary is in Belfast



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