
MUSIC CURRENT FESTIVAL 2021

MUSIC CURRENT SOLOISTS

CURRENTS

Seán O'Dálaigh, new work with Marja Gaynor (for Baroque viola and electronics, 2021)

Elis Czerniak, *and the Acceptance of Death* (for bass flute, bass clarinet, cello and electronics)

Gráinne Mulvey, *Texts for a Civil War* with Joe O'Farrell (for bass flute and electronics, 2021)

Darragh Kelly, new work with Darragh Morgan (violin, 2021)

Paul Scully, new work with Paul Roe (clarinet and electronics, 2021)

Neil O'Connor, *Frisson / Rapture* with Paul Roe (for bass clarinet and Morphogene synthesizer, 2021)

Date: 7pm, 9/11/12

Venue: SMOCK ALLEY THEATRE

Duration: 1 hour

Gráinne Mulvey

Gráinne Mulvey's music has been performed and broadcast across the globe. She has been the recipient of many awards, commissions and honours. She has represented Ireland twice at the ISCM World Music Days in 2008, and 2009 and at the International Rostrum of Composers in 1994 and 2006.

RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra has commissioned many pieces and her work featured in the Horizons Series in 2015 and in 2007. Her work has also been performed by the Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra, The Northern Sinfonia, UK, The Hradec Králové Orchestra, Prague, The Romanian Radio Chamber Orchestra and Orchestre National De Lorraine, France. The Dublin International Piano Competition has commissioned a test piece for May 2015 and she is currently writing a piece for Chamber Choir Ireland, to be premiered in 2016 to commemorate the centenary of the Easter Rising 1916.

She is Head of Composition at the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama. She is also a member of the AIC, IAWM, IMRO, Donne In Musica, Italy and Aosdána, Ireland's organisation of creative artists. Her music is published by Babel Scores,

France and Prairie Dawg Press, New York. She has given several seminars on her music and has been involved in several outreach projects.

Her music is due to be performed in the UK, Poland, France (SIME Conference Lille) and San Francisco during 2015/16. Two of her pieces have been recorded by Concorde on the Black Box label. The CMC Contemporary Music from Ireland Volume 7 CD includes her orchestral piece Akanos and her piece Calorescence is released on the new CMC CD new Music: new Ireland 2. The Gothic CD released by the pianist Mary Dullea includes her piece Étude and her portrait CD Akanos is on the Navona label Cat: NV5943.

Sean O'Dálaigh

Seán Ó Dálaigh is a composer/performer from and based in Kerry, Ireland. His music is concerned with things like space, silence and the physicality of sound production. He has recently been engaged with a personal investigation of his practices relationship to place, heritage and the Irish language. His practice includes writing for ensembles, composing for/collaborating with and performing in contemporary theatre and dance works and performative installations incorporating improvisation, electronic music and audience participation. He has worked/work-shopped with RETRO DISCO, Switzerland, The Zafraan Ensemble (Berlin), Ensemble Meitar (Israel), DissonArt Ensemble (Greece), the AskolSchönberg ensemble (Amsterdam), Musicatreize (Marseilles), the Kirkos Ensemble (Dublin), the Nieuw Ensemble (Amsterdam), Amit Dolberg, piano and Yoonhee Lee, violin. His works have been performed in Ireland, The Netherlands, Belgium, Israel and Switzerland. As an improviser he has performed in Cafe OTO (London), the Dublin Dance Festival (2018) and at KFest Arts Festival (Kerry, 2018).

In January 2018 he founded the arts collective, éisteacht, for the production and dissemination of new work centred in rural Ireland related to practices of Listening. He was awarded a commission from the Music Current festival in 2019. He won the Chamber Music on Valentia composers competition in 2018. He was a recipient of the 2016 Next Generation Bursary from the Irish Arts Council, one of 16 in the country selected across all disciplines as well as other individual artist bursaries and commissions in 2017 and 2018.

Darragh Kelly

Darragh Kelly is a composer and musician whose work explores the virtual vs the actual, the live vs the recorded, machine learning, and non-teleological, material focused composition.

Self-Attention

This work attempts to re-embody the output of a machine learning system that has been trained on music for violin. The performer becomes a nexus for seemingly contrasting technologies: notation and artificial intelligence.

Elis Czerniak

Elis Czerniak started composing as a late teen during his piano and guitar studies and then went on to play the cello and clarinet. He studied composition with an eclectic range of teachers including Donnacha Dennehy, Sean Reed, Jonathan Cole, Simon Holt and Mark Anthony Turnage, undertaking degrees at Trinity College Dublin and the Royal College of Music, London. He is now back at Trinity College studying for his PhD under the guidance of Evangelia Rigaki.

He has had a number of pieces performed by student and professional ensembles throughout Ireland and London, including Crash Ensemble, Dublin Laptop Orchestra, Mercury Quartet, RCM Symphony Orchestra and the ConTempo Quartet, as well as working with artists and sculptors, creating sound pieces for various installations throughout the UK. Composers such as Nono, Scelsi and Feldman have a great influence on his compositional style, banishing both procedure and structure whilst focusing on the instability and fragility found within pure sound. He has also been performing on the international circuit, touring with his bands 'Alarmist' and 'Halves' whose debut album was nominated for the Choice Music Prize 2010 for best album of the year. He is also a member of both the ICC and AIC.

Neil O'Connor

Composer and performer Neil O Connor has been involved in experimental & electro-acoustic music for the past 24 years and has performed extensively in Ireland, Europe, Australia, Asia and the US. His work has been shown/performed at MOMA, New York, IRCAM Paris, Institute of Contemporary Art, London and has held residencies at the Massachusetts Museum of Modern Art and EMS – Swedish Institute of Electro-Acoustic Music, Stockholm, Sweden

Frisson / Rapture

Frisson, also known as aesthetic chills or musical chills is a psychophysiological response to rewarding auditory and/or visual stimuli that often induces a pleasurable or otherwise positively-valenced affective state and transient occurrence. Rapture, on the other hand, is an expression or manifestation of ecstasy or passion. *Frisson / Rapture* attempts to capture this via a collaborative journey between the composer and performer. A graphical score was developed containing basic motifs in three movements. Paul Roe recorded these which were manipulated via a modular synthesizer and re-loaded back on to it. These were then used by me during rehearsals and will feature during the performance. So in a sense, this *Frisson / Rapture* will (hopefully) be apparent when we respond to one another live on stage.

Paul Scully

Paul Scully is a composer based in Dublin. He studied piano privately with Dr Albert Bradshaw and composition at Trinity College Dublin with Evangelia Rigaki, graduating in 2016 with a BA in Music. From 2017–2020, he ran the Irish Composers' Collective as an active exponent of new music and an advocate for young/emerging composers.

In his current works he is exploring the use of speech and language in music, microtonality, AI, Virtual & Augmented Reality, the uncanny valley and soundscape ecology.

Frank Lyons

Professor Frank Lyons is Executive Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at Ulster University. He has developed an international profile as a composer and researcher with over 200 performances and exhibitions of his works having been given in China, Japan, Australia, South Africa, the US, Europe, the UK and Ireland and broadcast on BBC, RTE, NPR and ABCFM by some of the world's leading soloists and ensembles.

He has led an international network of research collaborations in the field of creative technologies and disability under the 'Inclusive Creativity' banner.

Frank is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He was awarded an MBE in 2019 for services to Music and Higher Education.

Spin 2 was collaboratively conceived by the composer and the dedicatee, violinist Darragh Morgan, as the second of a coherent pair of works taking as their model Boulez' *Anthèmes* for solo violin and *Anthèmes 2* for violin and electronics. *Spin* and *Spin 2* use essentially the same notated score, with development of live sound processing in *Spin 2*. The use of *Spin* in the title references spinning wheels used in games of chance and contemporary DJ production techniques, and these are explored in the form of the aleatoric process which order the piece's four main sections and in the 'remixing' of gestures from classic 20th and 21st century solo violin repertoire. The live electronics for *Spin 2* were created during Covid lockdown, necessitating the investigation of videoconferencing for collaboration and remote processing. The order of performance of the four main sections is decided by using a 'Spinning Wheel' app. Borrowed gestures (Bartók, Boulez, Carter, Xenakis, Zorn) are 'remixed' throughout. However, harmonic coherence is provided by filtering the pitch material of the gestures through permutations of the all-interval tetrachords. The gestures are transformed and notated in ways to provide scope for improvisation. The live processing in *Spin 2* expands the notated material in terms of colour, timbre and harmonic palette, drawing on spectral and granular synthesis techniques of *Anthèmes 2*, here explored in Live and Max patches designed to facilitate greater freedom in improvising with parameters of the live processing.

Darragh Morgan, violin

Described by *The Strad Magazine* as '*hugely impressive, he plays with seemingly effortless control*' Irish violinist Darragh Morgan was born in Belfast in 1974. A renowned exponent of contemporary music, Darragh has appeared as a soloist at Aldeburgh Festival, Philips Collection Washington DC, Wiener Konzerthaus, Spitalfields Festival, Osterfestival Tirol and BBC Proms Chamber Music. His numerous concerto appearances with The Ulster Orchestra include the World Premiere of 'Hymn of Dawn' by Sir John Tavener which he also performed with Istanbul Symphony Orchestra. With National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland he has toured Beethoven Triple Concerto, recorded 'Elastic Harmonic' by Donnacha Dennehy for NMC Recordings and he has premiered Brian Irvine's 'A Mon Seul Desir'. With RTÉ Concert Orchestra and London Musici/Rambert Dance Company

he has given over 40 performances of 'Tabula Rasa' by Arvo Pärt (including in the presence of the composer). Darragh gave the South African premiere of Barber Violin Concerto with the KZN Philhamonic Orchestra. Other concerto appearances have included Kölner Kammerorchester and Cyprus Symphony Orchestra. He has collaborated with such distinguished musicians as Thomas Adès, Emmanuel Pahud, Darius Brubeck, Joanna MacGregor, John Tilbury, Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin and David Holmes.

A passionate chamber musician Darragh is founder member of '*the virtuosic Fidelio Trio*' (Sunday Times). They were shortlisted for the Royal Philhamonic Society Awards Ensemble Prize and have received Gramophone Magazine Editor's Choice for their recordings. The trio have appeared at prestigious venues around the globe including Shanghai Oriental Arts Centre, Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room Southbank Centre, Casa da Musica Porto, National Sawdust New York, Morrison Artist Series San Francisco, Princeton Sound Kitchen, Andy Warhol Museum Pittsburgh, National Centre for Performing Arts Mumbai, Beijing Modern Music Festival, National Concert Hall Dublin, Kilkenny Arts Festival, Brighton Festival, Cheltenham Festival and the Vale of Glamorgan Festival. They have collaborated with actor Adrian Dunbar, writer Alexander McCall-Smith and poet Sinead Morrissey.

Darragh was for a number of years violinist with the award winning Smith Quartet, praised by The Guardian as 'Britain's answer to the Kronos'. Highlights of his time with The Smiths included appearances with Rokia Traore at Peter Sellars New Crowned Hope Festival at The Barbican, Bang on a Can Marathon New York, two sold out concerts at Seoul Arts Centre, Maerz Musik Berlin, ten performances of the music of Morton Feldman with pianist John Tilbury at Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival (shortlisted for an RPS Award), Steve Reich 75th Birthday Concerts, Kevin Volans 60th Birthday at The Wigmore Hall and many acclaimed albums including the first ever complete recording of Philip Glass String Quartets for Signum Classics.

Darragh regularly leads London Sinfonietta including recently at The Esplanade Singapore and Venice Biennale. He has appeared as leader of Ensemble Modern at Lucerne Festival, Sciarrino's 'Macbeth' at Festival d'automne Paris, Klangspuren Schwaz, Tongyeong International Music Festival and at the Alte Opera Frankfurt. He has also appeared with Musik Fabrik in the World Premiere of 'La Passione' by Louis Andriessen and 'Shelter' by Michael Gordon, Julia Wolfe and David Lang. Darragh has worked closely with conductors including Oliver Knussen, Pierre Boulez, Francois Xavier Roth, John Eliot Gardiner, Heinz Holliger, En Shao and Paul Daniel. He has appeared as guest leader of Aurora Orchestra, The Philharmonia, RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, Macau Orchestra, Les Siecles and Athelas Sinfonietta, Remix Ensemble, BCMG and Red Note Ensemble. Darragh has been invited to direct European Union Chamber Orchestra and 2004-2005 was Artistic Director of Baroque 2000, South Africa's premiere period instrument ensemble.

Paul Roe, clarinet,

A life defined by curiosity and exploration **Paul Roe** works in a range of areas with an eclectic mix of activities in performance, teaching, research and

leadership/developmental coaching. Paul is Professor of Clarinet at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and Lecturer at the Technical University of Dublin. He also works as an executive coach for the Department of Education's *Centre for School Leadership*; working with school principals and management teams in a range of contexts. Paul is the director of the innovative multidisciplinary collective -*The Art of Collaboration* that explores a diverse range of approaches to co-creativity; cultivating transformation through collaborative action. The most recent releases from this collective include a new CD entitled *Just Be* which has been described by the Irish Times as *a sweeping yet intimate collection of new compositions and traditional tunes, with a meditative spoken work piece*. This CD is paired with Prof. Jim Lucey's new book...*A Whole New Plan for Living*.

As a collaborative artist and thought leader Paul is involved in many other projects with individuals and groups including *Concorde, Evlana, Dublin Sound Lab*.

Joe O'Farrell, flute

Joe O'Farrell is a flautist specialising in contemporary music, equally at home on all four members of the standard flute family. He has worked closely with such composers as Gráinne Mulvey, Rob Canning, Victor Lazzarini, Derek A Kelly and Iain Curdy, amongst others. He particularly enjoys the collaborative process of bringing a new work to realisation. He is also active as a composer, improviser and teacher

Ilse de Ziah, cello

Ilse de Ziah is a cellist, composer, arranger, musical director and filmmaker. She is highly respected for her work developing the solo cello repertoire, especially with Irish music. She has won several awards for her work, including best spiritual song for her composition *Prayer* and twice best documentary for her Irish music film *Living the Tradition*. She performs and records solo and in collaboration with other artists, has performed in many theatre productions in London and Cork and has a large online following. She holds a first class honours Masters in Music from the Cork School of Music, conducts the Cork Light Orchestra, is a member of the Quiet Music Ensemble and teaches music at UCC.

Marja Gaynor, viola

Originally from Finland, Cork-based Marja Gaynor is a versatile and much in demand violin and viola player freelancing with leading Early Music groups in Ireland and Europe. A member of IBO since 2007, Marja is also the principal viola of Camerata Kilkenny, whose latest recording for Lyric FM includes her performance of Telemann's 'Gulliver Suite' as a duo with Claire Duff, as well as her arrangements of O'Carolan tunes. Outside Ireland Marja has worked with Ensemble Marsyas, Dunedin Consort, The King's Consort, Helsinki Baroque Orchestra and other leading European period orchestras. On modern violin she has recently performed with the

Vanbrugh and with the Irish Chamber Orchestra, and in 'Quartet 2020' led by Katherine Hunka.

Apart from her career as a Baroque player, Marja is passionate about new music and has contributed to the Irish contemporary music scene by premiering numerous new works. She is also much sought after as an arranger, studio musician and collaborator in all genres. A landmark project was her critically acclaimed arrangement of Purcell's Dido and Aeneas, which drew on various areas of her musical expertise: 17th century music, modern folk and traditional music, and improvisation. She also arranged and played the strings for 'Falling Slowly', Oscar winner for best song in 2008. Marja was Artistic Director of East Cork Early Music Festival from 2013 to 2015. She teaches Baroque violin, viola and chamber music in MTU Cork School of Music.