

World-famous Classical guitarist John Williams performed an incredible recital in the Curtis Auditorium at the CIT Cork School of Music on Thursday, 21st November 2013. The Curtis Auditorium is an impressive venue, is acoustically amazing, and the 380-seat hall was perfectly suited to guitar performance. John Williams rates it as one of his five favourite concert halls in the world. He speaks highly of the facilities at the CIT Cork School of Music building everywhere he goes. You could not find a finer ambassador for Cork!

This was his second last solo concert, as he is retiring from concert tours and solo recitals. The concert was a complete sell-out and the performance by Williams was riveting. The repertoire was fascinating and was played with the ease of the complete virtuoso. He received a standing ovation at the end of the concert.

Earlier in the day, John chaired a Seminar on the role of the guitar in education in the CIT Cork School of Music and was very impressed with the talented students, especially in ensemble. There was also a fascinating discussion on new developments in guitar construction with Cork guitar maker Harry McCormick, a former lecturer in Fine Art at the CIT Crawford College of Art and Design. Harry is now a pioneer in guitar-making like the Australian Greg Smallman who has developed a balsa and carbon fibre lattice bracing system with a paper-thin soundboard. These guitars have incredible volume, whilst maintaining clarity of tone and have been played by John Williams for the past 20 years.

John Williams is one of the most accomplished and celebrated musicians of his generation. From his childhood in Australia to his stellar career in London and around the world, John has lived an extraordinary life. Master of the classical repertoire, he brought guitar music to a wider audience with the group SKY and by his championing of the music of South America and Africa.

After all his years of performing, John is still enthusiastic about the guitar and in a recent BBC interview, he described the classical guitar as “a wonder and a fantastic instrument”.

I would like to thank John for coming to perform in Cork and I wish him and his wife Kathy all the best for the future.

Jerry Creedon
CIT Cork School of Music