

June 2008

So far these exchanges have been made possible thanks to our Arts Council funding, and also Culture Ireland, the British Council, and the Instituto Camões. Those of the above-mentioned concerts which have already happened have been of the highest level and attracted very positive comments from the press.

REPRESENTATION

AIC is the representative body for composers in Ireland. Members can ask for advice on commission rates, contracts, publishing rates and royalties, and should let us know whenever they feel they have not been paid fairly for their work, whether directly creative or else ancillary to their role as a composer. We set the commission rates which are available at www.composers.ie/services

COMPETITIONS UPDATE

Since the last newsletter we have held our annual composition competitions in partnership with the Feis Ceoil and Music21. The winners were Jonathan Nangle (Music21/AIC, Irish Composition) Kazutomo Yamamoto (Music21 / IMRO / AIC International), and Danny Roe (Feis Ceoil / AIC Young composer competition).

NEW MEMBER

AIC welcomes new member Greg Caffrey

OPPORTUNITIES

- The 2nd International Uuno Klami Composition Competition aims to produce good new repertoire for a small orchestra of sinfonietta type. There is no age limit. Works entered for the competition must not have been previously published or performed. They must be 15-30 minutes long. The following prizes will be awarded: 1st prize €11,000, 2nd prize €9,000 3rd prize €7,000. The jury will have the right to divide the prizes in some other way.
Deadline 1 December 2008. Competition jury: Kalevi Aho, Magnus Lindberg, Anders Eliasson and Yasuo Shinozaki. More details at www.klamicompetition.fi
- The Walbrook Singers (choir in north-west London UK) announces a composition competition for choral pieces on the theme of "New Year" - unaccompanied or with piano/organ, any language, open to all composers - no entry fee, and £500 in prize-money for the winning work(s) - deadline 1 October 2008 for full rules and guidelines, please visit <http://paulayres.co.uk/callforscores/>
- 7th Composition competition of Grame-EOC. For composers under 35 years old. The selected candidates will reside at the Grame's studios and their creations will be premiered by the musicians of the Ensemble Orchestral Contemporain in March 2010 during the Biennale Musiques en Scène in Lyon. The final date for receipt of applications is July 17th 2008. For more info email to grame@grame.fr



June 2008

AIC AND ISCM 2007-2009

Following on from the Hong Kong World Music Days in late 2007, when Ireland was represented by a very interesting piece from Scott McLaughlin, performed by the Luxembourg Sinfonietta, in 2008 the World Music Days festival will take place in Vilnius, Lithuania. Gráinne Mulvey's orchestral piece **Akanos** will represent Ireland at this prestigious international festival on the 30th of October. This concert will take place in the National Philharmonic Hall, Vilnius, with the Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra under Robertas Servenikas

The piece was sent by AIC as part of the National Submission last year: this marks for Ireland a return to normality after recent years where the international jury for the festival has not selected from our national submission, but instead requests extra scores or else just finds an Irish work by networking. The full national submission for Vilnius included the following composers: Derek Ball, Linda Buckley, Bernadette Comac, Peter Moran, Grainne Mulvey and Karen Power. For more on the festival in 2008 visit www.wmd2008.org/en/home

The 2009 festival will take place in Sweden – in three centres – Visby, Vaxjo and Gothenburg. Details of Jury and all other matters are covered on the website www.lis-tentotheworld.se. Our national submission this time consists of the following pieces:

Derek Ball	Ceol Chrann na Gaoithe	wind quintet
Greg Caffrey	Ett Mobilt Hem	sound/visual installation
Fergal Dowling	Manchester Material	electro acoustic (8 channel)
Gráinne Mulvey	Stabat Mater	a cappella choir
Vincent Kennedy	What's a Heaven for?	symphonic wind band

IRISH COMPOSERS IN LONDON

In June 2007 AIC promoted a very successful concert at the Warehouse, Theed St, in central London (a venue well known to contemporary concert goers). That concert was performed by Darragh Morgan and Mary Dullea and featured works by Deirdre Gribbin, Deirdre McKay, Simon Mawhinney, Benjamin Dwyer, Siobhán Cleary, Linda Buckley, Ed Bennett and John Buckley. That event was such a success that we decided to do something similar again, and so this year, on July 1st, the Fidelio Trio will perform Irish works at the Warehouse.

For those thinking of travelling to attend the details are:

The Fidelio Trio (Darragh Morgan, Mary Dullea, Robin Michael)

The Warehouse, Theed St, Central London



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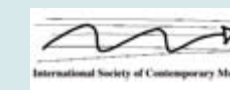
Committee members:

Martin O'Leary

Linda Buckley

Vincent Kennedy

Gerry Murphy



Tuesday July 1st, 7.30pm. Programme:

Donnacha Dennehy	Bulb *
Kevin Volans	Piano Trio *
Gerald Barry	Triorchic Blues (trio version) **
Linda Buckley	Galura *
Benedict Schlepper Connolly	Ektstase II **
Frank Corcoran	Piano Trio *
Joe Zawinul arr. Frank Lyons	Birdland **

** World premiere * London premiere

AIC'S INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE CONCERT PROGRAMME – OUTLINE AND HISTORY

An international exchange concert is – perhaps obviously – where organisations from two countries make a bilateral arrangement to host one another's national repertoire. There are many ways that such an exchange can come about, but AIC is uniquely placed to exploit the possibilities in this regard. Such exchanges have been a major part of the international reach of Irish composers and performers to date. AIC strives to attract funding towards this end of its activities, and this article is based on a position paper presented to the Arts Council which led to a small increase in AIC's funding in 2007.

The ideal exchange

The ideal exchange works like this: AIC presents a concert of music which showcases the recent music of the partner country. In return, the partner country hosts a concert of Irish compositions; Irish composers get performed and heard abroad. The costs to each side are the same as if they gave a regular concert of their own music to their own audience, but everyone's experience is enriched: composers, performers and audiences.

There are two models: score exchange and performer exchange. It is possible for AIC to get Irish performers to play scores from the partner country, while the other country organises its own

performers to play Irish scores. The second model is better, however, where Irish performers play abroad and foreign performers come to Ireland. It is better because there is much more audience interest (on both sides) when the performers are visitors, and the performers have the benefit of widening their contacts and experiences etc. The travel costs might seem an obvious disadvantage, but the reality is that many countries, including Ireland, have agencies dedicated to the international promotion of their own culture (as embodied in both the performers and the composers), and/or travel schemes from their culture/arts department/council. The existence of these agencies significantly facilitates such concert exchanges as the exchange need not entail extra spending from the two partner organisations.

Apart from the ideal model there are inevitably variations such as where music from third countries is included to widen audience interest, or where the same ensemble performs in both countries, and financial variants where the partner country is so disadvantaged that performer fees have to be topped up from Irish sources.

An exchange concert programme has intermittently featured in AIC's programme over the years, with some projects not following the ideal model, but a variant. We can point to some successes:

AIC has presented Irish composition in the following places:

- 1997 – Romania and Moldova
- 1999 – Paris, Bucharest and Switzerland
(3 concerts)
- 2000 – Braila (Romania)
- 2001 – Cagliari (Italy)
- 2004 – Copenhagen
- 2006 – South Africa (National Arts Festival)

and hosted performers in Ireland featuring the music of:

- 1998 – Switzerland
- 2000 – Romania
- 2000 – Switzerland (3 concerts)
- 2001 – Denmark (2 concerts)
- 2002 – Italy
- 2003 – Britain
- 2006 – Britain (2 concerts)
- 2007 – Flanders (2 concerts) and Portugal
(2 concerts)

Why AIC?

AIC, as the Irish Section of the International Society for Contemporary Music, sends a delegate to its annual general assembly each year. That organisation consists of new music performers, promoters and festival organisers in 51 partner countries in the whole of Europe, N. America, S. America, Asia, Australia and Africa. Through this AIC has built up a specialised knowledge of which countries are most capable of being potential partners in such exchanges. For over ten years we have used this knowledge to bring about concerts abroad for Irish composers and to bring international music to Irish ears.

AIC sees this side of its activities as essential to its work as a promoter of Irish composition in the international context: the statutes of ISCM even require member organisations to have bilateral contacts of this kind. Furthermore, it is very good value for money.



Crash Ensemble

FLANDERS – IRELAND 2007

In February 2007, pianist Daan Vandewalle from Ghent came to Dublin and Maynooth and performed Gordon Mumma, Karel Goeyvaerts, Alvin Curran, Boudewijn Buckinx and Galina Ulstvol'skaya. This was reciprocated by a concert from Dublin-based pianist Izumi Kimura, who visited the Ghent Arts Festival in July to perform works of Philip Hammond, Fergus Johnston, Akira Miyoshi, Gerald Barry, Ronan Guilfoyle, Paul Hayes and John Adams. Izumi also did a similar programme in the Hugh Lane Gallery that Autumn.

PORTUGAL – IRELAND 2007-2008



Casa Da Música

In April 2007 the Portuguese Section of ISCM, Miso Music, came to Dublin as part of their 'Circuits' Tour. The Miso Ensemble performed the extraordinary one-man multimedia opera Salt Itinerary, and the Smith Quartet performed a concert of quartet and electronic works from Emmanuel Nunes, Pedro Rebelo, Michael Alcorn, Miguel Azguime, and Joao Pedro. In return, the Música Viva Festival (2007), hosted the Fidelio Trio in a concert at the Casa da Música, Porto which included music from Donnacha Dennehy, Kevin Volans, Deirdre Gribbin, Ed Bennett and Salvatore Sciarrino. Since this was a single event reciprocating for two concerts in Ireland, Musica Viva agreed to host another concert, in the 2008 edition of the festival. This will be the Crash Ensemble performing on September 26th 2008 in Lisbon's Centro Cultural de Belém. The programme will include music from Donnacha Dennehy, John Godfrey, and a new work from John McLachlan commissioned by Musica Viva.