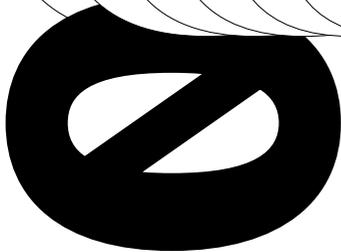
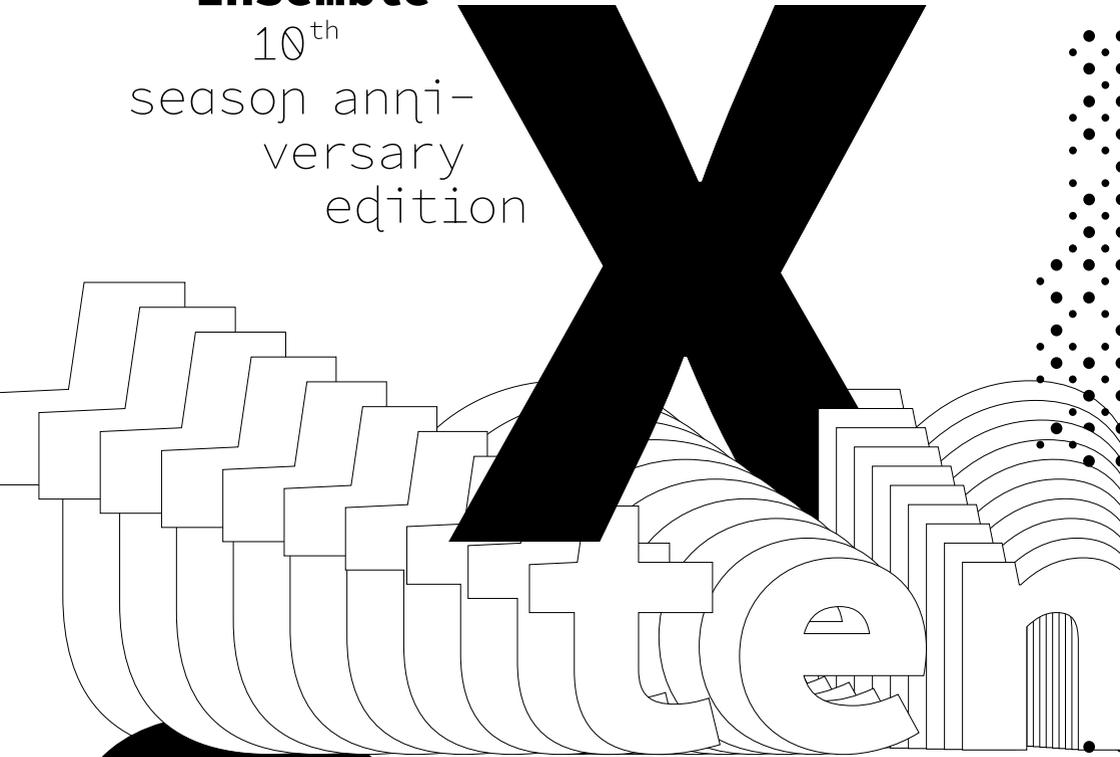


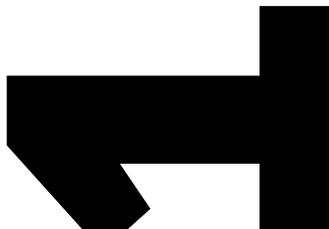


**Hard
Rain**
Soloist-
Ensemble

10th
season anni-
versary
edition



*Celebrating 10 years of
contemporary chamber
music performance.



LOTTERY FUNDED

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A Welcome from the Artistic Director

As Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble enters its 10th Season of music making, I find it encouraging to think back to those early days as a means of charting how far we've travelled.

Who remembers those first tentative steps we took as an ensemble in 2013, in a project born as much out of naivety as it was out of good intentions? It was a concert in the newly opened MAC in Belfast. The repertoire was challenging and the rehearsal time short. The players were working with each other for the first time. The ask from everyone concerned was beyond reasonable, yet we connected with an audience that night with a wonderful programme of music and little did we know what trajectory this would set us on.

The players were keen to do more, and I was keen to facilitate it. We moved, slowly at first, from concert to concert, consolidating the group and, as the years passed, we learned how things best worked for us.

What followed was a musical adventure in which the ensemble would perform most of the important international works for Pierrot ensemble. We experienced season after season of discovery. We worked with students who were expressing themselves with music for the first time, and we offered early career composers some of their first commissions and professional performances. We mentored young players and we tirelessly promoted the music of our compatriot composers, commissioning a wealth of new repertoire along the way. This local 'dimension' has always been central to our remit. All this was done against a backdrop of relentless concert giving, each concert offering audiences entirely new repertoire, new composers and new discoveries.

I make it all sound so easy. In fact, we've had our financial ups and downs along the way, our strategic and logistical difficulties and, ➡➡



more recently, like everyone else in the Arts, our Covid disasters, but the result is an organisation more resilient than ever and better equipped for the years of music making that lie ahead. Knowing that nothing was easy fills me full of a greater sense of pride in what the ensemble has achieved.

So, to our imminent season. Unsurprisingly, it contains no less a spirit of adventure than has been seen in previous years. Although perhaps there is a new departure? We begin another phase for HRSE; an international dimension, featuring concerts at the **Musicahora Festival, La Serena, Chile** and at the **Nieuwe Noten Series in Amsterdam**. These events, funded by Culture Ireland, permit us to take 'our music' (the music of our own composers) to a greater audience beyond these shores and we relish every moment of the opportunity.

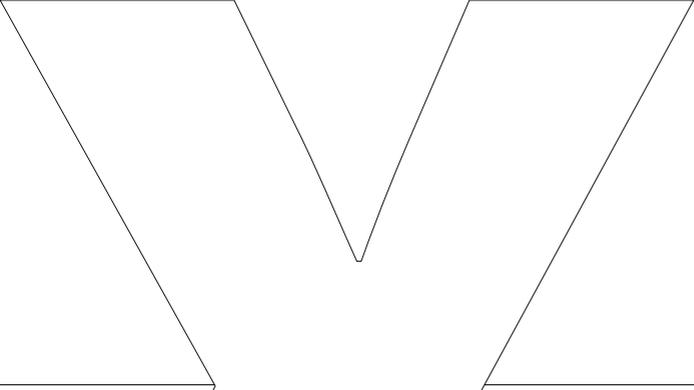
We have a new collaboration with **Royal Birmingham Conservatoire** and the composer Edmund Hunt, which has its own international dimension as we join forces with **Athelas Sinfonietta** (Denmark), **Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (BCMG)** and **BIT20 Ensemble**

(Norway) in a joint project with music combining linguistic expertise with sophisticated voice processing technologies, bringing new life to the sounds of early Irish and old Norse language.

As always, we have our annual **Ink Still Wet** concert, which showcases brand new works including those commissioned through our **PRSf Talent Development Partnership** from early career composers **Matthew Dowie, Aidan Maclean** and **Samuel Kane**. But there are world premieres, too, from composers well known to the ensemble, **Gráinne Mulvey, Ian Wilson** and **Amy Rooney** as well as a new piece from **Sungji Hong**, receiving its Irish premiere.

We promote the talents of our **Featured Young Artists**, who this year are horn player **Jack Reilly** and violinist **Rohan Harron**, alongside HRSE pianist **Daniel Browell**, in a concert as part of the QUB Lunchtime Recital series. Jack and Rohan will also each feature in one of our regular concerts taking their place within the ensemble.

We celebrate **International Women's Day**, as we have done previously, with a roster of talent that this year has a transatlantic flavour. ➤➤



The works included run the stylistic gamut from music - decades old - that has already achieved its rightful place as a staple of the 'Pierrot' repertoire, through to compositions with post-modern tendencies and on to works that are unquestionably avant-garde (which just happen to be the Irish works).

A highlight of our season will be our return to the masterpiece *Pierrot Lunaire* in a special concert focusing on settings of poetry. This concert will also include a new arrangement of my own setting of poems from Seamus Heaney's *Death of a Naturalist*, and, in memory of **Sir Harrison Birtwistle** who sadly passed this year, we will perform his song cycle *Bogenstrich* on texts by Rainer Maria Rilke. We welcome baritone **Malachy Frame** to the ensemble for this event and we are delighted to be working again with soprano **Aoife Miskelly**.

We also have an exciting concert, investigating the French influence in contemporary music through exponents from as far away as Japan and Canada. The concert also features two works from bona fide Frenchman **Dominique Lemaitre**, whose music concertgoers may recall from our last season.

Finally, 'thank you's are so important, the most important of which goes to our principal funder the **Arts Council Northern Ireland** for supporting the many strands of our work. 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. Thanks also to **PRS Foundation**, whose TDP funding supports our early career initiatives, and we see that as something which helps future-proofing the composing scene going forward. Most of all I thank the friends of the ensemble and our amazing thrill-seeking audience who never fail in their enthusiasm and support for what we do.

Having reminded you of HRSE's humble origins, I look forward with excitement to the decade or decades ahead and I sign off with a quotation from the late French film director:

"It's not where you take things from, it's where you take things to."

Jean-Luc Goddard

Season at a glance

Musicahora Festival

- ➔ Departamento de Música Universidad De La Serena Salón Mecesup
 - ➔ Monday 5th September 2022 - 8.00pm
-

Augmented Vocality

Recomposing the Sounds of Early Irish and Old Norse

- ➔ SARC, Sonic Lab. Belfast
 - ➔ Friday 28th October 2022 - 7.30pm
-

Ink Still Wet VI

- ➔ QUB, Harty Room
 - ➔ Friday 27th January 2023 - 7.30pm
-

HRSE Featured Young Artists Recital

- ➔ QUB, Harty Room
 - ➔ Tuesday 16th February 2023 - 1.10pm
-

Inner

A Concert Celebrating International Women's Day

- ➔ QUB, Harty Room
 - ➔ Wednesday 8th March 2023 - 7.30pm
-

Pierrot Lunaire

- ➔ SARC, Sonic Lab. Belfast
 - ➔ Tuesday 28th March 2023 - 7.30pm
 - ➔ Seamus Heaney Homeplace
 - ➔ Wednesday 29th March 2023 - 7.30pm
-

UYO Concert/Workshop

- ➔ SARC, Sonic Lab. Belfast
 - ➔ Saturday 1st April 2023 - 3.00-6.00pm
 - ➔ Workshop not open to the public
 - ➔ Informal performance: 7.30pm
 - ➔ Free concert, booking required
-

French Connexion

- ➔ SARC, Sonic Lab. Belfast
 - ➔ Friday 26th May 2023 - 7.30pm
-

Nieuwe Noten

- ➔ QUB, Harty Room
 - ➔ Friday 16th June 2023 - 7.30pm
 - ➔ Plein Theater Amsterdam
 - ➔ Sunday 18th June 2023 - 3.00pm
-

➔ More info here 

Season

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Musicahora Festival

Tout (2022)* World Premiere

Greg Caffrey (1963)

flute & piano

Syrinx (1917)

Claude Debussy (1862 - 1918)

solo flute

feather headed, frail, summoning

(after Syrinx) (2017)

Jane O'Leary (1946)

flute & piano

Solo...pronunciaré el nombre (2006)

Esteban Correa (1979)

piano solo

Va alada (2009)

Esteban Correa (1979)

piano solo

Solo Fantasias for Alto Flute (2004)

John Buckley (1951)

alto flute solo

Run Before Lightning (2004)

Jonathan Harvey (1939 - 2012)

flute & piano

➔ Departamento de Música
Universidad De La Serena
Salón Mecesus

➔ Monday 5th September 2022

➔ 8.00pm

In the first of HRSE's international events, Hard Rain's pianist **Daniel Browell** and flautist **Aisling Agnew** visit La Serena in Chile for an appearance at the Musicahora Contemporary Music Festival. The programme, supported by Culture Ireland, introduces Chilean audiences to Irish works for flute and piano by **John Buckley** and **Jane O'Leary** and includes a newly commissioned work by **Greg Caffrey**, created with support from Arts Council of Northern Ireland and receiving its world premiere at the festival. Two piano works by Chilean composer **Esteban Correa** are also included alongside a reprise of **Jonathan Harvey's** incredible *Run before lightning*, originally performed by Hard Rain back in our 2018/19 Season.

* Commissioned with funding from ACNI & Dept. of Communities Creative Individuals Recovery Programme

Augmented Vocality

Recomposing the Sounds of Early Irish and Old Norse

Beneath the dark blue waves* (2019)

Jane O'Leary (1946)

flute, clarinet, violin,
violoncello & piano

Cállan (2021)

Aine Mallon (1994)

violoncello & piano

Caoin Leth-Challtach

Pádraig Morrison (1996)

(1st Prize 4th Peter Rosser
Composition Award 2019)
flute, clarinet, violin,
violoncello & piano

Fioriture (2021)

Peter O'Doherty (1973)

solo flute

I AM LEDA (2021) World Premiere

Amelia Clarkson (1995)

flute, clarinet, violin & violoncello

Gortnagarn II*

Ryan Molloy (1983)

alto flute, bass clarinet,
violin, violoncello & piano

Break no more my heart today**

(2021 - 22) World Premiere

Edmund Hunt (1983)

flute, clarinet, violin,
violoncello, piano, sop voice,
bass voice and electronics

➤➤ SARC, Sonic Lab. Belfast

➤➤ Friday 28th October 2022

➤➤ 7.30pm

Augmented Vocality: 'Recomposing the Sounds of Early Irish and Old Norse' proposes a novel programme of practice-based research and a methodology to analyse and explore the sounds of early medieval languages. Combining linguistic expertise with sophisticated voice processing technologies, the project aims to give new life to early languages and help reclaim the oral quality at the heart of medieval literature. *Break no more my heart today*, a newly commissioned work from composer Edmund Hunt, explores this territory using the Hard Rain forces with voice and electronics as a powerful tool to develop new insights and to reanimate texts from early languages well beyond the field of literary studies. His work focuses on two linguistic corpora, Old and Middle Irish and Old Norse - both chosen for their particular sonic qualities and the richness of the surviving texts.

As a prelude to this new work we present a variety of works by Irish and Scottish composers that in some way also connect with the Gaelic world or that explore a sound-world somehow in sympathy with it.

* Commissioned by HRSE with funding from ACNI

** Commissioned with AHRC Funding

Ink Still Wet VI

Estavrosan (2022) Irish Premiere

Sungji Hong (1973)

flute, bass clarinet, violin,
violoncello & piano

➔ QUB, Harty Room

➔ Friday 27th January 2023

➔ 7.30pm

What lies beyond (2022)**

World Premiere

Samuel Kane (1999)

flute, violin & violoncello

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 (TDP). The evening will feature three newly commissioned pieces from early career composers Samuel Kane, Matthew Dowie and Aidan Maclean created as part of our TDP Programme.

In Modo de Martha* (2022)

World Premiere

Amy Rooney (1983)

solo flute

We like to showcase our TDP supported composers alongside more established voices in new music. Composers Amy Rooney and Ian Wilson are regular Hard Rain collaborators and on this occasion we look forward to two brand new works featuring our woodwind players. Ian's work showcases Sarah Watts wielding her contrabass clarinet within the context of the ensemble, while Amy's solo flute work was written especially for our flautist Aisling Agnew. Both works were made possible with funding from the ACNI Creative Individuals Recovery Programme.

Follow the Thread (2022)**

World Premiere

Matthew Dowie (1992)

flute, clarinet & violoncello

Reflexion (2022) World Premiere

David McCann (2022)

solo violoncello

You will all know David McCann as our ensemble's dynamic cellist, but we have also featured several of his works as a composer in previous seasons. In this concert he will perform a new work, his *Reflexion* for solo cello.

Growth (2022) World Premiere**

Aidan Maclean (2003)

flute & violoncello

Strange Attractors (2020)

World Premiere

Gráinne Mulvey (1966)

flute, bass clarinet & piano

Bringing new music to the fore is our raison d'être and this concert features no less than eight premiere performances.

Marianas* (2022) World Premiere

Ian Wilson (1965)

flute, contrabass clarinet, violin,
violoncello & piano

* Commissioned with funding from ACNI & Dept. of Communities Creative Individuals Recovery Programme

** Commissioned with funding from the PRSf Talent Development Partnership

HRSE Featured Young Artists Recital

Music for Horn & Piano (1967)

Thea Musgrave (1928)

horn & piano

- QUB, Harty Room
- Thursday 16th February 2023
- 1.10pm

Nocturne (1994)

Kaija Saariaho (1952)

solo violin

- Rohan Harron - Violin
- Jack Reilly - Horn
- Daniel Browell - Piano

Vespers for Violin (2014)

Missy Mazzoli (1980)

amplified violin, delay & soundtrack

Trio for violin, horn & piano

"Homage a Brahms" (1982)

György Ligety (1923 - 2006)

violin, horn & piano

HRSE are proud to be in partnership with QUB School of Arts, English and Languages for this lunchtime recital promoting the talented violinist Rohan Harron and equally accomplished horn player Jack Reilly. Rohan and Jack were the successful applicants in HRSE's Young Artist Scheme 2022/23, and as such will be involved in the ensemble's activities during this season. Rohan is currently studying violin and composition at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin and Jack is a horn student at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London.

They are joined here by Hard Rain pianist, Daniel Browell. In addition to Daniel's activities with HRSE he is Assistant Head of Keyboard at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and enjoys a busy and varied performing career.

Inner

A Concert Celebrating International Women's Day

Flow State* (2022)

Amy Rooney (1983)

flute, clarinet, violin,
violoncello & piano

Inner (2009)

Ann Cleare (1983)

amplified violoncello & piano

Interstices (2011) Irish Premiere

Gráinne Mulvey (1966)

flute, clarinet, horn in F, violin,
violoncello & piano

Werther (1984) Irish Premiere

Judith Shatin (1949)

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

Rogue Emoji (2019) Irish Premiere

Kati Agócs (1984)

flute (picc. afl.), clarinet
(Eb, bcl.), violin & violoncello

Chamber Concerto N°2 (1966)

Thea Musgrave (1928)

flute (picc. afl.), clarinet (bcl.),
violin (vla.), violoncello & piano

➔ QUB, Harty Room

➔ Wednesday 8th March 2023

➔ 7.30pm

We bring these six works together not only in celebration of International Women's Day, but in reflection of the fact that the work being created inside and outside Ireland today by women is some of the most explorative and diverse in new music. The composers included also happen to offer us a representation of contemporary music as it is developing in Ireland and the United States.

Americans Agócs and Shatin both attended Juilliard and both studied with Milton Babbitt, but there the similarity ends. From different generations, each has their own voice. Without wanting to apply reductive terms in categorising the composers it will be obvious to the listener where each is coming from. It is also a treat to present a major work here by Thea Musgrave, a 'transatlantic' composer born and bred in Scotland but living in the U.S. since 1972 and having the distinction of studying with both Nadia Boulanger and Aaron Copland.

From our own side of the pond we open our concert with perhaps Amy Rooney's most expansive composition to date, commissioned last season for our ensemble by New Horizons Music. In contrast to the gently shifting textures in Amy's music we present works by two of Ireland's avant-gardists, Ann Cleare and Gráinne Mulvey, both of whom delight in the exploration of the extremities of sound.

* Commissioned for HRSE by New Horizons Music with funds from ACNI.

Pierrot Lunaire

feat. Aoife Miskelly, soprano & Malachy Frame, baritone

Death of a Naturalist*

(2020 arr. 2022)

Greg Caffrey (1963)

(on texts by Seamus Heaney)

flute (picc. afl.), Bb clarinet (bcl.),
violin, violoncello & baritone

➔ SARC, Sonic Lab. Belfast

➔ Tuesday 28th March 2023

➔ 7.30pm

➔ Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Bellaghy

➔ Wednesday 29th March 2023

➔ 7.30pm

➔ Booking at www.seamusheaneyhome.com

Bogenstrich (2006 - 2009)

Harrison Birtwistle (1934 - 2022)

(on texts by Rainer Maria Rilke)

violoncello, piano & baritone

This exciting project brings together three works celebrating poetry and music. We pay tribute to English composer Harrison Birtwistle who passed away in April 2022. Birtwistle is best known for his opera output, but this more intimate song cycle on texts by Rilke demonstrates his capacity to create truly beautiful chamber music.

Interval

Pierrot Lunaire Op 21 (1912)

Arnold Schoenberg (1874 - 1951)

(on texts by Albert Giraud)

flute (picc.), clarinet in A (Bb,
bcl.), violin (vla.), violoncello,
piano & soprano

Caffrey's *Death of a Naturalist*, on poems by Ireland's most celebrated modern poet Seamus Heaney, began life as a song cycle for piano and baritone. It is performed here in a special arrangement written for the Hard Rain wind and string players and baritone voice in celebration of the ensemble's 10th anniversary season.

Pierrot Lunaire needs little introduction to audiences. It is a melodrama setting 21 poems by Albert Giraud. Considered to be a masterpiece of chamber music repertoire, it was written, unusually, for a 'reciter' and is commonly performed by a soprano. The work's instrumentation has given rise to this group of instruments becoming a standard combination in the 20th and 21st Century. Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble, who perform this evening, is one such 'Pierrot Ensemble'.

* Commissioned by HRSE with funding from ACNI

UYO Concert/Workshop

Exact repertoire details to follow.
Check www.hardrainensemble.com
for details.

- SARC, Sonic Lab. Belfast
 - Saturday 1st April 2023
 - 3.00 - 6.00pm
 - Workshop not open to the public
 - Informal performance: 7.30pm
 - Free concert, booking required
-

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 works, all of which are inspired by the visual arts. 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.

French Connexion

These are the Clouds about the Fallen Sun (2013)

Greg Caffrey (1963)

flute, clarinet, violin,
violoncello & piano

Imago (2022) Irish Premiere **Dominique Lemaître (1953)**

clarinet, violoncello & piano

Paramirabo (1978) Irish Premiere **Claude Vivier (1948 - 1983)**

flute, violin, violoncello & piano

All that is including me (1997) **Irish Premiere**

Misato Moshizuki (1969)

bass flute, clarinet & violin

Quadrain II (1977)

Toru Takemitsu (1930 - 1996)

clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

Clepsydras (1990) Irish Premiere **Dominique Lemaître (1953)**

flute, clarinet, violin,
violoncello & piano

➔ SARC, Sonic Lab, Belfast

➔ Friday 26th May 2023

➔ 7.30pm

This concert features works unified by their connection to France and the influence of French music. The most evident association is in the two works by French composer **Dominique Lemaître**, a composer whose music *Hard Rain* began to discover in last season's programme. **Toru Takemitsu's** music is steeped in the tradition of **Debussy** and **Ravel** amongst many other influences, but, as can be heard in *Quadrain II*, it is very closely associated with **Olivier Messiaen** with whom Takemitsu sought permission to use the instrumentation of the *Quartet for the End of time*. The **Greg Caffrey** work included here, *These are the Clouds about the fallen sun*, besides being written at the **Cité Internationale des Arts** in Paris, has, in turn, a strong influence from the music of Takemitsu; both factors placing it firmly within the spear of influence of French music. **Misato Moshizuki** is another Japanese composer, who, like Takemitsu, combines Occidental tradition and, in her own words, "the Asiatic sense of breathing." Her time spent at the **Conservatoire National Supérieur** in Paris and immediately afterwards at **IRCAM**, when *All that is including me* was written, were formative years. Finally, **Claude Vivier** has been described by **Ligeti** as "the finest French composer of his generation" either ignoring the fact that Vivier was French-Canadian or perhaps emphasising the strong threads, in particular **Spectralism**, that connected the composer to Europe, and especially Paris.

Nieuwe Noten

LUCA* (2018)

Gráinne Mulvey (1966)

flute (picc.), bass clarinet,
violin, violoncello & piano

Tout* (2022)

Greg Caffrey (1963)

flute & piano

Three Mobiles after

Alexander Calder* (2019)

John Buckley (1951)

flute, clarinet, violin,
violoncello & piano

Where Cobalt Waves Live (2017)

Ann Cleare (1983)

solo piano

Ground Truthing* (2018)

Piers Hellowell (1956)

flute (picc. afl. mel.),
bass clarinet (bcl.), violin,
violoncello & piano

Non-stop* (2020)

Rhona Clarke (1958)

flute, clarinet, violin,
violoncello & piano

➤ QUB, Harty Room
➤ Friday 16th June 2023
➤ 7.30pm

➤ Plein Theater Amsterdam
➤ Sunday 18th June 2023
➤ 3.00pm

In the second of this year's excursions abroad for Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble, we present a concert of works showcasing some of the range of music being composed in Ireland today. Almost all the works have been written especially for the ensemble's players and so this is a very personal Hard Rain 'postcard' of Irish music.

This programme will be performed both in Belfast and Amsterdam and we gratefully acknowledge the financial support of Culture Ireland and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland in helping make this happen.

* Commissioned with funding from ACNI

The Ensemble



Greg Caffrey

artistic
director



The Irish composer Greg Caffrey read music at Queen's University Belfast where he studied composition under Prof. Piers Hellawell 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, at the Taukay Edizioni Musicali International Composition Prize in 2012 and the Musica Domani International Composition Prize (USA). His recent 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 and *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. His work *...for peace comes dropping slow* was selected by the international jury to represent Ireland at ISCM World Music Days in China 2021.

Greg has received commissions from numerous performers and ensembles at home and abroad as well as 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 17 countries and are represented on 12 record labels.

Greg is the founder and Artistic Director of Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble, N. Ireland's only professional ensemble performing modern and contemporary repertoire, and as such regularly champions and commissions the music of Irish contemporary composers alongside major international figures.

Greg is represented by the Contemporary Music Centre, Ireland.

www.gregcaffrey.com

Aisling Agnew

flute/
concert
manager



Aisling Agnew is a flautist from Belfast. She has performed internationally including prominent festivals such as Musicahora in Chile, 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.

Aisling is host of the successful podcast *The Flute NI* and has interviewed many performers, teachers and makers about their experiences. She has made many successful solo and chamber recordings on a wide range of flutes, many of which have been broadcast on BBC Radio, RTE Lyric FM and Classic FM. 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, Arts Council of NI, Creative Scotland and Belfast Classical Music Bursaries.

Aisling's involvement in Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble reflects her continued passion for 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 masterclasses. In addition to this Aisling performs with the Irish Memory Orchestra, collaborating with Irish traditional musicians and the Clyde Duo with Welsh Harpist Sharron Griffiths. Aisling regularly freelances with various orchestras in the UK and Ireland and is involved with a variety of music education programmes such as the Ulster Orchestra's *Crescendo Project*.

In addition to her role as the ensemble's flautist, Aisling is also HRSE's Concert Manager.

www.aislingagnew.com

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 2022-23 season is Sinead's ninth 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 21/22 season saw her appointment as principal guest conductor of Galway's Luminosa Orchestra as well as projects with Ulster Orchestra, Ulster Touring Opera, Opera Workshop, Limerick and conducting Elaine Agnew's opera *Paper Boat* for broadcast on RTE Lyric FM. Her major immersive audio piece *Walking in Ulysses* was premiered on Culture Night in September 2022. Future projects include her continued work with the Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble, and further composition collaborations with writers and theatremakers through www.solstrekmusic.com.

David McCann

ce|llo



David McCann has worked with many of the U.K. and Ireland's leading orchestras, including the Hallé Orchestra, the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Manchester Camerata, the Ulster Orchestra, the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Ireland's National Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestra of Opera North and Northern Ireland Opera. He also enjoys playing chamber music; in addition to his role as HRSE's cellist he performs regularly with Newry Chamber Music's Fews Ensemble, and in 2017 he performed George Crumb's *Vox Balaenae* in the closing concert of the Salisbury International Arts Festival.

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, and his *Reflexion* for solo cello was premiered in 2022.

David graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music in 2010 and completed the MMus course with distinction in 2012. He 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 his work with the Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble; he has performed with YCAT winner Kathryn Rudge at the Wigmore Hall and on many occasions since, and he has worked with the BBC Philharmonic on numerous occasions, including performing in the orchestra's chamber music series in Salford. Other recent engagements have included projects with the Ulster Orchestra and Birmingham Contemporary Music Group.

After studying for his undergraduate degree at the University of Birmingham, Daniel went on to study in Paris, London (Royal Academy of Music) and Chicago. Whilst then going on to become a Junior Fellow at the Royal Northern College of Music, 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.

Sarah Watts

clarinet



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 on clarinet, basset horn, bass and contrabass clarinet.

Sarah is Director of Music Performance at the University of Sheffield 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 and other courses for amateur musicians. Sarah performs extensively with SCAW (bass clarinet and piano duo) and rarescale (low flutes and clarinets). She has completed a PHD exploring bass clarinet multiphonics and published a book on the subject. Sarah is an Henri Selmer Paris artist, Vandoren Artist, and a Silverstein pro artist.

www.sarahkwatts.co.uk

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 Fews 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 Conservatoire of Music, Toronto in 2002.

Guest Artists



Aoife Miskelly

soprano



Northern Irish soprano Aoife Miskelly began her career as a principal soprano at Oper Köln and has since appeared at major venues including the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Hyogo Performing Arts Center, Japan and the Royal Opera House Oman.

Conductors with whom she has worked include Julia Jones, Laurence Cummings, Matthew Halls, Tomáš Hanus, Rafael Payare, Raphaël Pichon, Xavier Roth, Essa-Pekka Salonen, Yutako Sado, Markus Stenz and Peter Whelan.

Her recordings include **Ino** in the Gramophone Award Nominated recording of Eccles' *Semele* with the Academy of Ancient Music.

She recently sang Current **Idaspe** in the Olivier Award winning production of Vivaldi's *Bajazet* for a joint production between Irish National Opera and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and her current engagements include **Musetta** *La bohème* for Welsh National Opera, the St John Passion with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, *Messiah* with the Ulster Orchestra and *Dedication* at the Beverly Chamber Music Festival.

www.aoifemiskelly.com

Elizabeth Hilliard

soprano



Irish Soprano Elizabeth Hilliard is an exceptional singer based in Dublin and is widely regarded as an imaginative and dramatic interpreter of new music. She has worked in close collaboration with composers including Gráinne Mulvey, Jennifer Walshe, Christopher Fox and David Bremner and champions Irish art, music and composers, achieving recognition in the US and UK as well as her native country. She has been supported in her career by bursaries from Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon, Creative Ireland, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and South Dublin County Council.

Recent projects include a *Crushbar*: a collaboration with visual artist Louise Manifold, composer Evangelia Rigaki and percussionist Richard O'Donnell, *Pomegranate*, a long duration installation by Evangelia Rigaki with text by Marina Carr, *Slow Recognition*, an experimental opera by David Bremner, directed by Helène Montague.

In 2021, she presented *How The World Begins Again*, a short feature series for RTÉ lyric fm on women composers and sound artists from Ireland.

www.elizabethhilliard.com

Rory Musgrave

baritone



Rory Musgrave is from Connemara on the west coast of Ireland and he trained at Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin. Rory has just completed singing the role of Eugene Onegin for the Opera Holland Park Young Artist Programme.

Previous roles include *Germont* / *La Traviata*, *Marcello* / *La Boheme*, *Guglielmo* / *Così fan tutte* (Cork Opera House), *Young Kelvin* / *Solaris* (Tokyo), *White Rabbit* / *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *Eumete* / *The Return of Ulysses*, *Junius* / *The Rape of Lucretia* (Opera Collective Ireland), *Camilo* / *Ein Wintermarchen*, *Smirnoff* / *The Bear*, *Magnus* / *Herculanum* (Wexford Festival Opera), *Marco* / *Gianni Schicchi*, *Taddeo* / *L'Italiana in Algeri*, *Belcore* / *L'Elisir d'Amore* (Blackwater Valley), *Schaunard* / *La Boheme*, *Count Gil* / *Susanna's Secret* (Opera Theatre Company), *Schaunard* / *La Boheme*, *Baron Duphol* / *La Traviata* (Lyric Opera).

He is currently singing *Re Di Napoli* / *La Tempesta* (Wexford Festival Opera), and future rôles include reprising *Marcello* *La Boheme* (Cork Opera House), and *Young Kelvin* *Solaris* (Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre).

www.rorymusgrave.com

Malachy Frame

baritone



Belfast-born baritone Malachy Frame was Northern Ireland Opera's 'Voice of 2016,' having won the competition at the company's annual Festival of Voice in August.

Since then, operatic roles have included Figaro in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Slook in Rossini's *La Cambiale di Matrimonio*, Leporello and Masetto in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Guglielmo in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Count Ceprano in Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Labarta in the UK premiere of Juan Durán's *O Arame*, and Aeneas in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*.

Recent concert performances have included a debut at the Wigmore Hall with the Gabrieli Consort, the title role in Mendelssohn's *Saul*, recitals of Beethoven's *An die Ferne Geliebte* and songs by Robert and Clara Schumann, and performances at the Aldeburgh Festival and the Edinburgh International Festival. Highlights of this season include *Così fan tutte* with the Orchestre Mozart Genève, *the Barber of Seville* with Ulster Touring Opera, *King Arthur* with the Gabrieli Consort, Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast* and Bach's *St Matthew Passion* at the Barbican.

www.malachyframe.com

PRSF Talent Development Partnership



Matthew Dowie



Early Career Composer Commissions

Funding through the PRSf Talent Development Partnership allows us to commission three new works for sub-sections of the ensemble each season. The composers are chosen through an open call for proposals and we are delighted to present the recipients for the 2022/23 season here.

Matthew Dowie has written a new work for a trio of flute, clarinet and cello, *Follow the Thread*, inspired by his performance practice as an electric guitarist and reflecting a specific harmonic and melodic language that emerges from the physicality of playing.

Matthew Dowie (b.1992) is active as a performer on electric and acoustic guitars covering a range of styles from Jazz Manouche and Fusion to Free Improv. Aside from original music and jazz, Matthew has 7 years of experience of playing in Musical Theatre shows and played tenor banjo and guitars in the NI Opera Production of Kurt Weill's *Threepenny Opera* in 2018. Matthew received his BMus from QUB in 2017 and since then has been a lecturer in music at SERC. Matthew is current undertaking the MRes at QUB in the field of Music Composition, focusing on writing new works for the Electric Guitar (solo, ensemble, large ensemble).

Aidan Maclean



Aidan Maclean has composed a work for flute and cello entitled *Growth*. Taking his inspiration from plant growth, the new work uses the instruments to create a dialogue analogous to the plant in the ground's relationship to the sun and reflecting the metabolic reactions that occur.

Aidan Maclean's compositional experience includes writing a reflection of a Lassus piece with film composer, Harry Escott for the award-winning ORA Singers. Other commissions have included two choral postcards for Chamber Choir Ireland, one piece for the National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland and one piece for the Belfast Philharmonic Chamber Choir. He has also received Jazzlife Alliance's Young Composer Award. During the last year, he has written short-form jazz compositions with drummer, David Lyttle. Over lockdown, he worked with conductor Paul Campbell to refine his orchestration skills. Additionally, he has his own rock band, Neon Apathy which has self-produced two albums. These can be found on all streaming services. This year Aidan was offered a place at Magdalen College, University of Oxford with a choral scholarship.

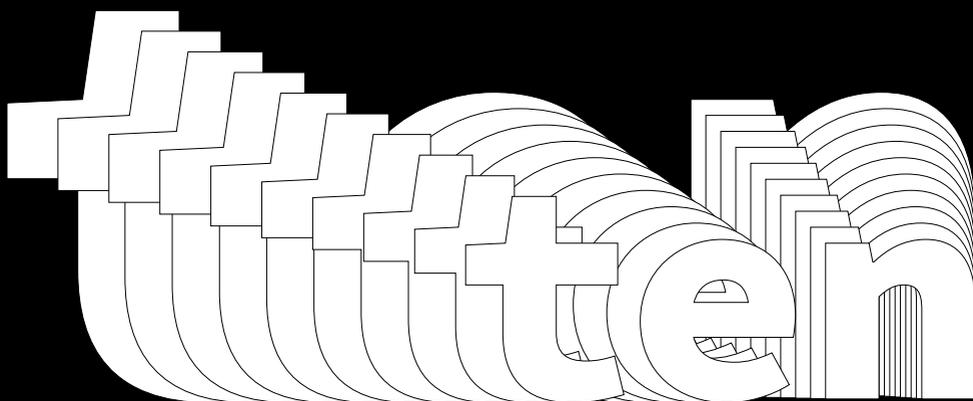
Sam Kane



Sam Kane has chosen to write a work for a trio of flute, violin and cello that reflects his experience of Irish traditional music while exploiting some of the extended techniques more common to contemporary music. It is entitled *What lies beyond*.

Sam Kane is a 4th year violinist studying with Cecily Ward at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester. Some orchestral highlights include performing with NYOGB, leading the Ulster Youth Orchestra and performing with the Ulster Orchestra as part of their Professional Experience Scheme. Sam won the NI Young Musician of the year competition, and more recently was awarded the RNCM Norman George violin prize, where he performed works including one of his own compositions. Sam performed Bruch's *Violin Concerto no.1* with the Manchester Beethoven Orchestra, as well as playing with Ruth McGinley on BBC Radio Ulster's 'Classical connections'. He was mentored by composer Neil Martin on the NI 21 young artists scheme, and recently composed a work for Carme ensemble, which is inspired by Irish folk tunes and features a soprano with Gaelic text. Sam has had Masterclasses with violinists including Yair Kless, Yossi Zivoni, and James Enhes.

Featured Young Artists



Jack Reilly

horn



Rohan Harron

violin



Jack Reilly is a horn player from the fishing village of Annalong, Co. Down, currently studying at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London under Sue Dent and Phil Munds. He has been principal horn of the Ulster Youth Orchestra since 2019 and is also principal of the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland. He is a three-time finalist of the Northern Ireland Young Musician of the Year Competition. At the Guildhall he has enjoyed playing with the Guildhall Symphony Orchestra in the Barbican Hall, with its prestigious contemporary ensemble, the Ubu Ensemble, and its opera orchestra. He was the first, and as of yet only, first-year student to reach the final of the Richard Bissill Horn Competition at Guildhall. He is a member of the Nuada Quintet, formed of close friends from his year at Guildhall, with whom he has particularly enjoyed performing works by Arnold, Bernstein, Hindemith and Ligeti.

Rohan Harron is a Dublin-based violinist and composer from Huddersfield, UK. He is a second year BMus student at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, studying violin under Sarah Sew and composition under Kevin O'Connell. Having performed in prestigious venues including the Royal Albert Hall and Bridgewater Hall, Rohan has also performed in numerous masterclasses as a soloist with Katherine Hunka, Jack Liebeck and other renowned players, and with members of the Navarra and Signum quartets as a chamber musician. As a composer, Rohan has previously written for the Ligeti Quartet and this year his music was performed in New Music Dublin as part of National Concert Hall's Creative Lab scheme, where he studied with Emma O'Halloran. Rohan is passionate about contemporary music, and in particular performing works by under-represented composers, and he is so excited to be working with Hard Rain this coming year!



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.

Specifically, we will be performing read-throughs for composition students at various stages in their development along with offering instrumental demonstrations, and support for students studying Audio Engineering and Production.

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 5th year of collaboration. Last year saw us return to a live workshop and concert

situation after the hiatus caused by Covid and it was so heartwarming to see the Soloist Ensemble line-up, engaging once again with the UYO players in a workshop which culminated in an informal concert in the evening. For many of the young players this was their first experience of contemporary music and it's always such a positive one - for both ensembles. Watch this space for news on how we'll be collaborating with UYO this season.

Workshop with the Ulster Youth Orchestra

- SARC, Sonic Lab. Belfast
- Saturday 1st April 2023 3.00 - 6.00pm
- Workshop not open to the public
- Informal performance: 7.30pm
- Open Invite

Entrance is free of charge, but tickets must be booked in advance. See www.hardrainensemble.com for booking detail.

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 newly composed works, for *Hard Rain*, have been initiated thanks to funding from ACNI & Dept. of Communities Creative Individuals Recovery Programme. These commissions include a new work from **Ian Wilson** entitled *Marianas* for the full ensemble and featuring contrabass clarinet. The second of these works, *In Modo de Martha*, is for solo flute written especially for our flautist Aisling Agnew by composer **Amy Rooney**.

We are also very proud to be at the centre of a large international project that brings with it a new work by English composer **Edmund Hunt**. This work is written for the full ensemble with the addition of soprano and baritone voice with live electronics. It draws upon linguistic expertise and sophisticated voice processing technologies and seeks to “recompose” the sounds of early Irish and old Norse languages. This is a project in collaboration with Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

Previous HRSE commissions will receive continued exposure this year. Ryan Molley’s *Gortnagarn II*, Jane O’Leary’s, *Beneath the dark blue waves*, Piers Hellowell’s *Ground Truthing*, Amy Rooney’s *Flow State*, John Buckley’s *Three Mobiles after Alexander Calder*, Gráinne Mulvey’s *LUCA* and Rhona Clarke’s *Non-Stop* will all appear in our concerts this season.

A new arrangement of Greg Caffrey’s song cycle on poems from Seamus Heaney’s *Death of a Naturalist*, created for flute, clarinet, violin and violoncello, will be performed as part of our Pierrot Lunaire concert. The concert is a celebration of poetry and music and includes a song cycle by the late Sir Harrison Birtwistle alongside Schoenberg’s masterpiece.

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 sought from early career composers and this year they were awarded to **Matt Dowie**, **Aidan Maclean** and **Samuel Kane**.

“...something remarkable has been happening in the hitherto neglected field of new music.”

Michael Quinn
Culture NI

Queen's University Belfast



“Queen’s University is such an important place for us. Offering our 2022/23 Season to audiences within the beautiful surroundings of the Harty Room with its superb acoustic, or in the hi-tech atmosphere of the Sonic Lab, is truly an honour. We feel privileged, too, to be involved directly with the music students, offering workshops and advice and hopefully encouraging the next wave of composing, performing and technical professionals through the QUB Industry Professionals initiative. This year is a special year for us, our 10th Season of concert giving. Where better to celebrate such an anniversary than in this vibrant and stimulating place?”

Sincere thanks to all at QUB for their support and encouragement.”

Dr. Greg Caffrey
Artistic Director,
Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble

“Our wonderful Ensemble in Residence, Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble, is once more presenting a scintillating series in our two concert spaces. This season is the first in which, I believe, many of us are rediscovering the sensation of enjoying public events without the panic over masks or distancing – and Hard Rain are waiting for us to perform!”

It is unbelievable – but this is the 10th Anniversary Year of Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble. As we would expect, rather than stand still they are offering a season packed with innovation – concert trips to Chile and the Netherlands as they spread their wings, events to mark International Women’s Day in March 2023 – and even a new hi-tech collaboration with Birmingham Royal Conservatoire featuring the music of Edmund Hunt. We are hugely fortunate to have these visionary programmes on our doorstep; do join us in Queen’s!”

Professor Piers Hellawell
Composer and Professor of Composition,
Queen’s University Belfast

Thank You

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 their ongoing support and are additionally grateful for financial support from PRSf Talent Development Partnership. This year we own special thanks to Culture Ireland, who have supported our international touring.

Support from **Queen's University School of Arts, English and Languages**, who host our residency, is invaluable, while our myriad of collaborators this year: **Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Musicahora Festival, Nieuwe Noten Amsterdam, Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Ulster Youth Orchestra** and **The Contemporary Music Centre, Ireland**, and are essential to the season's success.

A final and sincere thanks goes to all the incredible supporters of this wonderful music. Being 'back in the room' last season was such an uplifting experience for the ensemble. Once more we experienced the expectant hum of people before the concerts, the silence and feeling of anticipation before the downbow and the passionate and sometimes raucous applause at the end. We feel honoured to have your constant and valued attendance at our events. We thank all of the composers who have trusted us with their amazing music.

Friends

Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble is a registered charity (NIC102506) and therefore a not-for-profit organisation. We would like you to support us in any way you can and help us continue our work. The most enjoyable way to support us is to continue to attend our concerts and to bring your friends and family along to share the experience.

Otherwise, you may want to support us by becoming an official 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

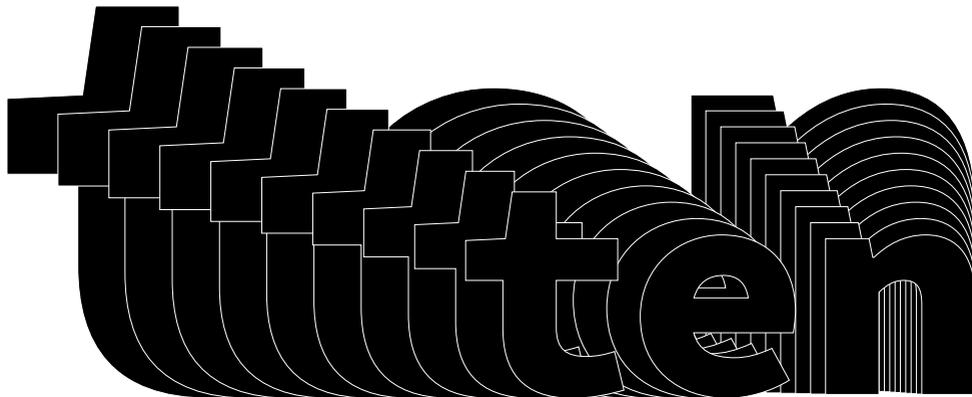
This contribution could help towards the cost of music purchase/hire for a concert.

DELUGE CONTRIBUTOR

£25 per month or £300 per year

This contribution could help towards fees for our wonderful performers.

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 using the “Donate Here” button on our website. www.hardrainensemble.com
- ➔ or by cheque (though cheque donations incur bank charges).
- ➔ We can also furnish you with our bank details if you would like to make a transfer from your account. Contact: info@hardrainensemble.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 at hardrainensemble@icloud.com

These are difficult times, 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. We are holding our ticket prices for Season 2022/23 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

➔ Donate or sign up here 

A Terrible Beauty

Diatribе Records

Last October saw the release of our new double CD *A Terrible Beauty* on Diatribe Records. Have a read at what *Limelight Magazine* thought about it:

“...the seven-strong ensemble, held seamlessly together by conductor Sinead Hayes, is clearly a tightly-knit unit, secure enough to allow individual members to shine and showcase when called into the spotlight. Such flexibility proves to be one of the group’s defining strengths, together with the fluent reciprocity that binds them together.”

“...a vitality and confidence in contemporary Irish music fully at ease with its multi-accented voice and wider relationship with Europe and beyond.”

The album features works by the following Irish composers:

Grainne Mulvey - *LUCA*: “A veritable sonic soup of free-wheeling protozoal elements in constant, dyspeptic flux, it moves satisfyingly through increasing complexity towards tremulous calm.”

Greg Caffrey - *A Terrible Beauty*: “...it’s a work of allusive subtlety and tempered drama realised with affecting eloquence.”

Greg Caffrey - *Three Movements on the work of William Scott*: “...the product of a composer discreetly alert to the abiding influence of the Second Viennese School while keeping in step with more recent developments and certain of his own signature.”

Rhona Clarke - *Non-stop*: “...delightfully peppy and tongue-in-cheek, exploiting the well-honed ensemble’s intimate give-and-take.”

Frank Corcoran - *Nine Looks at Pierrot*: “...a variegated but compact and concentrated interrogation of the commedia dell’arte clown.” ➡➡

Simon Mawhinney - The Zeddy Dance: "...punctuated by bursts of delightfully idiosyncratic energy and cartoon-like silliness movingly evoking the child's dance it depicts."

Jane O'Leary - Beneath the dark blue waves: "...is a shadow-cast exercise in liquescent ebb and flow, clarinet, strings and Aisling Agnew's flute breaking above a piano line surging and receding with tidal wilfulness."

Ryan Molloy - Gortnagarn II: "...where cello and clarinet assiduously carve out their own landscape."

Amy Rooney - Phosphenes: "...nimble plays with perceptions of light."

John Buckley - Three Mobiles after Alexander Calder: "...engagingly elastic and kinetic."

Kevin O'Connell - A Batutta: "...marked by a becoming sense of playfulness."

Iain McCurdy - Found sounds lost: "...an atomised dissection of aural experience lit up by synthesised electronics."



On Presentation and recording:

"Handsomely presented by Diatribe, the exemplary recording, in Belfast's Sonic Arts Research Centre, merits a listen on headphones for its detail and well-framed immediacy."

Limelight Magazine

➔ Available to buy now from
Diatribe Records:
www.diatribe.ie

How to book



**Tickets will be
available:**

Through the Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble
website www.hardrainensemble.com

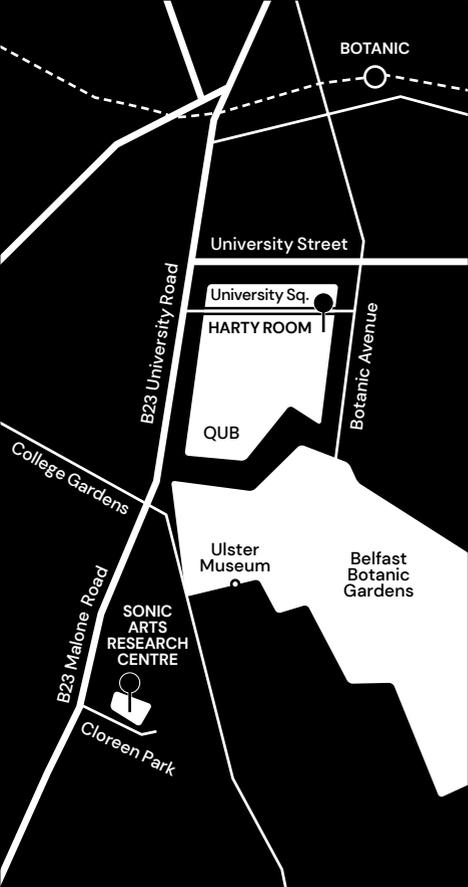
**www.
hardrainensemble.
com**

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

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

**info@
hardrainensemble.
com**

Principal season venues



Harty Room

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

Sonic Arts Research Centre

Queen's University Belfast
4 Cloreen Park
Belfast, BT9 5HN



Credits

We acknowledge support from the following organisations:

Principal Funder



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Ensemble in Residence & Industry Professionals



Partner organisations & collaborators

MUSICAHORA



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BIRMINGHAM
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nna
Nieuwe Noten Amsterdam



“...one the freshest, most exciting, intelligent and intriguing musical developments in Northern Ireland in too long a time, the Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble are clearly going from strength to strength.”

Michael Quinn
Culture NI

