

Old City/New Music

Three music commissions
to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of
The Contemporary Music Centre

Briefing Notes

Introduction

The Contemporary Music Centre (CMC) in association with Temple Bar Properties wishes to commission three outdoor sound installations as part of the Contemporary Music Centre's 20th anniversary celebrations in 2006.

The aim of these commissions is to draw on the 'Old City' area of Dublin's Temple Bar, where CMC is located, as an inspiration and to do so in an innovative and exciting way. The new works are to acknowledge and celebrate, in a contemporary context, the musical, architectural, historical, and cultural significance of the Old City.

The works which are to be electro-acoustic in nature will be installed in outdoor locations: two on the streets of the Old City and one in CMC's own rear courtyard. The three minute works will be looped and audible through overhead speakers during normal business hours.

The Old City

Culture has always played a special role in the history of The Old City, which extends from Parliament Street west to Fishamble Street, under the shoulder of Christ Church Cathedral, and from Lord Edward Street north to the river. It includes the remains of Neal's Music Hall in Fishamble Street (next to CMC) where Handel's *Messiah* was first performed in 1742, as well as St Michael and John's Church on Essex Street, on the site of the famous Smock Alley theatre. Substantial remains from the Anglo-Norman period also survive, most notably Isolde's Tower, the foremost defensive structure that formed part of the medieval walled city. *For further information on the area, please see the attached document.*

The Commissions

- Are open to composers born or permanently domiciled in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland.
- Imaginative and innovative proposals are sought for three electro-acoustic works of maximum 3 minutes duration each.
- Proposals should embrace the outdoor nature of the event and the special character of the Old City environment, as well as recognising CMC's place as a technologically-advanced music facility in a historic district of Dublin.
- Consideration should be given to the fact that the Old City is a residential as well as a business district and tourist destination.

Fees and Production Costs

- The commission fee is €1000 and includes all expenses of the composer, whether administrative, technical, travel-related or other, incurred in the course of the commission.
- The sound equipment to disseminate the commissioned works in their outdoor locations will be provided by CMC.
- The fee will be paid in two instalments: 50% on receipt by CMC of written notification that composition has commenced, and 50% on delivery of the completed work, in CD, AIFF or WAV formats as appropriate.
- The composer must provide a current tax clearance certificate.

The Work

- The copyright of the work remains the property of the composer.
- The original CD or digital file remains the property of the composer.
- If the composer is registered with the Contemporary Music Centre, a copy of the completed work must be lodged in the CMC library in an appropriate digital form.
- Following the premiere installation, which is reserved exclusively to the Contemporary Music Centre as commissioner in association with Temple Bar Properties, in the case of all subsequent use credit must be given as follows:

“Commissioned by the Contemporary Music Centre in association with Temple Bar Properties to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Centre in 2006, with funding from Dublin City Council Arts Office.”

Timetable

Submission deadline	27 March 2006
Commissions announced	10 April 2006
Completed works submitted	19 May 2006
Installations in situ	1-30 June 2006

Submission Requirements

1. A written proposal outlining the concept, nature and anticipated audience impact of the work to be composed [max 400 words].
2. Curriculum vitae and worklist.
3. CD recording(s) with examples of previous compositions [max. 3 CDs].

The submissions are to be delivered to Karen Hennessy, Promotion Manager, The Contemporary Music Centre, 19 Fishamble Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 8 by 5.30pm on Monday 27th March 2006.

All reasonable care will be taken of each submission, but no responsibility is accepted for loss or damage that may occur in transit, storage or packing. Submissions not collected 4 weeks after requested to do so will be disposed of.

Selection panel

The selection panel will comprise a sound artist, a representative of the Contemporary Music Centre and an independent assessor of stature in the arts world.

Further information

Further information or advice in drafting a proposal is available from:

Karen Hennessy, Promotion Manager, The Contemporary Music Centre, 19 Fishamble Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 8. Tel: 01-673 1922. Email khennessy@cmc.ie web site www.cmc.ie

The History of the Old City

The Old City is the most recent and the final part of the redevelopment of Dublin's cultural quarter, Temple Bar. The whole area is of considerable historical and cultural interest.

On Fishamble Street next to the Contemporary Music Centre the new public courtyard nestled behind the Scarlet Row and Music Hall developments has been designed to display the remaining foundation wall of Neal's Music Hall, and to commemorate the first performance of Handel's *Messiah*. St Michael and John's Church on Essex Street stands on the site of the former Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin's most famous theatre, which opened in 1661. Neal's Music Hall ceased to be a performance hall in the 1860s when the historic Dublin firm of Kennan & Son acquired the premises. The Contemporary Music Centre now occupies the fully restored Kennans building adjacent to Handel's Arch.

Substantial remains from the Anglo-Norman period survive, most notably Isolde's Tower, the foremost defensive structure that formed part of the medieval walled city. The distinctive name of the tower is derived from the romantic saga of the lovers Tristan and Isolde.

There are numerous other historical references that have been incorporated into The Old City development: the Pudding Row apartments take their name from a former 18th Century street, as does Saul's Court; Blind Quay refers to Lower Exchange Street which, at the time, did not actually go as far as the river; and Essex Street West refers to the Essex Gate that connected the street with its eastern counterpart.

The Wooden Building is constructed of wood, stone and glass representing building materials that link the past with the present. Based upon Viking-period excavations, wooden post and wattle structures lying approximately 2 metres below modern ground level were located. There is evidence of extensive use of wood as a building material in Dublin during this time in history.

Cow's Lane was chosen for the new pedestrian street in The Old City after a medieval street by the same name connecting Castle Street to Fishamble Street depicted in a medieval map of Dublin c. 840-1540.

Fishamble Street takes its name from the fish market located there in medieval times. The name has been corrupted from its first known name, Fish Shambles (Stalls), dating back to the 13th Century.

Copper Alley dates back to the 13th Century and follows the route of an earlier Viking Street. Earliest references describe the lane as "the King's highway which leads from Fishamble Street to the gate of St. Mary de Dam (Dames Gate) towards the south."

By the 15th Century Copper Alley was called Preston's Lane and appears as a boundary to the large garden that was attached to Isolde's Tower. In the 17th Century, the lane became known as Copper Alley after the copper money minted there in 1608. Copper Alley was well known for its taverns and eating-houses. It also had a role to play in the premier of Handel's *Messiah* in 1742, when a special passage was opened to Neal's Music Hall for the occasion. Until the opening of Lord Edward Street in 1866, Copper Alley was the only passage from Dame Street to Christchurch, via Castle Street and Scarlet Row (now called Upper Exchange Street, after the Royal Exchange, or City Hall).