

## 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 8th 2018. Applications can also be sent by email.

Dr John McLachlan, Irish Composition Summer School, Ballyargus, Redcastle, Lifford, Co. Donegal  
email [johnrmclachlan@gmail.com](mailto:johnrmclachlan@gmail.com),  
Ph 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 22nd 2018.

## Course information and fees

COMPOSITION COURSE July 4<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> €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 Deirdre Gribbin, James Wilson, John Buckley, Kevin O'Connell 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, Nicola LeFanu, Jo Kondo, Clarence Barlow and Laura Elise Schwendinger,—and in performance, including Dorothy Dorow, Collette McGahon, Sylvia O'Brien, David Adams, Cassiopeia Winds, the Fidelio Trio, the Clarion Horn Trio and the ConTempo Quartet.

The ICSS would like to thank the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama for the generous hosting of the Summer School in 2018. ICSS is on Facebook.

# Irish Composition Summer School 2018

(36<sup>th</sup> edition)

July 4<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>

Application deadline: Friday June 8<sup>th</sup>



### Course directors

Gráinne Mulvey  
Martin O'Leary

### Guest director

Richard Whalley

### Performers in Residence

ConTempo string quartet

### 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 (2vn, va, vc), with optional electronics.

At the end of the course, the students' works will be presented in workshop, rehearsed and digitally recorded by the performers in residence. 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 Richard Whalley as Guest Director, who will present seminars on his own work, as well as giving individual tutorials to all 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



**GRÁINNE MULVEY** was born in Dublin. She studied under Professor Nicola LeFanu and gained a DPhil in Composition at the University of York in 1999. She also holds an MA in Composition from Queens University, Belfast and a BA (Hons) Degree from Waterford Institute of Technology. She was

appointed Head of Composition at Dublin Institute of Technology Conservatory of Music and Drama in 2001. Other studies include courses with Peter Maxwell Davies, Jonathan Harvey, Louis Andriessen, Kaija Saariaho and Boguslaw Schaeffer.

Her music has been widely performed both in Ireland and abroad and she has received many broadcasts of her work by radio stations across the globe. She was a featured composer in the 2007 RTE NSO Horizons concert series. She represented Ireland at the ISCM World Music Days in consecutive years (2008 and 09) in Lithuania and Sweden.

She has won various competitions, and received many awards, commissions and performances, notably from Concorde, the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, the Ulster Orchestra, the Northern Sinfonia (UK), the Romanian Radio Chamber Orchestra, the Lithuanian National Symphony

Orchestra, the Hradec Králové Philharmonic Orchestra (Czech Republic), pianists Cheryl Pauls (Canada) and Slawomir Zubrzycki (Poland), the Bruce Gbur Bassoon Ensemble (USA), the Tampere Raw Ensemble (Finland), trombonist Barrie Webb, BlackHair (UK), flautist Joe O' Farrell, cellist Martin Johnson, ACME Ensemble (USA) and pianist Matthew Schellhorn among others. CDs include 2014's Akanos, on Navona Records, and inclusion on anthologies from Black Box and CMC. Gráinne is a member of Aosdána, Ireland's organisation of creative artists.



Born in Dublin, **MARTIN O'LEARY** began composing at the age of fourteen. He studied music at Trinity College, from where he holds a PhD for an extended study of three orchestral works of the English composer Havergal Brian. Since 1991 he has lectured at

NUI Maynooth, where he became a full time member of staff in the Department of Music in 1993.

He has written an extensive series of works covering most genres, and his compositions have been heard throughout Europe, as well as in Japan, Israel and the USA. "Glory to His Name", a CD of arrangements for a capella choir, was released on Ceol Records in 2003. His more recent works include "Bluescape" (2007) for piano trio, written for the Fidelio Trio, two solo guitar works, "6 Preludes" (2005) and "Fantasia Elegiaca" (2007), written for Leslie Cassidy and Christian Fergo, "Blue Toccata" (2011), commissioned for the 2012 AXA Dublin International Piano Competition, "Avanti" (2012), written for the Muzika Piano Trio of Kenosha, Wisconsin, and "Luireach Phadraig" (2015), written for the Maynooth Chamber Choir and director Michael Dawson.

Martin O'Leary performs regularly in solo repertoire and chamber works as a pianist, and has premiered works by John Buckley, John Casken, Rhona Clarke, John McLachlan, Peter Michael Hamel, Paul Hayes and Kevin O'Connell.



**RICHARD WHALLEY** is a composer and pianist living in Manchester, where he is a Senior Lecturer in Composition at the University of Manchester. He studied at the University of York with Roger Marsh and Nicola Lefanu, then at Harvard University for a PhD in Composition with Mario Davidovsky and Joshua Fineberg. As

a pianist he has premiered a number of new works by himself and numerous other composers, including Camden Reeves, Kevin Malone, Tom Coult and Peter Swinnen. He teaches regularly on the composition masterclass at the ARAM-Poitou Summer School in France, where he is a regular contributor to the Concerts en nos Villages series. As a composer he was finalist in BBC Young Musician of the Year 1992 and Gaudeamus 2001, and more recently his music has been performed in the ISCM World Music Days in Flanders in 2012 and Milan Expo in 2015. His music has been performed in the US and throughout

Europe by numerous outstanding soloists and ensembles, and in 2016 his work Misplaced Time Refound for solo flute was shortlisted for a BASCA British Composer Award. His scores are published by Composers Edition at [composersedition.com](http://composersedition.com) and you can find information about CD recordings of his music at [richardwhalley.com](http://richardwhalley.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.

## RTE CONTEMPO STRING QUARTET

Bogdan Sofei 1st violin, Ingrid Nicola 2nd violin, Andreea Banciu viola & Adrian Mantu cello

Described by The Strad magazine as "a polished and professional group, full of exuberance with a fine sense of ensemble", the RTÉ Contempo Quartet is one of the most exciting and vibrant chamber ensembles performing today.

Since its formation in Bucharest in 1995, it has performed world-wide in prestigious venues such as St Martin-in-the-Fields, Berliner Philharmonie, Palazzo del Quirinale Rome, Carnegie Hall and the Opera House Tel-Aviv.

The ensemble has won numerous international prizes, taking first prize at competitions in Munich, Rome and London, and worked alongside artists of the highest calibre including Emma Johnson, Yuko Inoue, Hugh Tinney, Chen Zimbalista, Jérôme Pernoo, Peter Donohue and Martin Roscoe. Collaborations with other distinguished quartets have also been a feature, such as the Amadeus, Arditti, Vanbrugh, Casals and Endellion.

The Quartet has broadcast widely on RTÉ, BBC, TVR Romania, France Musique Radio, RAI Italy, ORF Austria and Sat3 Germany, and has made recordings including music for Steven Spielberg's drama Band of Brothers; Universal with British clarinettist Emma Johnson; Quartz, music by Osvaldo Golijov; and Spiccato Junction featuring the Irish traditional musicians Máirín O'Connor, Garry O'Briain and Cathal Hayden. It has premiered and recorded many contemporary pieces, working with composers such as Steve Reich, Jane O'Leary, Alec Roth, Ian Wilson, John McLachlan, Gráinne Mulvey and Donnacha Dennehy.

From 1999 to 2002 the Quartet coached chamber music groups at the Royal Academy of Music, London, before moving to Galway in 2003 to take up the position of Galway Ensemble in Residence where it has firmly established itself in a variety of genres including core classical repertoire, contemporary, folk, traditional and jazz. It was appointed as RTÉ's Quartet in Residence in 2014. [www.contempoquartet.com](http://www.contempoquartet.com)