

11 August 2021

## Signum Records announces recording partnership with Irish National Opera



World premiere recording of Gerald Barry's *Alice's Adventures Underground* set for release this November

Today [11 August 2021] Signum Records announced its partnership with Irish National Opera (INO), with plans to release the company's first official recordings. The partnership will begin with the release of the world premiere recording of Gerald Barry's *Alice's Adventures Under Ground* this November, followed by Puccini's *La bohème* in March 2022.

Funded by The Arts Council, Irish National Opera is Ireland's biggest, newest and most dynamic opera company which aims to produce high-quality and accessible opera in venues throughout Ireland as well as further afield. In its first two years, INO produced 72 performances across 24 Irish venues, with plans to expand even further in the coming years. Already boasting critical acclaim from the press, its recent lockdown production '20 Shots of Opera' was called "an exhilarating jaunt" by the Wall Street Journal.

Last year *Alice's Adventures Under Ground* received its fully-staged world premiere at the Royal Opera House as a co-production with the Irish National Opera. The Observer's five-star review of the

production called Barry *“in the innovative line of the great Irish artists”*. Having been unable to stage its own performance this year due to COVID restrictions, INO is instead releasing the world premiere recording alongside a film of the opera this November, with a cast including renowned Irish singers Claudia Boyle, Clare Presland, Gavan Ring and Alan Ewing.

March 2022 will mark the second INO Signum release with Puccini’s *La bohème*. Celine Byrne and Anna Devin are among the stellar cast, showcasing some of Ireland’s best singers on an Irish opera company recording for the first time. Byrne made her operatic debut singing the role of Mimi, and is now considered one of the greatest international interpreters of the role. She returns to INO in the same month to sing Micaëla in their production of *Carmen*.

Steve Long, CEO of Signum, said, *“Our new partnership with the Irish National Opera brings a hugely exciting addition to the Signum family of artists. This recently formed Opera company already has a great reception for its live performances and vibrant recorded content. We look forward to bringing many of their future productions to a Global audience.”*

Diego Fasciati, Executive Director of Irish National Opera, said, *“We are thrilled to embark on a partnership with Signum Records. We are a young company and producing high-quality albums that feature our talented singers, musicians and orchestras is a key step in our development and growth. We have ambitious plans. Our first album is the world premiere recording of Gerald Barry’s Alice’s Adventures Under Ground, which will be released in November 2021. Our second release will be a studio recording of Puccini’s La bohème featuring Irish sopranos Celine Byrne and Anna Devin as Mimi and Musetta. We have several other recording projects in the pipeline and we look forward to bringing them all to fruition in collaboration with Signum.”*

Signum, founded in 1997, boasts a catalogue of over 600 titles and includes artists such as The King’s Singers, Philharmonia Orchestra, James Rhodes and Tenebrae. In 2017 they were awarded Label of the Year by the Gramophone Awards, and recently achieved 300 million streams. Last year, the label secured their second GRAMMY win with Houston Chamber Choir’s Duruflé: Complete Choral Works, having previously won ‘Best Classical Crossover’ in 2008 for The King’s Singers’ album Simple Gifts.

*Alice’s Adventures Under Ground* will be available on Signum Records from 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021, while *La bohème* will be released on 4<sup>th</sup> March.

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

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## Notes to editors

### About Signum

Signum Records is a leading British independent label, specialising in classical music. Founded in 1997, Signum boasts a catalogue of over 700 titles collectively streamed over 400 million times and continues to release 35+ new recordings each year by internationally acclaimed artists. Signum

works closely with its sister company, Floating Earth, the leading production and engineering specialist service provider in Europe.

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

### **About Irish National Opera**

Launched in 2018 as Ireland's national opera company, INO produces high-quality, accessible opera in venues throughout Ireland and overseas. Opera has the power to move and inspire and INO's mission is to give everyone in Ireland the opportunity to experience this.

INO is dedicated to an unprecedented commitment to showcasing internationally acclaimed, world-class Irish opera singers alongside guest artists from all over the world. It is also committed to maximising public engagement with opera, brokering and sustaining key institutional partnerships and ensuring strong leadership and a sustainable governance structure.

In its first 24 months INO produced 72 performances of 14 operas in 24 Irish venues.

[www.irishnationalopera.ie](http://www.irishnationalopera.ie)

### **Cast listings**

#### Alice's Adventures Under Ground

Alice

Claudia Boyle

The Red Queen, The Queen of Hearts, Clare Presland

The Duchess, The Mock Turtle,

Passenger 1, Oyster 1

The White Queen, Dormouse, Tiger Lily,

Hilary Summers

The Mock Turtle, The Cook, Passenger 2,

Oyster 2

The White King, The White Rabbit,

Gavan Ring

The Mad Hatter, Tweedledum,

Frog Footman, Fawn, Bottle 1, Cake 2,

Baby 1, Passenger 3, Daisy 1

The March Hare, Tweedledee,

Peter Tantsits

Fish Footman, Guard, Messenger,  
Bottle 2, Cake 1, Baby 2, Passenger 4,  
Daisy 2

The White Knight, The Cheshire Cat,                    Stephen Richardson  
Soldier, Bottle 3, Cake 3, Baby 3, Oyster 3,  
Passenger 5, Daisy 3

Humpty Dumpty, The King of Hearts,    Alan Ewing  
The Red Knight, Bottle 4, Cake 4, Baby 4,

La bohème

Celine Byrne, Mimì

Anna Devin, Musetta

Merūnas Vitulskis, Rodolfo

David Bizic , Marcello

Ben McAteer, Schaunard

John Molloy, Colline

Eddie Wade, Benoît, Alcindoro

Fearghal Curtis, Parpignol

David Howes, Doganiere

Rory Dunne, Sergente

Irish National Opera Orchestra

Irish National Opera Chorus

Sergio Alapont, Conductor