

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 7th 2019. Applications can also be sent by email.

Dr John McLachlan, Irish Composition Summer School, Ballyargus, Redcastle, Co. Donegal F93C5P1 email 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 2019.

Course information and fees

COMPOSITION COURSE July 3rd - 12th €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 Nicola LeFanu, 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 2019. ICSS is on Facebook.

Irish Composition Summer School 2019

(37th edition)

July 3rd - 12th

Application deadline: Friday June 7th



Course directors

Nicola LeFanu
Kevin O'Connell

Guest director

Tansy Davies

Performers in Residence

Sylvia O'Brien
Deirdre O'Leary
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



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 (soprano, clarinet and piano), with optional electronics. Students are encouraged to consider a wide range of options in both sourcing and setting texts. Your text need not necessarily be a poem; it might be a news story, your 'take' on a myth or fairy tale, an adaptation from a play, film or novel. Consider too whether your piece is for a straightforward concert setting or whether it is dramatic or theatrical. A short piece for the summer school might be a study for a future chamber opera, for example. 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 Tansy Davies as Guest Director, who will present seminars on her 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 music students from postgraduate to undergraduate. 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 was born in England in 1947. She studied at Oxford, RCM and, as a Harkness Fellow, at Harvard. She has Honorary Doctorates from the Universities of Durham, Aberdeen, and Open University, and is an Honorary Fellow of St Hilda's College Oxford. 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 Ltd. 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, (BBC, 1987), *The Green Children*, a children's opera, (Kings Lynn Festival, 1990), *Blood Wedding*, (WPT, London 1992), *The Wildman*, (Aldeburgh Festival, 1995) *Light Passing*, (BBC/NCEM, York, 2004) and *Dream Hunter*, (Lontano, Wales 2011, London

2012). *Tokaido Road, a Journey after Hiroshige*, premiered at the Cheltenham Festival in July 2014. In 2017 she was BBC Radio 3 'Composer of the Week'.



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.

These works have been played by Europe's leading performers. His first opera *Sensational!* was commissioned by Opera Theatre Company and toured Ireland and Britain. *The Fire King* was commissioned with funding from British Telecom and had runs at the Playhouse Derry and Malibu Theatre, Los Angeles. *My Love, My Umbrella* toured Ireland, England and Germany in 1997-98. 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 RTE 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. Other significant chamber works include *Cello Sonata* (Raphael Wallfisch), *Piano Trio no. 1*, and *Apollo and Marsyas* (Crash Ensemble).



TANSY DAVIES studied at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and Royal Holloway. Davies's work has been inspired by sources as diverse as Zaha Hadid and Anselm Kiefer. Her fascination with the Troubadours finds expression in *Troubairitz*, the 2010 song cycle that gave its name to a portrait disc on

Nonclassical. 2012 saw the premiere of the piano concerto *Nature* by Huw Watkins, with BCMG and Oliver Knussen, and the release of 'Spine', an all-Davies disc on NMC. *Between Worlds* was premiered by English National Opera in 2015 in a production by Deborah Warner, and was awarded the 2016 British Composer Award for Stage Work. The same year *Re-greening* for large orchestra was premiered by the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain – and *Forest*, a concerto for four horns and orchestra, premiered by the Philharmonia Orchestra and Esa-Pekka Salonen. 2017 saw the premiere of *Song Horn* at the Berliner Festspiele by Musikfabrik's Christine Chapman, and *Antenoux*, a new work for 10 players premiered by the Crash Ensemble. *What Did We See?* an orchestral suite drawing from *Between Worlds* was premiered at the 2018 BBC Proms by the BBC Philharmonic. Davies is Composer in Residence at the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam for the 18/19 season.

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.

Performers



Irish soprano **SYLVIA O'BRIEN** made her operatic debut as the Governess in *The Turn of the Screw* with Opera Theatre Company in 2004. The same year she took part in the Buxton Festival with English Touring Opera, as well as performing with Opera Ireland as Barena in Janacek's *Jenufa*. In 2005 she sang Gabriel in the premiere of Gerald Barry's *The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant* with The National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland (conductor Gerhard Markson) and in 2006 Morton Feldman's *Neither* (conductor Stefan Ashbury). She has recorded the title role for Wexford Opera Festival's production of Martinu's *Mirandolina*. She has performed works by living composers such as Raymond Deane, Ian Wilson, Halldi Halgrimsson and Kevin O'Connell. She was a resident performer at the Malkovich International Composers Competition 2003 and has performed with all the leading contemporary ensembles in Ireland.



DEIRDRE O'LEARY is a freelance clarinet and bass clarinet player. As a student at the RNCM, Manchester, Deirdre also travelled to the Accademia Chigiana summer school in Siena on scholarship and toured with the EUYO. On returning from Manchester, she began playing regularly with the NSO of Ireland, the RTECO,

Wexford Opera Festival, and the Irish Chamber Orchestra. Since joining Crash Ensemble in 2003, Deirdre has toured throughout Europe, Australia and the US and recorded for the Nonesuch label. Deirdre is a founding member of Cassiopeia Wind Quintet.



DAVID ADAMS studied organ and harpsichord in Dublin, Freiburg and Amsterdam, winning prizes at international competitions in Speyer, Lüneburg, Bruges and Dublin. Since his début recital at St. Paul's Cathedral, London, at the age of 16, he has performed throughout Ireland, the UK and Europe, and is a regular guest at major international festivals. He is much in demand as an ensemble player in the fields of Early and contemporary music and has premiered many new works, including numerous compositions written specially for him. In addition to solo CDs recorded on the organs of Trinity College and the National Concert Hall in Dublin, he has recorded for Naxos, Black Box and Wergo. David has taught at conservatories in Freiburg, Berlin and The Hague, and now lectures at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin. In 2007 he was awarded a PhD from the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam for his work on Max Reger and Karl Straube.