

Application form

Name
Address
Phone/Mobile
Email
Present position/place of study
Musical qualifications: exams/diplomas/degrees etc.

Please enclose the following with your application:

1. A brief summary of your experience in composition and a list of any works composed
2. The name and contact details of one referee who may be contacted to report on your composition or experience

Completed applications should be sent to the address below by Friday, June 9th 2017. Applications can also be sent by email.

Dr John McLachlan, Irish Composition Summer School, Ballyargus, Redcastle, Lifford, Co. Donegal
email johnrmclachlan@gmail.com,
Ph/fax 074 9383734

Course directors will assess applications, and applicants will be contacted within one week of closing date. 50% of fee will be due by June 23th 2017.

Course information and fees

COMPOSITION COURSE July 5th - 14th €350

Observer: €30 per day

This entitles participants to attend lectures and workshops only. Observers should fill in the form on this brochure and write a cover note marked 'observer' indicating the number of days they wish to attend.

Background

The Irish Composition Summer School started as the Ennis Composition Summer School, founded in 1983 by John Buckley, and has been responsible for over thirty years of excellence in composition teaching by Irish and international composers. Previous directors have included James Wilson, John Buckley, Grainne Mulvey and Michael Alcorn. A majority of the most successful Irish composers of the last three decades have attended the Summer School. It has provided them the opportunity to work with leading names in composition—including Bent Sorensen, Poul Ruders, Christopher Fox, Liza Lim, Kevin Volans, Simon Bainbridge, Michael Finnissy, Jo Kondo, Clarence Barlow and Laura Schwendinger—and in performance, including Collette McGahon, Sylvia O'Brien, the Prey Trio, Jane Manning, the Fidelio Trio, the ConTempo Quartet, the Clarion Horn Trio and the Robinson Panoramic Quartet.

The ICSS would like to thank the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama for the generous hosting of the Summer School in 2017.

ICSS is on Facebook.

Irish Composition Summer School 2017

(35th edition)

July 5th - 14th



Application deadline: Friday June 9th



Course Directors

Nicola LeFanu
Kevin O'Connell

Guest Directors

Ann Cleare
Simon Mawhinney

Performers

Tom Poulson
Ailbhe McDonagh
Richard O'Donnell
David Adams

Technology Director

Ian Brabazon

Hosted by the **DIT
Conservatory
of Music, Rathmines**

Administrator

John McLachlan

Sponsored by the Arts Council/
An Chomhairle Ealaíon and IMRO



Course Information

This year's school will offer a range of lectures, presentations and demonstrations on all aspects of contemporary composition, focusing on contemporary writing for any combination of the available forces (trumpet, cello, percussion and piano) with optional electronics.

At the end of the course, the students' works will be presented in workshop, rehearsed and digitally recorded by the performers. Throughout the course, students will receive guidance from experienced course directors and nationally and internationally renowned composers. This year, the ICSS is delighted to welcome two Guest Directors, Simon Mawhinney and Ann Cleare, who will present seminars on their own work, as well as giving individual tutorials to the students.

Due to the short duration of the course students are expected to come with some sketches/ideas prepared.

Please note the course does not provide accommodation.

Levels

The course involves a great deal of individual tuition and so is suitable for a range of students from postgraduate, to graduate, to Leaving Certificate students (aged 17+) taking contemporary composition as an elective.

The course involves a combination of one-to-one tutorials with the participating composers, and group seminars. These will cover the major aspects of contemporary composition such as harmony, rhythm, formal structure, the use of music technology and instrumental writing.

Composers and Performers



NICOLA LEFANU has composed over a hundred works, which have been widely played, broadcast and recorded. Her music is published by Novello and Edition Peters.

She has been commissioned by the BBC, by festivals, and by leading orchestras, ensembles and soloists in UK, Ireland and overseas. LeFanu has

an affinity for vocal music and has composed eight operas, which have been staged in UK, Ireland and USA. They include Dawnpath (1977) The Green Children, a children's opera (1990) Light Passing (2004), Dream Hunter (2011) and Tokaido Road (2014). In 2017 The Crimson Bird, for soprano and large orchestra, is premièred by BBCSO, and in April she is the featured 'Composer of the Week' on BBC Radio 3.

Nicola LeFanu was born in 1947, daughter of Irish parents. She studied at Oxford, RCM and Harvard. She is active in many aspects of the musical profession; from 1994-2008 she was Professor of Music at the University of York, UK. www.nicolalefanu.com



KEVIN O'CONNELL has taught composition at Trinity College Dublin and Queen's University Belfast. He now teaches in the musicianship department at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. He has written over 40 pieces, including many orchestral and large-scale works. His music has been performed by the Ulster Orchestra, the

NSO, Joanna McGregor, Rolf Hind, Gerard McChrystal, Raphael Wallfisch, and the Hugo Wolf and Lotus string quartets. He has received commissions from the BBC, the Ulster Orchestra, Dún

Laoghaire/Rathdown Council, and RTE performing groups. His three chamber operas have been performed throughout Ireland and England, and in Germany and Los Angeles. He has received many prizes for his work, including the Sean O Riada Prize, a Bass Ireland award, the Macauley Fellowship, and the RTE Musician of the Future in composition (1982). In 2005 he was the artistic director of RTE's Living Music festival. He is a member of Aosdána.



SIMON MAWHINNEY's work as a composer has a notably international focus, with high profile musicians in Germany, France, Iceland, UK and elsewhere regularly collaborating with him on new projects. His music ranges from quietude to frenetic exhilaration and draws on a wide range of contemporary influences: from

complexist music to the colouristic harmonies of post-spectralism to the cantillation of numerous cultures. Piano performance forms an integral part of Mawhinney's work. He has a wide repertoire ranging from Bach to Boulez and has given performances which have received critical acclaim throughout Europe.

Recent composition projects have included Hunshigo for violin and piano (recorded for Altarus Records by Darragh Morgan and Mary Dullea), Perseid (commissioned by Ensemble Recherche, Germany), Starbog for chamber orchestra (commissioned by Ensemble Caput, Iceland). In 2013 Mary Dullea recorded his 55-minute piano work, Marlacoo, and in 2014 Kolbeinn Bjarnason recorded his Merula, a sequence of pieces for bass flute and computer.

In early 2013, Simon Mawhinney completed a nine-movement work in all the Worlds for viola d'amore and string quartet. This was commissioned by Garth Knox and Quatuor Béla, and has received many performances.



ANN CLEARE originally hails from county Offaly. Her music has been performed in various venues across Europe, Australia, and America, and has been featured in festivals such as The Gaudeamus Week, The Witternertage für Neue Kammermusik, Horizons, International Music Institute Darmstadt, Bludenzer Tage

zeitgemäßer Musik, working with ensembles such as: Ensemble SurPlus, The Crash Ensemble, Quatuor Diotima, Collegium Novum Zürich, JACK Quartet, The Curious Chamber Players, Yarn/Wire, ensemble mosaik, The Experimental Ensemble (SWR Studios), The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, ensemble recherche, Ensemble Garage, and the Fidelio Trio. Current and future projects include new works for The RTÉ NSO, Crash Ensemble, The International Contemporary Ensemble, Ekmeles and solo trombonist William Lang, ELISION, and a video opera version of her chamber opera rinn. Ann's scores are published by Project Schott New York. She has studied composition at University College Cork, IRCAM, and holds a Ph.D. in Composition from Harvard University. She is currently a Lecturer in Composition at the University of York in the UK. See annclearecomposer.com

IAN BRABAZON is a graduate of NUI, Maynooth and Trinity College Dublin, where he completed his M. Phil in Music and Media Technologies in 1999. He lectured in the Music Technology department of NUI Maynooth, while undertaking post-graduate research there. He has studied with Todd Winkler, Michael Alcorn and Roger Doyle. He has taught on the summer school over many years, and currently runs Vita Studios, a sound recording and engineering company.

TOM POULSON (trumpet) has performed across Europe, Asia, Africa and North America. He is a member of the Stockholm Chamber Brass and WorldBrass ensembles and a prize winner at various international competitions, including the Aeolus International Music Competition for Wind Instruments in Düsseldorf and Yamaha Music Foundation of Europe competition. As a concerto soloist he has appeared with the Royal Stockholm and Royal Flemish Philharmonic Orchestras, Düsseldorf and Nürnberger Symphoniker amongst others and was the soloist in a private concert for Princess Anne in Mauritius. Tom's passion for new music has seen him give dozens of premieres of works by composers such as Mike Svoboda, Oliver Searle, Gareth Williams and Timothy Cooper. He regularly appears as a guest of contemporary music groups including the Ensemble Modern (Germany), Kammarensemblen (Sweden) and Aarhus Sinfonietta (Denmark). He is a graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and the Royal Academy of Music, Aarhus.

Tom regularly gives masterclasses on trumpet performance and chamber music and is currently a guest teacher at the Sibelius Academy, Helsinki. tompoulson.com

Irish cellist, **AILBHE MCDONAGH**, performs throughout Ireland and internationally as a soloist and chamber musician. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY, and the Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin, Ireland, she studied with world-renowned cellists Steven Doane, Nora Gilleese, Aisling Drury-Byrne and William Butt. McDonagh gave her debut recital with celebrated Irish pianist John O'Connor at the National Concert Hall in Dublin, Ireland. Over the last ten years, she has performed throughout Europe, Asia and the USA and has appeared as a concerto soloist numerous times all over Ireland and abroad. Performances include concerts at Carnegie Hall, the Yale Norfolk Festival, Schleswig Holstein Music Festival, Great Irish Houses Festival, for the Irish President at Aras an Uachtairain and on Irish national television and radio. McDonagh joined the cello faculty of the Royal Irish Academy of Music in 2010. www.ailbhemcdonagh.com

RICHARD O'DONNELL was born in Newark, New Jersey in the USA, Richard received his B Mus from Indiana University and his M Mus from the City University of New York. He began his career with the National Symphony Orchestra of Colombia, and has also been a member of the Basque National Orchestra in San Sebastian, Spain and of the RTE Concert Orchestra.

He is currently the Section Principal Percussionist in the RTE National Symphony Orchestra. In 1996 he joined the teaching staff of the Royal Irish Academy of Music, where he is also the Director of the Percussion Ensemble.

A former organ scholar of St Patrick's Cathedral and Trinity College Dublin, **DAVID ADAMS** studied in Freiburg (Ludwig Doerr) and Amsterdam (Piet Kee and Ewald Koorman). He won prizes at international competitions in Bruges, Speyer and Lüneburg, and was the first winner of the Dublin International Organ Competition, the only Irish winner of the competition to date. David performs regularly with many ensembles including the Irish Baroque Orchestra, and has recorded extensively both as a soloist and an ensemble player in the fields of Early and contemporary music. He has directed opera for the RIAM, Opera Theatre Company, English Touring Opera and the Lismore Festival. In 2007 he was awarded a PhD from the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, for his work on the organ music of Max Reger. David lectures in organ and harpsichord and is head of the new Early Music Department at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin.