



## **Irish Composition Summer School [39<sup>th</sup> edition]**

The Irish Composition Summer School is back with an in-person course in 2022!

We will run at T.U. Dublin Conservatoire from July 5th to 15th.

Prospective participants should be composers at the early stages of their career, and students taking composition and considering it as a career.

Course Directors: Nicola LeFanu and Kevin O'Connell

Guest Directors: Anne-Marie O'Farrell and Ed Bennett

Performers: Members of Ficino Ensemble with Anne-Marie O'Farrell (harp)

Siun Milne (violin), Macdara Ó Seireadáin (clarinet), Eanna Monaghan (bassoon)

Technology director: Ian Brabazon

Admin: Dr John McLachlan

Sponsored by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon

Supported by IMRO—the Irish Music Rights Organisation

We will offer a full day timetable that allows for composing time: the weekdays feature group seminars (mostly mornings) and individual tutorials (afternoons). Days are 9.30 to 5 Irish time (UTC / GMT).



## COURSE INFORMATION

This year's school will offer a range of lectures, presentations and demonstrations on all aspects of contemporary composition, focusing on writing for any combination of the available forces (violin, clarinet(s), concert harp and bassoon), with optional electronic fixed media. The school offers advice on writing for the instruments, and on all aspects of contemporary art music composition. There is considerable one to one guidance on your piece as you write it, therefore we welcome composers at any stage of their development.

At the end of the course, the students' works will be presented in workshop, rehearsed and 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 Guest Directors Ed Bennett and Anne-Marie O'Farrell, who will present seminars on their own work, as well as giving individual tutorials to all students.

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

## LEVELS

The course involves a great deal of individual tuition and so is suitable for a range of music students from postgraduate to undergraduate. The course involves a combination of one-to-one tutorials with the participating composers, and seminars for the whole group. 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** was born in England in 1947. She has composed around one hundred works which have been played and broadcast all over the world; her music is published by Novello and by Peters Edition. She has been commissioned by the BBC, by festivals in UK and beyond, and by leading orchestras, ensembles and soloists. Many works are available on CD, including music for strings (Naxos), Horn Concerto (NMC) and Saxophone Concerto (NEOS).

She has a particular affinity for vocal music and has composed eight operas: Dawnpath (New Opera Company, London, 1977), The Story of Mary O'Neill, a radio opera, libretto Sally McInerney, (BBC, 1987), The Green Children, a children's opera, libretto Kevin Crossley-Holland, (Kings Lynn Festival, 1990), Blood Wedding, libretto Deborah Levy (WPT, London 1992), The Wildman, libretto Crossley-Holland, (Aldeburgh Festival, 1995), Light Passing, libretto John Edmonds, (BBC/NCEM, York, 2004), Dream Hunter, libretto John Fuller (Lontano, Wales 2011, London 2012) and Tokaido Road, a Journey after Hiroshige, libretto Nancy Gaffield, (Okeanos, Cheltenham Festival, July 2014).



She is active in many aspects of the musical profession, as a composer, teacher, director and as a member of various public boards and new music organisations. From 1994 - 2008 she was Professor of Music at the University of York, where many gifted composers came to study with her. Previously she taught composition at Kings' College London; in the 1970s, she directed Morley College Music Theatre.

**KEVIN O'CONNELL** was born in Derry and began composing when he was twelve. He studied composition with Redmond Friel (1907-1979) before completing a music degree at Trinity College Dublin. He subsequently taught composition there and at Queen's University Belfast. Since his first BBC commission at age 25 (Concertino for 12 Players) Kevin O'Connell has completed a continuous succession of commissions including three operas and much chamber and orchestral music. His music has been played around the world.

His orchestral work *North*, commissioned by BBC Radio 3, is possibly the most performed modern Irish orchestral work. It has been succeeded by large-scale commissions for the National Symphony Orchestra including *Four Orchestral Pieces* (2007), *Symphony* (2011) and *Early Music* (2015).

In 2001 his massive *String Quartet* was premiered by the Lotus Quartet of Stuttgart. Other significant chamber works include *Cello Sonata* (Raphael Wallfisch), *Piano Trio no. 1* (Lontano Ensemble) and *Apollo and Marsyas* (Crash Ensemble). Recent premieres include *Piano Trio no. 2* for the Kungsbacka Trio, *Mass and Aifreann* for the Palestrina Choir, *Horn Trio* for Kirkos Ensemble, *A Batutta* for HardRain and *Carrikfergus* for the Ulster Orchestra. A new opera is planned for the RIAM opera school.

A CD of O'Connell's orchestral music from the NSO appeared in 2014 as Vol. 8 of the Lyric FM label *Composers of Ireland* series. O'Connell is a member of Aosdána, Ireland's academy of creative artists.



**ANNE-MARIE O'FARRELL** has received many awards for original composition. She holds a PhD in composition at Queen's University, Belfast where she studied with Piers Hellawell, a first class honours MA in composition from the NUI Maynooth and an honours BA, BMus from UCD. She has composed for a variety of instrumental and vocal media, and her compositions are featured on the higher examination grades of conservatory syllabuses around the world. She lectures in composition at the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama and for three years she was Composer in Residence at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, funded by the Arts Council of Ireland.

Her works have been performed by the Ireland's RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Concert Orchestra, the University of Limerick Orchestra, the Co-Orchestra Dublin, the BBC Singers, Chamber Choir Ireland, the RTÉ ConTempo Quartet and numerous international solo artists. She is the winner of the BBC Baroque Remixed composition competition with her orchestral work, *Rann Dó Trí*, which was conducted by Charles Hazlewood at London's Roundhouse and broadcast live on BBC Radio 3, and was a finalist in the international USA Sackler Composition Competition in Connecticut. Her choral work, *Skimming Stones*, has been recorded by the BBC Singers in Maida Vale Studios London, and its premiere in St Paul's, Knightsbridge in London was broadcast on BBC Radio 3.



Anne-Marie is a leading harpist of her generation, who has significantly extended the boundaries of what was considered possible on the Irish or lever harp, broadening its repertoire and chromatic range.

On concert harp she has brought the instrument into new contexts, in contemporary and improvised music, by expanding its chamber repertoire through her composition, and with her continued transcription of repertoire new to the pedal harp.

**ED BENNETT** was born in Bangor, Co. Down. His music, which has been described in the press as 'anarchic' (Irish Times), 'manic' (Classical Music) and 'thrilling' (Gramophone) is often characterised by its strong rhythmic energy, extreme contrasts and the combination of acoustic, electronic and multimedia elements. His body of work includes large-scale orchestral works, ensemble pieces, solo works, electronic music, opera, installations and works for dance and film. In 2019 he was awarded the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's Major Individual Artist Award, the highest honour awarded to an artist from the region.

He performs with and directs his own ensemble, Decibel, which is dedicated to the performance of new and experimental cross-discipline work and with whom he has released three critically acclaimed CDs of his music. *Dzama Stories* (Quartz Music), *My Broken Machines* (NMC) and 'Togetherness' (2018).

He has been commissioned by BBC, RTE, PRSF, Music Network, Moving On Music, 2012 Olympics, Integra and the arts councils of England, Ireland and N. Ireland, among others. Noted collaborators and performers of his work include the BBC Symphony and Philharmonic Orchestras, the National Orchestra of Belgium, RTE National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, Ulster Orchestra, the London Sinfonietta, Crash Ensemble, Icebreaker, Riga Sinfonietta, Orkest de ereprijs, Fidelio Trio, Berlin Percussion Ensemble, Ensemble SurPlus, the Smith Quartet, Noszferatu, Ensemble Ars Nova, and Garth Knox. He is represented by the Contemporary Music Centre and Composers Edition Publishing.



**FICINO ENSEMBLE** was formed by Artistic Director Nathan Sherman in 2012 as a flexible chamber music group that performs all the great music for small ensembles, ranging from string trios to works written for larger ensembles. The Ensemble's aim is to perform works that appeal to a discerning audience whilst championing lesser known works that deserve to be appreciated. They are also active in composition workshop environments and in new music performances generally.

To date, they have been invited to play for President Michael D. Higgins, Howth Chamber Music Series, Music in Kilkenny Series, Hugh Lane Sundays@Noon Series, Cork Orchestral Society and the Irish Georgian Society. They performed a highly successful chamber music series at the National Concert Hall in August 2016. Their engagements include performances at Music for Galway, Kaleidoscope Dublin, the Hugh Lane Gallery, Musictown Festival and Festiv'ards Portaferry. Their concerts have been described as exciting and intimate with a high calibre of ensemble playing. The members of the group are recognized in Ireland and abroad as soloists and chamber musicians.

**Siun Milne** plays violin with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, **Macdara Ó Seireadáin** is principal clarinetist with the orchestra of the Tiroler Festspiel Erl, Austria, and **Eanna Monaghan** has played bassoon with Camerata Ireland, NI Opera, RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and Scottish Opera.

**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.

## FEES & APPLICATIONS

Course fee: €380

Applicants should send their details to Dr John McLachlan at [johnrmclachlan@gmail.com](mailto:johnrmclachlan@gmail.com) (note the middle r). Details should include your name, location and email, a list of musical qualifications (exams/diplomas/degrees etc.) and present place of study.

Also please enclose the following with your application:

A brief summary of your experience in composition and a list of any works composed.

The name and contact details of one referee who may be contacted to report on your composition or experience.

Applications should be emailed to the administrator by Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> 2022

Course directors will assess applications, and applicants will be contacted within one week of closing date. 50% of fee will be due by June 24<sup>th</sup>.