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This discussion brings me to a special evening I recently enjoyed. Over the years, I've been fortunate to participate in and attend numerous Easter, 1916 commemora-

tions, both in Ireland and in the States. This April 24th was no exception.

Comfortably seated in the new Irish Heritage Center of Cincinnati, surrounded by a sizable group of serious-minded, loyal Irish, I witnessed a very artfully organized and moving programme that paid tribute to those men and women of '16 who dared challenge the might of the British Empire. Organised by Program Director Maureen Kennedy and hosted by Kent Covey, IHCC Executive Director, the two-hour event was a beautiful blend of song, poetry, readings plus a selection from George Morrison's 1959 production *Mise Éire* that featured actual 1916 film footage. Each contributor added just the right touch of personal conviction, drama and emotion to their parts. The singing of Barbara Kennedy Kenney, Declan O'Sullivan, Michael McEville, Bill Williams and Kent Covey blended perfectly with readings offered by James Magee, Philip Thompson, Sean Flannigan, Pat Kiernan and Kate Lester. But for me the most poignant moment of the evening was Declan O'Sullivan's powerful reading of Pearse and Connolly's Proclamation of the Irish Republic, *Poblacht Na H Éireann*.

With the recent production of John B. Keane's play *Moll*, its family-oriented, musical celebrations during St. Patrick's week and now its Easter, 1916 tribute, Cincinnati's Irish Heritage Center is off to a flying start. If you're ever in the area, pop in for a visit, maybe a pint or just lend a helping hand. Their new website www.irishcenterofcincinnati.com lists its coming attractions.