

Press Release

Wexford Festival Trust Elects new Chairman

(Tuesday, September 1, 2009) The board of Wexford Festival Trust, the company which oversees the operation of both Wexford Festival Opera and Wexford Opera House, has announced the election of its new Chairman.

Peter Scallan, a member of the Wexford Festival Trust board since 2004, will take up the demanding role of Chairman with effect from January 1, 2010 and in the interim will fulfill the role of Chairman Elect working with outgoing Chairman, Paul Hennessy.

Peter follows in his father Seán's footsteps, who was Chairman of the Festival from 1971-1976. Upon accepting his new appointment as Chairman, Peter commented, 'Wexford Festival Trust is a unique mix of a community organisation at the heart of Wexford and a world renowned festival of opera with an international focus. I look forward to Wexford Festival Opera continuing in the spirit of Dr. Tom Walsh and the other founders by delivering high quality productions of unjustly neglected operas. Outgoing Chairman Paul Hennessy has been an exemplar of the volunteer soul of Wexford Festival Opera and leaves a legacy of a strong festival at home in a world class opera house. It's a privilege and an honour to serve Wexford Festival as its new Chairman next year.'

Outgoing Chairman Paul Hennessy has held the position of Chairman since 2004 and has been at the helm of the organisation through a particularly challenging and exciting period which included the demolition of the Theatre Royal, the move of the Festival to Johnstown Castle in 2007 and the building and ultimate opening of the long awaited Wexford Opera House. Looking back on the last six years, Paul reflected, 'We have come through a period of extraordinary change and we are a much stronger organisation as a result. But it is to the future and new challenges that we must always look and I know that Peter will bring the necessary leadership and passion to his new role to meet all of these challenges. I wish him every success and look forward to supporting him in the coming years.'

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