

ONE SEASON FORTY-ONE COMPOSERS

SIMON MAWHINNEY BILL CAMPBELL
PIERRE BOULEZ
STEVE REICH
IAIN McCURDY GREG CAFFREY
KRZYSZTOF PENDERECKI
ELLIOT CARTER
GEORGE BENJAMIN
IAN WILSON PETER ROSSER
FRANCO DONATONI
VALENTINO BUCHI
GEORGE NICHOLSON DANIEL BARKLEY
CHRIS McCANN STEPHEN COYLE
JUDITH WEIR
STEPHEN GARDNER DAVID HORNE
WITOLD LUTOSLAWSKI
HANS WERNER HENZE
MICHAEL PERRETT DAVID McCANN
JOHN TAVENER
ARVO PÄRT
MORTON FELDMAN
KEVIN O'CONNELL AMY ROONEY
SALVATORE SCIARRINO
OLIVIER MESSIAEN
ARNOLD SCHOENBERG
ANTON WEBERN
STEPHEN DAVISMOON KATHERINE HOOVER
ALBAN BERG
EDGARD VARÈSE
LUCIANO BERIO
ANNE MARIE O'FARRELL
PETER MAXWELL DAVIES
TORU TAKEMITSU



HARD RAIN
SOLOISTENSEMBLE

ENSEMBLE IN RESIDENCE
CRESCENT ARTS CENTRE

2015/16 SEASON



It is a great pleasure for me to introduce Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble's 2015/16 Season. Those of you who offered such loyal support for our last season will be delighted to see that the programme this year is more expansive, representing an even more ambitious and fearless attitude from this unique ensemble than before - book your season ticket now! If you are encountering the ensemble through our brochure for the first time, I urge you to come along, be brave, and see for yourself how powerful and exciting contemporary chamber music can be.

The voyage of discovery, begun last season, continues this year with landmark works of "must hear" repertoire by composers as markedly contrasted as Steve Reich and Pierre Boulez, who appear side by side in our first concert. For any inquisitive music fanatic, this concert alone is not to be missed. The season continues with a string of key chamber works that represent as much the breadth of the ensemble's interests as it's bold sense of adventure.

A new addition to the Hard Rain season this year is the *Solo Series* of concerts, featuring the individual players of the ensemble showcasing works for their instruments. What a wonderful way to become acquainted with new works and accepted classics of the repertoire, while learning about their technical implications or historical context.

Another significant feature is the historical breadth of music covered from early 20th Century classics to pieces of music that are still, at the time of writing this preface, on a composers drawing board or perhaps even just swirling around in his or her consciousness. As always, the promotion of the varied new music of our talented local composers, alongside those great luminaries of modern and contemporary music that need less introduction, is paramount.

Finally, alongside HRSE's many performances, we are delighted to be embarking upon a number of educational initiatives, continuing our work with Queen's University School of Creative Arts, and forging new relationships with Ulster Youth Orchestra and SERC School of Performing and Creative Arts.

Music enthusiasts, art lovers, adventurers: please put these dates in your diary, and let's forget about what music is and let's consider what music could be!



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G. Caffrey'.

Dr. Greg Caffrey
Artistic Director

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HARD RAIN SOLOISTENSEMBLE LAUNCH

Crescent Arts Centre, CUBE, Belfast
Music: Rooney/McCurdy/Caffrey
 Wednesday 18th November 2015
 5.30 - 7.30pm_Invite only

OPPOSITES ATTRACT - REICH/BOULEZ

Crescent Arts Centre, CUBE, Belfast
Music: Boulez/Reich/Mawhinney/Campbell
 Saturday 21st November 2015
 7.30pm_£10_●●

**SOLO SERIES CONCERT I
JOANNE QUIGLEY, VIOLIN**

Crescent Arts Centre, Studio, Belfast
**Music: Penderecki/Carter/Benjamin/
 Reich/Wilson/Rooney**
 Wednesday 16th December 2015
 7.30pm_£10_●●

ESPIRIT RUDE - ELLIOT CARTER

Crescent Arts Centre, CUBE, Belfast
**Music: Carter/Boulez/Rosser/
 Caffrey/Wilson**
 Saturday 6th February 2016
 7.30pm_£10_●●

**SOLO SERIES CONCERT II
SARAH WATTS, CLARINET**

Crescent Arts Centre, CUBE, Belfast
**Music: Donatoni/Buchi/Wilson/O'Connell/
 Nicholson/Caffrey**
 Wednesday 10th February 2016
 7.30pm_£10_●●

**ILLUSTRATED LECTURE TO
SERC MUSIC STUDENTS**

The theatreSPACE, SERC, Bangor
Steve Reich - Cello Counterpoint
 Friday 12th February 2016
 Not open to the public

WORKSHOP WITH QUB MUSIC STUDENTS

Queen's University Belfast
**Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble work
 with 1st year composition students**
 Thursday 19th February 2016
 Not open to the public

WORKSHOP WITH QUB MUSIC STUDENTS

Queen's University Belfast
**Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble work
 with 3rd year composition students**
 Thursday 25th February 2016
 Not open to the public

**QUEEN'S MUSIC - MUSIC BY QUB
COMPOSERS (FEATURING JUDITH WEIR)**

Queen's University, Harty Room, Belfast
**Music: Weir/Mawhinney/Rooney/McCurdy/
 McCann/Barkley/Coyle/chosen UG piece**
 Saturday 27th February 2016
 7.30pm_£10_●●

REICH - DOUBLE SEXTET

The theatreSPACE, SERC, Bangor
**Music: Reich/Rooney/Mawhinney/
 Campbell/Gardner**
 Friday 11th March 2016
 7.30pm_£10_●●

**WORKSHOP WITH ULSTER
YOUTH ORCHESTRA**

Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast
**Soloists of Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble
 work with young musicians from UYO**
 Saturday 12th March 2016
 Not open to the public

**SOLO SERIES CONCERT III
DAVID MCCANN, CELLO**

Crescent Arts Centre, CUBE, Belfast
**Music: Lutosławski/Henze/Tavener/
 Mawhinney/McCann/Caffrey/
 Perrett/Horne**
 Wednesday 16th March 2016
 7.30pm_£10_●●

EDGE OF REFLECTION - MUSIC FOR EASTER

Crescent Arts Centre, CUBE, Belfast
**Music: Pärt/Feldman/Sciarrino/Messiaen/
 Wilson/Caffrey/Davismoon**
 Saturday 26th March 2016
 7.30pm_£10_●●

VIENNA - MUSIC OF THE 2nd VIENNESE SCHOOL

Crescent Arts Centre, CUBE, Belfast
Music: Schoenberg/Berg/Webern/Rosser
 Wednesday 6th April 2016
 7.30pm_£10_●●

WORKSHOP WITH QUB MUSIC STUDENTS

Queen's University Belfast
**Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble work
 with 2nd year composition students**
 Tuesday 19th April 2016
 Not open to the public

SOLO SERIES CONCERT IV AISLING AGNEW, FLUTE

Crescent Arts Centre, CUBE, Belfast
**Music: Varèse/Berio/Takemitsu/Maxwell
 Davies/Reich/Hoover/Wilson/O'Farrell**
 Wednesday 4th May 2016
 7.30pm_£10_●●

PETER ROSSER COMPOSITION AWARD

Red Box Studio, 173 University St., Belfast
Calls for scores - open January 2016
 (See HRSE website)
 Friday 27th May 2016
 7.30pm_Invite only

- Ensemble Series Ticket Offer
- Solo Series Ticket Offer
- Combined Season Ticket Offer



A Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble programme is never merely a showcase of a diverse collection of pieces, united perhaps only by the fact that they can be broadly categorised as either Modern or Contemporary. The Hard Rain experience goes further, in that every concert is carefully curated to highlight connections, both obvious and obscure, between repertoire or to demonstrate contrasting approaches. In most cases, associations between works programmed within an evening's music will be obvious on paper and become even clearer in performance. So, despite my expounding on this subject over the following paragraphs, I hope you will come to everything we play this year and make your own connections between the wonderful pieces of music.

This season sees Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble make its first excursion into the area of minimalist music with the performance of **Steve Reich's** *Double Sextet* (2007). Our first concert, 'Opposites Attract', juxtaposes Reich's work with **Pierre Boulez's** *Derive I* (1984), a work perhaps with nothing immediately obvious in common with the *Double Sextet*. However, despite each of these composer's dismissal of the other's music, they have influences in common. Both Boulez and Reich, for example, cite African drumming as being an important influence on their own development as composers. This manifests itself more obviously in the pulsing, phasing and interlocking rhythms of Reich's work. If the music of Boulez can be said to have "a sensuality" (come along and decide for yourself), then this could be due to the composer's claim that the ethnic music of which he made a study offered him "a different feeling of time". But when all is said and done I cannot deny that part of the appeal of programming these two works together is the creation of as much contrast as is possible within one sitting. And so their presence, in close proximity in this programme, is purposeful - provocative even - but, carefully considered.

Two local composers whose music, by their own admission, is born out of a respect for Reich and Boulez are also included here - **Bill Campbell** and **Simon Mawhinney**. A connection between

Campbell's new work, *There Comes a Time* (2015), written specifically for HRSE, and Reich is clear; however, Mawhinney's miniature, *Ribadoo* (2006 - 2015), curiously seems to have as much in common with one composer as the other.

Derive I appears again in our second concert, 'Esprit Rude', as part of the ensemble's aim to offer our audience repeat listenings to works, and this time it connects with **Elliot Carter's** discursive *Triple Duo* (1983). Boulez is an advocate of at least some of the varied output of this American composer whose musical works span an 80-year period. *Triple Duo* is a work that exudes excitement and sheer virtuosity. Its pairing (as its title suggests) of three groups of instruments, and the autonomous nature, generally, of the instrumental writing in Carter's music, is the intended connection between this work and my own new work, *The Garden of Earthly Delights* (2016), to be premiered in this concert. It is a great pleasure as well to be able to present the wonderful music of our colleague, the late **Peter Rosser** alongside Carter, whose music he adored.

Performing music by a new generation of composers is an important part of HRSE's ethos. And so our concert, 'Queen's Music', celebrates composers all united through their association with Queen's University's School of Creative Arts. Ex-graduates,

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“ These concerts will be informal and informative, offering an acceptable introduction to the repertoire for brave newcomers as well as new insights for aficionados. Needless to say the music of the composers on our doorstep will feature throughout these solo concerts too.”

post-graduates and undergraduates are all represented in a concert jointly curated with Professor Piers Hellawell. We are delighted also on this occasion to have the opportunity of interpreting the music of Professor **Judith Weir**, whose association with the university goes back many years, but who also happens to be the current Master of the Queen's Music.

“Minimalism” is purely a launch pad for our performance simply entitled ‘Reich’ at the SPACE Bangor. We have a repeat performance of Reich's *Double Sextet* as well as another airing of the works of Campbell and Mawhinney, but, in addition, we have music by two other local composers, one very well established, **Stephen Gardner**, and one newly emerging, **Amy Rooney**. While both composers fit comfortably in the context of this concert, their music is, at the same time, too progressive to be conveniently packaged as any kind of post minimalist product. Rooney's music *Lines and Dots* (2015) and *Butterflies and Wallflowers* (2014) is textural, colourful and permits certain parameters of the music to be determined by the performers. Gardner's *Trane* (1996) has occasional driving rhythms in common with traditional minimalism, but it encompasses too much more to be labeled as such.

Our Easter offering, ‘Edge of Reflection’, is a concert of music with a strong reflective thread running through it. But this is not music with either a traditional Easter message or religious connotation (with the exception of our excerpt from Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time*); rather, this is music that offers space for contemplation and deliberately avoids the forward propulsion, fast movement or density of a lot of modern music. “Spiritual”

or “meditative” tags conjure up images of massage treatments and alternative therapies, but this is a programme of very concentrated, serious music, and there won't be a beautician in site!

The music of the ‘Second Viennese School’ features in our last ensemble concert of the year. The centerpiece of this event is **Arnold Schoenberg's Chamber Symphony No 1, Op. 9** (1906) in an arrangement by his colleague and pupil **Anton Webern**. In this concert, HRSE reaffirm their commitment to the 20th Century repertoire that informs much of the music of today, while, as is their self-imposed remit, exposing major works that build on this tradition by local composers, in this case **Peter Rosser's** expansive *The Last Temptation of Arnold Schoenberg* (2004) for solo piano.

As if all the above were not enough, this season we introduce a ‘Solo Series’ that showcases the players of the ensemble. Many of the offerings here, programmed by the individual players themselves, reflect key solo repertoire for the instruments concerned: **Reich's Violin Phase** (1967), **Donatoni's Clair** (1980) for clarinet, **Hans Werner Henze's Serenade for Cello** (1949) or the compositions for flute; *Density 21.5* (1936) by **Edgard Varèse** and **Luciano Berio's** challenging *Sequenza I* (1958). These concerts will be informal and informative, offering an accessible introduction to the repertoire for brave newcomers as well as new insights for aficionados. Needless to say the music of the composers on our doorstep will feature throughout these solo concerts too.

Dr. Greg Caffrey
Artistic Director



Come along and enjoy a glass of wine, and an opportunity to meet and hear the ensemble. This informal event will include performances of three works written especially for Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble: *Lines and Dots*, by **Amy Rooney**, *Philharmonie*, by **Iain McCurdy** and *These are the Clouds about the Fallen Sun*, by **Greg Caffrey**.

LINES AND DOTS* (2015)
Amy Rooney (1983)
Flute, Bb Clarinet, Violin,
Violoncello and Piano

PHILHARMONIE* (2014)
Iain McCurdy (1972)
Flute, Bb Clarinet, Violoncello

**THESE ARE THE CLOUDS
ABOUT THE FALLEN SUN* (2013)**
Greg Caffrey (1963)
Alto Flute, Bb Clarinet, Violin,
Violoncello and Piano

VENUE

The Crescent Arts Centre (CUBE), Belfast

DATE

Wednesday 18th November 2015, 5.30–7.30

ADMISSION

Invite only

We are grateful to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland for the loan of the Steinway Model D for the purpose of this event.

*Written especially for Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble

The non-compatibility of minimalist and modernist tendencies on one concert platform is challenged here in a programme that juxtaposes two titans of each musical sphere. French composer, **Pierre Boulez** (*Derive I*) and the American, **Steve Reich** (*Double Sextet*) are at just such opposite ends of the contemporary music spectrum. However, perhaps the enjoyment and respect of one composer's work does not preclude an equal admiration for the other's?

Come along and judge for yourself, and hear two premiere performances of works by composers closer to home, **Bill Campbell** and **Simon Mawhinney**. Both of these composers have created new music here that resonates within the context of this programme, while offering their own very personal and individual compositional voices.

DERIVE I (1984)
Pierre Boulez (1925)
 Flute, Clarinet in A, Violin, Violoncello, Piano and Vibraphone

ELECTRIC COUNTERPOINT (1987)
Steve Reich (1936)
 arr. Alex Petcu Colan
 • Fast
 • Slow
 • Fast
 Vibraphone & Marimba

RIBADOO (2006 - 2015)
Simon Mawhinney (1976)
 Flute, Bb Clarinet, Violin, Violoncello, Piano and Vibraphone

DOMAINES (1968 - 69)
Pierre Boulez (1925)
 Solo Clarinet version

Interval 15 mins

THERE COMES A TIME* (2015)
Bill Campbell (1961)
 Flute, Bb Clarinet, Violin, Violoncello, Piano

BARCODE II (2002)
Simon Mawhinney
 Flute & Clarinet

DOUBLE SEXTET (2007)
Steve Reich
 Flute, Bb Clarinet, Violin, Violoncello, Piano and Vibraphone

VENUE

The Crescent Arts Centre (CUBE), Belfast

DATE

Saturday 21st November, 7.30pm

ADMISSION

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We are grateful to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland for the loan of the Steinway Model D for the purpose of this event.

*Written especially for Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble

The Hard Rain soloists have each curated their own recital programme, focusing on works that showcase their instrument and its associated technique and sound world. These concerts are delivered in an informal atmosphere with an emphasis on an explanation and close examination of the repertoire.

Joanne Quigley commented, "While researching repertoire for this concert I was struck by the enormous volume of excellent compositions for solo violin. JS Bach continues to present the greatest challenge to the solo violinist with his six solo sonatas, and, at the back of my mind, I wanted to choose music which similarly showed what this small, four-stringed treble instrument was capable of. I am particularly delighted to feature two outstanding Northern Irish Composers in the programme (**Amy Rooney** and **Ian Wilson**) who have produced wonderful pieces that are hugely contrasting. In essence, I hope you will enjoy this exploration of the endless sound world of the violin."

CADENZA (1984)
Krzysztof Penderecki (1933)
Solo Violin version

EXCERPT FROM 4 LAUDS (1984 - 2001)
Elliot Carter (1908 - 2012)
Statement - Remembering Aaron
Solo Violin

FLIGHT PATHS (2014)
Amy Rooney (1983)
Solo Violin

3 MINATURES (2001)
George Benjamin (1960)
Solo Violin

Interval 15 mins

SONÁID BÉALOIDIS (2014)
Ian Wilson (1964)
Solo Violin

VIOLIN PHASE (1967)
Steve Reich (1936)
Violin & Tape

VENUE

The Crescent Arts Centre (Studio), Belfast

DATE

Wednesday 16th December, 7.30pm

ADMISSION

£10_●●

This concert features three works by the American composer, **Elliot Carter**, the centerpiece being his mighty *Triple Duo* from 1983. As one of the most significant American composers of all time, Carter's output ranges from early neo-classical works to the works of his atonal and rhythmically complex late style (represented here). There is a second chance to hear **Pierre Boulez's** wonderful *Derive I*, in case you missed our first concert. Together with these two titans of musical modernism Hard Rain is pleased to present the music of three local composers. There will be a performance of our late colleague **Peter Rosser's** *Le Mai*, for solo piano, a European premiere performance of **Ian Wilson's** *Bal-Beo-Nea* for solo marimba, and a world premiere of a new work especially written for this occasion for the expanded Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble by **Greg Caffrey**, entitled *The Garden of Earthly Delights*.

ESPRIT RUDE/ESPRIT DOUX (1994)

Elliot Carter (1908 - 2012)

Flute, Clarinet & Marimba

LE MAI (1995)

Peter Rosser (1970 - 2014)

Solo Piano

BAL-BEO-NEA (2012)

Ian Wilson (1964)

Solo Marimba

GRA (1993)

Elliot Carter

Solo Clarinet

**THE GARDEN OF EARTHLY
DELIGHTS* (2016)**

Greg Caffrey (1963)

Flute (picc, alto), Clarinet, Violin,
Violoncello, Piano, Percussion

Interval 15 mins

DERIVE I (1984)

Pierre Boulez (1925)

Flute, Clarinet in A, Violin, Violoncello,
Piano and Vibraphone

BLUNT INSTRUMENT (2008 - 9)

Greg Caffrey

Bass Clarinet & Piano

TRIPLE DUO (1983)

Elliot Carter

Flute (picc), Clarinet (Eb, bs cl), Violin,
Violoncello, Piano, Percussion

VENUE

The Crescent Arts Centre (CUBE), Belfast

DATE

Saturday 6th February, 7.30pm

ADMISSION

£10_●●

We are grateful to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland for the loan of the Steinway Model D for the purpose of this event.

*Written especially for Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble

SOLO SERIES CONCERT II SARAH WATTS, CLARINET

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The Hard Rain soloists have each curated their own recital programme focusing on works which showcase their instrument and its associated technique and sound world. These concerts are delivered in an informal atmosphere with an emphasis on an explanation and close examination of the repertoire.

Sarah's programme for solo bass clarinet and solo clarinet exposes three core Italian works (*Soft* and *Clair* by **Franco Donatoni** and *Concerto* by **Valentino Buchi**) alongside Irish works written for her. The premiere of *Soundings* by Sheffield based **George Nicholson** features multiphonics taken from charts used in Sarah's new ground-breaking publication: *Spectral Immersions; A Comprehensive Guide to the Theory and Practice of Bass Clarinet Multiphonics*. (2015)

SOFT (1989)

Franco Donatoni (1927 – 2000)

Bass Clarinet

ASHES (2003)

Ian Wilson (1964)

Bass Clarinet

MOTUS (2004)

Kevin O'Connell (1958)

Bass Clarinet

CONCERTO (1969)

Valentino Buchi (1916 – 1976)

Solo Clarinet

Interval 15 mins

SOUNDINGS (2012)

George Nicholson (1949)

Bass Clarinet

TWO SHORT PIECES:

Greg Caffrey (1963)

Multiphonic Study (2012)

Bass Clarinet

Carter Fragment (2011)

Bb Clarinet

CLAIR (1980)

Franco Donatoni

Clarinet

VENUE

The Crescent Arts Centre (CUBE), Belfast

DATE

Wednesday 10th February, 7.30pm

ADMISSION

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This concert is a showcase for the long and continuing tradition of acoustic composition in Queen's University, and for the work of a distinguished friend of that tradition. Since the 1980s, a steady stream of composers nurtured by **Piers Hellawell** and composer colleagues has enhanced the new music scene; tonight's programme features music by composers studying from the 1990s to the present day. We are delighted that this event also celebrates the Master of the Queen's Music, Professor **Judith Weir**, who will be in conversation with the young composers as part of the concert event. Judith Weir has been a welcome visitor to Queen's since the 1983 Sonorities Festival, so it is appropriate that she joins Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble to celebrate the acoustic composition tradition in Queen's.

CUPOLA* (2015)

Iain McCurdy (1972)

Flute, Clarinet, Violin, Violoncello, Piano

SUNDEW (2014)

Judith Weir (1954)

Violin & Violoncello

BARCODE II (2002)

Simon Mawhinney (1976)

Flute & Clarinet

NEW WORK (2016)

Daniel Barkley (1989)

Solo Cello

A NITRE PLY (2013)

Chris McCann (1989)

Clarinet, Violin & Violoncello

Interval 15 mins

LINES AND DOTS* (2015)

Amy Rooney (1983)

Flute, Clarinet, Violin, Violoncello, Piano

ESKE (2013)

Stephen Coyle (1991)

Violin, Violoncello, Piano

SELECTED UNDERGRADUATE WORK (2016)

Flute, Clarinet, Violin, Violoncello, Piano

BLUE-GREEN HILL (2013)

Judith Weir

Flute, Clarinet, Violin, Violoncello, Piano

VENUE

Queen's University (Harty Room), Belfast

DATE

Saturday 27th February, 7.30pm

ADMISSION

£10_●●

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*Written especially for Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble

If you missed the ensemble's performance of **Steve Reich's** exciting *Double Sextet* in our opening concert of the season, then you will definitely want to hear it here. If the work is no longer new to you, we feel you will be back for more, particularly since this concert features Reich's *Cello Counterpoint* too. In addition, Hard Rain will interpret the works of no less than four local composers each with a very individual voice.

The rhythmic jaggedness of **Mawhinney's** *Ribadoo* contrasts with the more comfortable motor rhythms of Reich's compositions and yet there is somehow a relationship here between these desperately different composers. Similarly, the textural quality of **Amy Rooney's** two included works, *Lines and Dots* and *Wallflowers and Butterflies*, and the freedoms offered to the performers, link them to some of Reich's American contemporaries, while at the same time she pursues her own clear musical path. A clearer and more direct minimalist influence can perhaps be heard in **Bill Campbell's** *There Comes a Time* with its unapologetically tonal landscape and at times blues-affected line. **Stephen Gardner's** *Trane*, written before the two Reich works in the programme, might have a more spurious link with the American composer, however there are obstinate driving rhythms here too amidst more delicate textures.

VENUE

The theatreSPACE, SERC, Bangor

DATE

Friday 11th March, 7.30pm

ADMISSION

£10_●●

LINES AND DOTS* (2015)

Amy Rooney (1983)

Flute, Bb Clarinet, Violin,
Violoncello & Piano

CELLO COUNTERPOINT (2003)

Steve Reich (1936)

Cello & Tape

TRANE (1996)

Stephen Gardner (1958)

Clarinet, Violin, Violoncello & Piano

RIBADOO (2006 - 2015)

Simon Mawhinney (1976)

Flute, Bb Clarinet, Violin, Violoncello,
Piano and Vibraphone

Interval 15 mins

THERE COMES A TIME* (2015)

Bill Campbell (1961)

Flute, Bb Clarinet, Violin, Violoncello, Piano

WALLFLOWERS & BUTTERFLIES (2014)

Amy Rooney

Flute, Violin & Cello

DOUBLE SEXTET (2007)

Steve Reich

Flute, Bb Clarinet, Violin, Violoncello,
Piano and Vibraphone

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*Written especially for Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble

SOLO SERIES CONCERT III DAVID MCCANN, CELLO

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The Hard Rain soloists have each curated their own recital programme focusing on works, which showcase their instrument and its associated technique and sound world. These concerts are delivered in an informal atmosphere with an emphasis on an explanation and close examination of the repertoire.

The second half of the twentieth century enjoyed an unprecedented number of new compositions for unaccompanied cello. This programme is an examination and comparison of the plethora of approaches taken by composers to this idiom. These eight pieces, though radically different from one another, share one common thread: all use the solo cello as a voice to express an individual language.

SULLE CORDE (2010)

David Horne (1970)

Solo Cello

IN TONE (2015)

Simon Mawhinney (1976)

Solo Cello

SACHER VARIATION (1975)

Witold Lutosławski (1913 - 1994)

Solo Cello

EVEN KEEL (2011)

Michael Perrett (1988)

Solo Cello

Interval 15 mins

NEW WORK (2016)

Greg Caffrey (1963)

Solo Cello

SERENADE (1949)

Hans Werner Henze (1926 - 2012)

Solo Cello

NEW WORK (2016)

David McCann (1986)

Solo Cello

THRENOS (1990)

John Tavener (1944 - 2013)

Solo Cello

VENUE

The Crescent Arts Centre (CUBE), Belfast

DATE

Wednesday 16th March, 7.30pm

ADMISSION

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In this concert, **Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble** will present a range of works that we feel have a reflective quality. What better way to enjoy the Easter holiday than to come along, relax and let these spacious and colourful works simply surround you. But, this is not easy listening per se. This music is a mixture of profound repertoire like the **Olivier Messiaen** excerpt from his *Quartet for the End of Time* and spacious music exemplified in **Morton Feldman's Durations 1**. Also, the two works by Italian composer **Salvatore Sciarrino**, *Melencolia 1* and *Lo Spazio Inverso*, are wonderfully static soundscapes of great textural beauty. As is customary for HRSE we include here works by local composers, in this case **Ian Wilson** and **Greg Caffrey** and, in addition, a work from the English composer, **Stephen Davismoon**. **Arvo Pärt's Fratres** is perhaps the most well known and celebrated work in this repertoire although it is presented here in a more unusual arrangement for alto flute and piano.

This concert will be candlelit.

VENUE

Crescent Arts Centre (CUBE), Belfast

DATE

Saturday, 26th March, 7.30pm

ADMISSION

£10_●●

THESE ARE THE CLOUDS ABOUT THE FALLEN SUN (2013)

Greg Caffrey (1963)

Flute, Clarinet, Violin, Violoncello, Piano

FRATRES (1977)

Arvo Pärt (1935)

Alto flute & Piano

DURATION 1 (1960)

Morton Feldman (1926 - 1987)

Alto Flute, Violin, Violoncello, Piano

MELENCOLIA 1 (1982)

Salvatore Sciarrino (1947)

Cello & Piano

Interval 15 mins

TIMELESSLY THIS (1992)

Ian Wilson (1964)

Bb Clarinet, Violin, Violoncello and Piano

LOUANGE À L'IMMORTALITÉ

DE JÉSUS (1941)

Olivier Messiaen (1908 - 1992)

Violin & Piano

TIMELESS SHADES OF GREEN (2013)

Stephen Davismoon (1964)

Bass Clarinet & Piano

LO SPAZIO INVERSO (1985)

Salvatore Sciarrino (1947)

Flute, Clarinet, Violin,
Violoncello and Celesta

We are grateful to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland for the loan of the Steinway Model D for the purpose of this event.

The music of the **Second Viennese School** is often still seen by contemporary audiences as an impenetrable and incomprehensible collection of early 20th Century works by **Arnold Schoenberg**, **Anton Webern** and **Alban Berg**. However, the programme of this concert showcases a much greater variety of music than many people expect to find. The centerpiece of this concert is Schoenberg's *Chamber Symphony N° 1 Op. 9* (1906), the earliest work represented here. This piece is not characterized by any means of serial organization, nor even an absence of tonality, but by a late romantic expanded tonality. This is a markedly different language to that of Berg's *Vier Stücke Op. 5* (1913) or Webern's miniatures, *Three little pieces* (1914) which demonstrate the adoption of atonality by the two students of Schoenberg. A later work, Berg's *Adagio*, an arrangement from *Chamber Concerto II* (1926), uses a 12 note row in its organization while Schoenberg's own last chamber work, the *Phantasy for Violin and Piano* (1949) also uses all 12 notes of the chromatic scale, divided into groups of six notes each.

This is a fitting programme for the appearance of our late colleague **Peter Rosser's** expansive solo piano piece, *The Last Temptation of Arnold Schoenberg*.

VENUE

Crescent Arts Centre (CUBE), Belfast

DATE

Wednesday 6th April, 7.30pm

ADMISSION

£10_●●

We are grateful to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland for the loan of the Steinway Model D for the purpose of this event.

PHANTASY FOR VIOLIN AND PIANO (1949)

Arnold Schoenberg (1874 - 1951)

Violin & Piano

3 LITTLE PIECES OP. 11 (1914)

Anton Webern (1883-1945)

Cello & Piano

THE LAST TEMPTATION OF ARNOLD SCHOENBERG (2004)

Peter Rosser (1970-2014)

Solo Piano

VIER STÜCKE OP. 5 (1913)

Alban Berg (1885 - 1935)

- Mäßig
- Sehr langsam
- Sehr rasch
- Langsam

Clarinet & Piano

Interval 15 mins

ADAGIO, (ARRANGEMENT FROM CHAMBER CONCERTO II 1926)

Alban Berg

Violin, Clarinet and Piano

CHAMBER SYMPHONY N° 1 OP. 9 (1906)

Arnold Schoenberg

Arr. A Webern (1922 - 3)

Flute, Clarinet, Violin, Violoncello, Piano

SOLO SERIES CONCERT IV AISLING AGNEW, FLUTE

17

The Hard Rain soloists have each curated their own recital programme focusing on works that showcase their instrument and its associated technique and sound world. These concerts are delivered in an informal atmosphere with an emphasis on an explanation and close examination of the repertoire.

This programme features some landmark works from the 20th Century flute repertoire alongside more recent and less well-known works from closer to home, including a world premiere performance of *Fíúg* by **Anne Marie O'Farrell**, written especially for the occasion. The concert will utilise various flutes (piccolo, concert flute and alto flute) and include a multiple flute piece with pre-recorded tape.

DENSITY 21.5 (1936)
Edgard Varèse (1883 - 1965)
Solo Flute

SEQUENZA I (1958)
Luciano Berio (1925 - 2003)
Solo Flute

VOICE (1971)
Toru Takemitsu (1930 - 1996)
Solo Flute

THE KESTREL PACED ROUND THE SUN (1975)
Peter Maxwell Davies (1934)
Solo Flute

Interval 15 mins

VERMONT COUNTERPOINT (1982)
Steve Reich (1936)
Flute & Tape

KOKOPELI (1990)
Katherine Hoover (1937)
Solo Flute

DIE ZWITSCHER-MASCHINE (2011)
Ian Wilson (1964)
Solo Flute

FIÚG (2015/16)
Anne Marie O'Farrell (1966)
Solo Flute

VENUE

The Crescent Arts Centre (CUBE), Belfast

DATE

Wednesday 4th May, 7.30pm

ADMISSION

£10 ●●●

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Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble has the support of local contemporary music as its central remit, as a charity and as a not-for-profit organization. This support is evident in our programming of local music, but we also carry out a number of workshops each year to encourage young people to become involved in contemporary music. Below are some of the ways we will do this during our 2015/16 Season.

WORKING WITH QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF CREATIVE ARTS

For the last two years HRSE has had the privilege of working with composition students at QUB. We are delighted to be continuing that relationship this year and it is wonderful to be involved more than ever.

HRSE will be providing workshop read-throughs for composition students at various stages in their development.

WORKSHOP WITH QUB MUSIC STUDENTS

Queen's University Belfast
Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble work with 1st year composition students
 Thurs 19th Feb 2016, Not open to the public

WORKSHOP WITH QUB MUSIC STUDENTS

Queen's University Belfast
Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble work with 3rd year composition students
 Thurs 25th Feb 2016, Not open to the public

WORKSHOP WITH QUB MUSIC STUDENTS

Queen's University Belfast
Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble work with 2nd year composition students
 Tue 19th Apr 2016, Not open to the public

An additional and very special event this year is our concert of music by composers who studied at Queens since the 1990's to the present day. This concert, in addition to including works by current QUB postgraduate composers, will also feature a selected undergraduate work from our Year 3 workshop.

WORKING WITH STUDENTS AT SOUTH EASTERN REGIONAL COLLEGE AT THE SPACE

The SPACE, in Bangor provides a new state of the art facility for teaching the Performing Arts, and HRSE are delighted to have been asked to deliver a workshop to students there on Friday 11th March 2016.

ILLUSTRATED LECTURE TO SERC MUSIC STUDENTS

The SPACE, Bangor
Steve Reich - Cello Counterpoint
 Fri 12th Feb 2016, Not open to the public

This visit offers SERC students the opportunity to hear **Steve Reich's Cello Counterpoint** performed live by HRSE cellist David McCann in an informal performance lecture. The event is designed as an introduction to contemporary music for students in advance of HRSE's performance on 11th March.

This initiative is kindly supported by the **Contemporary Music Centre**, Ireland. The Contemporary Music Centre (CMC) is Ireland's national archive and resource centre for new music, supporting and developing the work of composers throughout the Republic and Northern Ireland.

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“ Student workshop performances by Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble are the magic circle in which a composition student becomes a composer: the collision of ‘academic’ work and virtuosic live performance is a hair-raising and essential alchemy, with the music-stand as crucible.”

Piers Hellawell

Professor of Composition at QUB School of Creative Arts

WORKING WITH THE ULSTER YOUTH ORCHESTRA

HRSE will be facilitating four bespoke workshops for UYO members supported by the Crescent Arts Centre. Each of the four workshops will focus on the concerns of building solid technique, but will, naturally, have an emphasis on the performance of contemporary music.

WORKSHOP WITH ULSTER YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast
Soloists of Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble work with young musicians from UYO
 Sat 12th Mar 2016, Not open to the public

MENTORING

HRSE will offer one or two exceptional UYO members (selected by audition) the opportunity to perform in a HRSE concert or concerts, and ideally in an ensemble piece. Hard Rain “Apprentice” performers will also benefit from guidance and mentoring by HRSE members. In addition the successful applicants can be present at HRSE rehearsals, witness up close how a professional chamber group operates, and attend the concert season free of charge.

Hard Rain will offer free places (10 tickets per concert on the *Solo Series* only) and discounted tickets (all concerts) to all UYO players.

PETER ROSSER COMPOSITION AWARD

In memory of our friend and colleague, Peter Rosser, HRSE will be inaugurating the Peter Rosser Composition Award. In association with the Peter Rosser Foundation and Red Box Recording studio HRSE will instigate a call for new works through the Contemporary Music Centre, Dublin for flute (doubling picc and alto), Bb clarinet (doubling bs cl) violin, cello and piano. The competition will be open to any music student in 3rd level education in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Shortlisted composers will be invited to a workshop with the ensemble at Red Box Studio, Belfast. Participants of the workshop will receive a recording of their work and the winner will receive the Peter Rosser Prize for composition.

PETER ROSSER COMPOSITION AWARD

Red Box Studio, 173 University St., Belfast
Calls for scores – open January 2016
 (See HRSE website)
 Fri 27th May 2016, 7.30pm, Invite only

The competition will be announced officially in January 2016.



The Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble is the only musical group in Northern Ireland to specialise in the performance of modern and contemporary repertoire. Its remit is to give a voice to local composers and to perform their music in the context of music by leading exponents of contemporary music from elsewhere in Europe and the rest of the world. It aims to programme music that otherwise cannot be heard live locally, while serving as an outlet for the talent of highly specialist performers and acting as a meeting point for their innovation, ideas and enthusiasm.

The ensemble was founded by the composer **Greg Caffrey**, who remains their Artistic Director. The core ensemble features **Aisling Agnew** - flutes, **Sarah Watts** - clarinets, **Joanne Quigley** - violin and **David McCann** - cello. HRSE are delighted to welcome back **Sinead Hayes**, along with percussionist **Alex Petcu** to work on new projects this year. In addition HRSE will have a number of the UK and Ireland's leading pianists playing in the ensemble during the 2015-16 Season.

Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble has an incredible line-up of players who make the performance of contemporary music a central aspect of their creative lives.

GREG CAFFREY (Artistic Director) read music at Queen's University Belfast where he studied composition under Piers Hellawell and James Clarke.

He has received a number of awards including becoming finalist in the ISME-IVME 2nd International Composition Contest in Brussels in 2008, in the Taukay Edizioni Musicali International Composition Prize in 2012, the Musica Domani International Composition Prize (USA) and he took first prize at the Concorso Counterpoint, Italy in May 2012.

His compositions have been performed in Britain, Ireland, France, Germany, Austria, Argentina, Italy, Belgium, Holland, Sweden, Czech Republic, Estonia, U.S. Bangkok, China and Brazil, receiving critical acclaim.

His music has been recorded on the Meridian, Naturalstudio, Cactus, CMC, Diatribe, Edition 7, Zay Records, Summit Records, Barros Records and RTE Lyric FM record labels. His last album, "Ogden Caffrey - *First Construction in Nylon*", is a collection of his music for guitar performed by Australian guitarist Craig Ogden, and it has met with much critical acclaim. Classical Guitar Magazine described the album as "contemporary music at its very best".

Greg has received commissions from many performers and ensembles at home and abroad as well as from BBC Radio 3, the Irish national broadcasting station RTE and The Ulster Orchestra. His music has been represented at important international festivals: Musica Nova Festival in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Zwischen den Horizonten, Germany, Forfest Festival, Czech Republic and the 45th Parallele, Valence, France to name a few.

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



JOANNE QUIGLEY (Violin) is in constant demand as an orchestral principal and leader, and has guest-led the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. She is the former co-leader of the RTE Concert Orchestra and was acting leader of that group during 2011-2012. She also led the final five years of Castleward Opera. Joanne performs regularly as a principal player with the English Chamber Orchestra and as co-leader of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and the RTE National Symphony Orchestra. She is a member of John Eliot Gardiner's Orchestre Revolutionnaire et Romantique and The John Wilson Orchestra.

Away from the orchestra, Joanne has led the Crash Ensemble in Dublin on several occasions, most notably for the Gerald Barry Opera, *The Importance of being Earnest* in October 2013. She also led them in a performance of a String Quartet by Goliov with soprano Dawn Upshaw at Carnegie Hall in May 2013. In March 2013, she led two performances of *The Seven Last Words of Christ* from the Cross by James McMillan with the BBC Singers and a nine piece String Ensemble in Galway and Dublin. Joanne has recorded Gerald Barry's String Quartet *First Sorrow*, which she premiered in 2008. She has also premiered a work for violin and piano by Paul Patterson, a solo violin piece by Amy Rooney and two String Quintets by Stephen Gardner. Joanne is on the faculty of the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin.



DAVID MCCANN (Cello) 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 commissioned more than a dozen new pieces for his instrument. He has worked personally with Brian Ferneyhough, Steve Reich and Colin Matthews in preparation for public performances of their works. In 2014, David gave the first performance of Belfast composer David Byers' *Strange Hells* for cello and choir with the Ulster Youth Choir.

David has worked with the Hallé Orchestra, the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Camerata Ireland, Manchester Camerata, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, the Ulster Orchestra, the RTÉ Concert Orchestra and the Orchestra of Opera North. He plays a cello made by Kai-Thomas Roth in 2012 and uses a Noel Burke bow, which was purchased with the help of the Sir John Barbirolli Memorial Foundation. David teaches privately at his home in Belfast.



AISLING AGNEW (Flutes) was born and raised in Belfast. She regularly performs around the UK, Ireland, Europe, North & South America, Asia and the Middle East. Her performances have been broadcast on BBC Radio, RTE Lyric FM and Classic FM, and include many high profile concerts such as a Wigmore Hall chamber music recital, the National Flute Association's 40th Convention in Las Vegas and concertos with the Ulster Orchestra and Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

Aisling studied at the RSAMD and Guildhall School of Music & Drama. As a widely active chamber musician, Aisling performs with various ensembles, and has released three CD recordings. She also has a keen interest in performing new music and working with composers. Highlights include performing Penderecki's *Flute Concerto* with the RSNO, Sonic Fusion festivals with contemporary music group Re:search, performing Sir Peter Maxwell Davies' solo work *The Kestrel Paced Round the Sun* for the composer's birthday celebration concert, and making the première recording of Greg Caffrey's *Pluck, Blow II (The Return)* with guitarist Matthew McAllister for RTE Lyric FM.



SARAH WATTS (Clarinets) 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.

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 both clarinet and bass clarinet. Sarah teaches bass clarinet at the Royal Northern College of Music and clarinet at Nottingham University and has given masterclasses and workshops of many leading UK conservatoires and universities. She has also set up an International solo bass clarinet course on the Isle of Raasay in Scotland and a Wind Chamber Music course at Malvern for amateur musicians. Sarah also performs extensively with SCAW and Cuillin Sound. She has recently completed her PhD and published, via Metropolis music publishers, a ground breaking new publication, *Spectral Immersions; A Comprehensive Guide to the Theory and Practice of Bass Clarinet Multiphonics*. Sarah is a UK Vandoren artist, an International Uebel artist and a Silverstein Inspiring pro Artist. She plays Uebel Superior clarinets and a Selmer Privilege bass clarinet.



Hailing from Cork, Ireland, **ALEX PETCU** is quickly establishing himself, both nationally and internationally, as a percussionist of the finest calibre. His recent appearances as a soloist with both the R.T.E. National Symphony and Concert Orchestras are some of his main highlights so far. He was also chosen to be the 2015 National Concert Hall Rising Star recitalist and an artist in residence for the Cork School of Music for 2015 and 2016.

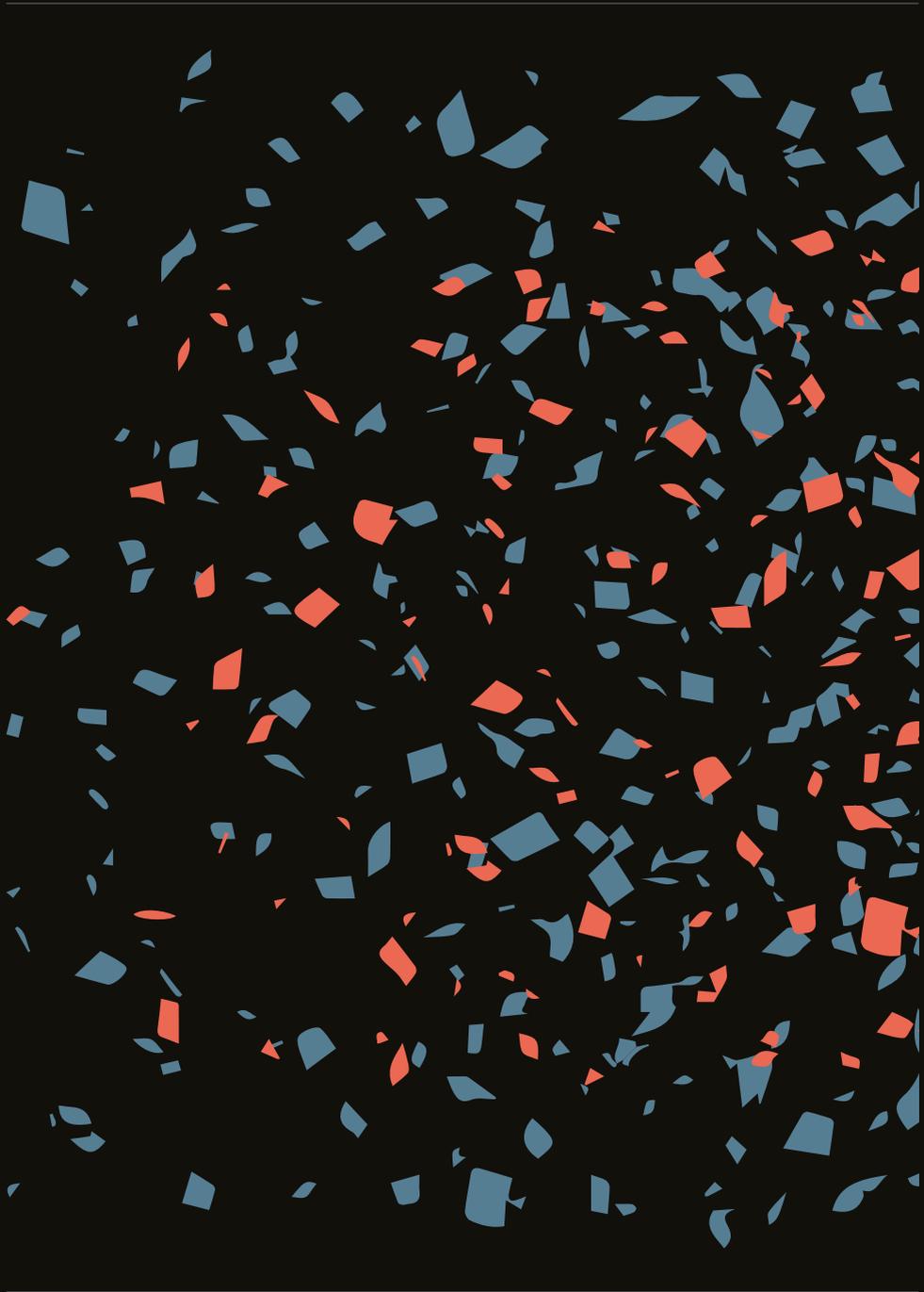
As one of the few Irish percussionists to focus on solo and chamber music, Alex has championed and developed the existing repertoire by giving numerous recitals and working closely with composers. Recent projects include curating and performing in *WoodMetalWater* as part of the Sounds from a Safe Harbour festival in Cork, performing as the solo musician for Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* at the Abbey Theatre and much more. He is a founding member of the Bangers and Crash Percussion Group, a new exciting Irish percussion ensemble. He also regularly performs with the various professional ensembles in Ireland such as the Crash Ensemble, R.T.E. Symphony, R.T.E. Concert, Irish Chamber and Irish Baroque orchestras.

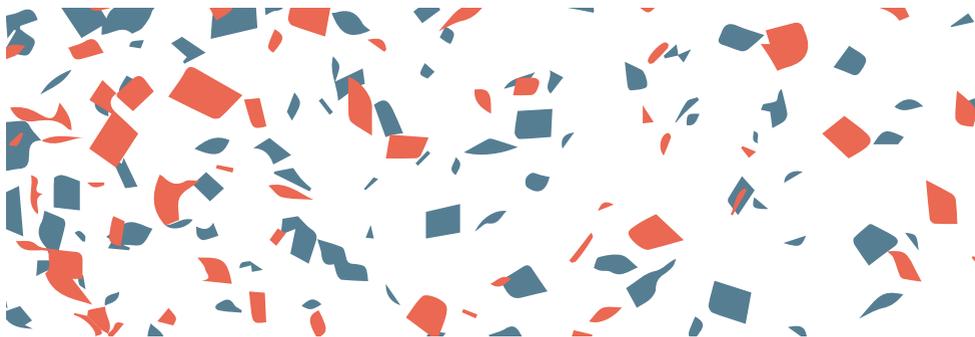


The 2013/14 season saw Irish conductor **SINEAD HAYES** make her Irish debut, conducting concerts with both the RTE Concert Orchestra and RTE National Symphony Orchestra. In June 2014 Sinead was one of three finalists in the Interaktion conducting workshop of the Kritisches Orchester, Berlin, whose members are drawn from the Berlin Philharmonic, Staatskapelle Berlin, Gewandhaus Orchester and many others.

Following an initial training as a structural engineer Sinead graduated with a BMus (1:1) in violin and composition from City University, London, completing her Masters in orchestral conducting at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, where she won the Mortimer Furber Conducting Prize. She has participated in masterclasses with Johannes Schlaefli, Jorma Panula and Sylvain Cambreling and has worked with London Sinfonietta, Brandenburgisches Staatsorchester, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Luxembourg, Orquestra do Algarve, North Czech Philharmonic, Bochumer Symphoniker, Essener Philharmoniker and Ensemble and Orquestra do Cadaques.

Sinead was recently awarded a scholarship by the Peter Eotvös Contemporary Music Foundation, enabling her to participate in a conducting masterclass with Peter Eotvös and Zsolt Nagy in Budapest. She also conducted the Clare Memory Orchestra on their recent tour to South Korea.





HRSE has a range of pricing structures to make your booking simple and inexpensive.

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DAVID MCCANN, CELLO**
- **SOLO SERIES CONCERT IV
AISLING AGNEW, FLUTE**

Buy admission to all 10 concert events above at only £70.

Tickets for all concert events may be bought individually at £10 each.

Through the Crescent Arts Centre website
www.crescentarts.org

From the Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble website
www.hardrainensemble.com

Directly from the Crescent Arts Centre box office by phone **+44 (0)2890 242338** or at the Crescent Arts Centre Reception.

The Crescent Arts Centre
2-4 University Road
Belfast
Co. Antrim
Northern Ireland
BT7 1NH

General box office enquiries:
info@crescentarts.org



Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble would like to thank the Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast for the incredible support and encouragement it has received for its season of events. Our position as Ensemble in Residence permits us to use this wonderfully vibrant centre as a base for our activities. We appreciate the confidence that the staff there, the Board and the Director, Keith Acheson, have placed in us, and we look forward to making our contribution to its varied programme of events.

“The Crescent Arts Centre is delighted to continue its support of the Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble. As our Ensemble in Residence, HRSE have already delivered a number of outstanding concerts at the Centre, culminating in the breathtaking performance of Pierrot Lunaire earlier this year. I think you will agree that this season’s programme is even more impressive, we simply can’t wait for them to take to the stage!”

Keith Acheson
Director
Crescent Arts Centre

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 support. We are additionally grateful for financial support from **Belfast City Council Arts & Heritage Fund**. The contribution by our partners **The Crescent Arts Centre, Queen’s University** and **South Eastern Regional College** is invaluable to us. Thanks also to **Contemporary Music Centre, Dublin** for their continued support.

We are grateful to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland for the loan of the Steinway Model D for the purpose of this season of events.

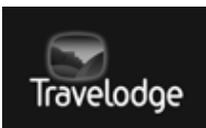
A final and sincere thanks goes to all the incredible supporters of this wonderful music who crossed the threshold of our performance spaces during last season: the people who cheered with delight after Franco Donatoni’s *Fili*, the people who joined us for a glass of wine after Pierrot Lunaire, the composers and composition students who gave us their amazing music to play, the social networkers, the hardened new music enthusiasts and the new comers. This year we pledge to bring you more music than ever, and we are so grateful for your continued enthusiasm.

Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble is a registered charity NI00135 and therefore a not-for-profit organization. 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 bring your friends. But if you would like to make a donation, however small, it would be gratefully received.

Donations can be made using the PayPal Donate button on our website:
www.hardrainensemble.com

If you would like to contact us you may do so through our website contacts page or email:
hardrainensemble@icloud.com

We acknowledge support from the following organisations:





“ Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble has an incredible line-up of players who make the performance of contemporary music a central aspect of their creative lives.”

DR. GREG CAFFREY
Artistic Director



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