



Irish Composition Summer School [40th edition]

The Irish Composition Summer School will run at Irish Institute of Music and Song, Balbriggan, T.U. from July 10th to 18th. (www.irishinstituteofmusic.com)

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

Course Directors: Martin O’Leary and Garrett Sholdice

Guest Director: Jane O’Leary

Instruments/Performers: **clarinet** with Deirdre O’Leary, **accordion** with Dermot Dunne and **percussion** with Richard O’Donnell

Technology director: Ian Brabazon

Admin: 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 days feature group seminars (mostly mornings) and individual tutorials (afternoons). The option of staying on location in accommodation at the IIMS is recommended but not compulsory. See www.irishinstituteofmusic.com/accommodation



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* 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 Director Jane O'Leary who will present seminars on her 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

Born in Hartford, Connecticut, **JANE O'LEARY** became resident in Ireland in 1972, making her home in Galway. A founding member of Aosdána, she is a graduate of Vassar College and holds a PhD in composition from Princeton University. She was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Music Degree by the National University of Ireland in 2007.

As artistic director and pianist of Concorde, Ireland's first new music ensemble, Jane has been deeply committed to connecting performers, composers and listeners since the group was founded in 1976.

The Passing Sound of Forever, a CD of Jane's chamber music, was released in 2017 and her orchestral work from sea-grey shores was released in 2021, with Navona Records. The RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra featured this work on their debut tour of the USA in 2003.

She was a winner in the Call for Scores from Kaleidoscope MusArt, and her Five Bagatelles for piano solo were performed online in their 2020-21 Season. She was also awarded a Prize in the Kwidzyn Classical Music Awards, Poland in 2020 with her duo for flute and piano, *feather-headed, frail, summoning*.

Jane's music has been performed at prestigious international festivals and venues, including the Kennedy Center, Washington DC; the Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, NY; Chicago Cultural Center. In recent years, her music has been featured at Risuonanze festival, Udine, Italy; Encontro Internacional de Cordas, Limeira (S.P.) Brazil; National Auditorium Madrid; Mise-en Music Festival, NY; Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris; and at venues across Ireland.



GARRETT SHOLDICE studied with Donnacha Dennehy, Nicola LeFanu and William Brooks. In 2012 he completed a PhD in composition at the University of York under the supervision of William Brooks. Between 2012 and 2015, he received some private lessons from Kevin Volans. His music has been described as possessing an "exquisite delicacy" (The Irish Times).

His work has been performed by, amongst others, the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, violinist Ioana Petcu-Colan, Maya Homburger/Barry Guy duo, and pianist Aki Takahashi. His music has been performed in Europe, North America and Japan, in venues/spaces including the National Concert Hall in Dublin, Issue Project Room in New York and Tsukuba Nova Hall in Japan. During spring 2011 he was composer-in-residence at the Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris. In April 2011, and again in April 2012, he received Bursary Awards from the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon. He is a co-director of Ergodos, a Dublin-based production company, record label and music distributor that he founded with Benedict Schlepper-Connolly in 2006.



Notable recent performances include the first performances of a piano concerto for pianist Michael McHale and the Irish Chamber Orchestra (conducted by Gábor Tákacs-Nagy); the first performances of a new madrigal for UK vocal ensemble EXAUDI; the premiere of Sholdice's third string quartet, "Das Blaue Licht", as part of David Lang's Festival of Music; and the premiere of "The Root and the Crown", a twenty-minute large-ensemble work commissioned by Crash Ensemble.

Born in Dublin, **MARTIN O'LEARY** began composing at the age of fourteen. He studied music at TCD, from where he holds a PhD on 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 Israel and the USA. "Glory to His Name", a CD of arrangements for a capella choir, was released on Ceol Records in 2003. More recent works include "Bluescape" (2007) for piano trio, written for the Fidelio Trio, "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.

DEIRDRE O'LEARY studied at the RNCM, Manchester, Accademia Musicale Chigiana summer school, Siena on scholarship and toured with the European Union Youth Orchestra. On returning from Manchester, she began playing regularly with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Wexford Opera Festival, the Irish Chamber Orchestra, and at the West Cork Chamber Music Festival.

Since joining Crash Ensemble in 2003, Deirdre has toured Europe, Australia and the US and recorded for the Nonesuch label. In 2013, Crash played Carnegie Hall, NY with Dawn Upshaw and Iarla Ó Lionáird, and in 2014 they took part in

the Nonesuch 50th birthday celebrations in the Barbican, London. Crash has also toured extensively: in Ireland, Luxembourg, Holland, Lithuania, Denmark and Iceland.

Deirdre is a founding member of Cassiopeia Wind Quintet. Since coming together in 2010, Cassiopeia has performed at the Galway Midwinter Festival with the Con Tempo Quartet, Rolf Hind, Lore Lixenberg; at the New Ross Piano Festival with Finghin Collins, Melvyn Tan, and Lise de la Salle and toured Ireland twice with assistance from the Arts Council of Ireland.

In 2018, Deirdre began performing with the Berlin/Amsterdam-based contemporary group, Stargaze, performing with them in the Barbican, London, the NCH, Dublin and in 2019 joined the group for a European tour. She has tutored the clarinet section of the NYOI since 2012.

Accordianist **DERMOT DUNNE** has appeared at most Irish venues and festivals including the National Concert Hall, Vicar Street, Belfast Opera House and The BBC Last Night at the Proms, West Cork Chamber Music Festival, Dublin International Chamber Music Festival and Internationally at Carnegie Hall NYC, Kennedy Centre Washington DC, Beijing University Concert Hall and the Esplanade Singapore. As well as collaborating with many leading Irish performers Dermot has performed chamber music with some of Europe's leading international stars including Natalie Clein, Daniel Muller-Schott, Pekka Kuusisto and Ivan Monighetti. He has often performed as a guest soloist with the Irish Chamber Orchestra in Ireland and also in China and Singapore.

For over 20 years he has pioneered his instrument in Ireland; collaborating with many Irish composers and premiering 40 of the 54 works written for the accordion by Irish composers since 1995. He has been involved in more than 15 CD recordings. He has also arranged countless works both for solo accordion and for ensembles including accordion.

Since 2003 he has been a lecturer at TU Dublin Conservatoire and since 2017 has been the programme chair of the BMus degree.

RICHARD O'DONNELL is the Principal Percussionist of the RTE National Symphony Orchestra since 1997. Previous to this, he was a member of the RTE Concert Orchestra, The National Symphony Orchestra of Colombia, and the Basque National Orchestra in San Sebastian, Spain. He has appeared as an orchestral soloist on numerous occasions with each of these orchestras and with these orchestras alone has performed on over 100 commercial CDs.

Outside of the orchestra, Richard has been particularly active in the field of contemporary music. He was a member of Concorde for over 25 years and in addition has performed with the Crash Ensemble, Vox21, as well as various freelance ensembles. With Concorde he has participated on over 15 international tours, 20 national tours and has appeared on numerous CDs as a percussionist and Conductor.

In the field of education, Richard is Professor of Percussion at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, where in addition to teaching, he also directs the percussion ensemble. As well as commissioning over 15 new Irish works for percussion ensemble, Richard has led the ensemble on 22 international tours to the USA, South America and Europe.

Richard holds an MMus from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York and a BMus from Indiana University in the USA.

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 and recorded on the summer school over many years, and currently runs Vita Media, a sound recording and engineering company.

FEES & APPLICATIONS

Course fee: €380

Applicants should send their details to Dr John McLachlan at johnrmclachlan@gmail.com (note the middle r).

Details should include

- your name, location and a contact detail
- a summary of musical qualifications and present place of study (if studying)
- A brief summary of your experience in composition
- a list of any works composed
- The name and contact details of one composition-related referee

Applications should be emailed to the administrator by Friday, June 9th 2023

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

ACCOMMODATION

Students are free to arrange their own accommodation as they wish. A good option is to stay in the accommodation at the venue, the IIMS which has shared 4 person pods at 30 per night per person. A number of pods have been set aside for the summer school, including the 9th July for the morning start on the 10th, but please contact the IIMS directly to book these, email Breda McCarthy: breda@iims.ie

*Footnote on instruments

clarinets: B flat and Bass clarinet in B flat (one performer). Percussion: a percussion set-up will be determined soon, it will include some tuned percussion (vibes or marimba) and some untuned. Keep in touch for updates or look for us on facebook.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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, Jo Kondo and Clarence Barlow—and in performance, including Dorothy Dorow, Collette McGahon, Sylvia O'Brien, the Prey Trio, Jane Manning, the Fidelio Trio, the Clarion Horn Trio, The Ficino Ensemble and the ConTempo Quartet.