

# Excerpts from Kevin Myers article in praise of Red Hurley

Irish Independent 24 September 2010

**R**ed belongs to a rich tradition going back to McCormack. It is utterly incomprehensible that he isn't the formal voice of Ireland, the instantly recognisable vocal brand that is associated abroad with this country, as Pavarotti was for Italy, or Crosby, Sinatra and Presley respectively were for the US, or Rossi, Piaf and Brel were for France, and Tom Jones is for Wales (imagine that duet, if you please: Hurley and Jones). That melodiousness, that vibrant musicality, that purest of pitches and that effortless cross-over of genres: they are unmistakably Ireland.

His intuitive sense of the beautiful is one reason why Red Hurley is such a wonderful singer. He will find the key element of any song -- a single note or phrase -- and elevate that into an unexpected little musical jewel, thereby making it the high point of the performance.



**Kevin Myers**

Please, catch him on YouTube -- especially his version of 'How Great Thou Art' with the Samaru Choir of Nigeria. To sing with an African choir is one of the most daunting tests for any European performer, because almost all Afri-

can cultures revere music as the highest form of human artistic expression.

Being accompanied by such a choir as Samaru is a challenge enough: to be visibly extolled by them -- as Red Hurley clearly is -- constitutes a major triumph.

Their combined performance confirms that there is no such thing as 'multiculturalism' in any civilised society: just tolerance of difference and a fusion of beauty wherever possible.

Red is performing in the Grand Canal Theatre in Dublin this coming Saturday, September 25, and in Cork with Rita Coolidge on Sunday, the 26th. There should not be a single empty seat in either house for Ireland's finest living male singer. And no, I've never met him and am doing him no personal favours: for he does us all the favours.