

Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble

Season 2018/19

Ensemble in Residence at Queen's University, Belfast



Kaija Saariaho
Iain McCurdy
John Buckley
Elliott Carter
Helen Grime
Eduard Zatriqi
Teruyuki Noda
Jane O'Leary
Pedro Rebelo
Gráinne Mulvey
Jonathan Harvey
Tristan Murail
Rhona Clarke
Steve Reich
Damian Harron
Joan Tower
Warren Benson
Amy Rooney
Roberto Sierra
Harold Arlen
Alexandra Gardner
Askell Másson
Rihards Zalupe
Donnacha Dennehy
Matthias Schmitt
Elliot Cole
Misato Mochizuki
Greg Caffrey
Stephen Coyle
Toru Takemitsu
Ian Wilson
Dave McCann
Chris McCann
Simon Mawhinney
Karen Tanaka
Piers Hellawell
Chris McAteer
Aine Mallon
Anselm McDonnell
Omar Zatriqi
Perry Goldstien
Elizabeth Kelly
John Zorn
Joe Cutler



**Five years of championship of
modern and contemporary music.**



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“...no other ensemble in Ireland offers a continuing showcase of home-grown new work against a riotous back-drop drawn from today’s music around the globe.”

Professor Piers Hellawell

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A Welcome from the Artistic Director



*Greg Caffrey
as seen from above*

Five years ago, almost exactly as I write this editorial, an exciting and dynamic new addition to Belfast's cultural offering came into being. Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble took to the stage for the first time.

It is with that same pioneering spirit, that drive and that insistence that this part of the world **MUST** have its own contemporary music ensemble, that I reveal this Season's exciting programme.

Where should I start? Let's start with the most exciting partnership yet for HRSE; a brand new **Ensemble in Residence** arrangement with **Queen's University**. This new home will enable HRSE to access two of Belfast's most prestigious venues for our season – **The Harty Room** and **Sonic Arts Research Centre's Sonic Lab**. This wonderful new mutual partnership will see HRSE deliver its season of events in partnership with the university, bringing many new people across its threshold to discover its own dynamic work, its beautiful buildings and excellent concert facilities.

This season will contain 36 performances of works **showcasing our own compositional talent**. We will be premiering seven newly commissioned works or works written especially for the ensemble, five of which feature some of the newest composers on the local scene. Aside from the ubiquitous talents of our many featured home-grown international composers, we add new **international luminaries** this year to the ensemble's repertoire such as **Joan Tower**,



Teruyuki Noda and **Kaija Saariho** and we take great pleasure, in our 5th anniversary year, at looking back to some of the great composers we have visited in the past, such as **Elliott Carter**, **John Zorn**, **Jonathan Harvey** and **Toru Takemitsu**.

Our free opening launch event “**Constellations**” is a stunning programme of works, which incorporates a combination of electronics, fixed-media, video projection and acoustic spectral works. A highlight of this event is **Tristan Murail’s** *Treize Colors du Soleil Couchant*, for ensemble and electronics.

Reflecting our ensemble’s very origins in a concert five years ago featuring the work of the Japanese master **Toru Takemitsu**, we revisit this experience in November and dust off the score of Takemitsu’s **Quadrain II** for this eponymously named concert. This is a concert in which the Japanese aesthetic will be strongly in evidence both in the music of Takemitsu’s compatriotes **Teruyuki Noda** and **Misato Moshizuki**, but, perhaps, hinted at too in the local music selected.

Ink Still Wet is a concert featuring no less than five new premieres and several other very new pieces. It doesn’t need to be said that all our concerts celebrate our own composers, but this one does so exclusively.

Were you present and did you feel the excitement when we performed Elliott Carter’s epic *Triple Duo*, or more recently John Zorn’s *Hexentarrot*? Relive that experience in a concert of works from over here and over there! **Across the Pond** is a programme of works by major

American composers and composers from this part of the world. It is incredible to be able to offer an ambitious programme like this in Belfast, but also to be able to take it to Birmingham and Dublin.

Last year’s concert celebrating International Women’s Day was a resounding success and we will be delivering another such event, entitled **On the Wing of the Sky**, curated by our Featured Composer for 2018/19, Jane O’Leary. Jane writes sumptuous, colourful music, which you will be very familiar with by the end of our season as one of her pieces features in each concert. **Joan Tower** and **Kaija Saariaho** are just two of the phenomenal composers on show here.

As always our **educational work** will continue to play an indispensable part of our annual offering. Our role as **Industry Professional with Queen’s** is bolstered by our newer, closer association with the university, and we will be involved as always in a host of pedagogic activities there. We will work with young composers, performers and audio engineers, our new wave of music professionals.

We will be continuing our relationship with **The Ulster Youth Orchestra**, promoting and mentoring this year’s **Featured Young Artist**, the percussionist **Cathryn Lynch**, and introducing the rank and file members to exciting contemporary repertoire during our workshop day.

Our exciting **Inclusive Immersive Music** project will continue this year involving **Queen’s University**, **Drake Music Project NI** and **BeAnotherLab**. This initiative brings HRSE and disabled musicians together to explore cutting edge technology in live performance.

The **Peter Rosser Composition Award** will run into its 4th year of existence and as always 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 us in enriching our repertoire.

Our position as a **PRSf Talent Development Partner** allows us scope to support the development of composing talent here through our commissioning and performing, but also as a networked member of a UK wide organisation with its own opportunities that we can help disseminate.

Finally, HRSE will be redoubling its efforts in **building an infrastructure** for our music, through its expansion of networks and collaborators, which this season will extend to **The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire**, as well as consolidating existing partnerships with the **Association of Irish Composers**, **Contemporary Music Centre** and **NI Opera**.

Severe cuts have left us shocked and stunned, and what should have been a year to mark a unique anniversary came uncomfortably close to being our absolute end. However, HRSE has many friends, many supporters and many enthusiasts for whom giving up was never an option.

We appear, in the arts, to be living through chronically desperate times, and perhaps our arts leaders and political class should acknowledge and draw wisdom from Winston Churchill, who, when asked to cut funding for the arts in order to support the war effort replied:

“Then what are we fighting for?”

I salute the resilience and integrity of the aforementioned supporters and I dedicate this season to all who made, and who will make, it happen.

Dr. Greg Caffrey
Artistic Director

Season at a glance



Daniel Browell
performing Jane O'Leary

1. Constellations

McCurdy / Buckley / Zatriqi /
O'Leary / Rebelo / Mulvey /
Harvey / Murail
Fri 2nd Nov 2018, 7.30pm
Queen's, Belfast (SARC, Sonic Lab)
Free Admission

2. Inclusive Immersive Music Performance

Music developed in collaboration
Tue 6th Nov 2018, 5pm - 8.30pm
Queen's, Belfast (SARC, Sonic Lab)
Free (with eventbrite ticket)

3. Young Artist Platform with Cathryn Lynch and Alex Petcu

Reich / Harron / Arlen / Msson /
Zalupe / Dennehy / Schmitt / Cole
Thur 13th Dec 2018, 1pm
Queen's, Belfast (Harty Room)
Free Admission

4. Quadrain

O'Leary / Mochizuki / Caffrey /
Noda / Coyle / Takemitsu
Sat 15th Dec 2018, 7.30pm
Queen's, Belfast (Harty Room)
£10/£5

5. Ink Still Wet

Wilson / D.McCann / C.McCann /
O'Leary / Mawhinney / Hellawell /
McAteer / McDonnell / Zatriqi
Sun 17th Feb 2019, 7.30pm
Queen's, Belfast (SARC, Sonic Lab)
£10/£5

6. Across the Pond 1

Goldstien / Kelly / Zorn / Caffrey /
Hellawell / O'Leary / Carter
Wed 27th Mar 2019, 7.30pm
Queen's, Belfast (Harty Room)
£10/£5

7. Across the Pond 2

Goldstien / Kelly / Zorn / Caffrey /
Hellawell / Cutler / Carter
Fri 29th Mar 2019, 7.30pm
Bradshaw Hall, Royal
Birmingham Conservatoire
Info & Tickets available through
www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire

8. Across the Pond 3

Goldstien / Kelly / Zorn / Caffrey /
Hellawell / O'Leary / Carter
Sat 30th Mar 2019, Time (TBC)
Venue (TBA), Dublin
Info & Tickets available through
www.composers.ie

9. 4th Peter Rosser Composition Award

3 Winning Composers
to be selected by jury
Sun 14th Apr 2019, 7.30pm
Redbox Recording, Belfast
173 University Street BT7 1HR
Places are limited, so
admission is strictly by
advance booking through the
HRSE website contact page.
www.hardrainensemble.com

10. UYO Workshop and Concert

Repertoire (to be selected)
Mon 15th Apr 2019
Workshop - 2pm (Not Open to
Public) Concert - 6.30pm
Queen's, Belfast (Harty Room)
Free Admission

11. On the Wing of the Sky

Tower / Mallon / Clarke /
Saariaho / Grime / Rooney /
O'Leary / Tanaka / Gardner
Thur 18th Apr 2019, 7.30pm
Queen's, Belfast (Harty Room)
£10/£5

12. The Chronic Identity Crisis of Pamplemousse

Children's Opera by Greg Caffrey
17th - 22nd Jun 2019
Six N. Ireland tour dates,
venues and pricing to be
announced (Check HRSE and
NIO websites for latest)
Tickets for the various events can
be found at www.niopera.com

HOW TO BOOK

Booking for all HRSE
organised events can be
made through our website:
www.hardrainensemble.com
Alternatively, you can pay at
the door of the venue on the
evening of the performance
(subject to availability).

Concerts & Events



Sinead Hayes
conducting Elliot Carter

Constellations

One might think of this concert as a true constellation of sound, harnessing as it does the mighty resources (and they are mighty) of SARC's incredible technological facility. Central to a concert celebrating colour as much as anything else, is **Tristan Murail's** *Thirteen colours of the setting sun*. This is a fascinating exploration of a single musical idea refracted sonically through time, its continuous trajectory analogous to Monet's paintings of identical scenes at different times of the day.

Gathering Dust by **Pedro Rebelo** is a nostalgic celebration of those old abandoned instruments that we have lying in attics and cupboards. Combining 8 channel electronics and a beautiful visual element, this work is a feast for the eyes as well as the ears.

Works requiring "fixed media" are **Ian McCurdy's** kaleidoscopic *Found Sounds Lost*, a previous HRSE commission and **John Buckley's** multi-flute composition, *Constellations*, from which this concert takes its name and which towers as a monument to the instrument. Our incredible **Featured Composer 2018/19**, **Jane O'leary**, adds contrast to the programme with *Nº19*, a work for solo violin, which she endows with the widest palate of colour available to the instrument. *LUCA*, another HRSE commission, from **Gráinne Mulvey**, is a powerful, arresting and uncompromising work and **Jonathan Harvey's** *Run before Lightning* is a virtuosic sprint of a piece that HRSE first unleashed on its audiences last year. We are very proud to premiere **Eduard Zatriqi's** *Balkan Spectres* here, a work that combines concepts drawn from spectral music and Kosovan folk music. Eduard is a previous recipient of HRSE's Peter Rosser Award and this commission was funded through **the PRSf Talent Development Partnership**.

Sonic Lab, Sonic Arts Research Centre (SARC)
Queen's University Belfast

Friday 2nd November 2018, 7.30pm

Free admission (with eventbrite ticket)

* Commissioned by HRSE with funds from ACNI Small Grants.

** Commissioned by HRSE with funds from PRSf Talent Development Partnership.

Found Sounds Lost* (2016)

Iain McCurdy (1972)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello,
piano & fixed medium

Constellations (2009)

John Buckley (1951)
pre-recorded multiple flutes
and live solo flute

Balkan Spectres (2018)**

Eduard Zatriqi (1987)
clarinet, violin & violoncello

Nº 19 (2012)

Jane O'Leary (1946)
solo violin

Gathering Dust (2017)

Pedro Rebelo (1972)
flute, clarinet, violin,
violoncello, piano, 8 channel
electronics & video

Interval

LUCA* (2018)

Gráinne Mulvey (1966)
flute, clarinet, violin,
violoncello & piano

Run before Lightning (2004)

Jonathan Harvey (1939 – 2012)
flute & piano

Treize Couleurs du Soleil Couchant (1978)

Tristan Murail (1947)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello,
piano, electronics & video

Young Artists Platform

Lunchtime Recital with Cathryn Lynch & Alex Petcu

HRSE are proud to be in partnership with Queen's University Belfast, School of Arts, English and Languages for this lunchtime recital promoting the talented percussionist **Cathryn Lynch**. Cathryn was the successful applicant in HRSE's Young Artist Scheme 2018/19, and as such will be involved in the ensemble's activities during this season. She is joined here by Hard Rain percussionist, **Alex Petcu**, himself no stranger to the Queen's University lunchtime recital series. In addition to Alex's activities with HRSE he is a busy freelance musician, much in demand throughout Ireland.

Harty Room,
Queen's University Belfast

Thursday 13th December 2018, 1pm

Free admission

Clapping Music (1972)

Steve Reich (1936)
2 musicians clapping

Okavango (1998)

Damian Harron (1971)
2 Drums

Over the Rainbow (1939)

arr. **Max Leth (1921)**
Harold Arlen (1905)
vibraphone

Kim (2001)

Askill Másson (1953)
solo snare

Eastern Fantasia (2002)

Rihards Zalupe (1983)
marimba

Paddy (2003)

Donnacha Dennehy (1970)
miscellaneous junk

2-gather (2005)

Matthias Schmitt (1958)
2 marimbas

Nagoya Marimbas (1994)

Steve Reich (1936)
2 marimbas

Postlude N° 8 (2012)

Elliot Cole (1984)
vibraphone

Quadrain

Five years ago, at the time of writing, HRSE gave its first ever performance to a rapturous audience in Belfast's newly opened MAC. That concert featured the music of the Japanese composer **Toru Takemitsu** and we are delighted to mark the anniversary of this concert by again presenting the Japanese master's sumptuous *Quadrain II*.

We welcome the participation of our 2018/19 young artist, **Cathryn Lynch**, in this concert, again performing a work by Takemitsu along with our own percussionist **Alex Petcu**, and if you want to hear more of this brilliant young performer we would direct you toward her dedicated lunchtime recital with Alex on **Thursday 13th December at Queen's University, Harty Room**. Continuing the Japanese aesthetic, we bring you, in this concert, virtuosic works by **Moshizuki** and **Teruyuki** that are beautiful as well as astonishing explorations of the instruments involved. **Greg Caffrey's** *These are the clouds* was written as a compliment to that first concert five years ago and appears again here along with one of our talented **Peter Rosser Award** finalists, **Stephen Coyle's** gentle and quirky *Taking [up][in][off][away]*. Our Featured Composer **Jane O'Leary** opens our concert spectacularly with a work for the full ensemble, her beautifully evocative *Sunshowers*.

Harty Room,
Queen's University Belfast

Saturday 15th December 2018, 7.30pm

£10/£5

Sunshowers (2007)

Jane O'Leary (1946)
alto flute, clarinet, violin,
violoncello, piano & percussion

Intermezzi I (1998)

Misato Mochizuki (1969)
flute & piano

These are the Clouds* (2013)

Greg Caffrey (1963)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

Ecologue (1970)

Teruyuki Noda (1940)
flute & percussion

Interval

Taking [up][in][off][away]* (2018)

Stephen Coyle (1991)
Finalist in the 3rd Peter Rosser Composition Award
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

Cross Hatch (1982)

Toru Takemitsu (1930)
marimba & vibraphone

Quark Intermezi III (2010)

Misato Mochizuki (1969)
solo percussion

Quadrain II (1977)

Toru Takemitsu (1930)
clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

* Written specially for HRSE

Ink Still Wet

It is with great pride that HRSE offers this concert of music that contains no less than eight works created especially for the ensemble and its players. Indeed, the only work not written specifically for the ensemble, by our Featured Composer **Jane O'Leary**, is in fact being premiered here by HRSE pianist **Daniel Browell**. If a local group has an obligation to support its local composers then behold: Three of the works presented here are HRSE commissions for full ensemble with funding from **ACNI**. A further two smaller works were commissioned with funds from **PRSF Talent Development Partnership** and two pieces won awards in our 3rd **Peter Rosser Award 2018**. The final contribution comes from within the ensemble itself, from the pen of HRSE cellist **Dave McCann** and for his colleague HRSE flautist **Aisling Agnew**.

If the support of local music is important to you then this concert, funded by the **PRSF Talent Development Partnership**, is not to be missed.

**Sonic Lab,
Sonic Arts Research Centre (SARC)
Queens University Belfast**

Sunday 17th February 2019, 7.30pm

£10/£5

* Commissioned by HRSE with funds from ACNI Small Grants.

** Commissioned by HRSE with funds from PRSF Talent Development Partnership.

***Written specially for HRSE

The emptiness of the ever-expanding universe cannot compare to the void where your heart should be (2018)*

Ian Wilson (1964)
alto flute, bass clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

New Work (2019)***

Dave McCann (1986)
solo flute

Points of Attraction (2018)**

Chris McCann (1989)
bass clarinet & violoncello

A Palette of Preludes (2015)

Jane O'Leary (1946)
solo piano

The Zeddy Dance (2016)*

Simon Mawhinney (1976)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

Interval

Ground Truthing (2018)*

Piers Hellawell (1956)
flute (picc. alt fl. mel.), bass clarinet (Bb cl),
violin, violoncello & piano

weave (2018)**

Chris McAteer (1988)
flute & violoncello

Perelandrian Drift (2018)***

Anselm McDonnell (1994)
Finalist in the 3rd Peter Rosser Composition Award
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

Fatta Morgana (2018)***

Omar Zatriqi (1987)
First prize in the 3rd Peter Rosser Composition Award
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

Across The Pond

HRSE performed **Elliott Carter's Triple Duo** a few years ago and it has been a work that the ensemble has longed to return to. As we are celebrating our fifth anniversary, now was felt to be the time to revisit this monumental and challenging chamber work. A perfect opportunity as well to perform some of Carter's compatriots, resulting in a programme with a strong USA thread, albeit a broad stylistic variety. **Perry Goldstein's Twittering machine** is a beautifully wrought reflection on the eponymous painting by Paul Klee, while *Into the depths* by **Elizabeth Kelly**, written for Sarah Watts' latest instrumental acquisition, the contrabass clarinet, explores the full registral and expressive range of the unique instrument, from the shuddering depths of the lowest register to the surprising lyrical melodic playing possible in the altissimo stratosphere. Completing the American line up of work is **John Zorn's** explosive *Hexentarrot* for piano trio, a work HRSE gave the UK/Irish premiere of last year. From our side of the pond we have two spanking new pieces to offer audiences. Firstly, one of HRSE's latest commissions, *Ground Truthing* by **Piers Hellawell**, and then the latest work from **Greg Caffrey** to complete his Yeats trilogy, *Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold*. Finally, we have a work that could conceivably fit comfortably on either side of the pond, *Winter Reflections* from Connecticut born Irish composer (and our 2018/19 Featured Composer), **Jane O'Leary**.

Belfast - Harty Room, Queen's University Belfast

Wednesday 27th March 2019, 7.30pm - £10/£5

**Birmingham - Bradshaw Hall,
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire**

**Fri 29th Mar 2019, 7.30pm (doors 7pm) Info & Tickets
available through www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire**

Dublin - (Venue & time TBA)

**Saturday 30th March 2019
Info & Tickets available through www.composers.ie**

* Commissioned by HRSE with funds from ACNI Small Grants.

** Written specially for HRSE

Twittering Machine (1997 rev. 1998)

Perry Goldstien (1952)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello,
piano & percussion

Into the depths (2018)

Elizabeth Kelly (1982)
contrabass clarinet & piano

Hexentarrot (2013)

John Zorn (1953)
violin, violoncello & piano

Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold (2018)**

Greg Caffrey (1963)
flute (picc.), bass clarinet,
violin, violoncello & piano

Interval

Ground Truthing* (2018)

Piers Hellawell (1956)
flute (picc. alt fl. mel.), bass
clarinet (Bb cl), violin,
violoncello & piano

Winter Reflections* (2010)**

Jane O'Leary (1946)
alto flute, bass clarinet & violin

Triple Duo (1983)

Elliott Carter (1908)
flute (picc.), bass clarinet
(Eb & Bb cl.), violin, violoncello,
piano & percussion

*** Birmingham Concert substitute

Archie (2005)

Joe Cutler (1968)
violin, violoncello & piano

4th Peter Rosser Composition award



Omar Zatriqi, 1st Prize Peter Rosser Composition Award, 2018

This event presents performances of the three shortlisted works (anonymously chosen by jury) in the **4th 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, *Fatta Morgana* by **Omar Zatriqi** as well as a featured appearance by our **Hard Rain Young Artist 2018/19**, the percussionist **Cathryn Lynch**.

See website for submission guidelines. HRSE encourages submissions from female composers.

Redbox Recording, Belfast

Sunday 14th April 2019, 7.30pm

Places are limited

Admission is strictly by advance booking through the HRSE website contact page

**Performance of 3 works
to be selected by jury**
Anonymous submission

3 Dances for Solo Snare Drum (1962)

Warren Benson (1924)

solo snare drum

Featuring **Cathryn Lynch - percussion**

Hard Rain Young Artist 2018

Bongo – O (1982)

Roberto Sierra (1953)

solo bongos

Featuring **Cathryn Lynch - percussion**

Fatta Morgana

Omar Zatriqi

1st Prize in the 3rd Peter Rosser Composition Award

flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

UYO Workshop and Concert

This workshop will see Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble team up with some of the talented players of the **Ulster Youth Orchestra** to explore repertoire for an unspecified group of instruments under the baton of Sinead Hayes. This serves as a taster session, for the UYO musicians, in terms of the performance of contemporary music, 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.

**Join us in performance at 6.30pm
for an unmissable experience!**

**COMPOSER OPPORTUNITY!
CALL FOR SCORES**

This year HRSE and UYO team up with the Contemporary Music Centre, Ireland in a call for scores from composers interested in writing works for an indefinite and ad hoc orchestral group. A number of submissions will be selected to be rehearsed in the UYO workshop and performed in the evening.

**The deadline for the submission of
scores is Friday 1st March 2019 at 4pm.**

**Harty Room,
Queen's University Belfast**

**Monday 15th April 2019
Concert 6.30pm**

Workshop – 2pm (not open to the public)

Free admission

**There is no age limit for this call
for scores and scores may have
been performed previously.**

Submissions should be based on the assumption that **a range of orchestral instruments** will be involved. Do not contact us to ask which instruments will be available – we will not know until the day.

Generally, parts must allow for a variety of instrumental voices, across several clefs, and must deal with the issues of individual instrumental transposition (wind and brass) through the supply of a range of alternative versions (eg. Bb, Eb, F and C transpositions).

String parts may be organized into low, medium, high and notated on treble, alto and bass clefs, but we have no way of knowing what the string size will be (likely one or two players to each part).

Percussion and keyboard may be included, but do not write for specific perc. instruments as we do not know what will be available on the day. A piano will be available.

Level of difficulty: Composers are encouraged to write music that can be worked up into a performance by a combination of professional and good amateur players with just 30 – 45 mins rehearsal.

Composers must write in such a way as to offer a score that has the **maximum flexibility** and that takes account of the unknown size and makeup of the orchestra. Good scores will offer interesting solutions to these problems.

**HRSE particularly welcomes scores
from female composers. Scores should be
sent to hardrainensemble@icloud.com**

On the wing of the sky

This programme has been curated by HRSE's 2018/19 Featured Composer Jane O'Leary, of which she writes:

"Is there a distinct flavour to the music by these 9 women composers? Each work makes a strong personal statement. The music is varied and colourful, ranging from Saariaho's evocation of the moon to Gardner's reflection on the writings of Native American poet Joy Harjo and Grime's response to three chalk and pastel miniatures by the 19th century American-born painter Whistler. Visual images of a winter sun and bare branches can be found in my *Winter Sketchbook* and Tower, founder of one of the first new music ensembles in the USA, creates a 'carnival on ice' reflecting both Stravinsky's ballet and the fluid motion of ice skating. The idea of song links Clarke's atmospheric piece built on a chorus created by her own voice and Tanaka's soliloquy for cello and electronics inspired by the Song of Solomon, a song of love. Finally, it's a pleasure to include new music from two young composers from N. Ireland - Amy Rooney and Aine Mallon. The title of the programme is a reference point in Gardner's work *Crows*, and I invite you to join us on a journey through the sky."

Jane O'Leary

Harty Room,
Queen's University Belfast

Thursday 18th April 2019, 7.30pm

£10/£5

Petroushskates (1980)

Joan Tower (1938)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

New Work (2019)

Aine Mallon (1994)
flute & clarinet

Con Coro (2011)

Rhona Clarke (1958)
violin, violoncello & tape

Oi Kuu - For the Moon (1990)

Kaija Saariaho (1952)
bass clarinet, violoncello

Three Whistler Miniatures (2011)

I. *The Little Note in Yellow and Gold (Tranquillo)*

II. *Lapis Lazuli (Presto)*

III. *The Violet Note (Lontano, molto flessibile)*

Helen Grime (1981)
violin, violoncello & piano

Interval

Phosphenes (2019)

Amy Rooney (1983)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

A Winter Sketchbook I, II & III (2015)

Jane O'Leary (1946)
alto flute & violin

The Song of Songs (1996)

Karen Tanaka (1961)
violoncello & fixed medium

Crows (1998)

red earth / clusters / silver breaths / invocation / drying stone
Alexandra Gardner (1967)
clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

The Chronic Identity Crisis of Pamplemousse



Illustration by Paula Caffrey

An NI Opera Production of The Chronic Identity Crisis of Pamplemousse

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's a whimsical 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 Soloist Ensemble and encompassing the exceptional vocal talents of NI Opera.

Finally, after a wonderful concert performance last season, we have the opportunity to see the fully staged production in all its glory. Don't miss this!

Six tour dates and venues to be announced across N. Ireland.
(Check HRSE and NIO websites for latest)

17th - 22nd June 2019

Pedagogy



Joanne Quigley McParland
performing John Zorn

HRSE at Queen's

The single most significant development in HRSE's 2018/19 Season, indeed a landmark moment in the ensemble's short history, is its establishment as **Ensemble in Residence at Queen's University**. This initiative not only provides support for our organisation at a time when it is most dearly needed – that is at a time when our ACNI subsidy has been slashed – but allows the ensemble to embed its substantial season within the wonderful atmosphere and ambiance offered by the university. Its two venues are a remarkable boost to the experience the ensemble can now give its audiences and it is perfect for a vibrant ensemble to be based amid the equally vibrant life of the university campus. In terms of the direct educational offer to students, concert season aside, nothing changes. HRSE continues its extensive **Industry Professional** relationship with Queens University alongside its residency, one enhancing the other. On behalf of the ensemble I would like to say a thank you to Queen's for continuing its investment in HRSE, an investment that we will ensure pays a great pedagogic, cultural and creative dividend in the future.

Dr. Greg Caffrey
Artistic Director – Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble

"I am delighted to welcome Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble to Music at Queen's in the School of Arts, English and Languages, as our Ensemble in Residence. For the last four years the study of music in Queen's has been greatly enriched by the contribution of Hard Rain as our 'Industry Professionals'; our student composers have enjoyed the rare luxury of having professional attention to their musical output, along with training in concert presentation, from Belfast's own new music ensemble, which is now one of the UK's rising forces in the field.



Harty Room



Sonic Lab

To this education strand our new Residency now adds the opportunity to present Hard Rain in concert, on campus, as an integrated part of our musical season; it is my pleasure to welcome these virtuoso instrumentalists to Music at Queen's and to commend to you their exciting and bold series of concert programmes, presented across our two world-class music venues – Harty Room and Sonic Lab.

As usual, Hard Rain brings in a stream of modern classics and new discoveries while, as its cornerstone, continuing to premiere and re-visit work from Northern Ireland's own flourishing composer scene; no other ensemble in Ireland offers a continuing showcase of home-grown new work against a riotous back-drop drawn from today's music around the globe. Hard Rain is a one-off, an ensemble whose commitment to the expressive force of new music makes it the perfect partner for Music at Queen's. Live music will only remain live if audiences attend, and I do hope you will be able to find your way to Queen's to support the exciting programmes in this 2018-19 season."

Professor Piers Hellawell
Composer and Professor of Composition, QUB

Workshops & Mentorship

ENSEMBLE IN RESIDENCE & INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, BELFAST

For the last 5 years, HRSE has had the privilege of working with students at Queen's. This year we are delighted to be continuing our role as Industry Professionals with the University while augmenting the partnership through our recent appointment as Ensemble in Residence. 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 support for students studying Audio Engineering and Production. This year, HRSE will continue its engagement with Queen's work placement scheme, offering the opportunity for a student to assist administratively, in terms of stage management and as front of house staff.

"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 spectator, to controlling magician within it, transformed by artistic practice."

Piers Hellawell

Professor of Composition at QUB

ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE

It is a great pleasure for HRSE to be invited this season to the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, not only to give a concert, but to work in a separate workshop with their Phd Composers alongside their teacher Professor Joe Cutler.

Workshop with RBC music students
Thursday 28th March 2019, not open to the public

WORKING WITH THE ULSTER YOUTH ORCHESTRA

HRSE are delighted to work with the players of the UYO for the 3rd consecutive year. 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
Queen's, Harty Room. **Monday 15th April 2019, 2pm – 5pm** Workshop not open to the public.
Informal performance: 6.30pm Open invite.
HRSE will be calling for scores through CMC.

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).

INCLUSIVE IMMERSIVE MUSIC

HRSE's recent collaboration with an interdisciplinary team from Queen's, Drake Music NI and immersive content designers BeAnotherLab will culminate in an evening showcasing outcomes of a Research and Partnership Development project on the next generation of immersive experiences.



Inclusive Immersive Music Project May-June 2018

Throughout the project during May-June 2018 we addressed challenges of the next generation of immersive experiences in music performance and disability. Our aim was to better understand and share experiences of young musicians affected by a physical disability.

Tuesday 6th November 2018, 5pm - 8.30pm
Queen's, Sonic Arts Research Centre, Sonic Lab

The evening will open with a **VR experience session (5pm - 6pm)**, followed by a **performance at 6.15pm**.

There will follow a **public debate** on inclusion, disability and emerging technologies **(7.30pm - 8.30pm)**, and close the evening with a wine reception and a few small bites!
More info at Eventbrite

MENTORING YOUNG ARTISTS

HRSE will offer another opportunity this year to an exceptional UYO member/s (selected by audition) to become their Featured Young Artists 2019/20. 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 2019/20 Season. HRSE is currently offering these opportunities to its Hard Rain Young Artist 2018/19, the percussionist **Cathryn Lynch**.

4th PETER ROSSER COMPOSITION AWARD

The Peter Rosser Composition Award was jointly established by Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble 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. [HRSE encourages scores from female composers.](#)

The competition is now open!
Deadline for submissions 15th March 2019 4pm

Application details available at www.hardrainensemble.com

Biographies



Aisling Agnew
performing John Buckley

Artistic director



Photography by Ciaran McIlhannon

Greg Caffrey

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. He was also a finalist in the ISME - IVME 2nd International Composition Contest (Brussels in 2008), in the Taukay Edizioni Musicali International Composition Prize (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.

We are happy to welcome another pair of hands to the organisation this season in the form of our Queen's University work placement student Laoise Kavanagh.

Laoise Kavanagh is a clarinetist from North Belfast and is currently in her final year studying music at Queen's University Belfast. She began learning clarinet aged twelve and now studies under the tutelage of Paul Schumann, formerly of the Ulster Orchestra.

Laoise has performed as Principal Clarinet in ensembles including the City of Belfast Youth Concert Band and the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra (CBYO). This year she will be performing with the CBYO at the MFY Proms in London's Royal Albert Hall, and will be participating in a concert tour of Belgium and the Netherlands. In July 2018, Laoise made her solo debut with the Irish Youth Wind Ensemble, performing the Martin Ellerby Clarinet Concerto at St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church, Galway and at the Cork Institute of Technology's Curtis Auditorium.

In May 2018, Laoise was awarded the Hamilton Harty Scholarship by Queen's University which enabled her to travel to Austria and Slovakia in August 2018 with the Ulster Youth Orchestra as part of the orchestra's 25th anniversary concert tour.



Laoise is grateful to the Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble for giving her the opportunity to work alongside them during their 2018/19 season as she prepares for postgraduate study.

The core ensemble

Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble is the only professional ensemble 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. Percussionist **Alex Petcu** returns for a number of projects this year, including a shared lunchtime recital with our **2018/19 Featured Young Performer**, **Cathryn Lynch** as part of our mentorship programme. We are also delighted to welcome the return of harpist **Richard Allen** for the tour of our full production of the opera *The Chronic Identity Crisis of Pamplemousse* in June 2019. In addition, for our opening concert, we have two fantastic deputy players standing in for our regular ensemble members. These are the Dutch clarinetist **Fie Schouten** and Scottish violinist **Feergus Hetherington**. Feergus and Fie are no strangers to the ensemble having worked with us on exciting projects last season.

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



Sinead Hayes Conductor

Irish conductor Sinead Hayes is equally at home working with choir, orchestra and in opera. She is in her fifth season as conductor of the Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble.

Last season saw her debuts with Irish National Opera (Mozart: *Der Schauspieldirektor*), Northern Ireland Opera (Brecht/Weill: *The Threepenny Opera* & Caffrey: *The Chronic Identity Crisis of Pamplemousse*) and Opera Collective Ireland (OCI), alongside return invitations to conduct the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra and RTÉ Concert Orchestra. She also made her Berlin Philharmonie debut, playing Irish fiddle in two of the Berlin Philharmonic's family concerts, performing alongside members of the orchestra.

Sinead has been appointed Irish National Opera Studio conductor for 2018-19, where she will be assistant conductor and chorus director for the company's productions, as well as conducting a number of showcase events with the young artists. This season she also returns to conduct productions with Northern Ireland Opera and Opera Collective Ireland, alongside her work with the Hard Rain Ensemble.

She studied violin at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, graduated with a BMus in violin and composition from City University, London, and completed her MMus in orchestral conducting at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, winning the Mortimer Furber conducting prize.



David McCann Violoncello

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

A passionate interpreter of new music, David has given premiere performances of dozens of new pieces for his instrument. He is also active as a composer; in 2017 he was commissioned by HRSE to compose *Three Caprices* for solo cello. A new work for solo flute will be performed for the first time in 2019.

David has worked with many of the U.K. and Ireland's leading orchestras, including the Hallé Orchestra, the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, the Ulster Orchestra, the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestra of Opera North. Since 2012 he has been principal cellist of the Jersey Chamber Orchestra.

David teaches privately at his home in Belfast.



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 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.



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 multi phonics and published a book on the subject. Sarah is a Vandoren UK Artist, Selmer bass clarinet artist, Uebel clarinet artist and a Silverstein pro artist.



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 is a graduate of 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. She works regularly with ensembles such as the Irish Memory Orchestra and her long-standing flute and guitar duo with Matthew McAllister with whom she has toured worldwide.

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



Daniel Browell Piano

Daniel Browell enjoys a busy and varied performing career, having given recitals in the UK, Europe and North America since receiving acclaim in the national press for his London Southbank recital in the Purcell Room in 2006. He gave his BBC Proms debut in 2008, 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. In 2010 he returned to The Bridgewater Hall to give a solo recital as part of the Manchester Midday Concerts Society's prestigious season.

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

Recent highlights include concerto performances in the Netherlands and Scotland with the Universities of Scotland Symphony Orchestra, a cycle of the five Beethoven Concerti, and in November 2018 he is giving several recitals in China. This year Daniel will be travelling to the Lebanese Republic to help develop young pianists there.

Daniel is currently Associate Head of Keyboard at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

Guest musicians

Percussion & Harp



Alex Petcu Percussion

Alex Petcu is a percussionist who is quickly establishing himself both nationally and internationally as a musician of the finest calibre. As an active freelance musician, he regularly performs with 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 Soloist Ensemble, 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.



Richard Allen Harp

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; 1st 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 & Clarinet



Feargus Hetherington Violin

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 Lliam 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.



Fie Schouten Clarinet

The Dutch clarinetist Fie Schouten is an Amsterdam based specialist in the performance of new music with a preference for playing on the low clarinets. Schouten can be heard extensively as a soloist and with her own ensembles. She has had around 100 pieces written for her, which she has premiered in various formations.

Fie Schouten is Artistic Director of a bass clarinet festival titled 'Basklarinet Festijn' that is currently in its third edition (2018). In 2015 Dutch Donemus Publishing published her album of bass clarinet miniatures. Schouten is Professor of Bass Clarinet at the Prince Claus Conservatoire Groningen. Since 2008 she has been one of the Stockhausen-soloists performing many works by Karlheinz Stockhausen with renowned ensembles.

Schouten has been the recipient of competition prizes (Gaudeamus, Illzach, Tera de Marez Oyens) and produced five CDs under her own name. She studied clarinet and bass clarinet at the Amsterdam Conservatoire and cites Harry Sparnaay as her most important teacher.

Hard Rain featured composer 2018/19



Jane O'Leary

Born in Hartford, Connecticut, Jane O'Leary became resident in Ireland in 1972, making her home in Galway on the west coast. A founding member of Aosdána, Ireland's state-sponsored academy of creative artists, she is a graduate of Vassar College and holds a PhD in composition from Princeton University, where she studied with Milton Babbitt among others. She was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Music Degree by the National University of Ireland in 2007.

This year we are delighted to welcome Jane O'Leary as our 2018/19 Featured Composer. Jane's name is synonymous with contemporary music in Ireland not only as a composer, but as a figurehead for the music. Her tireless work as founder/director of Concorde Ensemble has had an immeasurable impact on the development of new music in Ireland over a period of more than 40 years.

As artistic director and pianist of Concorde ensemble, Jane O'Leary has been nurturing the development of new music in Ireland and promoting its performance worldwide since 1976.

Jane's music has been represented on numerous occasions at the ISCM World New Music Days and has been performed at prestigious international festivals and venues, including the Kennedy Center, Washington DC; the Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, NY; Chicago Cultural Center; Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris; Spitalfields Festival, London. The RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra featured her music on their debut tour of the USA in 2003.

The Passing Sound of Forever, a CD of Jane's chamber music, was released in January 2017 with Navona Records: navonarecords.com/catalog/nv6068/

www.cmc.ie/composers/jane-oleary

"It's a great pleasure and honour to have my music featured throughout HRSE's 2018-19 season - I'm looking forward to hearing their interpretations of my music and also to meeting new audiences in Belfast."

Jane O'Leary

Hard Rain featured young artist 2018/19



Cathryn Lynch

Cathryn Lynch is a first-year percussionist studying at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. She is currently Principle Percussionist with the Ulster Youth Orchestra and the European Youth Brass Band. She was amongst the first cohort of musicians selected for the Ulster Orchestra's professional experience scheme and this year performed alongside the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the first night of the Proms. Cathryn has performed solos across Europe and Northern Ireland, from playing with the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra on a tour of Spain and Portugal to winning Northern Ireland Youth musician of the year in 2015.

HRSE welcomes the talented young percussionist Cathryn Lynch as our 2018/19 Featured Young Artist. We look forward to promoting Cathryn as well as offering her performance opportunities and mentorship during the season.

"I'm really excited to delve into contemporary music with professionals who love it just as much as I do"

Cathryn Lynch

New Repertoire



Sarah Watts
performing Elizabeth Kelly

HRSE Commissions and bespoke music



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 3rd Peter Rosser Composition Award from composers, **Omar Zatriqi** (1st Prize), **Anselm McDonnell** and **Stephen Coyle**. We have another new work for the full ensemble from our Artistic Director **Greg Caffrey** and a work from the ensemble's cellist **Dave McCann** for his colleague and our wonderful flautist **Aisling Agnew**.

As if all this new music were not enough, we initiated a competitive call for three more commissions again this year with funds from **PRSF Talent Development**

Partnership. These are for smaller works aimed at early career composers and this year were awarded to **Eduard Zatriqi** (1st Prize recipient of the 2016 Peter Rosser Composition Award), **Chris McCann** (a runner-up in the 2016 Peter Rosser Award) and **Chris McAteer**.

Two 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 past HRSE Featured Composers **Ian Wilson** and **Piers Hellowell**, two of Ireland and the UK's most influential figures in contemporary music.

Previous HRSE commissions receive continued exposure this year. **Iain McCurdy's** *Found Sounds Lost* from our 2016/17 Season and **Gráinne Mulvey's** *LUCA*, commissioned last year, will both be performed in our opening concert and **Simon Mawhinney's** 2016 HRSE commission *The Zeddy Dance* makes a welcome return in our February **Ink Still Wet** concert.

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

Michael Quinn
Culture NI

Friends



Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble 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 – bring all your friends, and their extended families and pets. No, not their pets!

We are holding our ticket prices for Season 2018/19 at £10/5 because we feel high quality contemporary music should be accessible to everyone.

Otherwise, please **Rain Support on Us:**

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



Drizzle contributor

£5 per month or £60 per year
This contribution could, for example, help fund a performer's travel expenses for a concert.



Hard Rain contributor

£10 per month or £120 per year
This contribution could help towards the cost of music purchase/hire for a concert.



Deluge contributor

£25 per month or £300 per year
This contribution could help supplement fees for our wonderful performers.

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

Thank you

Or make a single **Cloudburst** donation:

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

- Donations can be made using the '**Make a Contribution**' button on our website. www.hardrainensemble.com
- Or by cheque (though bank charges will apply).
- We can also furnish you with our bank details if you would like to make a transfer from your account. Contact hardrainensemble@icloud.com
- Or you can donate when you buy a ticket for our events through Eventbrite.

Monsoon contribution for businesses and organisations.

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

In these difficult financial times we realise that life is hard for everyone, not just our organisation, so the schemes above are aimed only at those HRSE supporters that can genuinely afford to contribute. Otherwise, having you at a concert is brilliant support on its own.

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

All contributors will be acknowledged on our web page

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 acknowledge the support of our principal funder **The Arts Council of Northern Ireland** and are additionally grateful for the contribution of the **PRSF Talent Development Partnership**.

Support from our partners and collaborators, **Queen's University, School of Arts, English and Languages, NI Opera, Redbox Recording, The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, The Association of Irish Composers, The Peter Rosser Foundation, The Contemporary Music Centre, Ireland and The Ulster Youth Orchestra** is invaluable to us.

A final and sincere thanks goes to all the incredible supporters of this wonderful music. We are grateful for those who crossed the threshold of our performance spaces 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 new-comers. This year, in difficult circumstances, we offer this exciting programme to you, and we are so appreciative of your continued commitment and fervour.

Credits

We acknowledge support from the following organisations:

Principal Funding partners



LOTTERY FUNDED



Ensemble in Residence & Industry Professionals



Partner organisations and collaborators



PETER ROSSER FOUNDATION



association of Irish composers

“I dedicate this season to all who made, and who will make, it happen.”

Dr Greg Caffrey

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37.5% cut in arts subsidy
Fight the cuts!

Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble
www.hardrainensemble.com

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