

---

*Misato Mochizuki*  
*Alban Berg*  
*Deirdre McKay*  
*Salvatore Sciarrino*  
*Anton von Webern*  
*Ian Wilson*  
*Arvo Pärt*  
*Pierre Max Dubois*  
*James MacMillan*  
*Philippe Hersant*  
*Claude Debussy*  
*Karlheinz Stockhausen*  
*Samuel Quartermain Smith*  
*Michael Torke*  
*Eric Dolphy*  
*John Zorn*  
*Igor Stravinsky*  
*Ronan Guilfoyle*  
*Gunther Schuller*

A photograph of a violinist playing a violin, overlaid with a large orange graphic. The violinist's hands and the instrument are visible, with the background blurred. The orange graphic is a large, semi-transparent shape that covers the left and bottom portions of the image.

# HARD RAIN SOLOIST SEMBLE 2017/18 SEASON

---

*Timothy Doyle*  
*Nigel McBride*  
*Gareth Williams*  
*Daniel Barkley*  
*David McCann*  
*Matthew Rowan*  
*Heera Kim*  
*Sofia Gubaidulina*  
*Judith Ring*  
*Sadie Harrison*  
*Sungji Hong*  
*Jane O'Leary*  
*Elaine Agnew*  
*Gráinne Mulvey*  
*Dai Fujikura*  
*Siobhán Cleary*  
*Hans Werner Henze*  
*Toru Takemitsu*  
*George Crumb*  
*Ryan Molloy*  
*Simone Movio*  
*Greg Caffrey*  
*Kevin O'Connell*  
*John Buckley*  
*David Byers*  
*Frank Corcoran*  
*Piers Hellawell*

# CONTENTS

---

**02**

A welcome from the  
Artistic Director

**22**

Meet the team

**32**

Hard Rain Featured  
Young Artists 2017/18

**04**

Season at a Glance

**23**

The Core Ensemble

**33**

HRSE Commissions  
& Bespoke Music

**06**

BBC Radio 3  
Broadcast 'Exposure'

**27**

Guest Musicians

**34**

How to book

**07**

Performances

**30**

Special Guest Performer

**35**

Hard Rain at The Crescent  
& Donations

**20**

Pedagogy

**31**

HRSE Featured Composer

**36**

Credits

# A WELCOME FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**Here it is! I announce it as if you've been waiting on tenterhooks; from your emails and enquiries I know many of you have. Unveiling the season is always a distinct pleasure; it's the culmination of many months of careful forethought, design and planning, and each new season brings its new works, its new collaborations, its new challenges. Challenge is fuel to this incredible ensemble!**

Season 2017/18 addresses, in the most emphatic way, the ensemble's self-imposed remit to promote local talent. 41 performances of the works of local composers will be heard, a figure that embraces the exposure of 10 newly commissioned works or works written especially for Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble to breath life into. Three of our concerts feature exclusively this celebration of **incredible local compositional talent**. As you've come to expect, HRSE will also bring you **ground breaking and original**

**international repertoire**. As usual this music draws from the widest aesthetic, from the Italian composer Simone Movio's introspective *Di Fragili Incanti* to a very rare opportunity to hear "third stream" composer Gunther Schuller's *Paradigm Exchanges*. We visit music originating in a film score by the multifaceted German composer Hans Werner Henze, his *Sonate fur 6 Spieler*, and we make another exploration of minimalist repertoire this season with Michael Torke's *Telephone Book*. These works harness in each case the prodigious talent of the full ensemble.

Smaller groupings are also prevalent as is usual across the programmes, demonstrating the **sheer virtuosity of individual players**. As the "Soloist Ensemble" tag suggests, we have great new solo works - even a great new solo instrument; as I write Sarah Watts is in Paris collecting her new contrabass clarinet on which she will perform Bruynel and Eiriksson's *Save the whale*. This is an instrument more eccentric even than the performer herself!

Duos this year include the unique and cerebral works of two 2<sup>nd</sup> Viennese masters, **Anton Webern** and **Alban Berg**, but we also have beautifully atmospheric pieces to be rendered by our wonderful 2017/18 Young Artists, bassoonist Olivia Palmer-Baker (performing *The Voice* by Dai Fujikura) and violinist Susanna Griffin (performing *Distance de Fée* by Toru Takemitsu). We have a trio of a highly complex nature from the pen of free improvising legend John Zorn, as well as the eerily theatrical *Vox Balaenae* by fellow American **George Crumb**. Unfortunately this column provides only enough space for me to whet your appetite, but even the fastest of flicks through the following pages will uncover much more incredible repertoire besides.

Our **educational** work will continue this year as an indispensable part of our strategy, to encourage the next wave of new music practitioners and enthusiasts. Our exciting alliance with **QUB as Industry Professionals** permits our involvement in a host of pedagogic initiatives there. We will be continuing our relationship with **Ulster Youth Orchestra** this season, promoting and mentoring our two newly appointed 2017/18 Young Artists, as well as offering workshop opportunities for the rank and file membership of the orchestra and a joint HRSE/YO concert. We will be "calling for scores" for entry in our 3<sup>rd</sup> **Peter Rosser Composition Award** and if you're a young composer, please note the earlier deadline this year (see page 21). It is a privilege for the ensemble to be able to act as a focal point for the energies and enthusiasm of young composers who, as we continuously see, have a great deal to offer in enriching the repertoire of new music available to us. This is borne out in three new commissions of solo works from composers **Nigel McBride**, **Samuel Quartermain Smith** and the ensemble's own **Dave McCann**. These commissions were generously supported through our **Talent Development Partnership** relationship with **PRSF**.

Finally, HRSE will be redoubling its efforts in **building an infrastructure** for our music, through its expansion of networks and collaborators. This year we see new relationships being forged with **NI Opera**, **BBC Radio 3**, **Creative & Cultural Skills** and with **Help Musicians UK**, as well as the consolidation of existing partnerships with our friends **Moving on Music**, **Queen's University Belfast**, **Ulster Youth**



Photography by Claran McIlhannon

**Orchestra, Ulster Museum, Maynooth University, Contemporary Music Centre, PRSF, Peter Rosser Foundation**, and of course the **Crescent Arts Centre**, where the ensemble is proud to be continuing its residency for a third year.

From the administrative side of things, we are also very excited to welcome Caolan Keaveney on board as our new Fundraising and Project Management Assistant.

Time now to listen to the sensational music that we have in store. I have undoubtedly already said too much and yet have only scratched the surface in terms of illuminating this programme. It was **Victor Hugo** who said,

**"Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent".**

**Enjoy the season.**

**Dr. Greg Caffrey**  
Artistic Director

# SEASON AT A GLANCE

**01** — **Season Launch**  
McCurdy/Mawhinney/Molloy  
**Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017, 6.00pm**  
The Crescent, Belfast (CUBE)  
Invitation only

**02** — **Tempered Music Festival**  
Mochizuki/Berg/McKay/Ring/  
Sciarrino/Webern/Wilson  
**Thur 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2017, 7.30pm**  
The Crescent, Belfast (CUBE)  
£10/£5

**03** — **Hard Rain Young Artist Platform**  
Pärt/Dubois/MacMillan/  
Hersant/Debussy/  
Stockhausen/Wilson  
**Thur 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017, 1.10pm**  
Queen's University, Belfast  
(Harty Room)  
Free Admission

**04** — **Fusion**  
Torke/Dolphy/Zorn/Wilson/  
Stravinsky/Guilfoyle/Schuller  
**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2017, 7.30pm**  
The Crescent, Belfast (CUBE)  
£10/£5

**05** — **Closer**  
Doyle/McBride/  
Williams/Barkley/  
Quartermaine Smith/  
Wilson/McCann/Rowan  
**Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018, 7.30pm**  
The Crescent, Belfast (CUBE)  
£10/£5

**06** — **COMA Contemporary Music Festival 2018**  
Repertoire to be selected  
**Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Mar 2018, 2.00pm**  
The Crescent, Belfast (CUBE)  
Workshop - Public participation encouraged

**07** — **Music Box**  
Kim/Gubaidulina/Ring/  
Harrison/Hong/O'Leary/  
Agnew/Mulvey  
**Thur 8<sup>th</sup> Mar 2018, 7.30pm**  
The Crescent, Belfast  
(Dance Studio)  
£10/£5

**08** — **3<sup>rd</sup> Peter Rosser Composition Award**  
3 Winning Composers/  
Luther Adams/  
Stockhausen/Doyle  
**Tue 27<sup>th</sup> Mar 2018, 7.30pm**  
Redbox Recording studio, Belfast  
Places are limited, so admission is strictly by advance booking through the HRSE website contact page

**09** — **UYO Workshop and Concert**  
Repertoire (to be selected)  
Workshop 2pm  
(Not Open to Public)  
**Concert 6.30pm**  
**Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Mar 2018**  
The Crescent, Belfast (CUBE)  
Free Admission

**10** — **Di Fragili Incanti**  
Wilson/Fujikura/Crumb/  
Takemitsu/Cleary/  
Molloy/Movio  
**Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Mar 2018, 7.30pm**  
The Crescent, Belfast (CUBE)  
£10/£5

**11** — **A Battuta**  
Mulvey/Caffrey/Wilson/  
O'Connell/Molloy  
**Thur 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018, 1.10pm**  
Maynooth University  
Free Admission

**12** — **Involute**  
Caffrey/Buckley/Wilson/  
Byers/O'Connell/  
Bruynel/Corcoran /  
Hellawell/Werner Henze  
**Sat 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018, 7.30pm**  
The Crescent, Belfast (CUBE)  
£10/£5

**13** — **The Chronic Identity Crisis of Pamplousse**  
Caffrey  
**Sun 27<sup>th</sup> May 2018, 3.00pm**  
Ulster Museum, Belfast  
TBC

# BBC RADIO 3 'EXPOSURE'

Hosted by Verity Sharp, BBC Radio 3's "Exposure" programme featured Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble alongside other experimental musicians, singer-songwriter Katharine Philippa and harpist and sound artist Una Monaghan. If you missed the concert, recorded at QUB's Harty Room, it is still available to sample on BBC iPlayer for a limited period.

[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes)

You might ask how one of the featured composers felt the performance of his work went? This appeared the next day on facebook:

*"I'm speechless, you guys... you were MARVELLOUS! Although I have come to expect this from you all, I was stunned by how absolutely PERFECT the performance was! I went to sleep an exceptionally pleased chap! So, thank you, HRSE, you supremely talented bunch of virtuosos!"*

Eduard Zatriqi



# SEASON LAUNCH

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 incredible commissions initiated by HRSE last season with funds from Arts Council Northern Ireland.

 The Crescent, Belfast

 Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017, 6.00pm

 Invite only

*"...something remarkable has been happening in the hitherto neglected field of new music."*

Michael Quinn  
Culture NI

**Found Sounds Lost\*** (2016)  
Iain McCurdy (1972)  
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello,  
piano & fixed medium

**The Zeddy Dance\*** (2016)  
Simon Mawhinney (1976)  
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello, & piano

**Gortnagarn II\*** (2016)  
Ryan Molloy (1983)  
alto flute, bass clarinet, violin,  
violoncello, & piano

\* Commissioned by Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble with funds from ACNI.

# TEMPERED MUSIC FESTIVAL

A concert curated by our 2017/18 Featured Composer Ian Wilson, who writes,

"My *Tempered* programme presents work spanning almost four decades by living composers, including three from Ireland, both North and South, one from Italy and one from Japan. The range of styles on display gives a handy snapshot of a few different European voices (**Mochizuki** studied in Continental Europe and is often performed there) although at the same time it hardly scratches the surface of the wonderful variety in contemporary approaches to making music. Two works by masters from the Second Viennese School give a little historical context to the programme, the **Webern** duo balancing the **Berg** duo which itself is one of the favourite works of tonight's guest performer, **Cristo Barrios**. I'm delighted to also present the premiere of my chamber double clarinet concerto *Achinet*, commissioned by Crescent Arts Centre with funds from ACNI and written for **Cristo Barrios**, Sarah Watts and the Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble."

Ian Wilson

 The Crescent, Belfast

 Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017, 7.30pm

 £10/£5

**Intermezzi I (1998) Irish Premiere**  
Misato Mochizuki (1969)  
flute & piano

**Vier stücke, op.5 (1913)**  
Alban Berg (1885-1935)  
clarinet (**Cristo Barrios**) & piano

**Secundum (2001)**  
Deirdre McKay (1972)  
violin & piano

**Swelt Belly at Dawn (2013)**  
Judith Ring (1976)  
violin, violoncello & clarinet

 INTERVAL

**Lo spazio inverso (1985)**  
Salvatore Sciarrino (1947)  
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & celesta

**Drei kleine stücke, op.11 (1914)**  
Anton von Webern (1883-1945)  
violoncello & piano

**Achinet\* (2017) World Premiere**  
Ian Wilson (1964)  
clarinet, bass clarinet, flute/picc,  
piano, violin, violoncello

\* Commissioned by The Crescent for Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble with funds from ACNI.

# YOUNG ARTISTS' PLATFORM

HRSE are proud to be in partnership with QUB School of Arts, English and Languages for this lunchtime recital promoting the talented bassoonist **Olivia Palmer-Baker** and the equally accomplished violinist **Susanna Griffin**. Susanna and Olivia were the successful applicants in HRSE's Young Artist Scheme 2017/18, and as such will be involved in the ensemble's activities during this season. 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. The concert also features a bespoke arrangement of **Ian Wilson's Četiri kamena** for the forces of these three musicians.

 QUB Harty Room, Belfast

 Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017, 1.10pm

 Free Admission

**Spiegel im Spiegel (1978)**  
Arvo Pärt (1935)  
violin & piano

**Sonatine-Tango (1984)**  
Pierre Max Dubois (1930-1995)  
bassoon & piano

**After the Tryst (1988)**  
James MacMillan (1959)  
violin & piano

**Niggun (1993)**  
Philippe Hersant (1948)  
solo bassoon

**Violin Sonata '1<sup>st</sup> Mov' (1917)**  
Claude Debussy (1862-1918)  
violin & piano

**In Freundschaft (1982)**  
Karlheinz Stockhausen (1928-2007)  
teddy bear & bassoon

**Četiri Kamena (2010) World Premiere**  
Ian Wilson (1964)  
violin, bassoon & piano

# FUSION

This concert - not really fusion at all, just a snappy name for an event - enquires into music for the line-up of the ensemble that is informed in some way by Jazz. Jazz at this point in music history is in itself a broad church and there is a world of difference between the music that free improvising New York legend **John Zorn** creates and, for example, the kind of *Tango, Valse & Rag* that served as the inspiration for **Stravinsky's L'histoire du Soldat**. Similarly, **Michael Torke's** distinctly minimalist and blues infused *Telephone book* is in a language far removed from composer **Gunther Schuller's Paradigm Exchanges**. Directly referencing the jazz past is a transcription of the pre-eminent Blue Note reed man **Eric Dolphy's** improvisation on the popular standard, *God bless the child*. Dolphy was a contributor in Schuller's "Third Stream" explorations of the 1960's - a synthesis of classical music and jazz. Given the central thread of this concert you might be thinking that our own composers have no place. It was a more difficult job to choose whom not to include! For **Ian Wilson** it was a simple case of delving into his extensive back catalogue of works and reworking a piece, originally written for baritone sax and loop station, as a bespoke arrangement for the forces of the complete ensemble. **Ronan Guilfoyle**, a name synonymous with Irish jazz and one of the central figures in its propagation here, offers his duo for violin and cello, *Deuce*, for premiere.

## **Telephone Book (1985, rev. 1995)**

**Michael Torke (1961)**

flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

## **God bless the Child**

Holiday/Herzog - Eric Dolphy improvisation transcribed in 1985 by David Ocker

solo bass clarinet

## **Hexentarot (2013) Irish Premiere**

**John Zorn (1953)**

violin, violoncello & piano

## INTERVAL

## **motherFUNKed (2012, rev. 2017)**

**World Premiere**

**Ian Wilson (1964)**

flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

## **Tango - Valse - Rag (1919) (from L'Histoire du Soldat)**

**Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)**

clarinet, violin & piano

## **Deuce (2015) World Premiere**

**Ronan Guilfoyle (1958)**

violin & violoncello

## **Paradigm Exchanges (1991) Irish Premiere**

**Gunther Schuller (1925-2015)**

flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

 The Crescent, Belfast

 Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2017, 7.30pm

 £10/£5

# CLOSER

The delicate work that won first prize at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Rosser Composition Award lends its name to the title of this event, an event that brings the ensemble "closer" still to one of its raisons d'être, that of supporting local composers. Generous funding from the PRSf Talent Development Partnership allowed us to commission solo instrumental works from three of our younger generation of composers. The recipients of these, **Nigel McBride**, for the solo alto flute work enigmatically titled, *there is no, just the image of*, **Samuel Quartermain Smith** for his *Miniatures for Bass Clarinet* and HRSE's own **Dave McCann's Three Caprices**, offer contrasted and original approaches to writing solo music. In addition, we revisit not just Tim Doyle's first prize work, but all three finalist works from the composition award in case you missed them first time around. The worthy recipients of the prizes, **Timothy Doyle**, **Matthew Rowan** and **Daniel Barkley**, offer us a range of ways to get to grips compositionally with the "Pierrot" line-up. We welcome the Glasgow based, Co Armagh composer **Gareth Williams** back to Belfast for a performance of his *How*, three humourous movements offering helpful and essential instruction on how to sleep, say sorry and dance! **Ian Wilson** contributes a wonderful little trio, *AT*, for flute violin and cello to complete the programme.

 The Crescent, Belfast

 Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018, 7.30pm

 £10/£5

**Closer** (1<sup>st</sup> Prize 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Rosser Composition Award 2017)

**Timothy Doyle (1991)**

flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

## **there is no, just the image of\* (2017) World Premiere**

**Nigel McBride (1990)**

solo alto flute

## **How (2011) World Premiere**

**Gareth Williams (1977)**

flute, clarinet, violin & violoncello

**Five go to the Mystery Moor** (Finalist 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Rosser Composition Award 2017)

**Daniel Barkley (1989)**

flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

## INTERVAL

## **Miniatures for Bass Clarinet\***

**(2017) World Premiere**

**Samuel Quartermain Smith (1984)**

solo bass clarinet

## **AT (2006, rev. 2014)**

**Ian Wilson (1964)**

flute, violin & violoncello

## **Three Caprices\* (2017) World Premiere**

**David McCann (1986)**

solo violoncello

**Grooves Become Walls** (Finalist 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Rosser Composition Award 2017)

**Matthew Rowan (1979)**

flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

\* Commissioned by Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble with funds from the PRSf Talent Development Partnership.

# COMA

CoMA (Contemporary Music for All) was founded in 1993 to enable musicians of all abilities to participate actively in contemporary music. It has a national network of instrumental and vocal ensembles and an expanding international programme. Its unique music collection of hundreds of works contains some of the most exciting and rewarding new music being created today and is an invaluable resource for professional, amateur and youth based ensembles.

Are you an amateur musician with an interest in adventurous music? Would you like to perform as part of a large contemporary music ensemble? Perhaps you studied music as a child or teenager, but pursued another career and music has been purely a hobby? Why don't you come along to our event as part of **CoMA: Festival of Contemporary music for All**, workshop exciting new works alongside the professionals of Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble and take part in an informal performance?

 The Crescent, Belfast

 Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018, 2.00pm

 Free Admission

To register your interest  
(come on - be brave) email:  
[Info@hardrainensemble.com](mailto:Info@hardrainensemble.com)

# MUSIC BOX

Hard Rain conductor, Sinead Hayes, curates this concert to celebrate International Women's Day. She says of the programme:

"This concert celebrates some outstanding contemporary solo and ensemble works from recent decades. The music featured represents the work of emerging and established composers from the Irish and international composition community, all of whom happen to be women.

The music has been chosen to showcase the virtuosic talents of the Hard Rain musicians, **Gubaidulina's *Allegro Rustico*** contrasting sharply with the technical difficulty of **Jane O'Leary's *Only Gestures Remain*** and **Elaine Agnew's** improvisatory *Music Box*.

The pieces for larger ensemble show the vast palette of atmospheric colours and textures and that can be drawn from an ensemble of 3 - 5 players. From the quirky humour of **Heera Kim's *Quartet***, to the subtle brilliance of **Hong's *Shades of Raindrops***, via **Sadie Harrison's** confident *No title required for quintet*, our travels through this engaging repertoire finish with a Hard Rain commission from **Gráinne Mulvey** - enjoy the journey!"

Sinead Hayes

 The Crescent, Dance Studio, Belfast

 Thur 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018, 7.30pm

 £10/£5

**Quartet (2012) *Irish Premier***  
Heera Kim (1976)  
flute, clarinet, violin & violoncello

**Allegro Rustico (1963, rev. 1993)**  
Sofia Gubaidulina (1931)  
flute, piano

**Swelt Belly at Dawn (2013)**  
Judith Ring (1976)  
violin, violoncello, clarinet

**No title required for quintet (1994, rev. 1999) *Irish Premier***  
Sadie Harrison (1965)  
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello, piano

 INTERVAL

**Shades of Raindrops (2006) *Irish Premier***  
Sungji Hong (1973)  
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello, piano

**Only Gestures Remain (2009)**  
Jane O' Leary (1946)  
violin, piano

**Music Box (2002)**  
Elaine Agnew (1967)  
bass clarinet and tape

**LUCA\* (2017) *World Premier***  
Gráinne Mulvey (1966)  
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello, piano

\* Commissioned by Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble with funds from ACNI.

---

# 3<sup>RD</sup> PETER ROSSER COMPOSITION AWARD

---

This event will see performances of the three shortlisted works (anonymously chosen by jury) in the **3<sup>rd</sup> Peter Rosser Composition Award**. The performed works will be placed as first prize with two runners up. In addition there will be a performance of last years winning work, *Closer* by **Timothy Doyle** as well as featured appearances by our **Hard Rain Young Artists 2017/18**, the violinist **Susanna Griffin** and bassoonist **Olivia Palmer-Baker**.

---

 **Redbox Recording, Belfast**

 **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018, 7.30pm**

 **Places are limited, so admission is strictly by advance booking through the HRSE website contact page**

**3 Works to be selected by jury**  
**Anonymous submission**  
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

**Three High Places - '2<sup>nd</sup> Mov' (2007)**  
**John Luther Adams (1953)**  
solo violin  
featuring *Susanna Griffin*  
(*Hard Rain Young Artist 2017/18*)

**In Freundschaft (1982)**  
**Karlheinz Stockhausen (1928-2007)**  
teddy bear & bassoon  
featuring *Olivia Palmer-Baker*  
(*Hard Rain Young Artist 2017/18*)

**Closer (2017)**  
(1<sup>st</sup> Prize 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Rosser  
Composition Award 2017)  
**Timothy Doyle (1991)**  
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

---

# UYO WORKSHOP AND CONCERT

---

This workshop will see **Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble** 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. Those of you who heard last years performance of Terry Riley's *In C* will know what we mean.

**Workshop - 2pm**  
**(not open to the public)**  
Join us in performance at 6.30pm  
for an unmissable experience!

---

 **The Crescent, Belfast**

 **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018,**  
**Concert 6.30pm**

 **Free Admission**

# DI FRAGILI INCANTI

This event takes its name from the delicate and intricately wrought closing work of the concert by Italian composer **Simone Movio**, a recipient of the highly prestigious **Ernst von Siemens Composers' Prize** in 2014. Both first and second halves of the concert open with pieces of equal exquisiteness. **Ian Wilson's** *Timelessly This* is a work the ensemble is delighted to return to time and time again, and in the concert's second half, the gorgeous (certainly Messiaen-inspired) *Distance de Fée* by **Toru Takemitsu** is performed here by the first of our **HRSE 2017/18 Young Artists**, **Susanna Griffin**. The bassoonist **Olivia Palmer-Baker**, our other HRSE Young Artist, performs *The Voice* by **Dai Fujikura**, an atmospheric piece that utilises extended techniques on the bassoon and cello in the most fascinating way. The term fascinating only begins to describe the dramatic centerpiece of our programme, **George Crumb's** *Vox Balaenae* (Voice of the whale). This theatrical piece has more than a few surprises in store; suffice to say it is an utterly unique experience for the listener. Two solo works complete the programme: *Chaconne* by **Siobhán Cleary**, a still work which gathers an ornamented momentum before disappearing again into silence, and the Irish premiere of **Ryan Molloy's** beautiful new work for bass clarinet, *Amhrán Fheilimidh*, in which he pursues his continued interest in the convergence of Irish traditional and contemporary classical music.

This candlelit concert promises to get the Easter holidays off to a profound and reflective start.

**Timelessly This (1992)**  
**Ian Wilson (1964)**  
clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

**The Voice (2007)**  
**Dai Fujikura (1977)**  
violoncello & bassoon  
featuring *Olivia Palmer-Baker*  
(*Hard Rain Young Artist 2017/18*)

**Vox Balaenae (1971)**  
**George Crumb (1929)**  
flute, violoncello & piano

## INTERVAL

**Distance de Fée (1951)**  
**Toru Takemitsu (1930-1996)**  
violin & piano  
featuring *Susanna Griffin*  
(*Hard Rain Young Artist 2017/18*)

**Chaconne (2007)**  
**Siobhán Cleary (1970)**  
solo piano

**Amhrán Fheilimidh (2017) Irish Premiere**  
**Ryan Molloy (1983)**  
solo bass clarinet

**Di Fragili Incanti (2006) Irish Premiere**  
**Simone Movio (1978)**  
flute (picc), Bb clarinet (Bs cl),  
violin, violoncello & piano

 The Crescent, Belfast

 Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, 7.30pm

 £10/£5

# A BATTUTA

The HRSE commissioning scheme continues this year (funded by ACNI) and this lunchtime recital offers the ensemble the opportunity to expose all of the 2017/18 Season's new commissions for ensemble in one sitting. At the time of writing, we wait with baited breath on the imminent arrival of new pieces to feature in this concert from **Kevin O'Connell** and **Gráinne Mulvey**, two of Ireland's most influential figures in contemporary music, as composers and educators. HRSE Artistic Director, **Greg Caffrey**, receives his first formal commission from the ensemble this year too, and it will be premiered here.

Also included in this concert is the beautiful *Gortnagarn II*, by composer **Ryan Molloy**, one of our commissioned pieces from last season. As Ryan teaches at Maynooth University, it is a pleasure to be able to perform this piece on his own academic turf. Completing the repertoire for this event is another **Ian Wilson** piece that the ensemble is revisiting from previous seasons, and with great pleasure. *Eat, Sleep, Empire* is a vibrant romp of a piece.

Unusually – excitingly – all the works in this concert feature the full ensemble.

 Maynooth University, Riverstown Hall

 Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018, 1.10pm

 Free Admission - Limited Seating

**LUCA\* (2017) World Premiere**  
**Gráinne Mulvey (1966)**  
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

**..for peace comes dropping slow\* (2017) World Premiere**  
**Greg Caffrey (1963)**  
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

**Eat Sleep Empire (unterwelt part 1) (2002)**  
**Ian Wilson (1964)**  
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

**A Battuta\* (2017) World Premiere**  
**Kevin O'Connell (1958)**  
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

**Gortnagarn II\* (2016)**  
**Ryan Molloy (1983)**  
alto flute, bass clarinet, violin,  
violoncello & piano

\* Commissioned by Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble with funds from ACNI.

# INVOLUTE

Duos, trios and quartets are unusually absent from this event, which instead focuses on pieces for the full ensemble contrasted with solo works. However, the cello work *Strum, Strum and be Hang'd* from Belfast composer **David Byers** and *Save the whale* from the late Dutch composer **Ton Bruynel** both have additional "tape" elements; the latter is all the more unique using as it does the rare contrabass clarinet. **John Buckley's** highly virtuosic *2 Fantasias for Alto flute* and the Irish premiere of **Piers Hellowell's** *Let's Dance*, for solo percussion, complete the solo works.

For larger forces, two of the HRSE commissions for this season appear here. **Greg Caffrey's** work, *..for peace comes dropping slow*, takes inspiration from one of Yeats' most famous poems. The other newly commissioned work, *A Battuta*, is the latest creation coaxed from the pen of Derry born **Kevin O'Connell**. It is fitting that a "Pierrot format" ensemble such as HRSE should give the world premiere performance of **Frank Corcoran's** own *Nine looks at Pierrot* and we continue to celebrate our 2017/18 Featured Composer, **Ian Wilson's** output with a performance of *Involute*, a piece that sees the format expand to include percussion. For the climax of our concert we visit music originating in a film score by the multifaceted German composer **Hans Werner Henze**. His demanding *Sonata für 6 Spieler* asks the players to double and triple on related and sometimes unrelated instruments!

 The Crescent, Belfast

 Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018 , 7.30pm

 £10/£5

**..for peace comes dropping slow\* (2017)**  
**Greg Caffrey (1963)**  
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

**2 Fantasias for Alto flute (2004)**  
**John Buckley (1951)**  
solo alto flute

**Involute (Unterwelt Part 2) (2003)**  
**Ian Wilson (1964)**  
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello, piano & perc

**Strum, Strum and be Hang'd (2005)**  
**David Byers (1947)**  
violoncello & tape.

**A Battuta\* (2017)**  
**Kevin O'Connell (1958)**  
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

 INTERVAL

**Save the Whale (1992) Irish Premiere**  
**Ton Bruynel (1934-1998)**  
Tape element by *Thorolfur Eiriksson*  
contrabass clarinet & tape

**Nine looks at Pierrot (2013) World Premiere**  
**Frank Corcoran (1944)**  
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

**Lets Dance (1996) Irish Premiere**  
**Piers Hellowell (1956)**  
solo percussion

**Sonata für 6 Spieler (1984) Irish Premiere**  
**Hans Werner Henze (1923-2012)**  
flute (alto Fl + 2 sistra), clarinet  
(bs cl + Cb cl), violin (vla + handbell),  
violoncello (+ handbell) & piano (cel)

\* Commissioned by Hard Rain  
SoloistEnsemble with funds from ACNI.

# PAMPLEMOUSSE

**The Chronic Identity Crisis of Pamplemousse** is a children's opera in one act by composer **Greg Caffrey**, chronicling the sad tale of a piece of fruit struggling to find its place in society. It is a bizarre story, which navigates feelings of rejection, acceptance, and more rejection leading ultimately to understanding and a final amorous and glorious acquiescence. This is contemporary music for all the family with a colourful score performed by an expanded Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble and encompassing the exceptional vocal talents of the artists from the Northern Ireland Opera Studio.

This event is a co-production between HRSE and Northern Ireland Opera.

Please Note - This is a concert performance only and not a fully staged opera.

 Ulster Museum, Belfast

 Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2018 , 3.00pm

 TBC

# PEDAGOGY

As a charity, Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble has the support of local contemporary music as its central remit. This support is evident in our programming of local music, but we also carry out a number of educational initiatives each year that encourage young people's involvement in contemporary music. Below are some of the ways we will do this during our 2017/18 Season.

## INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

For the last 4 years, HRSE has had the privilege of working with composition students at QUB. This year we are delighted to be continuing our role as **Industry Professionals** with the University. This relationship allows HRSE to provide a wide range of activities to encourage participation in, and engagement with, contemporary music.

HRSE will be providing workshop read-throughs for composition students at various stages in their development as well as instrumental demonstrations, talks and work on projects at SARC with sound recording students from the Music pathways at QUB. This year, HRSE will continue its engagement with QUB's work placement scheme, offering the opportunity for a student to assist administratively, in terms of stage management and as front of house staff. The following are just some of the projects representing the ongoing relationship between HRSE and QUB, and more will follow as our season progresses:

### Workshops with QUB music students (not open to the public)

**Tue 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017 (morning)**

HRSE work with 2<sup>nd</sup> year composition students

**Tue 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017 (afternoon)**

HRSE work with 3<sup>rd</sup> year composition students

**Fri 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018 (Morning)**

HRSE work with 3<sup>rd</sup> year composition students

**Fri 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018 (afternoon)**

HRSE recording session at SARC with sound recording students from the Music pathways at QUB.

*“Having music played by great players is a cathartic experience for a student – nothing prepares them for the scrutiny. In Hard Rain workshops the young musician is transported from being outside music, as a spectator, to being a controlling magician within it, transformed by artistic practice.”*

**Piers Hellowell**

Professor of Composition at QUB

## MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

It is a great pleasure for HRSE to be invited back to the Music Dept. at Maynooth University, not only to give a lunchtime recital, but to work in a separate workshop with their Phd Composers.

### Workshop with Maynooth music students (not open to the public)

**Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

HRSE work with Phd composition students

## WORKING WITH THE ULSTER YOUTH ORCHESTRA

This year, HRSE are delighted to work with the players of the UYO again. The full Hard Rain line up, with conductor Sinead Hayes, will engage with the UYO players in a workshop culminating in an informal concert.

### Workshop with the Ulster Youth Orchestra

**Wed 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018, 2pm – 5pm**

(Workshop not open to the public)

**Informal performance: 6.30pm**

The Crescent, Belfast

## MENTORING

HRSE will offer another opportunity this year to exceptional UYO members (selected by audition) to become their **Featured Young Artists 2018/19**. The successful applicant/s will benefit from guidance and mentoring by HRSE members. In addition, the Hard Rain Young Artists can be present at HRSE rehearsals, witness, up close, how a professional chamber group operates, and attend the concert season free of charge. The Hard Rain Young Artists will be given the chance to perform in a HRSE concert and will be promoted as part of the 2018/19 Season.

HRSE is currently offering these opportunities to its **Hard Rain Young Artists 2017/18**, the bassoonist **Olivia Palmer-Baker** and violinist **Susanna Griffin**. Additional benefits to UYO players will be free tickets for Hard Rain 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).

## 3<sup>rd</sup> PETER ROSSER COMPOSITION AWARD

The Peter Rosser Composition Award was jointly established by Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble and the Peter Rosser Foundation in 2016 in the memory of our esteemed colleague and friend. It is supported by the **Arts Council of Northern Ireland, The Contemporary Music Centre, Ireland, Cormac O’Kane of Red Box Recording Studio, Belfast** as well as through generous donations made in Peter’s memory by friends and colleagues. HRSE will call for new works again this year, through the Contemporary Music Centre, Ireland, for the forces of the core ensemble. The Award will be open to composers born or domicile in N. Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The competition is open to composers regardless of age; however, the award is aimed at emerging composers. The organisers, therefore, welcome submissions from composers at the start of their careers.

Shortlisted composers will be invited to a workshop with the ensemble at Red Box Recording Studio, Belfast. Participants of the workshop will receive a recording of their work and the winner will receive the Peter Rosser Prize for composition. **The competition is now open.** Full details are available at [www.hardrainensemble.com](http://www.hardrainensemble.com)

### Timeline

- Deadline for Submission **4pm Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar 2018**
- 3 prizewinning composers will be shortlisted by **Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Mar 2018** and the shortlisted composers will be informed by email
- All Shortlisted works will be workshopped, performed and recorded (as well as video streamed) by Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble at a special event in Red Box Recording Studio, Belfast on **Tue 27<sup>th</sup> Mar 2018**.

# ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



**GREG CAFFREY** read music at Queen's University Belfast where he studied composition under Piers Hellawell and James Clarke. He was awarded a B.Mus. in 1995 and completed a PhD in 2002.

Numerous awards for composition include First Prize at the Concorso Counterpoint, Italy in May 2012 as well as becoming a finalist in the ISME - IVME 2nd International Composition Contest in Brussels in 2008, in the Taukay Edizioni Musicali International Composition Prize in 2012, and the Musica Domani International Composition Prize (USA). His works have been performed across 17 countries and are represented on 10 record labels. He has received commissions from many performers and ensembles at home and abroad including BBC Radio 3, the Irish national broadcasting station RTE and The Ulster Orchestra, and his works have featured at important international festivals such as the Musica Nova Festival in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Zwischen den Horizonten, Germany, and the Forfest Festival in the Czech Republic.

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



**CAOLAN KEAVENEY**  
Fundraising  
& Project  
Management  
Assistant

Caolan read music at the University of York under the supervision of Peter Seymour and Robert Hollingworth. While studying voice with Josh Ellicott, Caolan discovered a love of choral music, early music, contemporary music, and opera.

Caolan has enjoyed a diverse range of theatre, opera, and musical theatre roles including Ferrando (*Così fan tutte*), Mr Gedge (*Albert Herring*), Tony (*West Side Story*), Tom Collins (*RENT*), Max (*BENT*). At home in NI, Caolan sings with Sestina under the direction of Mark Chambers with whom past and upcoming engagements include *Messiah*, *Dixit Dominus*, *Theodora* (Handel), and *The Little Match Girl Passion* (Lang).

Caolan's stage directing credits include *Albert Herring*, *The Rape of Lucretia* (Aspect Opera), *Dead Equal* (Helios Collective), *The Witches of Eastwick* (University of York) and *The Threepenny Opera* (University of York). Upcoming engagements include *La Voix Humaine* (Poulenc) and *Lucrezia* (Handel). Caolan is founder and artistic director of York-based opera company Aspect Opera.

Caolan is grateful for the opportunity to be interning with Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble and is excited to be immersed in the vibrant music scene of his native NI.

# THE CORE ENSEMBLE

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 works 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 Sinead Hayes – conductor, Aisling Agnew – flutes, Sarah Watts – clarinets, Joanne Quigley McParland – violin, David McCann – cello and Daniel Browell – piano. HRSE is delighted to see percussionist Alex Petcu return again this year to work on new projects and it looks forward to forging new relationships with the harpist Richard Allen and four very special violinists, Madeleine Easton, Ciaran McCabe, Feargus Hetherington and Claire Sterling, who we are fortunate to have in the violin chair during Joanne's maternity leave. We wish Joanne all the best and look forward to her return next season. In addition, our special guest performer this year is the internationally acclaimed clarinetist and contemporary music specialist Cristo Barrios.

**HRSE's incredible line-up of players make the performance of contemporary music a central aspect of their creative lives.**



## Sinead Hayes

### CONDUCTOR

---

Galway conductor Sinead Hayes is in her fourth season as conductor with HRSE. A graduate of the prestigious Royal Northern College of Music masters conducting programme, she was conductor of the inaugural phase of the Sym-Phonic Waves West of Ireland Youth Orchestra, is principal conductor of the Amaretti Chamber Orchestra in Manchester and has conducted orchestras all over Europe. Her teachers and masterclass mentors have included Péter Eötvös, Johannes Schlaefli, Martyn Brabbins, Mark Elder, Baldur Bronnimann and Clark Rundell. Already this season she has made a return to the RTE National Symphony Orchestra, conducting their season prelude concert, and made her Opera Collective Ireland debut in a workshop performance of Raymond Deane's new opera *Vagabones*. The 2017/18 season also sees her debut with Northern Ireland Opera. A noted traditional fiddle player, Sinead made her Berlin Philharmonie debut this season playing in two concerts as part of the Berlin Philharmonic's Family Concert series, sharing a stage with musicians from the Berliner Philharmoniker. Alongside her conducting work she is currently developing 'Circling the Mist', a violin improvisation project incorporating live electronics and contemporary composition within the broad frame of traditional music.



## Sarah Watts

### CLARINETS

---

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

Sarah has achieved an international reputation for her solo bass clarinet playing and has attracted composers such as Sir Harrison Birtwistle, Piers Hellawell and George Nicholson to write music for her. She has released numerous solo and chamber CDs playing on both clarinet and bass clarinet. Sarah teaches bass clarinet at the Royal Northern College of Music, is Teaching Associate in Music Performance at Sheffield University and has given masterclasses and workshops in many leading UK conservatoires and universities. She also runs an international solo bass clarinet course on the Isle of Raasay in Scotland and a Wind Chamber Music course at Malvern for amateur musicians. Sarah performs extensively with SCAW (bass clarinet and piano duo). She has completed a PHD exploring bass clarinet multiphonics and published a book on the subject. Sarah is a Henri Selmer Paris Clarinet Artist, Vandoren UK artist and a Silverstein pro artist.



## Dave McCann

### VIOLONCELLO

---

David McCann graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music in 2010 and completed the MMus course with distinction in 2012. While a student at the RNCM David was a recipient of the Leonard Rose award for cello, the Chris Rowland Prize for chamber music and the Contemporary Music Performance Prize. A passionate interpreter of new music, David has commissioned more than a dozen new pieces for his instrument. Recent engagements have involved working personally with Brian Ferneyhough (*Adagissimo*, RNCM), Steve Reich (*Cello Counterpoint*, RNCM) and Colin Matthews (*Three Enigmas*, Wigmore Hall) in preparation for public performances of their works.

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

---

Aisling Agnew was born and raised in Belfast. She performs internationally and has been broadcast on BBC Radio, RTE Lyric FM and Classic FM. High profile concerts include a Wigmore Hall recital, Belfast Festival, the National Flute Association's 40th Convention in Las Vegas and Concertos with the Ulster Orchestra and RSNO. Aisling graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She performs on a wide range of flutes on which she has released various solo and chamber CD recordings and she works regularly with ensembles such as the Irish Memory Orchestra and the Agnew McAllister Duo.

Aisling has also performed with Re:search and Red Note Ensembles and her involvement in Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble reflects her strong interest in new music and working with composers. She has premiered and recorded many contemporary works for flute and highlights include performing for Sir Peter Maxwell Davies 80th birthday concert and giving the first performance in Scotland of Penderecki's flute concerto. Aisling greatly enjoys interpreting new works and commissioning composers in order to further extend the repertoire.



## Daniel Browell

### PIANO

Daniel Browell enjoys a busy and varied performing career since receiving acclaim in the national press for his London Southbank recital in the Purcell Room. He gave his BBC Proms debut as part of a composer portrait broadcast live on BBC Radio 3, and in 2009 he made his concerto debut at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall.

Daniel particularly enjoys collaborative projects with instrumentalists, singers and small ensembles; he has performed with YCAT winner Kathryn Rudge at the Wigmore Hall and on many occasions since, most recently performing piano quartets in the BBC Philharmonic's chamber music series in Salford. In addition to performing Daniel derives much inspiration from his teaching at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, where he is Associate Head of Keyboard.

Following his Park Lane Group success Daniel has championed new music and is delighted to join the Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble this season.



## Joanne Quigley McParland

### VIOLIN

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

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

# GUEST MUSICIANS PERCUSSION & HARP



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

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

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



Concert harpist **RICHARD ALLEN** was born in 1993 in Belfast and is currently studying with Letizia Belmondo at the Haute École de Musique de Lausanne (Switzerland), having previously studied with Gabriella Dall'Olio and Frances Kelly at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance, London.

Richard has recently won the 2nd Prize at the Concours International Félix Godefried in Belgium, following two prizes in 2016; 1<sup>st</sup> Prize at the prestigious Camac Harp Competition and the BBC Young Musicians' Platform Award.

Richard is a passionate soloist and regularly performs across Europe, recently playing Glière's Harp Concerto Op.74 with the Ulster Orchestra and David Brophy. He has a great love of opera and ballet, playing in the UK, Europe, and Scandinavia with orchestras such as the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne and the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra in Cadogan Hall, the Royal Albert Hall, and the Opéra de Lausanne.

Richard is a Philharmonia MMSF Emerging Artist & Harp Fellow and is generously supported by the Countess of Munster Musical Trust and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

# GUEST MUSICIANS

## VIOLIN



Australian violinist **MADELEINE EASTON** studied modern and baroque violin at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music graduating with first class honours. Since then, she has performed internationally as a soloist, concertmaster and director.

As director and concertmaster, Madeleine's engagements include the Orquesta Sinfonica de Madrid, the Gulbenkian Foundation Orchestra of Lisbon, the English Baroque Soloists, the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, The King's Consort, Gabrieli Consort, London Orchestra da Camera, Florilegium, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Northern Ballet Sinfonia, and the Hanover Band, where she was concertmaster from 2006-2017. Madeleine also performs with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Academy of Ancient Music, and the Orchestre Revolutionnaire et Romantique. Madeleine has directed the Bach Cantata Series at RAM in London since 2009, as well as the Baroque Orchestra, and the Modern Instrument Period Orchestra.

Madeleine is proud to be part of the acclaimed Australian World Orchestra. She is also artistic director and founder of 'Bach Akademie Australia'.



**CIARAN MCCABE** studied with Yossi Zivoni at RCM and Günter Pichler in Madrid. Recent engagements include the concerti of Bruch, Dvorak, Mendelssohn and Barber with the Ulster Orchestra and Orpheus Sinfonia. He was a recipient of the Milton Violin Award and the Young Artists' Platform Award.

As a founding member of the Cavaleri Quartet, Ciaran performed in Musikverein, Vienna, Rachmaninov Hall, Moscow, Auditorio Nacional, and throughout New Zealand and Australia, winning First Prize at the 2012 Hamburg International Chamber Music Competition, Second Prize at the 2014 Osaka International Chamber Music Competition, and winning the Royal Over-Seas League Competition (2011).

Ciaran has appeared as guest leader of the RTE Concert Orchestra, the Symphony Orchestra of India and ETO, and as co-leader/principal with the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and the John Wilson Orchestra. He is also a member of the London Chamber Orchestra and has performed with the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, English Chamber Orchestra, Irish Chamber Orchestra, and the Rasumovsky Ensemble.



**FEARGUS HETHERINGTON** studied at the RCS and the Cleveland Institute of Music, USA and receives guidance from violinist and conductor Joseph Swensen during the summers. He works regularly with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Kentigern Quartet and teaches at the University of St Andrews.

Feargus has given recitals in the UK, Germany, Poland and New York City. Critics have praised his 'thoughtful and intelligent interpretation...virtuosic technique and shrewd musical artistry.' (The Herald, Scotland.) He premiered the Violin Concerto by Tom David Wilson in 2016 (St Andrews Chamber Orchestra) and his interest in new music has resulted in performances of works by Eddie McGuire, Stuart MacRae, Iain Matheson, Douglas Whates, Gareth Williams and Oliver Searle, with forthcoming performances of music by John McLeod, Rory Boyle and Liam Paterson.

Feargus has performed frequently for BBC radio and his CD A Highland Ballad was released in 2012 to critical acclaim. He has been generously supported by the Musicians Benevolent Fund and Creative Scotland and was a recipient of the John Ireland Prize.



Australian violinist **CLAIRE STERLING** studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London and the University of Melbourne, Australia. From 2004-2011 she was Principal Second Violin with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and was a regular performer in the SCO chamber series. Other chamber appearances include Kinnordy Chamber Music, Wye Valley Chamber Music, Spitalfields, Arundel and City of London Festivals, as well as CHROMA, Mr McFall's Chamber and Endymion. She is a regular soloist in London's popular Bach to Baby series and her most recent performances have been with a newly-established chamber collective at Braishfield Music in Wiltshire.

Currently Co-Principal Second Violin with English National Opera, Claire is also a guest principal with several other UK orchestras. She appears with the Australian Chamber Orchestra and is a founding member of the renowned Australian World Orchestra.

Claire has a keen interest in period performance and is a member of Sir John Eliot Gardiner's Orchestre Revolutionnaire et Romantique. She also plays with the Academy of Ancient Music, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and the Australian Romantic and Classical Orchestra.

---

# SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMER

---



It is with great pleasure that we welcome our **Special Guest Performer, the Spanish clarinetist Cristo Barrios to Belfast for a very special event, the premiere performance of Ian Wilson's Achinet. HRSE are excited about this collaboration.**

**CRISTO BARRIOS** is a spontaneous, emotionally intense and hypnotic clarinetist, delicate at the same time as powerful. Cristo's unique performances for clarinet, dancers and free improvisation are much in demand.

Cristo has worked with composers such as Esa-Pekka Salonen, Einojuhani Rautavaara, Kaija Saariaho, Helmut Lachenmann and Pierre Boulez, and has given world premieres including Gustavo Díaz-Jerez's Symphonic Poem 'Ayssuragan' with the Tenerife Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Antoine Margauié, and Nino Díaz's Second Clarinet

Concerto with the Mariinsky Symphony Orchestra. Cristo Barrios recorded 'The Voice of the Clarinet' (Divine Art Records), a CD with original transcriptions of lieder; '20<sup>th</sup> Century Music for Clarinet' (Metier Records), which includes works by Bernstein, Bax, Berg, Brotons and Honneger, and 'Iamus' (Melomics Records).

Cristo has given masterclasses at the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra Superior Conservatory in Lisbon, the University of Arts in Zürich, the Strasbourg Conservatory, the Norwegian Academy of Music, the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, the Cologne Conservatory, the Liszt Academy in Budapest and the Amsterdam Conservatory.

Cristo is working with the clarinet maker René Hagmann, who has made significant advances in his clarinets, and is a Buffet Crampon artist and a Vandoren artist.

---

# HARD RAIN FEATURED COMPOSER 2017/18

---



We are delighted to play host to composer **Ian Wilson** as our **2017/18 Featured Composer**. **Ian is one of the most significant and prolific figures in Irish new music, who also enjoys a considerable international reputation.**

*"I am honoured to be Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble's featured composer this season. Since its establishment, HRSE has regularly championed my music and I'm very pleased that I've now had the opportunity to write two new works for the group to present this season alongside a range of my existing work. I hope everyone will enjoy the ride."*

**IAN WILSON** has written over 150 works, including operas, concertos, string quartets, a range of orchestral and chamber music and multi-media pieces. His compositions have been performed and broadcast on six continents, and presented at festivals including the BBC Proms, Venice Biennale and Frankfurt Bookfair and at venues such as New York's Carnegie Hall, London's Royal Albert Hall and Vienna's Musikverein. He is a member of Aosdána, Ireland's State-sponsored body of creative artists, and in recent years has been AHRB Research Fellow at the University of Ulster, An Foras Feasa post-Doctoral Research Fellow at Dundalk IT, director of the Sligo New Music Festival and Composer-in-Association with California's Camerata Pacifica ensemble and the Ulster Orchestra. **His music is published by Ricordi (London) and Universal Edition.**

Visit [www.ianwilson.ie](http://www.ianwilson.ie)

# HARD RAIN FEATURED YOUNG ARTISTS 2017/18

HRSE is delighted to welcome UYO violinist, Susanna Griffin and UYO bassoonist, Olivia Palmer-Baker as the selected **Hard Rain Featured Young Artists 2017/18**. We look forward to promoting these talented young performers, and the ensemble will be offering Susanna and Olivia mentorship and performance opportunities during the season.

**SUSANNA GRIFFIN** is currently studying at the Royal Northern College of Music with James Clark. She was leader of the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra and a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain in 2016. Susanna was a finalist in the Catherine Judge Award in the same year and is currently first violin with the Aminta string quartet and regularly performs with the RNCM Symphony Orchestra.

Susanna is currently leader of the Ulster Youth Orchestra and plays a Gagliano violin generously loaned by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

*“I’m looking forward to working with Hard Rain and excited to explore some new repertoire.”*



**OLIVIA PALMER-BAKER** is currently studying Bassoon at the Royal Academy of Music in London, and has recently entered her second year of undergraduate study. Olivia frequently performs with orchestras such as Melos Sinfonia, London Beethoven Orchestra, and the University of London Symphony Orchestra, alongside RAM project orchestras, and has played in venues ranging from Cadogan Hall to LSO St Luke’s. She was awarded the Winifred Agnes Disney Award Scholarship on commencing her studies, and previously had been a finalist in the Catherine Judge Memorial Award and Young Musician of the Year Northern Ireland. Olivia also volunteers for Orchestras for All, a programme giving musical opportunities to exceptional young musicians from difficult backgrounds, and has been involved in outreach work with the Open Academy department.

*“I’m very excited to work with the HRSE and thankful for the opportunity to perform with them this season”*

# HRSE COMMISSIONS AND BESPOKE MUSIC

Three new HRSE commissions, for the forces of the full ensemble, have been initiated thanks to funding from The ACNI Small Grants Award. This year’s HRSE commission recipients are Kevin O’Connell and Gráinne Mulvey, two of Ireland’s most influential figures in contemporary music, as composers and educators. HRSE Artistic Director Greg Caffrey also receives his first formal commission for the ensemble and comments:

*“I am proud to receive this commission from my colleagues in Hard Rain. I am massively grateful to the group, the committee and to ACNI for this tremendous accolade.”*

The season begins with another new work, commissioned this time from **The Crescent** (again with funds from ACNI), from our **2017/18 Featured Composer Ian Wilson**.

Together with these exciting new additions to the repertoire, we will be presenting other bespoke pieces for the ensemble. We have three works that emerged in our 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Rosser Composition Award from young composers, **Timothy Doyle**, **Matthew Rowan** and **Daniel Barkley**.

As if all this new music were not enough, HRSE have initiated three more commissions with funds from **PRSF Talent Development Partnership** for solo works from **Samuel Quartermaine Smith**, **Nigel McBride** and **David McCann**.



---

# HOW TO BOOK

---

Through The Crescent website  
[www.crescentarts.org](http://www.crescentarts.org)

Through the Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble website  
[www.hardrainensemble.com](http://www.hardrainensemble.com)

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

On the door of the venues on the evening of the performance (subject to availability)

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

General box office enquiries  
[info@crescentarts.org](mailto:info@crescentarts.org)

---

# THANK YOU

---

## Thanks to our Funders and Supporters

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 **PRSf Talent Development Partnership, Creative & Cultural Skills** and **Help Musicians UK**.

Support from our partners **The Crescent, Queen's University Belfast, Moving on Music, Maynooth University, Cormac O'Kane at Red Box Studio, Ulster Youth Orchestra, Instituto Cervantes, Ulster Museum** and the **Peter Rosser Foundation** 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 many of this season's events.**

A final and sincere thanks goes to all the incredible supporters of this wonderful music. We are grateful to those who crossed the threshold of our performance spaces during last season, to those people who demonstrated their passion in the auditorium with their whoops and cheers, to the many of you whose constant and valued attendance has numbered you amongst the Hard Rain faithful, to the composition students and professional composers who gave us their wonderful music to play, to the enthusiastic social networkers, the hardened new music enthusiasts and the new-comers. This year we pledge to bring you more than ever, and we are so appreciative of your continued commitment and fervour.

---

# THE CRESCENT

---

**Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble** would like to thank **The Crescent, 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.



[www.crescentarts.org](http://www.crescentarts.org)

---

# DONATIONS

---

Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble is a registered charity **NIC102506** and therefore a not-for-profit organization. We would like you to support us in any way you can 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](http://www.hardrainensemble.com)

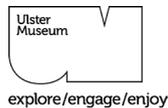
If you would like to contact us you may do that through our website contacts page or email: [hardrainensemble@icloud.com](mailto:hardrainensemble@icloud.com)

# CREDITS

We acknowledge support from the following organisations:



LOTTERY FUNDED



---

Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble  
Red Box Recording  
173 University Street  
Belfast, BT7 1HR



---

Design by  
**Paula Caffrey**  
[www.paulacaffrey.com](http://www.paulacaffrey.com)  
[paulacaffrey@icloud.com](mailto:paulacaffrey@icloud.com)



*Challenge is fuel for this ensemble*



# HARD RAIN SOLOIST ENSEMBLE 2011 S