

Think  
you know  
Irish  
Music?

**Think Again.**



# Music from Ireland: New Music Now

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Contemporary Music Centre, Ireland presents a snapshot of the diverse and vibrant musical landscape on the island of Ireland. This includes information on ensembles and soloists based in Ireland who are fully engaged in the performance and promotion of works by living artists, and are ambassadors for the works of Irish composers both at home and internationally.

Say hello to the Contemporary Music Centre, Ireland at the IAMIC stand no. 17, with promotional materials and showcase CDs available at the stand.

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# Contemporary Music Centre

The Contemporary Music Centre is the information centre for contemporary music from the island of Ireland. We document, develop and promote contemporary music from the island of Ireland. Our library and sound archive houses the scores, recordings and related materials of approximately two hundred composers at our base in Dublin and online at [www.cmc.ie](http://www.cmc.ie).

We aim to create and facilitate opportunities for composers and performers in the performance of contemporary music and to develop an audience for and participation in contemporary music in Ireland and for Irish contemporary music abroad. CMC provides scores and related materials from our collection to order for performance and perusal along with information, advice and consultancy relating to new music in Ireland. We also provide repertoire advice and suggestions for performers and ensembles, programmers and festivals. CMC develops and manages an ongoing programme of free live events in order to promote the work of Irish composers and contemporary music, and engage with different audiences. As well as serving the new music community on the island of Ireland, CMC also exists as an international organisation aimed at promoting and developing opportunities for Irish composers abroad.

A member of the International Association of Music Information Centres, CMC works internationally on a number of different levels and collaborates on many ongoing international projects. CMC was the lead Irish partner in the two year project New Music: New Audiences from 2012-2014 along with music organisations and ensembles from 17 European countries. We also produce an annual showcase CD new music::new Ireland available when you come to visit us at stand 17 (the IAMIC stand). The Contemporary Music Centre is funded by the Arts Council /An Chomhairle Ealaíon and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. CMC recognises the support of Culture Ireland for international promotional activity.

Music From Ireland is the Irish Music Export Initiative. It was established by First Music Contact in 2004 and is funded by Culture Ireland. In 2016, Music From Ireland will expand its musical range as the Contemporary Music Centre Ireland and others commence promotion of all international activity under the Music From Ireland brand.



## Association of Irish Composers

The AIC is the representative body of composers in Ireland (including Northern Ireland). AIC represents the interests of composers, and seeks to enhance the professional status of its members through promotional activities. It is the Irish section of the International Society for Contemporary Music (ISCM) and is the Irish member of the European Composers' Forum (ECF).

AIC's activities work on three levels: local, national and international. We seek to broaden the awareness of new music by Irish composers on each of these levels through partnership with organisations such as the Contemporary Music Centre (CMC), the other national members of the ISCM network, and venues, presenters and press both within Ireland and abroad. As part of its promotional activities, the AIC runs a number of concert programmes, both national and international, including composer curated concerts, international exchanges, and a new series of talks.

We also run an online multimedia Journal in which composers, musicologists and performers discuss and analyse contemporary music. Recent international concerts and performances include the ISCM World Music Days Festival 2016 (Tongyeong, South Korea), which included a premiere of Irish composer Nick Roth's Woodland Heights, Irish Music in Korea concert, (March 2016, Seoul, South Korea) with performances by Nick Roth and Irish composer Anna Murray of composed and improvised music for saxophone and electronics.

[WWW.COMPOSERS.IE](http://WWW.COMPOSERS.IE)





## Alex Pectu Colan : Percussionist

An Irish musician of Romanian origin, Alex is quickly establishing himself both nationally and internationally as a percussionist of the finest calibre. His recent appearances as a soloist include performances with both the RTÉ National Symphony and Concert Orchestras, and as a National Concert Hall Rising Star recitalist.

He won first prize at the 2015 Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year competition and reached the semifinals at the 2015 Tromp International Percussion Competition, one of the most prestigious international percussion competitions.

As one of the few Irish percussionists to focus on solo and chamber music, Alex has championed and developed the existing repertoire by giving numerous recitals and working closely with composers. Recent projects include curating and performing 'In Wood/Metal/Water' as part of the Sounds from a Safe Harbour festival in Cork, collaborations with composer Tom Lane that include Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night' at the Abbey Theatre and outdoor performances for Cork Midsummer Festival, recitals at the West Cork Chamber Music Festival and much more.

As an active freelance musician, Alex regularly performs with the main Irish contemporary groups such as Crash Ensemble and Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble. Future projects include a concerto written by Irish composer, Sam Perkin, to be performed with the Irish Chamber Orchestra. He holds an MA in Music Performance from the Cork School of Music, an MSc in Physics from University College Cork and a BSc in Physics from the same institution.

[WWW.ALEXPETCU.COM](http://WWW.ALEXPETCU.COM)



## Cassiopeia Winds

Cassiopeia Winds is an Irish chamber wind ensemble formed in 2010, whose performances are marked by vivacity, panache and a dedication to the exploration of fine soundworlds. Though the ensemble has the capacity to expand or contract to suit its innovative programming, at its core is a quintet of players whose members are among the finest in the country, including players from the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, RTÉ Concert Orchestra and Crash Ensemble.

The ensemble aims with each performance to run the full and varied gamut of the wind repertoire from 19th century to contemporary works, including Danzi, Reicha, Barber, Hindemith, Poulenc, Francaix, Ibert, Nielsen, Ligeti and Arvo Part. They have a dedication to bringing the lesser known works of this repertoire into the Irish and international concert halls and festivals. The ensemble also has a great interest in contemporary music and in supporting the work of new Irish composers, and intend to commission new works for wind quintet for performance in Ireland and internationally.

They gave the first performance of a new work by Sean O'Callaghan in 2014 and have commissioned a new work from John Buckley which received its premiere in October 2015 followed by five performances on tour around Ireland that autumn/winter. Cassiopeia Winds have a passion for collaborating with other artists. Recent concerts include a weekend of performances at the Galway Midwinter Festival where they collaborated with the ConTempo Quartet, and a weekend of concerts as part of the 2014 New Ross Piano Festival in September.

[WWW.WINDQUINTET.IE](http://WWW.WINDQUINTET.IE)



## Chamber Choir Ireland

Chamber Choir Ireland is the country's flagship choral ensemble and national chamber choir under the internationally celebrated and multi award-winning conductor Paul Hillier as Artistic Director. The Choir is recognised for its unique approach to creative commissioning, recording and programming, and has gained a reputation for the high artistic quality of its performances.

The Choir has made a significant contribution to the development of contemporary Irish choral music through its commitment to commissioning new work. The Choir's repertoire spans from early to contemporary music, together with regular commissions by both Irish and international composers, including composers such as Gerald Barry, Tarik O'Regan, Kevin Volans, Siobhán Cleary, David Fennessy, Stephen McNeff and Jennifer Walshe. The Choir continues to develop its touring network in order to present high quality choral concerts to audiences all around the country. Internationally, the Choir has toured in Europe, Asia, Russian and North & South America. Some of our international repertoire includes David Lang, Steve Reich, Louis Andriessen, Steve Martland, Peteris Vasks, Arvo Pärt, Elliott Carter and Philip Glass. In recent years the Choir has a renewed commitment to recording with releases including 'One Day Fine' on the RTÉ Lyric FM label, 'Acallam na Senórach' and 'Carols from the Old and New Worlds Vol. 3' on the Harmonia Mundi label, as well as a recording to accompany the publication of 'Choirland: An Anthology of Irish Choral Music'. Future releases include the world premiere recording of works by Gerald Barry featuring Crash Ensemble in June 2016. The Choir continues to foster relationships with other performing ensembles and has collaborated with the Crash Ensemble, Theatre of Voices, Kronos Quartet and the Irish Chamber Orchestra. The Choir enjoys a unique relationship with Cork International Choral Festival where it is Choir in Residence on an annual basis.

[WWW.CHAMBERCHOIRIRELAND.COM](http://WWW.CHAMBERCHOIRIRELAND.COM)



## Concorde Ensemble

Over the past forty years, Concorde has presented new music at over 350 public concerts, featuring over 200 premieres of works by Irish composers. Formed in 1976 to fill a gap in opportunities in Ireland for listening to new music, the group continues to nurture the creation new work and forge international links with performers, composers and promoters.

Concorde has presented new music in fourteen countries throughout Europe and the USA. It is proud of a longstanding partnership with ACM in Chicago through the Global Connections programme, exchanging repertoire and hosting composer visits regularly.

In 2016 Concorde will premiere commissioned work from Garth Knox, and new work by Irish composers Dave Fennessy and Jane O'Leary. Concorde collaborates with ConTempo Quartet, having commissioned Ed Bennett and Jane O'Leary. Since 2010, Concorde has presented a series called 'Up Close with Music' in Gallery spaces in Dublin city centre. During this period there were premieres of 43 works by Irish composers. In 2015 commissions went to Irish composers Jane O'Leary, Ed Bennett, Linda Buckley; in 2014 Enda Bates, Ailis Ni Riain, Ryan Molloy, Jane O'Leary, Rhona Clarke; in 2013 Judith Ring, Jane O'Leary, Frank Lyons, Deirdre McKay; in 2012 Dave Flynn, Rhona Clarke, Jane O'Leary, Elaine Agnew, Raymond Deane, David Fennessy .

Concorde's CD 'Reflections', was released in 2010 on the Navona label; tracks were chosen to be represented on Navona's release, 'Fine Music Vol. III'. Concorde recorded 'Swelt Belly at Dawn' for Judith Ring's CD 'What Was' (Ergodos) in 2014.

[WWW.CONCORDE.IE](http://WWW.CONCORDE.IE)



## Crash Ensemble

Crash Ensemble is Ireland's leading new music ensemble; a group of world class musicians who play the most adventurous, groundbreaking music of today.

Founded in 1997 by Irish composer Donnacha Dennehy, some of the most distinctive living composers have written for the group, including Terry Riley, David Lang, Michael Gordon, Louis Andriessen, Arnold Dreyblatt, Kevin Volans, Glen Branca, Nico Muhly and Gerald Barry. Many well known artists from diverse musical backgrounds have performed with the ensemble; Gavin Friday, Dawn Upshaw, Julie Feeney, Lisa Hannigan, Íarla Ó Lionáird (The Gloaming), Bryce Dessner (The National), Richard Reed Parry (Arcade Fire) Sam Amidon and Beth Orton.

Crash have recordings on NMC, Cantaloupe, Nonesuch and the Bedroom Community labels. As well as performing throughout Ireland, Crash regularly perform internationally, with appearances in the last few years at the Edinburgh International Festival, The Royal Opera House (London), The Barbican (London), Carnegie Hall (NYC), The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington DC), Virginia Tech (Virginia), GAIDA Festival (Lithuania) and residencies at The Huddersfield Contemporary Music festival (UK) and Princeton University (NJ).

*"Massiveness and impact are characteristics that the Crash Ensemble rarely lack"*  
The Irish Times

*"The Irish newmusic band that plays with the energy and spirit of a rock group"*  
The New York Times

[WWW.CRASHENSEMBLE.COM](http://WWW.CRASHENSEMBLE.COM)



## crOw

crOw is a unique Irish improvising duo comprising of Cathal Roche, saxophones and internationally renowned Irish composer Ian Wilson on live electronics and sound objects.

The duo draws upon a broad range of influences and sound sources to create a distinct improvisational voice which incorporates both music and noise/sound and which references variously jazz, world music, drone and death metal, ambient and techno, medieval, renaissance and contemporary classical music. crOw also seeks to respond to its performative environment by adjusting its sound parameters in real time in order to engage the acoustic and architectural properties of the auditorium itself in performance.

The duo's highly successful 'Sounding the City' project for the 2015 Cork Midsummer Festival was centred on this idea and saw them perform in spaces as different as the National Sculpture Factory, the massive City Hall Atrium, the Sky Garden in Fitzgerald Park and the bijou GULPD café. crOw's music crosses borders and boundaries but is at its heart expressive, colourful and textural. Like the eponymous bird's cousin the magpie, crOw will, frankly, borrow anything it takes a fancy to but the results are, ultimately, inimitable.

[WWW.IANWILSON.IE/CROW.PHP](http://WWW.IANWILSON.IE/CROW.PHP)





## Dublin Sound Lab

Dublin Sound Lab is a contemporary music ensemble specialising in electronic and computer mediated concert performance. As well as presenting existing works, we initiate collaborations and use computer based techniques to explore relationships between compositional process and performance practice and create new and genuinely engaging concert experiences.

Formed in 2008 by organist Michael Quinn and composer Fergal Dowling, Dublin Sound Lab has worked with many leading Irish and international composers, performing works by: Ailis Ni Riain, Gérard Grisey, Salvatore Sciarrino, Kaija Saariaho, Luca Francesconi, Karlheinz Essl, Peter Ablinger, Maurício Kagel, Wim de Ruiter, Ann Cleare, Scott McLaughlin, Barry Truax, Roderik de Man, Karen Tanaka, Jean Claude Risset, Ed Bennett, Judith Ring, Gerald Barry, Jonathan Nangle, Jonathan Harvey, Rob Canning, Gráinne Mulvey, David Bremner, and Garth Knox amongst others. In 2013 Dublin Sound Lab commissioned the Cork based video artist, Ailbhe Ni Bhriain, to produce a large scale video work to accompany the performance of all seven movements of Kaija Saariaho's seminal mixedmedia work 'MAA'. The new work, 'Mirrors of Earth', was performed 9 and 14 November in Dublin and Bray. In 2014 we commissioned and curated PLACES and RESPONSES , a major collaboration and commission involving Peter Ablinger, Gráinne Mulvey, Rob Canning and Piaras Hoban, for 2014 Tiger Dublin Fringe Festival. In 2016 Dublin Sound Lab launched Music Current, a new festival of contemporary electronic music. Our 2013 commission from Jonathan Nangle 'untitled (after Dan Flavin)' was included in New Music Dublin Festival; after attending Dublin Sound Lab's composition workshop with Karlheinz Essl in 2011, Sebastian Adams travelled to Austria to study with Essl and Gráinne Mulvey's 'Streetorgsounds' (organ and fixed media), which we commissioned for reSounding Dublin 2012, has enjoyed numerous repeat performances through Ireland.

[WWW.DUBLINSOUNDLAB.IE](http://WWW.DUBLINSOUNDLAB.IE)



## Elizabeth Hilliard : Vocalist

Elizabeth Hilliard is a soprano from Dublin. She sings a wide range of repertoire, bringing a dramatic quality and emotional intensity to her performances. She combines pinpoint accuracy and razor sharp musicianship with her passion and relish for performing music by living composers.

She has premiered works by many Irish composers, including Garrett Sholdice, Siobhán Cleary, Derek Ball, Raymond Deane, John McLachlan, Kevin O'Connell, Sebastian Adams, and Rhona Clarke. Elizabeth is a codirector (with David Bremner) of Béal, a production company committed to exploring the relationship between sung and spoken word. The pair have brought international figures such as Robert Ashley, Tom Johnson, and Christopher Fox to Dublin. Arising from this work has been a successful collaboration with Fox. After hearing Elizabeth singing in Béal 2012, he was delighted to have her sing the world premiere (in the version for solo unaccompanied voice) of his multi movement work 'Catalogue Irraisoné' at Hilltown New Music Festival in 2013. He also wrote a solo work 'Sea to the West' which she premiered at Béal 2014. This is the title track on Elizabeth's forthcoming CD on the Metier Records Label.

The CD also features two works written for Elizabeth by Gráinne Mulvey. They have been working together since 2008 and Elizabeth sings two other solo works by Gráinne on the composer's CD 'Akanos' released on the Navona Records Label. Current projects include: 'Don't Walk', a 75 minute piece from video artist Mihai Cucu and composer Gráinne Mulvey for guitar, cello, soprano, electronics and video; 'Béal 2016: Inappropriate Moments', directing ensembÉal in performances of vocal ensemble music by Jennifer Walshe and 'Logical Fallacies', a 45 minute work for viola and soprano by David Bremner, performed with Andreea Banciu.

[WWW.ELIZABETHHILLIARD.COM](http://WWW.ELIZABETHHILLIARD.COM)





## Ergodos

Ergodos is a music production company and record label based in Dublin, founded by composers Benedict Schlepper Connolly and Garrett Sholdice in 2006. Radically eclectic in its outlook, Ergodos believe in presenting beautiful, enriching music to large, diverse audiences.

Ergodos has released twenty four titles, ranging from curated projects inspired by J.S. Bach and the art of song with house band Ergodos Musicians, to solo piano meditations by Simon O'Connor, to the delicate ambient jazz of Seán Mac Erlaine, to portrait discs of acclaimed contemporary composers such as Christopher Fox and Kevin Volans. Ergodos has produced numerous concerts and festivals in Dublin, Amsterdam, Berlin, London and New York.

Ergodos has regularly commissioned new work since its inception ten years ago, including bold new pieces by Irish composers Simon O'Connor, Jonathan Nangle, Linda Buckley, Judith Ring and Seán Clancy. 2016 / 2017 projects include a tour and record launch of 'Left Behind: Songs of the 1916 Widows', a collection of songs commemorating the 1916 Rising in Ireland by composer Simon O'Connor and vocalist Michelle O'Rourke (2016), the launch of 'Schubert: Four impromptus', pianist Michael McHale's interpretation of Schubert's Op. 90 impromptus interspersed with specially composed interludes by Irish composers (31 May 2016) and the London launch of 'What is living and what is dead', a major solo piano suite by Simon O'Connor, inspired by historian Tony Judt and recorded by Michael McHale. Summer 2016 also sees the launch of 'The Weathered Stone', a collection of chamber works inspired by landscape and the natural world by Ergodos codirector Benedict Schlepper Connolly, featuring pianist Saskia Lankhoorn, Robinson Panoramic Quartet, and woodwind player Seán Mac Erlaine.

[WWW.ERGODOS.IE](http://WWW.ERGODOS.IE)



## Fidelio Trio

The Fidelio Trio are Darragh Morgan, violin, Adi Tal, cello and Mary Dullea, piano. Shortlisted for 2016 Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards, they perform diverse repertoire internationally, broadcast regularly on BBC Radio 3, RTÉ Lyric FM, WNYC, NPR and featured in a Sky Arts documentary.

Appearances this season include Morrison Hall Artists Series San Francisco, Villa Romana Florence, King's Place London, a concert tour of India and festivals including Cheltenham, Gregynog, and the New Ross Piano Festival. Their extensive discography includes releases on Naxos, MN Records, NMC, Delphian Records, Metier Divine Art, Resonus Classics and Col Legno.

Constantly commissioning new works, The Fidelio Trio are closely associated with Toshio Hosokawa, Charles Wuorinen, Johannes Maria Staud and Michael Nyman. Their portfolio of world, Irish and UK premieres and commissions of Irish composers includes Gerald Barry, Donnacha Dennehy, Deirdre Gribbin, Linda Buckley, John Buckley, Rhona Clarke, Fergus Johnston, Raymond Deane, Frank Lyons, John McLachlan, David Fennessy, Benjamin Dwyer, Ian Wilson and Ed Bennett. They have also championed Irish composers throughout Europe, the USA, South Africa and Asia. Commissions for 2016 include Sam Perkins and Ann Cleare.

The 2016/17 season sees a 'Beyond Borders' PRS for Music tour of UK and Ireland in collaboration with composer Piers Hellawell and T.S. Eliot Prize winning poet Sinéad Morrissey, an extensive tour of Asia to Thailand, Brunei, Hong Kong and Singapore and a USA tour, performing in Pittsburgh, Miami and New York.

[WWW.FIDELIOTRIO.COM](http://WWW.FIDELIOTRIO.COM)



## Gavin Brennan

Gavin Brennan is a classical contemporary saxophonist from Dublin, Ireland. Having been nominated for the Irish Young Musician of the Year in both 2012 and 2013, Gavin has a desire to present the saxophone as a diverse classical and contemporary instrument.

Gavin's performances honour the traditional and highlight the new by exploring the influences of one on the other, blending both to alter perceptions and make new modern Irish music. His aim as a performer, a curator and a composer is to change audience perceptions of what Irish music is and can be.

Musical collaborations have seen Gavin tour internationally with the European Youth Wind Orchestra, and perform with ensembles and musicians such as the RTÉ ConTempo String Quartet, Concorde, the RTÉ National Concert Orchestra, Triona Marshall, and Kenneth Edge. Also a keen singer, Gavin is a member of internationally acclaimed Irish vocal ensemble, Anúna. Gavin has also worked with leading Irish composers such as Linda Buckley, Ann Cleare, Benjamin Dwyer, Michael McGlynn, Deirdre McKay, Jonathan Nangle, Ailís Ní Ríain, Kevin O'Connell, Jane O'Leary, Amy Rooney, Nick Roth, Martin Tourish, Eric Sweeney and Matthew Whiteside. These collaborations have involved setting their works for performance, instigating new versions of their existing works, or commissioning, creating and premiering new pieces. Gavin is founder and curator of Modern Irish Music, exploring and blending the boundaries between traditional and contemporary, between folk and classical.

[WWW.MODERNIRISHMUSIC.COM](http://WWW.MODERNIRISHMUSIC.COM)

## Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble

The Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble is the only musical group in Northern Ireland to specialise in the performance of modern and contemporary repertoire. Its remit is to give a voice to local composers and to perform their music in the context of music by leading exponents of contemporary music from elsewhere in Europe and the rest of the world.

It aims to programme music that otherwise cannot be heard live locally, while serving as an outlet for the talent of highly specialist performers and acting as a meeting point for their innovation, ideas and enthusiasm. Founded by the composer Dr Greg Caffrey, the core ensemble features Aisling Agnew – flutes, Sarah Watts – clarinets, Joanne Quigley – violin, David McCann – cello and Sean Morgan Rooney Piano.

Other guest players who frequently join the ensemble are the percussionist Alex Petcu and conductor Sinead Hayes. Hard Rain is a dynamic newcomer to the Irish new music scene, having performed music by almost fifty composers in the short three years they have been in existence. Their repertoire has included important titans of contemporary music such as Schoenberg, Takemitsu, Carter, Boulez, Reich, Bartok, Sciarrino, Berg, Donatoni, Ligeti, Feldman and Webern to name a few, as well as featuring a wide range of Irish composers. Their concerts have also frequently given a platform to young and developing composers and they supplement their concert season with a programme of educational workshops as well as the creation of opportunities through their annual Peter Rosser Composition Award. Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble's incredible lineup of players make the performance of contemporary music a central aspect of their creative lives.

[WWW.HARDRAINENSEMBLE.COM](http://WWW.HARDRAINENSEMBLE.COM)



## Kate Ellis : Cellist

Kate is a versatile musician dedicated to the performance and exploration of all new music.

She is cellist and Artistic Director of Crash Ensemble, Ireland's leading new music group, a member of Francesco Turrissi's Taquin experiments, Yurodny, Ergodos Musicians and the electro folk group Fovea Hex. Kate has toured and broadcast in Australia, the USA, Europe and China, performing at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Centre, the Canberra International Music Festival, Bang on a Can Marathon (NYC), Town Hall NYC, Shanghai EXPO, Istanbul Akbank Jazz Festival, soundSCAPE festival (Italy), Huddersfield International Contemporary Music Festival, Edinburgh International Festival, Royal Opera House, Barbican Centre, Kings Place (UK) and the National Concert Hall, Dublin.

Kate has collaborated with, commissioned, premiered and recorded works by numerous composers including Steve Reich, Michael Gordon, Nico Muhly, Donnacha Dennehy and Gerald Barry and has performed with a diverse range of musicians including Bobby McFerrin, Iarla O Lionaird, Gavin Friday and Karan Casey to name but a few. Most recent Irish commissions include solo works from composers Donnacha Dennehy, Barry Guy, Nick Roth, Adrian Hart, Emma O Halloran, Finola Merivale, Barry O'Halpin, Benedict Schlepper Connolly and Garrett Sholdice. From 2011 to 2014 Kate was musician in residence at the Cork Opera House and co-curated a festival marking the 75th birthday year of Steve Reich, who said of Kate's playing 'she has my unbounded admiration'.

In 2014 Kate released 'Jump' – an album of works for cello and electronics by Irish composers Donnacha Dennehy, Linda Buckley, Enda Bates, Niall Vallely and Laura Sheeran. The album was recorded as part of Diatribe Records musical project Solo Series Phase II, a wide lens portrait of Ireland's new musical terrain.

[WWW.KATEELLISCELLO.COM](http://WWW.KATEELLISCELLO.COM)



## Kirkos Ensemble

Kirkos is a contemporary music ensemble made up of twelve of Ireland's finest musicians under 30, directed by Sebastian Adams and Robert Coleman. A key tenet of the Kirkos philosophy is that every element of a concert experience, from lighting to seating, should be regarded as being as important as the music being played. High concept programming and superb playing are the ensemble's dual aims, and Kirkos hope that their offbeat take on serious new music can be a game changer for the uninitiated.

In 2015, Kirkos focused their efforts on two major concept concerts. First came the mammoth Blackout series – three highly theatrical concerts in almost complete darkness, comprising three large scale chamber works and new solo works written in response, matched with experimental food. Beata Maria followed, taking the aesthetic of Blackout and paring it back for a set of newly written works by RIAM composers telling the story of The Nativity from Mary's perspective. Other key Kirkos projects have included 'Rite' (Stravinsky's Rite of Spring reimagined by fourteen Irish composers for string trio and live visuals in a latenight performance a century to the day after its fateful premiere) and CAGE100 (a chance programmed happening of John Cage's music).

Collaborations include relationships with Ensemble Music, Irish National Youth Ballet, London based composers collective Bastard Assignments, CMC, John Godfrey and three concerts with the Irish Composers Collective. Kirkos have given 25 concerts and nearly 90 world premieres in three years, including premieres from most of Ireland's leading composers including Gerald Barry, Raymond Deane, Kevin Volans, Andrew Hamilton, Linda Buckley, Kevin O'Connell, Ian Wilson, Jonathan Nangle, Garrett Sholdice.

[WWW.KIRKOSENSEMBLE.COM](http://WWW.KIRKOSENSEMBLE.COM)





## Michelle O'Rourke

Michelle O'Rourke is an Irish singer based in Dublin. Her natural sound, unaffected expressivity and technical ability make for an interpreter of rare dynamism. Michelle combines her classical training and background in Baroque music with an adventurous eclecticism and a passion for collaboration with living composers.

In recent years Michelle has commissioned, premiered and toured works by Linda Buckley, Garrett Sholdice, Benedict Schlepper Connolly, Judith Ring, Naomi Pinnock and Andrew Hamilton, amongst others. Current collaborations/commissions are with Anna Murray (new work for voice & electronics), with Judith Ring (a song cycle) and Andrew Hamilton (a pair of pieces for solo voice).

In 2015 she premiered 'Once Below' by Karen Power in Berlin – she was one of four soloists premiering this work. During 2015 her recording of OROURKE by Andrew Hamilton was featured on American magazine blog I Care If You Listen. She performed several solo vocal works by Irish composers as part of the 2012 Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, and was vocal soloist in the 2013 / 2014 Association of Irish Composers' Irish Canon series.

Michelle has performed works by Irish composers at home and abroad. She has also had the pleasure of working with Berlin based Stargaze ensemble, and with Danish indie band Efterklang. Michelle continues to commission new works and to collaborate regularly with living composers at home and internationally.

[WWW.MICHELLEOROURKE.IE](http://WWW.MICHELLEOROURKE.IE)



## Paul Roe : Clarinettist

Paul Roe is a musician with particular interests in performance, research, education and participative music making. He is a performer of international repute and has given performances throughout Europe, Asia and North America. He was Associate principal Clarinet of the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland from 1987 - 2000.

Paul's career profile in music is broad based with ongoing commitments in performance, teaching, examining and community music. He is a member of the teaching staff at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin and the Dublin Institute of Education Conservatory of Music and Drama. Paul has performed with many distinguished musicians and ensembles including, Con Tempo String Quartet (Romania/Ireland), Crash Ensemble (Ireland), George Lewis (Trombone, USA), Harry Sparnaay (Bass Clarinet, Holland), Garth Knox (Viola, France), Lenneke Ruiten (Soprano, Holland) and Finghin Collins (Piano, Ireland). He is a member of several chamber music groups, with whom he plays a wide range of music from classical to contemporary repertoire. In recent years he has performed with these groups in Chicago, Atlanta, Vilnius, Paris, Rotterdam, York, London, Barcelona, Ljubljana, Bratislava and Riga. He is a keen advocate for the composition and performance of contemporary music and as a member of Concorde regularly performs new music both nationally and internationally.

In 2008 Paul received a Fulbright Scholars award to study Klezmer performance at Mannes College of Music, New York, where he worked with the internationally acclaimed clarinettist David Krakauer.

[WWW.PAULROE.ORG](http://WWW.PAULROE.ORG)





## Quiet Music Ensemble

Quiet Music Ensemble is an Experimental Music group led by composer and performer John Godfrey. The group consists of some of the top solo and chamber performers in Ireland: John Godfrey, founder/ director/electric guitar; Seán Mac Erlaine, clarinets/saxes; Roddy O'Keefe, trombone; Ilse De Ziah, cello; Dan Bodwell, double bass; Alexis Nealon, sound engineer.

It draws its repertoire from diverse artistic sources, including composers, sound artists and visual artists, and specialises in improvisation. It performs in unconventional spaces and contexts, and specialises in extended performances. QME has premiered, commissioned and performed new works from world renowned composers such as Alvin Lucier, Pauline Oliveros, David Toop, Jennifer Walsh and others. At its launch festival in 2008, QME premiered 5 new works and appeared alongside composers/performers Pauline Oliveros and David Toop. Other festival appearances have included the Dublin Electronic Arts Festival 2009, Hilltown Festival of New Music 2011 and 2012, and the prestigious Huddersfield premiere of Jennifer Walsh's multimedia commission, 'Dordán'.

In 2012, QME presented a large scale celebration of the late music of John Cage in association with Triskel Arts Centre Cork, which was funded and broadcast by RTÉ. In 2015, QME gave the world premiere of Karen Power's 'Instruments of Ice' at DAADgalerie, Berlin and presented a large scale event in the Freemasons' Hall, Dublin, during which it premiered the spatially diffused, multiroom version of Oliveros' 'The Mystery Beyond Matter'. This work by Oliveros is also at the centre of QME's debut album, 'The Mysteries Beyond Matter', released on Farpoint Recordings in 2014, and will be performed as part of the prestigious Deep Minimalism festival in London in June 2016.

[WWW.QUIETMUSICENSEMBLE.COM](http://WWW.QUIETMUSICENSEMBLE.COM)



## Seán Mac Erlaine : Clarinetist and Electronic Artist

Seán Mac Erlaine is recognised as one of Ireland's most forward thinking creative musicians and composers. His work intersects new music, free improvisation and traditional music. Seán maintains a busy performance schedule in Ireland, touring the country regularly and performing in all the major venues including National Concert Hall, Cork Opera House and Belfast's Lyric Theatre.

His international work includes concerts in Sweden, Denmark, France, Italy, Germany, Poland, Scotland, and a recent sold out tour of East Coast USA. He is fortunate to perform with a hugely diverse range of international musicians and artists including Bill Frisell, Ernst Reijseger, The Smith Quartet, Hayden Chisholm, Frank Gratkowski, Eivind Aarset and The Gloaming. Seán's practice draws, in part, on the deep well of Irish music, the haunting space of the slow air tradition and the special beauty of Ireland's landscape.

He has worked with many of the leading traditional musicians including sean nós singers Iarla O'Lionaird and Lorcán Mac Mathúna, Martin Tourish, Steve Cooney and fiddler Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh. Upcoming projects in 2016 include performance of new work by Irish composer Benedict Schlepfer Connolly with The Robinson Panaramic Quartet and Saskia Lankhoorn (ECM/Holland); Duo composition and performance with Icelandic composer Valgeir Sigurðsson; new commission for Avarus Ensemble (Estonia) with première in Tallinn and performances at London South Bank Centre with Quiet Music Ensemble. Seán can be heard on over 30 CDs and his work has been released on several international labels.

[WWW.SEANMACERLAINE.COM](http://WWW.SEANMACERLAINE.COM)

## Sonic Vigil

Sonic Vigil emerged from an increasingly vibrant Cork-based scene and was founded in 2005 to create an annual event as a celebration of sound Art and the art of making it. It is a unique and experimental event that has been performed in some of Cork's iconic cultural venues and has established Cork as a leading centre for Sound Art in Ireland.

Each year professional artists are invited to present new outlooks and experiences to a diverse audience. Sonic Vigil invites local and international artists to collaborate together which has begun to establish creative networks and new artistic partnerships that impact the cities evolving cultural life. In 2016 Sonic Vigil celebrates 10 years and began the year with a Berlin performance @ Ausland. SV is a multifaceted and collaborative series that include productions such as CD, LP and DVD releases, concerts, presentations, installations, workshops, residencies and many other events as a prelude to the annual event. (All releases on Farpoint Recordings label: [www.farpointrecordings.com](http://www.farpointrecordings.com))

The Sonic Vigil team reiterates our open and collaborative ethos and aims to establish the event as an opportunity for artists and performers to network, collaborate and show new works in a stimulating context. The curators include composers Karen Power and John Godfrey visual artists Danny Mc Carthy, Irene Murphy and Mick O' Shea. Throughout our 10 years we have worked with a host of national and international artists including: David Toop, Christina Kubish, Steven Vitello, Quiet Club, Quiet Music Ensemble, Nick Roth, David Bremner, Softday, Robin Palmer, Katie O' Looney, Mixile, Harry Moore, Paul Hegarty, Gunter Berkus, Tore Boe, Andrea Bonino, Anthony Kelly, David Stalling, Olesya Zdorovetska, Aine O' Dwyer, Han Earl Park, Vicky Langan, Max le Cain and many, many more.

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SONICVIGIL8](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SONICVIGIL8)



## Sylvia O'Brien

Equally at home in the classical and contemporary repertoire, Irish soprano Sylvia O'Brien has impressed audiences in opera, oratorio and chamber music. Her vocal and musical skills make her an important singer of contemporary repertoire, having performed works by Tristan Keuris, Gerald Barry, Louis Andriessen, Brian Irvine, Morton Feldman, Manos Tsangaris, Seóirse Bodley, Ian Wilson, Kevin O'Connell, Reymond Deane, Kaaija Saariaho, and Luigi Nono.

In September 2008 she premiered a new work by Joseph Phibbs *Silence* at the Song's End for soprano and string quartet, at the Jubilee Hall Aldeburgh. She has performed and recorded the role of Gabriel in the Naxos recording of 'The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant' by Gerald Barry. In 2013, she performed the Irish premiere of 'Here (in circles)' by Michel van der Aa with the Crash Ensemble conducted by Alan Pierson and in 2014 as part of the New Music Dublin Festival she sang Claude Vivier's *Lonely Child* with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland conducted by Nicolas Cleobury.

Her passion and commitment to new music has led her to investigate the world of Irish contemporary song and subsequent to her recent residency at the Contemporary Music Centre, Sylvia spent her time exploring the library collection of contemporary Irish vocal music. She is currently touring with her recital 'A Contemporary Voice', an adventurous exploration of the rich tapas of contemporary Irish vocal repertoire. Sylvia is co-founder of EVLANA, an ensemble devoted to playing not only contemporary works but also work from the classical repertoire. She is also pursuing a Doctorate in Performance in contemporary Irish vocal music.

[WWW.SYLVIAOBRIEN.COM](http://WWW.SYLVIAOBRIEN.COM)



## William Dowdall : Flautist

Dublin born William Dowdall combines a busy career as a soloist, chamber musician, and teacher. He studied with Maurice Sharp at the Cleveland Institute of Music and, upon his return to Ireland at the age of 21, he was appointed Principal flute of the RTE Radio Orchestra and at the age of 27 was appointed Principal flute of the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland.

In 2004 he was appointed Professor of Flute at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. In 2006 he was awarded a grant by the Arts Council to research advanced contemporary techniques in New York. He has also recently been appointed as visiting Research Associate at Waikato University (New Zealand).

He has performed as soloist in over 50 occasions with the National Symphony Orchestra and has performed as soloist in Europe, USA, China, Australia, and New Zealand. International critics have described his playing as “Luxuriant”, “Most winning in tone”, “Liquidity brilliant flute playing”. As a solo artist he has recorded for Goasco, Naxos/Marco Polo, Black box, Celestial Harmonies and Atoll label.

In 2010 he recorded Irish and New Zealand contemporary solo flute works for the Atoll label which has been received with critical acclaim internationally. Irish composers such as John Buckley, Ben Dwyer, Raymond Deane, Kevin O’Connell have written works specially for him and the new addition of a Glissando head joint has expanded the possibilities of the flute well into the 21st century.

[BILLTHEFLUTER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BILLTHEFLUTER@GMAIL.COM)

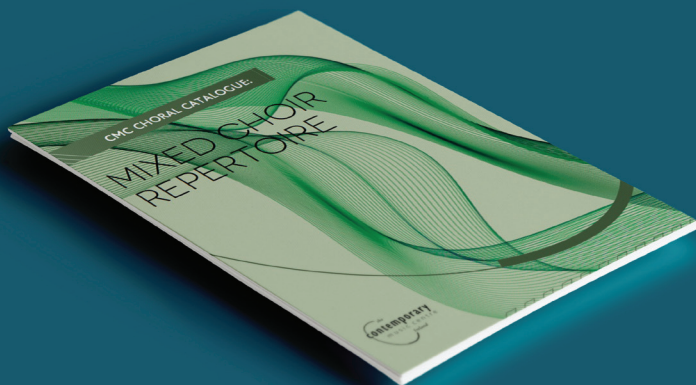


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