



SEASON 2021/22

Back in the Room



Ensemble in Residence at [Queens University Belfast](#)



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Welcome



A Welcome from the Artistic Director

In my address last year, I talked about how the show must go on; about musicians getting back to what they are supposed to do. That did not quite happen. Yes, we delivered online performances and workshops. We continued to commission new music and we even managed to record an album, but, ultimately, we were impacted like everyone else in the arts. The truth is that without you, in the concert hall, feeling the air vibrate around you and reacting to the nuance of live performance, all our endeavors are less satisfying.



My great hope is that this season will be different and, with that in mind, we will do everything possible to see a safe and cautious return to concert giving. If concerts are cancelled you will forgive us, as by now we all understand the new reality. However, we are bounding forward, positively, with plans for an exciting new season, new works, and a new enthusiasm to make the air vibrate once again.

Firstly, a mention of our incredible new double CD release on **Diatribе Records**. This CD is the culmination of 8 years of commissioning of new works and stands now as an important document of contemporary music on this island. We hope you will add it to your record collections and take pride in the support you gave this music as we breathed life into it in our live performances. The double disc, entitled *A Terrible Beauty*, can be purchased here: diatriberecords.bandcamp.com



In a period where confinement and isolation have become commonplace, we look outwards for inspiration in our first concert. We team up with **The Polish Music Information Centre, Warsaw**, and our own **Contemporary Music Centre** in Dublin to bring you a concert celebrating the Polish master, **Krzysztof Penderecki**, but also featuring a new generation of Polish composers. This concert will also include works by Irish composers **Gráinne Mulvey** and myself.

Annually we dedicate a concert specifically to music that we have recently had written for the ensemble. This year, **Ink Still Wet 5**, exposes our two new ACNI commissions, from **Elaine Agnew** and **Frank Corcoran**, as well as three new works from early career composers **Amelia Clarkson**, **Anita Mawhinney** and **Omar Zatriqi**, which have been commissioned as part of our **PRSF Talent Development Partnership**. This concert also offers our audiences a chance to hear two new works live, which had to be broadcast online last season, due to Covid restrictions. These were **Ed Bennett's** 2020/21 HRSE commission and **Kevin Terry's** shortlisted work in the **5th Peter Rosser Composition Awards**.

The composer **Iannis Xenakis** would have celebrated his 100th birthday this year and to mark this anniversary we return to three Xenakis works that we featured in our 2016/17 Season. Alongside the Greek-French composer we have programmed a work by his compatriot **Dominique Lemaître** and Irish composer **Ailís Ní Ráin**, two composers new to the ensemble, but who we are very much looking forward to exploring. We have a second opportunity to hear **Samantha McCoy's** shortlisted work for the **5th Peter Rosser Composition Award** and finally, after the Covid crisis causing a postponement, on two occasions, we will cross our fingers in the hope that **Raymond Deane's** celebrated *Seachanges (with Danse Macabre)* finally gets its Hard Rain airing.

Two festival appearances follow: **The Sonorities Festival**, which will comprise shortlisted works in a call for scores, the performances of which have been cancelled twice during the Pandemic. Then **New Music Dublin**, at which we will give prominence in our concert to **Frank Corcoran**, featuring three of his works, including a NMD commission. This concert will also feature more Hard Rain commissions, this time from **Rhona Clarke** and **Elaine Agnew**.

We team up with **New Horizons Music** this season to welcome back two composers who have received Hard Rain support in the past, **Amy Rooney** and **Eduard Zatriqi**. On this occasion they each received a commission from New Horizons to write a substantial work for the ensemble. We look forward to these performances and we programme these new pieces alongside works by **Rebecca Saunders** and **Ian Wilson**.



In our final concert of the season, we are excited once more to pair up with contemporary dance outfit **Maiden Voyage Dance** for a joint exploration of **Arnold Schoenberg's Chamber Symphony No 1**, perhaps one of our most adventurous projects to date. The winning work from the 5th **Peter Rosser Composition Award** by composer **Anita Mawhinney** will also be performed here alongside **Jane O'Leary's** beautiful *Winter Reflections*. As well as reflecting on winter we also reflect on two previous HRSE commissions from **Piers Hellowell** and **John Buckley** written for our seasons 2018/19 and 2019/20 respectively.

As always, we will continue our pedagogical work this season to include the usual interaction with composition and audio engineering students at QUB. This is some of the most rewarding work the ensemble engages in, and it is validation of the process to see many of the students who we have helped over the years, as undergraduates and postgraduates emerge as early career industry professionals. Some of these talented newcomers are programmed in the current season. Many have availed of the professional opportunities we offer through our **PRSf Talent Development Programme**. In turn, our work with the **Ulster Youth Orchestra** offers similar encouragement to some of the most promising young players surfacing now.

Finally, I must thank the **Arts Council Northern Ireland** for supporting the many strands of our work, and as always, we are grateful to **Queen's University School of Arts, English and Languages** for adopting us as their resident ensemble, allowing us to situate ourselves in their vibrant environment with access to wonderful facilities, and, above all, world class venues.

Join me now in a collective cross of the fingers as we hope that all our best-laid plans can come to fruition. It will be our greatest pleasure to see you all 'Back in the Room' very soon.

*Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune without the words
And never stops at all.*

Emily Dickinson

Dr. Greg Caffrey
Artistic Director



SEASON AT A GLANCE

Krzysztof Penderecki: Europe in Tribute to the Master

Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin
Sunday 10th October 2021, Noon

Ink Still Wet 5

Harty Room, Queen's University Belfast
Friday 21st January 2022, 19.30

Xenakis at 100

Harty Room, Queen's University Belfast
Friday 11th February 2022, 19.30

Hard Sonorities

Harty Room, Queen's University Belfast
Saturday 9th April 2022, 13.00

Ulster Youth Orchestra Workshop & Concert

Harty Room, Queen's University Belfast
Sunday 10th April 2022
Workshop – 15.00 (not open to the public), Concert 19.30 (public event)

Corcoran at New Music Dublin

Venue & Time TBC
Friday 29th April 2022

New Horizons

Harty Room, Queen's University Belfast
Friday 20th May 2022, 19.30

Schoenberg Revisited

Sonic Lab, Sonic Arts Research Centre, Queen's University Belfast
Friday 17th June 2022, 19.30



Krzysztof Penderecki: Europe in Tribute to the Master

Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin
Sunday 10th October 2021
Noon

Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble, in partnership with the Polskie Centrum Informacji Muzycznej and the Contemporary Music Centre, Dublin, have curated this programme to present a new generation of Polish composers alongside one of the inarguable titans of modern Polish music, Krzysztof Penderecki. The concert, to take place in the beautiful Hugh Lane Gallery, will also feature two Irish works.

**THREE MINIATURES FOR CLARINET
AND PIANO (1956)**
Krzysztof Penderecki (1933 – 2020)
clarinet & piano

REVERSE 4 (2014)
Adam Porębski (1990)
clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

BLUNT INSTRUMENT (2008 – 9)
Greg Caffrey (1963)
bass clarinet & piano

LIGNES D'HAUNTOLOGIE / 1949 (2017)
Paweł Siek (1993)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

AUDITION FOR FLUTE, CELLO & PIANO (1970)
Marek Stachowski (1936 – 2004)
flute, violoncello & piano

LUCA* (2017)
Gráinne Mulvey (1966)
flute, bass clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

DANCE WITH MY BREATH (2015)
Agnieszka Stulgińska (1978)
flute, clarinet (bs. cl.), violin, violoncello & piano

THREE MINIATURES FOR VIOLIN & PIANO (1959)
Krzysztof Penderecki (1933 – 2020)
violin & piano

* Commissioned by HRSE with funds from Arts Council NI



Ink Still Wet 5

QUB Harty Room
Friday 21st January 2022
19.30

As is now tradition, Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble presents its annual programme of brand-new works in a concert supported by the PRSf Talent Development Partnership. We have three exciting new works commissioned with funds from PRSf from early career composers Anita Mawhinney, Omar Zatriqi and Amelia Clarkson, and these composer's works will be exposed for the first time alongside two other world premiere commissions; from well-known voices in Irish music, Frank Corcoran and Elaine Agnew. We have a second chance, too, to hear Ed Bennett's pulsating, commissioned work from last season; this time come along and hear it in the concert hall. Last, but not least, we have a second chance to sample the serene and beautiful sound world of one of the shortlisted works in last year's 5th Peter Rosser Composition Award from composer Kevin Terry.

GREEN* (2021 WORLD PREMIERE)
Elaine Agnew (1967)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

DR ESPERANTO'S INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE** (2021 WORLD PREMIERE)
Anita Mawhinney (1974)
flute (alto flute), clarinet (bs. cl)

BLOOD DANCES** (2021 WORLD PREMIERE)
Omar Zatriqi (1987)
violin & violoncello

REVOLVER* (2020)
Ed Bennett (1975)
flute, bass clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

SHORT INTERVAL

COIL THROUGH GRASS (2020)
5TH PETER ROSSER AWARD FINALIST
Kevin Terry (1988)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

SISTERHIVE** (2021 WORLD PREMIERE)
Amelia Clarkson (1995)
clarinet (bs. cl.), violin & violoncello

MELODIES AND MOBILES*
(2021 WORLD PREMIERE)
Frank Corcoran (1933)
flute (alto fl), bass clarinet, violin,
violoncello & piano

* Commissioned with funding from ACNI
** Commissioned with funding from PRSf



Xenakis at 100

QUB Harty Room
Friday 11th February 2022
19.30

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Iannis Xenakis we offer audiences a concert featuring three of his works: *Plekto*, which uses the full HRSE forces with percussion, *Rebonds*, one of his iconic solo percussion works and the haunting and austere *Paille in the Wind* for cello and piano. Samantha McCoy's work, shortlisted during the 5th Peter Rosser Award, offers more than a nod to French Modernism and sits comfortably in the context of this Xenakis homage. Similarly, the static yet rich harmonic textures that are revealed in Dominique Lemaître's work seem to resonate with all the Spectral goings-on of the final decades of 20th Century Paris. If uniqueness of timbre is an underlying theme here, Ailís Ní Ríain's piece for the unusual pairing of bass flute and bass clarinet will draw the listener in to unusual combinations of sonorities. Similarly, Raymond Deane's *Seachanges* has a severity and quality of timbre that is powerful and arresting.

PAILLE IN THE WIND (1992)
Iannis Xenakis (1922 – 2001)
violoncello and piano

**SEACHANGES WITH DANSE
MACABRE (1993 – 94)**
Raymond Deane (1953)
piccolo (alt fl), piano, violin,
violoncello and percussion

REBONDS (1988)
Iannis Xenakis (1922 – 2001)
solo percussion

CAI SUSAH (2020)
5th PETER ROSSER AWARD FINALIST
Samantha McCoy (1997)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello and piano

SHORT INTERVAL

**AUX FLEURS PLUS DE COULEUR,
PLUS DE VITESSE À L'ONDE (1992)**
Dominique Lemaître (1953)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello and piano

CONSENT #7 (2017)
Ailís Ní Ríain (1974)
bass flute and bass clarinet

PLEKTÓ (1993)
Iannis Xenakis (1922 – 2001)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello,
piano and percussion



Hard Sonorities

Shortlisted Works

QUB Harty Room
Saturday 9th April 2022
13.00

This International open call for works for the Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble was initiated as part of Sonorities Festival plans for April 2020. It was not possible to perform the works at that time due to the Covid pandemic. After another aborted attempt to programme the concert in April 2021, we are now, as you can imagine, delighted to be able to offer this concert, which features 5 composers, chosen through anonymous submission, who hail from Chile, Brazil, Columbia, Argentina and N. Ireland.

RESÍLIO (2018)

Levy Oliveira (1993)

flute, Bb clarinet, violin, violoncello & percussion

FORTIS (2018)

Marcos Stuardo (1984)

flute, Bb clarinet, violin, violoncello,
piano & marimba

LOS DESVELOS IDOS (2018)

Matías Padellaro (1981)

flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

THE SCRYING (2018)

Omar Zatriqi (1987)

flute (alt fl), Bb clarinet (bs. cl), violin,
violoncello, piano & percussion

MOCKUS (2019)

Pedro Sarmiento (1977)

flute (picc.), Bb clarinet, violin, violoncello,
piano & percussion



Ulster Youth Orchestra Workshop & Concert

QUB Harty Room
Sunday 10th April 2022
2pm (not open to the public)
Informal performance at 7.30pm

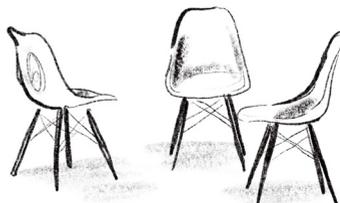
WORKERS UNION
Louis Andriessen
Any loud-sounding group of instruments

And other works to be confirmed

This workshop will see Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble team up with some of the talented players of the Ulster Youth Orchestra to explore repertoire for an unspecified group of instruments under the baton of Sinead Hayes. This serves as a taster session, in terms of the performance of contemporary music, for the UYO musicians and we hope that the experience in many cases could be truly transformative. As the young musicians are asked to volunteer to participate in the workshop, the material we perform needs to be flexible enough to accommodate any number of players, for any instrument of any transposition. It is a challenge, and one that both HRSE and UYO will certainly rise to as in previous years.

This year the combined forces of Hard Rain and UYO will perform Dutch composer Louis Andriessen's iconic piece *Workers Union* from 1975.

Join us in performance at 7.30pm for an unmissable experience, and one that will leave you confident in the knowledge that our next generation of new music performers is on its way.



Corcoran at New Music Dublin

Venue & Time TBC
Friday 29th April 2022

Great minds think alike. Hard Rain commissioned a new work from Irish composer Frank Corcoran for our new 2021/22 season, only to discover that New Music Dublin (NMD) had done the same. It felt appropriate, therefore, that our performance at NMD this year should celebrate these two new works and include Corcoran's *Nine Looks at Pierrot*, a work that features on our recent album release.

Sandwiched between this celebration of Corcoran's music we have two works previously commissioned by the ensemble. From our 2020/21 commissioning season we present Rhona Clarke's propulsive and unrelenting *Non-Stop*. Elaine Agnew's *Green* is hot off the press and is one of this seasons newly commissioned works. This is a second chance to hear it if you missed its premiere in our Ink Still Wet 5 concert in January.

NINE LOOKS AT PIERROT (2013)
Frank Corcoran (1944)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

NON-STOP* (2020)
Rhona Clarke (1958)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

MELODIES AND MOBILES* (2021)
Frank Corcoran (1944)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

GREEN* (2021)
Elaine Agnew (1967)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

CAOINES AND CANONS***
(2021 WORLD PREMIERE)
Frank Corcoran (1944)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

* Commissioned with funding from ACNI

*** Commissioned for HRSE by NMD with Funds from the Arts Council of Ireland.



New Horizons

QUB Harty Room
Friday 20th May 2022
19.30

This exciting project initiated by New Horizons Music propels two of our promising local compositional talents into the spotlight with major commissions (offered by New Horizons Music and funded through ACNI Lottery Project Funding). Amy Rooney and Eduard Zatriqi are no strangers to Hard Rain, both having featured several times in previous programmes; Amy, with several works including her 2019 work, *Attrition*, commissioned for the ensemble with funds from the PRSf Talent Development Partnership, and Eduard with his 2016 work, *War Games*, which was awarded First Prize in the 1st Peter Rosser Composition Award. It subsequently went on to receive a live HRSE broadcast on BBC Radio 3.

Completing the programme we present the more established voices of our own Ian Wilson and British composer Rebecca Saunders. Wilson's work, commissioned by HRSE in 2018 is sparse, austere and unconventional in its use of the ensemble forces, while the Saunders trio, an early work written when she was still a student with Wolfgang Rhim, seems to play with colours and light, as far as that may be expressed in music.

NEW WORK* (2022 WORLD PREMIERE)**
Amy Rooney (1983)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

**THE EMPTINESS OF THE EVER EXPANDING
UNIVERSE CANNOT COMPARE TO THE VOID
WHERE YOUR HEART SHOULD BE* (2018)**
Ian Wilson (1964)
alto flute, bass clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

THE UNDER-SIDE OF GREEN (1994)
Rebecca Saunders (1967)
clarinet, violin & piano

**PIERROT'S SPLENDIFEROUS SYMPHONIC
DANCES*** (2022 WORLD PREMIERE)**
Eduard Zatriqi (1987)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

* Commissioned by HRSE with funding from ACNI

*** Commissioned by New Horizons Music with funds from ACNI Lottery Project Funding



Schoenberg Revisited

Sonic Lab QUB
Friday 17th June 2022
19.30

Our last collaboration with the wonderful Maiden Voyage Dance (MVD) was a great success with ensemble and dancers giving a pulsating performance of Reich's *Double Sextet* to a full house at the Sonic Lab. We return to that very venue for our next collaboration with MVD, this time raising the challenge stakes in tackling Schoenberg's *Chamber Symphony No 1*. This is not a piece of music that immediately shouts 'dance' at you, but in the hands of MVD we will be in for a new visual exploration of this great work.

Alongside the Schoenberg masterpiece we have a reprise of Jane O'Leary's *Winter Reflections*, which HRSE featured in its 2019 season. Two previously commissioned works appear herein this programme too: Piers Hellawell's *Ground Truthing* and John Buckley's *Three Mobiles after Alexander Calder*, from our 2017/18 and 2018/19 Seasons respectively. Finally, if you missed the final of our 5th Peter Rosser Composition Awards, we have another chance to hear the winning work in this concert; *Dark Measures* by Anita Mawhinney.

GROUND TRUTHING* (2018)

Piers Hellawell (1956)

flute (picc. alto fl. mel.), bass clarinet (Bb cl),
violin, violoncello & piano

WINTER REFLECTIONS (2010)

Jane O'Leary (1946)

alto flute, Bb clarinet & violin

DARK MEASURES (2020) WINNER OF THE 5th PETER ROSSER COMPOSITION AWARD Anita Mawhinney (1974)

flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

THREE MOBILES AFTER ALEXANDER CALDER* (2018)

John Buckley (1951)

flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

SHORT INTERVAL

CHAMBER SYMPHONY NO 1 OP 9 (1906)

Arnold Schoenberg (1874 – 1951)

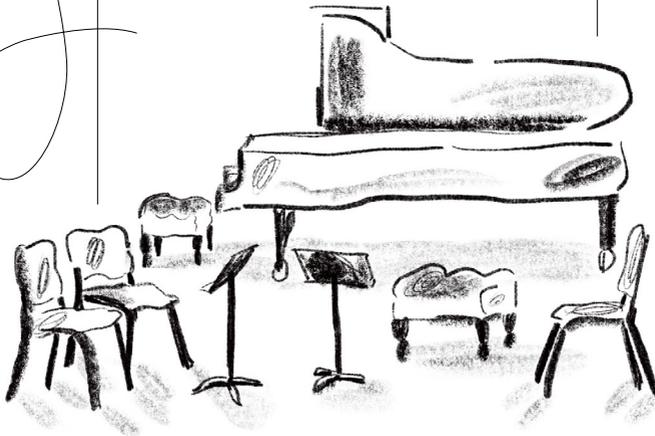
Arr. A Webern (1922 – 3)

flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

* Commissioned with funding from ACNI



Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble



Greg Caffrey



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The Irish composer Greg Caffrey read music at Queen's University Belfast where he studied composition under Prof. Piers Hellowell and complexist composer James Clarke, completing a PhD in 2002.

Numerous awards for composition include: First Prize at the Concorso Counterpoint, Italy in May 2012, finalist in the ISME- IVME 2nd International Composition Contest in Brussels in 2008; Taukay Edizioni Musicali International Composition Prize in 2012, and the Musica Domani International Composition Prize (USA). His orchestral work *A Terrible Beauty* was designated a "recommended work" in the 4th Uuno Klami International Composition Prize by a jury which included Magnus Lindberg and Erkki-Sven Tüür. *Environments II*, for guitar and orchestra was a prizewinning work in the chamber orchestra music category of the International Conductors Union Composition Contest, Ukraine in 2021.

He is regularly commissioned by performers and ensembles at home and abroad as well as having received commissions from BBC Radio 3 and the Irish national broadcasting station RTE. His music has been represented at important international festivals and his works have been performed across 18 countries and are represented on 12 record labels.

Greg founded Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble in 2013. They are N. Ireland's only professional ensemble performing modern and contemporary repertoire, and as their Artistic Director he regularly champions and commissions the music of Irish contemporary composers alongside major international figures.

He is represented by the Contemporary Music Centre, Ireland and is a member of the Association of Irish Composers.



Sinead Hayes



CONDUCTOR

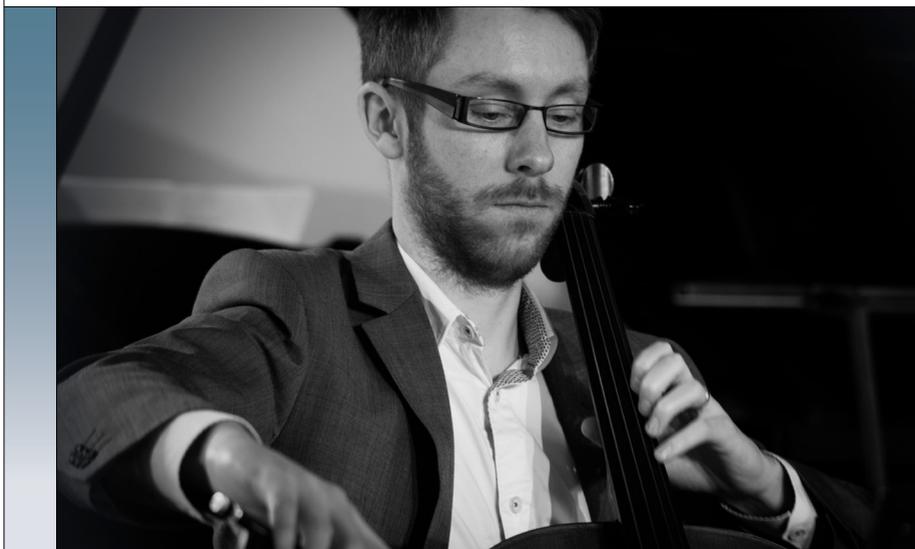
Irish conductor Sinead Hayes is equally at home working with choir, orchestra, opera and contemporary music ensembles. A graduate of the masters conducting programme of the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, she is emerging as a leading interpreter of contemporary music and opera in Ireland.

The 2021–22 season is Sinead's eighth season as conductor of the Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble in Belfast, with whom she has premiered numerous works by established Irish and international composers. She has conducted all the major professional orchestras in Ireland including the Ulster Orchestra, RTE Concert Orchestra and Irish Chamber Orchestra, as well as conducting productions for Northern Ireland Opera and Opera Collective Ireland. The 20/21 season saw her devise and lead two award winning education projects with over 200 young Galway musicians: the *Baroque Session* and *Carolan's Rambles*, as well as conducting the opening concert for the Ulster Orchestra's Online Spring season.

Future projects include her continued work with the Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble, conducting the postponed performances of Elaine Agnew's opera *Paper Boat* and collaborations with writers and theatremakers as part of the 'Music for Stories' project through www.solstrekmusic.com.



David McCann



VIOLONCELLO

David McCann graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music in 2010 and completed the MMus course with distinction in 2012. While a student at the RNCM David was a recipient of the Leonard Rose Award for cello, the Chris Rowland Prize for chamber music and the Contemporary Music Performance Prize.

A passionate interpreter of new music, David has given premiere performances of dozens of new pieces for his instrument. He is also active as a composer; in 2017 he was commissioned by HRSE to compose *Three Caprices for solo cello*. His *Six Pieces for solo flute* and *Suite for solo cello* received first performances in 2019.

David has worked with many of the U.K. and Ireland's leading orchestras, including the Hallé Orchestra, the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, the Ulster Orchestra, the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestra of Opera North.

David teaches privately at his home in Belfast.



Daniel Browell



PIANO

Daniel Browell enjoys a busy and varied performing career, having given recitals in the UK, Europe, China and North America. His debut recital at London's Purcell Room in the Southbank Centre and concerto performance at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall received critical acclaim in the national press.

Daniel particularly enjoys collaborative projects with instrumentalists and singers. In addition to the Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble, he has performed with YCAT winner Kathryn Rudge at the Wigmore Hall and on many occasions since, and he regularly works for the BBC Philharmonic, recently performing piano quartets in the BBC Philharmonic's chamber music series in Salford.

After studying for his undergraduate degree at the University of Birmingham, Daniel went on to study in Paris, the Royal Academy of Music in London, Chicago and became a Junior Fellow at the Royal Northern College of Music. Whilst there he won numerous prizes and awards.

Daniel is in great demand as a teacher; he has given masterclasses and has taught in China, Europe, the Middle East and America, and is highly regarded as an adjudicator. He was appointed Associate Head of Keyboard at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire in 2014 and is currently a member of the jury and organising committee of the Dudley International Piano Competition.



Aisling Agnew



FLUTES

Aisling Agnew is a flautist from Belfast. She performs internationally and has toured across many continents, appearing at prominent festivals such as the National Flute Association's 40th Convention at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, Jeonju International Sori Festival in Korea, Sarajevo Winter Festival and also closer to home at New Music Dublin, the British Flute Convention in Manchester, Celtic Connections in Glasgow, and the Belfast International Festival as both a soloist and chamber musician. Aisling is curator and host of the successful podcast *The Flute NI* and she has made many successful recordings (CDs, radio broadcasts, live and online performances) on a wide range of flutes. Aisling is a graduate of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and is the recipient of many awards including the Countess of Munster Musical Trust, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Creative Scotland and Belfast Classical Music Bursaries.

Aisling regularly freelances with various orchestras such as the Ulster Orchestra and NI Opera and she also performs with the Irish Memory Orchestra, collaborating with traditional musicians. Aisling also performs in a number of specialist chamber groups such as the Clyde Duo with Welsh harpist Sharron Griffiths and the Agnew McAllister Duo with Scottish guitarist Matthew McAllister. Aisling's involvement in Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble reflects her strong interest in new music and working with composers. She has premiered and recorded many contemporary works for flute and highlights include performing for Sir Peter Maxwell Davies' 80th birthday concert and giving the first performance in Scotland of Penderecki's *Flute Concerto*. Aisling also enjoys helping students develop an interest in contemporary flute playing through workshops and classes. She is flute teacher at St Andrews University and also conducts ensembles including Flute Phonics and St Andrews Flute Ensemble. Aisling tutors as part of the Ulster Orchestra's Crescendo Project and she has especially enjoyed her involvement in various workshops with musicians and students with additional needs.



Sarah Watts

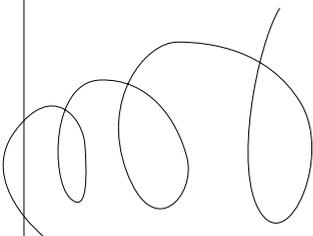


CLARINETS

Sarah Watts studied clarinet at the Royal Academy of Music, and then solo bass clarinet at the Rotterdam Conservatorium. Sarah was awarded the Exxon Prize for the best classical music student in Rotterdam and made an Honorary Associate of the Royal Academy of Music in 2016.

Sarah has achieved an international reputation for her solo bass clarinet playing and has attracted composers such as Sir Harrison Birtwistle, Piers Hellawell and George Nicholson to write music for her. She has released numerous solo and chamber CDs playing clarinet, basset horn, bass and contrabass clarinet. Sarah teaches bass clarinet at the Royal Northern College of Music, is Director of Performance at Sheffield University and has given masterclasses and workshops in many leading UK conservatoires and universities. She also runs an international solo bass clarinet course on the Isle of Raasay in Scotland. Sarah performs extensively with SCAW (bass clarinet and piano duo) and Rarescale. She has completed a PhD exploring bass clarinet multiphonics and published a book on the subject.

Sarah is a Vandoren UK Artist, Henri Selmer Paris Clarinet Artist and a Silverstein pro artist.



Joanne Quigley McParland



VIOLIN

Joanne Quigley McParland is in constant demand as an orchestral principal and leader and has guest led the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the Ulster Orchestra. She is the former co-leader of the RTE Concert Orchestra and performs regularly as co-leader with the English Chamber Orchestra, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and the RTE National Symphony Orchestra. She is a principal player in John Eliot Gardiner's Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique and a member of The John Wilson Orchestra.

Away from the orchestra, Joanne has led the Crash Ensemble on several occasions since 2012, including performances at Carnegie Hall. She is 1st violinist of the Giordani String Quartet who perform Classical and Romantic music on period instruments and is the founder and musical director of Ireland's newest group, The Few's Ensemble. Joanne has performed extensively as a recitalist with her brother, pianist David Quigley. She is on the faculty of the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Joanne holds a Bachelor of Music and a professional performance diploma from the Royal Northern College of Music. She completed her formal studies at the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto in 2002.

A large, elegant, handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Joanne Quigley McParland', written across the bottom left of the page.



Alex Petcu



PERCUSSION

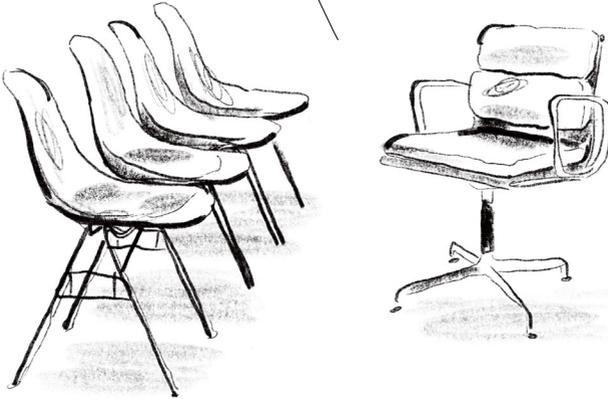
Alex Petcu is a percussionist who is quickly establishing himself both nationally and internationally as a musician of the finest calibre. As an active freelance musician he regularly performs with various professional groups in Ireland as well as featuring in more unusual projects such as theatre and dance productions and solo concerts. He enjoys working with composers and promoting the use of percussion in all possible musical settings.

Ensembles that he has performed and collaborated with include Irish contemporary music groups, Crash Ensemble and Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble, orchestras such as the RTÉ Symphony and Concert Orchestras and various smaller Chamber groups like ConTempo Quartet and EQ Ensemble to name a few. As a soloist he has performed with both RTÉ Orchestras and was selected to be the National Concert Hall Rising Star recitalist in 2015.

Alex is delighted to have recorded his debut album "Alex Petcu: In Time" which has just been released on the RTÉ Lyric FM label.



Queen's University Belfast



Queen's University Belfast



" We are delighted that our close association with Queen's University will continue this season as we plunge ourselves into the fourth year of our Ensemble in Residence programme. This initiative allows the ensemble to embed its substantial season offer within the wonderful atmosphere and ambiance provided by the university. The university's two venues continue to enhance the experience the ensemble can present its audiences, and it is fitting that a vibrant ensemble should be based amid the equally vibrant life of the university campus. In terms of the direct educational offer to students, concert season aside, nothing changes. HRSE continues its extensive Industry Professional relationship with QUB alongside its residency, one enhancing the other.

On behalf of the ensemble I would like to say a thank you to QUB for continuing its investment in HRSE, an investment that we will ensure pays a great pedagogic, cultural and creative dividend in the future."

Dr. Greg Caffrey
Artistic Director Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble

" It is a special pleasure, as Queen's moves forward out of the pandemic restrictions, to welcome our Ensemble in Residence Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble back to our spaces. Getting live music 'Back In The Room' is a priority for all of us, and our experts in Music at Queen's have been working hard to create a Covid-compliant space for new music in The Harty Room and The Sonic Lab over recent weeks.

The last year has turned a difficult environment for experimental live music into a painful and even nightmarish one, with very little employment for freelance musicians. Hard Rain have, happily, bounced back with a characteristically lively and searching programme, serving composers across Ireland and further afield, and I do urge you to support them as their live concerts resume in Queen's. All the familiar elements of their exciting season are there, and they need only the missing ingredient to bring these to life: they need us, their audience, to join them."

Professor Piers Hellawell
Composer and Professor of Composition, QUB



Workshops, Opportunities & Mentorship



Ensemble in Residence and Industry Professionals at Queen's University Belfast

We are delighted to be continuing our role as Industry Professionals within the university again this year and are excited in our continued position as Ensemble in Residence. These designated roles permit us to engage in an exciting series of pedagogic activities as well as centering our season of events in the exceptional concert-giving facilities of the university.

Naturally, the exact nature of our activity will depend on Covid restrictions, however, as always, our plans are to provide workshop read-throughs for composition students at various stages in their development along with instrumental demonstrations, talks and support for students studying Audio Engineering and Production. We hope to continue our engagement with the work placement scheme, offering the opportunity for a student to assist administratively, in terms of stage management and as front of house staff.





Working with the Ulster Youth Orchestra

As always HRSE are delighted to work with the talented players of the UYO and this year will be our 4th year of collaboration. It was regrettable that last year's event was not able to happen for obvious reasons, but we hope that this year the full Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble line-up, with conductor Sinead Hayes, will be able to engage with the UYO players in a workshop culminating in an informal concert in the evening. For many of the young players this will be their first experience of contemporary music and it's always such a positive one for both ensembles.

Workshop with the Ulster Youth Orchestra

QUB, Harty Room
Sunday 10th April 2022
15.00 – 18.00

(workshop not open to the public)

Informal performance 19.30pm
(open Invite)

Entrance is free of charge, but tickets must be booked in advance.
Booking detail at
www.hardrainensemble.com/season21-22

Additional benefits to UYO players will be free tickets to HRSE events. Hard Rain will offer free places (up to a maximum of 10 tickets per concert on a first come, first served basis – one ticket per player).



New Repertoire / Bespoke Music

Two new HRSE commissions, for the forces of the full ensemble, have been initiated thanks to funding from The ACNI Stability and Renewal Programme for Organisations. This year's HRSE commission recipients are Elaine Agnew and Frank Corcoran, two important figures in Irish contemporary music. The Ensemble will offer two performances of each of these new works during our season.

Previous HRSE commissions will receive continued exposure this year. **Ed Bennett's** *Revolver*, **Rhona Clarke's** *Non-Stop*, **Piers Hellawell's** *Ground Truthing*, **Ian Wilson's** *The Emptiness of the Ever Expanding...*, **John Buckley's** *Three Mobiles after Alexander Calder*, and **Gráinne Mulvey's** *LUCA* will all appear in our concerts this season.

Together with our commissioned works above, we will be presenting other pieces written especially for the ensemble. We have three works that have emerged in our 5th **Peter Rosser Composition Award** from the composers, **Samantha McCoy**, **Kevin Terry** and competition winner, **Anita Mawhinney**.

MORE INFO



Additionally, we have two works for the ensemble, commissioned by **New Horizons Music** with funds from **ACNI Lottery Project Funding** that have allowed composers **Amy Rooney** and **Eduard Zatriqi** to create new works for us.

As if all this new music were not enough, we initiated a competitive call for three more commissions again this year with funds from **PRSF Talent Development Partnership**. These are for smaller works aimed at early career composers and this year they were awarded to **Amelia Clarkson**, **Anita Mawhinney** and **Omar Zatriqi**.

MORE INFO



Thank You!



Photo Stuart Galvin

No cultural programme of this magnitude could possibly exist without the financial and in-kind support of our funders and partners. We would particularly like to thank our principal funder, The Arts Council of Northern Ireland, for its support and we are additionally grateful for financial support from PRSf Talent Development Partnership.

Support from **Queen's University School of Arts, English and Languages**, who host our residency, is invaluable, while our myriad of collaborators this year: **Maiden Voyage Dance, Ulster Youth Orchestra, Contemporary Music Centre, Ireland, Diatribe Records, Polskie Centrum Informacji Muzycznej, New Music Dublin, and Sonorities Festival** are essential to the season's success.

A final and sincere thanks goes to all the incredible supporters of this wonderful music. We are grateful to those who accessed our performances online during last season: to those people who demonstrated their passion for the music throughout such difficult times, to the many of you whose constant and valued 'virtual' attendance has numbered you amongst the Hard Rain faithful, to the composition students and professional composers who gave us their wonderful music to play, to the enthusiastic social networkers, the hardened new music enthusiasts and the new-comers. This year we offer this programme with enormous hope and optimism and in the knowledge that art is more important now, in these uncertain times, than ever. We are so appreciative of your continued commitment and fervour.



Friends of HRSE

Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble is a registered charity (NIC102506) and therefore a not-for-profit organization. We would like you to support us in any way you can to help us continue our work. The most enjoyable way to support us is to continue to attend our concerts and we hope that that may still be possible this season.

Otherwise, in these difficult times, you may want to support us by becoming a Hard Rain Friend:



Rain Support on Us

This season we continue our **Friends of Hard Rain scheme**. We are asking our Friends to join us under the **HRSE Friendship Umbrella** by making one of a choice of monthly donations.



Drizzle contributor

£5 per month or £60 per year

This contribution could, for example, help fund travel expenses for a performer.



Hard Rain contributor

£10 per month or £120 per year

This contribution could help towards the cost of music purchase/hire for a concert.



Deluge contributor

£25 per month or £300 per year

This contribution could help towards fees for our wonderful performers.

You can do this via our website 'friends' page www.hardrainensemble.com/friends

Or ask us for our Standing Order Mandate at hardrainensemble@icloud.com

Or make a single **Cloudburst donation**.

If you would like to make a single donation it would be gratefully received.

- + Donations can be made via the 'Donate' button on our website www.hardrainensemble.com
- + **By cheque** (though this incurs bank charges)
- + **We can also furnish you with our bank details if you would like to make a transfer from your account.**
Contact: hardrainensemble@icloud.com
- + **Or you can donate when you buy a ticket for our events through Eventbrite.**

Monsoon contribution for businesses and organisations.

Perhaps you are affiliated to an organisation or business that would like to make a bespoke corporate **Monsoon** donation as sponsorship. If your business or organisation is on the cutting edge, why not use a cutting edge ensemble to promote what you do? Why not meet with us to discuss ways in which we could collaborate:

To enquire contact [Greg Caffrey](mailto:Greg.Caffrey@hardrainensemble.com) at hardrainensemble@icloud.com

In these difficult financial times, we realise that life is hard for everyone, not just our organisation, so the schemes above are aimed only at those HRSE supporters that can genuinely afford to contribute. Otherwise, having you at a concert is brilliant support on its own. Where concerts go ahead as planned we are holding our ticket prices for Season 2021/22 at £10/5 because we feel high quality contemporary music should be accessible to everyone.

If you would like to contact us about donations or anything else, you may do that through our website contacts page or email: hardrainensemble@icloud.com



How to book

This season, due to the Covid crisis, we will not be allowing booking for our events until at least two weeks prior to each event. We will inform the public when booking opens through our mailing list and social media.

Please ensure, therefore, that you are signed up to our mailing list. Contact hardrainmarketing@gmail.com and ask to be added.

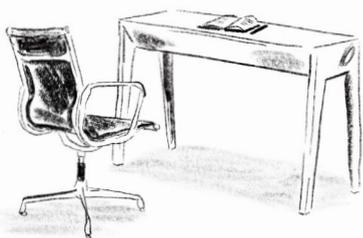
This is so that we get a better idea of what the permitted audience size may be for each event, given the rapidly changing circumstances. It is possible that audience sizes will be capped, so please book as soon as tickets go on sale to avoid being disappointed. Unfortunately, we will NOT be able to permit payment at the door of the events. Only concert ticket holders can be admitted and we hope those of you who often pay at the door (many of our most loyal attendees) will understand the need for this new approach.

Please rest assured that HRSE will provide a Covid safe environment for its audience in any event. It may also be the case, in more extreme circumstances, that we will move to streaming our events, without a live audience. If that is the case we hope that you will be able to join us on line and, again, information on how to access our broadcasts will be communicated via our **mailing list** and through social media.

Otherwise tickets will be available:

Through the Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble website www.hardrainensemble.com/season21-22

Or directly from our **Eventbrite** sites – a digital link to which will be provided in our mailouts and social media.



Principal Venues



Harty Room
Queen's University Belfast
Junction College Sq. & Botanic Avenue, BT7 1NN



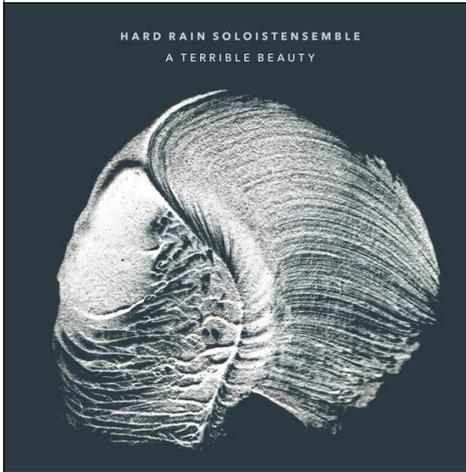
Sonic Arts Research Centre
Queen's University Belfast
4 Cloreen Park, BT9 5HN



General box office/event enquiries:
info@hardrainensemble.com



A Terrible Beauty



Artwork by Paula Caffrey, Design by Max Fransoch

Release date
11th October 2021

Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble are pleased to announce the launch of our debut album, *A Terrible Beauty*.

The album will be released on **DiatrIBE Records** on 11th October 2021.

Celebrating the diversity and depth of compositional talent working in Ireland today, *A Terrible Beauty* showcases the new works created as part of our ongoing commissioning scheme.

The release features a broad cross-section of leading Irish composers, including compositions by **John Buckley, Greg Caffrey, Rhona Clarke, Frank Corcoran, Kevin O'Connell, Jane O'Leary, Iain McCurdy, Simon Mawhinney, Ryan Molloy, Gráinne Mulvey, and Amy Rooney**. *A Terrible Beauty* was recorded at the state-of-the-art Sonic Lab in the Sonic Arts Research Centre at Queen's University Belfast, where HRSE is currently Ensemble in Residence.

The disc takes its name from **Greg Caffrey's** eponymous trilogy, which emerged over a seven-year period of Hard Rain's concert giving, inspired by the poetry of **W.B. Yeats**. *A Terrible Beauty*, which also exists in an orchestral version, was lauded as a "recommended work" by illustrious composers Magnus Lindberg and Erkki-Sven-Tüür and it is presented here in its entirety on CD for the first time.

BUY ALBUM



Credits

We acknowledge support from the following organisations:

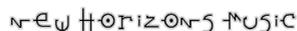
Principal Funding Partners



Ensemble in Residence & Industry Professionals

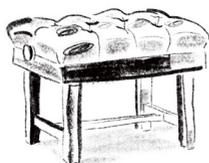


Partner organisations and collaborators



*“...a nimbly articulate champion
of the contemporary and new.”*

Michael Quinn
Culture NI



Design by Paula Caffrey at 27graphique / www.paulacaffrey.com