

HARD
RAIN
SOLOISTENSEMBLE

2020/21 Season

stop - start - pause - go

Hard Rain
SoloistEnsemble

*Ensemble In Residence at
Queen's University, Belfast*



LOTTERY FUNDED

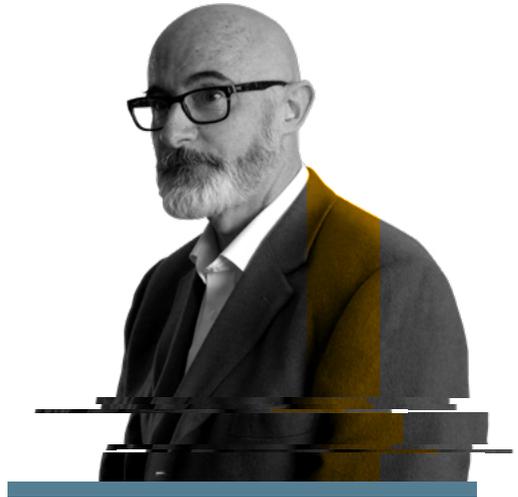
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A Welcome from the Artistic Director

Confused? Join the club. What bewildering times we are living through. The ground seems to be moving beneath our feet and as I write this introduction to another Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble season, I'm conscious that a new set of circumstances, laws, measures may be in place by the time I finish!



However, the show will go on this year. Not because "Zoom" performances, however innovative, are no substitute for live music making, not even because musicians need to take the tentative steps back towards earning a living in "the new normal", but because musicians simply have to be on a stage performing incredible music – it's what they do!

While our season will kick-off later than usual, our "down time" will be used positively as we prepare our first Hard Rain CD release. There will be much more about this exciting development as our project progresses, but we are finally delighted to be able to commit to disc some of the incredible music that the ensemble has commissioned since its formation. My thanks to the **ACNI Organisation's Emergency Programme** for that welcome support. And congratulations to **Piers Hellawell** and **Ian Wilson**, whose previous HRSE commissioned works have already found their way onto new releases on the Delphian and Diatribe labels respectively. Seek these recordings out and add them to your collection.

As to the new season. We begin with the 4th annual instalment of our **Ink Still Wet** series, now a regular feature of our season. As always in this event we celebrate the new music that we have recently brought into being, in this case no less than 5 works commissioned through the **ACNI Small Grants** and **PRSf Talent Development Partnership** as well as 3 shortlisted works, written for the ensemble in response to our call for anonymous submissions in our **Peter Rosser Composition Award**. Making the shortlist this year were the composers **Samantha McCoy**, **Anita Mawhinney** and **Kevin Terry**. This is the first year in which the public will get to hear the 3 shortlisted works performed in advance of the finals, taking place on 29th March 2021. We very much look forward to that.

Commissioned composers this year include well established names in Irish music, **Rhona Clarke** and **Ed Bennett**, as well as early-career composers **Katie Bamford**, **Samantha McCoy** and **Anselm McDonnell**. We are delighted as well, this year, to be featuring a new work dedicated to HRSE from French composer **Philippe Festou**, director of the French contemporary music group **Ensemble Yin**.

While the present situation necessarily lends itself towards increased isolation for organisations, we are adamant that the wonderful partnerships that we have cultivated over the years can still form an important part of our way forward. Consequently, our existing relationships with **Red Box Recording**, the **Peter Rosser Foundation**, the excellent **Maiden Voyage Dance**, **Ulster Youth Orchestra**, **Contemporary Music Centre**, **Sonorities Festival** and **Sounding the Feminists** will continue to be as essential as ever in the execution of our season. Similarly, our fruitful relationship with **Queen's University**, as part of their **Industry Professional Programme**, but also as their **Ensemble in Residence**, will prosper against all the odds. The challenge of creating COVID-safe spaces for audiences and performers is significant, but it is a challenge that the University and Hard Rain have at the forefront of our planning. We, therefore, will be imposing social distancing at concerts, capping audience sizes for the foreseeable future and will, as a last resort, be moving to live streaming of concerts, without a live audience, if circumstances dictate. That said, it is my greatest wish that we will be welcoming our incredible Hard Rain audiences back to the concert hall in 2021.

While the cancellation of some events was unavoidable last season, we hope to revisit some of those best laid plans this season, so you won't miss out. As a consequence, many of our most established Irish composers, whose works could not in the end be performed in the last season, will still feature. This includes the previously promised performance of **Raymond Deane's Seachanges** as well as repeat performances of past HRSE commissions by **Jane O'Leary**, **Piers Hellawell**, **John Buckley** and **Gráinne Mulvey** and of works previously unperformed by HRSE by **Anne-Marie O'Farrell**, **John McLachlan** and **Ann Cleare**.



Our **Sonorities Festival** appearance, originally planned for last season and for which HRSE and Sonorities issued a call for scores, will now go ahead. I am delighted to say that the identities of the chosen composers are now known to us (not the case at this time last year). It promises to be a unique event as four of the five selected composers hail from Latin America. Given that the jury's selection was made through anonymous submission this is as interesting a result as it is exotic. However, as if confirming again the strength of our local compositional talent, our own **Omar Zatriqi**, a previous Peter Rosser Award winner was also one of the anonymous selections. But, a big congratulations as well to **Levy Oliveira** (Brazil), **Marcos Stuardo** (Chile), **Matias Padellaro** (Argentina) and **Pedro Sarmiento** (Columbia).

While our **Sounding the Feminists** concert in the National Concert Hall was the first event to bite the dust as soon as lockdowns began in March 2020, happily we plan to present a similar programme in the Harty Room this season. It was so important that this concert be postponed and not cancelled completely as the range of music included by the Irish and International composers featured is simply breathtaking. We present it this year as part of the annual celebration of International Women's Day, happening in the week of our concert.

As part of the aforementioned concert and elsewhere in the season, we have great international works on display by **Misato Mochizuki** (Japan), **Sofia Gubaidulina** (Russia), **Perry Goldstein** (USA), **Judith Weir** (UK) as well as a very special dance performance, in collaboration with our friends at **Maiden Voyage Dance**, of **Louis Andriessen's** powerful *Workers Union* to end our 2020/21 Season.

We set ourselves a massive feat each season in the planning and implementation of our demanding programmes. This year that is coupled with an immense logistical challenge, with which comes responsibility; responsibility to keep our players and audiences safe. However, some things never change and it is, hence, our obligation, as well as our pleasure, to deliver an adventurous musical journey for you, our audience. This, as always, is paramount.

“ Who hears music feels his solitude peopled at once.”

Robert Browning

Dr. Greg Caffrey
Artistic Director



Season at a glance

Ink Still Wet 4 HRSE Concert

- QUB Harty Room
- Friday 15th January 2021 - 7.30pm

Seachanges HRSE Concert

- QUB Harty Room
- Friday 12th February 2021 - 7.30pm

In Celebration of International Women's Day

- QUB Harty Room
- Saturday 13th March 2021 - 7.30pm

Sonorities Festival Call for Scores

- QUB Harty Room
- Saturday 27th March 2021 - 1.00pm

Ulster Youth Orchestra/HRSE Workshop & Concert

- QUB Harty Room
- Sunday 28th March 2021 - 7.30pm - Workshop - 3pm (not open to the public)

5th Peter Rosser Composition Award

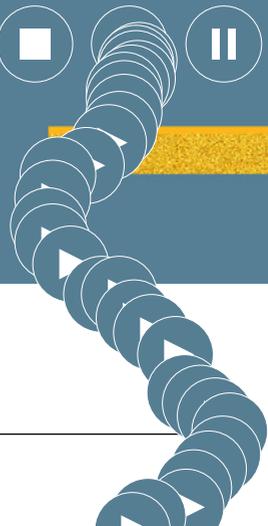
- Venue TBC
- Monday 29th March 2021 - 7.30pm

Workers Union with Maiden Voyage Dance Company

- SARC Sonic Lab
- Friday 28th May 2021 - 7.30pm

→ more info 

2020/21 Season



Ink Still Wet 4

HRSE Concert

- QUB Harty Room
- Friday 15th January 2021
- 7.30pm

This concert reflects HRSE's continued commitment to generating new repertoire and offering fresh opportunities to our range of composers, from those in the early part of their career through to some of the most distinguished. We are delighted to present two works here, by composers **Anselm McDonnell** and **Katie Bamford**, commissioned as part of our PRSf Talent Development Partnership. HRSE continues to commission works from our most established voices in new music. This year **Rhona Clarke** and **Ed Bennett**, are the recipients of our 2020/21 HRSE commissioning scheme, funded through ACNI Small Grants, and we are delighted to premiere these new works alongside two previous HRSE commissions from composers **John Buckley** and **Piers Hellawell**. Additionally, we offer our audience the chance to preview the three works shortlisted for the 5th Peter Rosser Composition Award by composers, **Anita Mawhinney**, **Kevin Terry** and **Samantha McCoy**.

THREE MOBILES AFTER ALEXANDER CALDER (2018)*

John Buckley (1951)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

REFRACTIONS (2020)** *World Premiere*
Anselm McDonnell (1994)
flute, clarinet & violin

NEW WORK (2020)* *World Premiere*
Ed Bennett (1975)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

DARK MEASURES (2020)*** *World Premiere*
Anita Mawhinney (1974)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

BUOYANT OBJECTS (2020)** *World Premiere*
Katie Bamford (1995)
violin, violoncello & clarinet

CAI SUSAH (2020)*** *World Premiere*
Samantha McCoy (1997)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

COIL THROUGH GLASS*** *World Premiere*
Kevin Terry (1988)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

GROUND TRUTHING (2018)*
Piers Hellawell (1956)
flute (pic. al fl, mel.), clarinet,
violin, violoncello & piano

* Commissioned by HRSE with funds from ACNI Small Grants.

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

*** Written specifically for HRSE.

Seachanges

HRSE Concert

- QUB Harty Room
- Friday 12th February 2021
- 7.30pm

Raymond Deane's highly individual *Seachanges* owes its inspiration partly to *The Tempest* and to preoccupations with death and metamorphosis. Due to the work's inclusion on the Leaving Certificate Music syllabus, it may be one of the most known and studied pieces of Irish contemporary music. **Ann Cleare's** intricate work *Inner* for cello and piano probes the very nature of sound itself in the most uncompromising way. A recent recipient of the prestigious Ernst von Siemens prize, she is surely one of Ireland's most pioneering composers. **John McLachlan's** work from 2013 refers to both dawn and the Aurora Borealis. The composer writes "While I thought of many impressions while writing the piece, one of them was that 2013 saw the centenary of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*". HRSE Artistic Director **Greg Caffrey** has "drip-fed" *A Terrible Beauty* to audiences over the seven years of the ensemble's existence, introducing each of the three movements as independent works as they emerged over the years. Indeed, this work has expanded into an orchestral piece, premiered by the **Ulster Orchestra** in 2020 and was lauded as a "recommended work" by illustrious composers Magnus Lindberg and Erkki-Sven-Tüür. This chamber version completes the Yeats trilogy. Brand new additions to Hard Rain's repertoire come in the form of **Samantha McCoy's** newly commissioned trio funded through PRSf and a work we were delighted to receive from the French composer **Philippe Festou**, dedicated to the Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble.

SEACHANGES WITH DANSE

MACABRE (1993 - 94)

Raymond Deane (1953)
piccolo (alt fl), piano, violin,
violoncello & percussion

LUNA (2020) ** World Premiere

Samantha McCoy (1997)
flute, clarinet & violoncello

CONTEMPLATIONS 3 -

SOLARIS (2020) *** World Premiere

Philippe Festou (1970)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello,
piano & percussion

INNER (2009)

Ann Cleare (1983)
violoncello & piano

AURORA (2013)

John McLachlan (1964)
flute (bs. fl), clarinet (bs. cl),
violoncello, piano & tape

A TERRIBLE BEAUTY II (CHAMBER

VERSION) (2019) *** World Premiere

Greg Caffrey (1963)
flute (picc.), clarinet (bs. cl), piano,
violin, violoncello and percussion

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

*** Written specifically for HRSE.

In Celebration of International Women's Day

- QUB Harty Room
- Saturday 13th March 2021
- 7.30pm

This concert features some of the works that HRSE has commissioned from women composers over the last 3 years. These works show the diversity that exists in Irish music today from the *Non-Stop* piano onslaught of **Rhona Clarke's** 2020 work, through **Gráinne Mulvey's** *LUCA* (2018) in which the very extremities of timbre are explored and on to the intricately textured sound-world of **Jane O'Leary's** *Beneath the dark blue waves* (2019). Additionally, we include here the beautifully lyrical solo clarinet work *Ruach* by **Anne-Marie O'Farrell**, heard here in the version for Bb Clarinet.

This wide aesthetic range is reflected in a stylistic continuum seen in the international works showcased, which span an early example of **Sofia Gubaidulina's** "Soviet" style, music by English composer **Judith Weir** with its origins in Scottish fiddle music, through to the work of Japanese avant-gardist **Misato Mochizuki**.

BLUE-GREEN HILL (2013)

Judith Weir (1954)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

ALL THAT IS INCLUDING ME (1997)

Misato Mochizuki (1969)
bass flute, clarinet & violin

RUACH (2008 REV. 2015)

Anne-Marie O'Farrell (1966)
solo Bb clarinet

BENEATH THE DARK BLUE WAVES (2019)*

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

LUCA (2018)*

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

ALLEGRO RUSTICO (1963, REV. 1993)

Sofia Gubaidulina (1931)
flute & piano

NON-STOP (2020)* World Premiere

Rhona Clarke (1958)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

* Commissioned by HRSE with funds from ACNI Small Grants.



Sonorities Festival

Call for Scores

- QUB Harty Room
- Saturday 27th March 2021
- 1.00pm

This international open call for works for the Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble was initiated as part of Sonorities Festival plans for April 2020. Alas, it was not possible to perform the works at that point due to the Covid pandemic. We are, therefore, very pleased now to be able to offer this concert, which features 5 composers, chosen through anonymous submission who hail from Chile, Brazil, Columbia, Argentina and N. Ireland.

RESÍLIO (2018)

Levy Oliveira (1993)

flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & percussion

FORTIS (2018)

Marcos Stuardo (1984)

flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello, piano & marimba

LOS DESVELOS IDOS (2018)

Matías Padellaro (1981)

flute, clarinet, violin & violoncello & piano

THE SCRYING (2018)

Omar Zatriqi (1987)

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

MOCKUS (2019)

Pedro Sarmiento (1977)

Flute (picc.), clarinet, violin, violoncello, piano & percussion



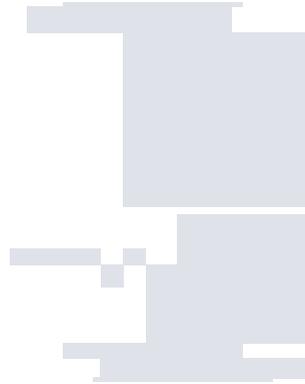
Ulster Youth Orchestra /HRSE

Workshop & Concert

- QUB Harty Room
 - Sunday 28th March 2021
 - 7.30pm
 - Free Admission
 - Workshop – 3pm (not open to the public)
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This workshop will see Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble team up with some of the talented players of the **Ulster Youth Orchestra** to explore repertoire for an unspecified group of instruments under the baton of Sinead Hayes. This serves as a taster session, in terms of the performance of contemporary music, for the UYO musicians and we hope that the experience in many cases could be truly transformative. As the young musicians are asked to volunteer to participate in the workshop, the material we perform needs to be flexible enough to accommodate any number of players, for any instrument of any transposition. It is a challenge, and one that both HRSE and UYO will certainly rise to as in previous years.

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



5th Peter Rosser Composition Award

- QUB Sonic Lab
- Monday 29th March 2021
- 7.30pm

This event will see performances of the three shortlisted works (anonymously chosen by jury) in the 5th 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 the winning work, from the 4th Peter Rosser Award, Caoin Leth-Challtach by **Pàdruig Morrison**.

PERFORMANCE OF 3 WORKS SELECTED BY JURY
Anonymous submission

This year's shortlisted works are:

DARK MEASURES (2020) ***

Anita Mawhinney (1974)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

CAI SUSAH (2020) ***

Samantha McCoy (1997)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

COIL THROUGH GLASS

Kevin Terry (1988)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

Plus a performance of the 1st Prize-winning work from the 4th Peter Rosser Composition Award 2019

CAOIN LETH-CHALLTACH (2019) ***

Pàdruig Morrison (1996)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

*** Written specifically for HRSE.



Workers Union

with Maiden Voyage Dance Company

- SARC Sonic Lab
- Friday 28th May 2021
- 7.30pm

We are excited to be able to offer our audience a second chance to hear HRSE's newly commissioned works from composers **Rhona Clarke** and **Ed Bennett**. The premieres of both works were programmed earlier in the season in the Harty Room, so come and hear them performed in the distinctly different environment of the Sonic Lab. **Perry Goldstein's** beautifully wrought reflection on Paul Klee's eponymous painting *Twittering Machine* is also not new to our regular audience, but appears again this season as the players simply loved playing it previously! Also drawing on visual art as a stimulus is **Greg Caffrey's** reflections on three paintings by the artist William Scott. We have an opportunity in this concert to revisit *Attrition* by **Amy Rooney**, one of three HRSE commissions from last season's early-career composers supported by the PRSf Talent Development Partnership. The enthusiastic reception for Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble and **Maiden Voyage Dance's** Steve Reich project last season has led us to team up again this year. The focus of this year's collaboration will be Dutch composer **Louis Andriessen's** hard hitting 1975 piece *Workers Union*. This work is a complete rhythm-fest, brash and propulsive, it is the ultimate sonic attack.

NON-STOP *(2020)

Rhona Clarke (1958)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

THREE MOVEMENTS ON THE WORK OF WILLIAM SCOTT (2017) ***

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

TWITTERING MACHINE (1997 REV. 1998)

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

NEW WORK (2020)*

Ed Bennett (1975)
flute, clarinet, violin, violoncello & piano

ATTRITION (2019)**

Amy Rooney (1983)
clarinet, violin, violoncello

WORKERS UNION (1975)

Louis Andriessen (1939)
any loud-sounding group of instruments

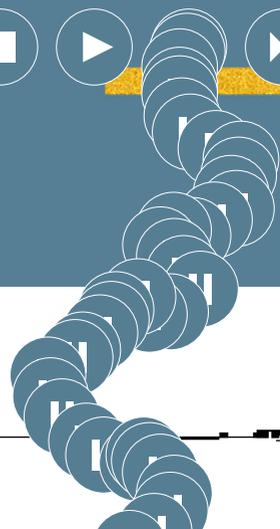
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Artistic Director Concert & Pro- motions Manager

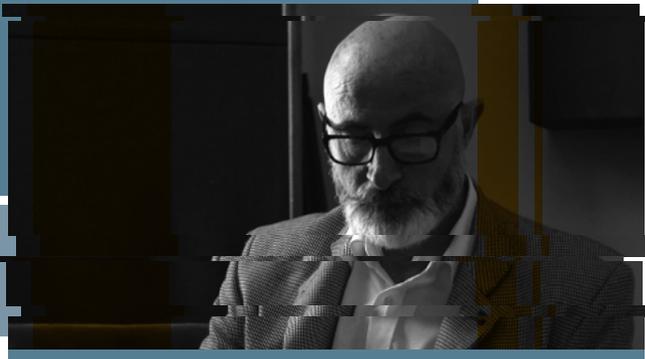


Greg Caffrey

Artistic Director

Chloé Morrison

Concert & Promotions Manager



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

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

Greg has received commissions from numerous performers and ensembles at home and abroad as well as from BBC Radio 3 and the Irish national broadcasting station RTE. His music has been represented at important international festivals and his works have been performed across 17 countries and are represented on 12 record labels.

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

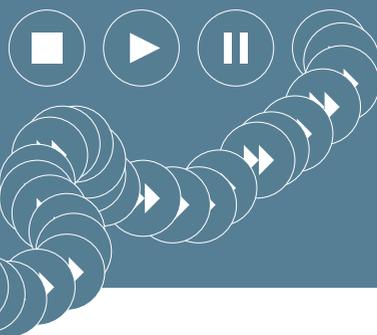
Greg is represented by the **Contemporary Music Centre, Ireland** and is a member of the Association of Irish Composers.

Prior to joining Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble Chloé Morrison specialised in providing support for visual arts organisations including Source Photographic Review; Golden Thread Gallery; the third space gallery and Ormeau Baths Gallery.

Chloé holds an MFA from the Gerrit Rietveld Academie, Amsterdam and completed her BA in Fine Art at the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, and the Slade School of Fine Art, London.



The Ensemble



David McCann

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



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

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

David teaches privately at his home in Belfast.

Sinead Hayes

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



The 2020–21 season is Sinead's seventh season as conductor of the Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble in Belfast, with whom she has premiered numerous works by established Irish and international composers.

She has conducted all the major professional orchestras in Ireland including the Ulster Orchestra, RTE Concert Orchestra and Irish Chamber Orchestra, as well as conducting productions for Northern Ireland Opera and Opera Collective Ireland. In the 2018–19 season, Sinead was assistant conductor and chorus director for Irish National Opera's main stage productions.

Future projects include the postponed performances of Elaine Agnew's opera *Paper Boat* in Galway, recordings and performances with the Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble, and the development of her media composition work at www.solstrekmusic.com

Daniel Browell

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



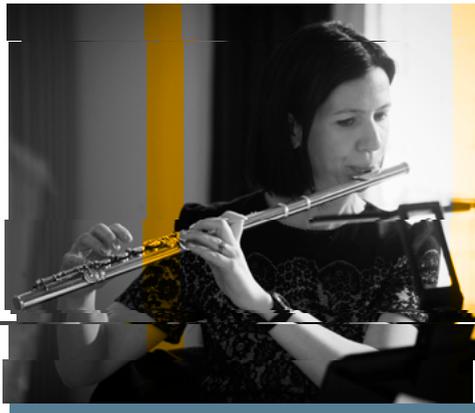
Daniel particularly enjoys collaborative projects with instrumentalists and singers. In addition to the Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble, he has performed with YCAT winner Kathryn Rudge at the Wigmore Hall and on many occasions since, and he regularly works for the BBC Philharmonic, recently performing piano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

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

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

Aisling Agnew

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 RSN.



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 recordings and 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 also enjoys helping students develop an interest in contemporary flute playing through workshops and classes. She is flute teacher at St Andrews University and also tutors students from Glasgow and Edinburgh Universities.

Sarah Watts

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 Vandoren UK Artist, Selmer bass clarinet artist, Uebel clarinet artist and a Silverstein pro artist.

Joanne Quigley McParland

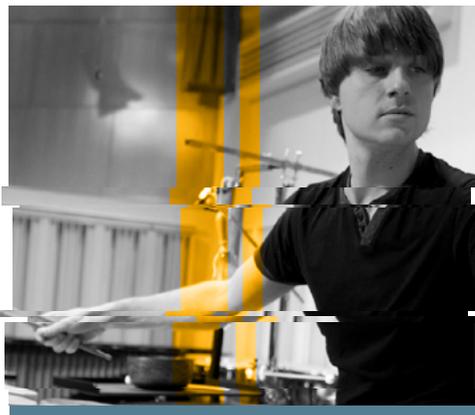
Joanne Quigley McParland is in constant demand as an orchestral principal and leader and has guest led the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the Ulster Orchestra. She is the former co-leader of the RTE Concert Orchestra and performs regularly as co-leader with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



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

Alex Petcu

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



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

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

Queen's University Belfast



Photo Stuart Calvin

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

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

Dr. Greg Caffrey
Artistic Director Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble

"I am delighted to welcome Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble back to Music at Queen's in the School of Arts, English and Languages, as our Ensemble in Residence. Hard Rain has established itself firmly as one of the leading ensembles in Ireland to specialise in new music. This year it was, of course, a great sadness during the autumn of 2020 to lose the planned Hard Rain events, along with our other casualties of Covid-19.

Not only is Hard Rain an ensemble-in-residence; for some years the players have been sharing expertise with our students as our 'Industry Professionals' in Queen's; in a small way we are continuing our relationship even during these 'dark' months, as Hard Rain members continue to join classes virtually this autumn for demonstrations and workshops. We are hopeful that all our live events will resume in our spaces before 2021 is too far advanced; we are very aware of how heavily the loss of live music impacts on ensembles like Hard Rain, and we look forward to having them back in our concert spaces."

Professor Piers Hellawell
Composer and Professor of Composition, QUB



Workshops, Opportunities & Mentorship

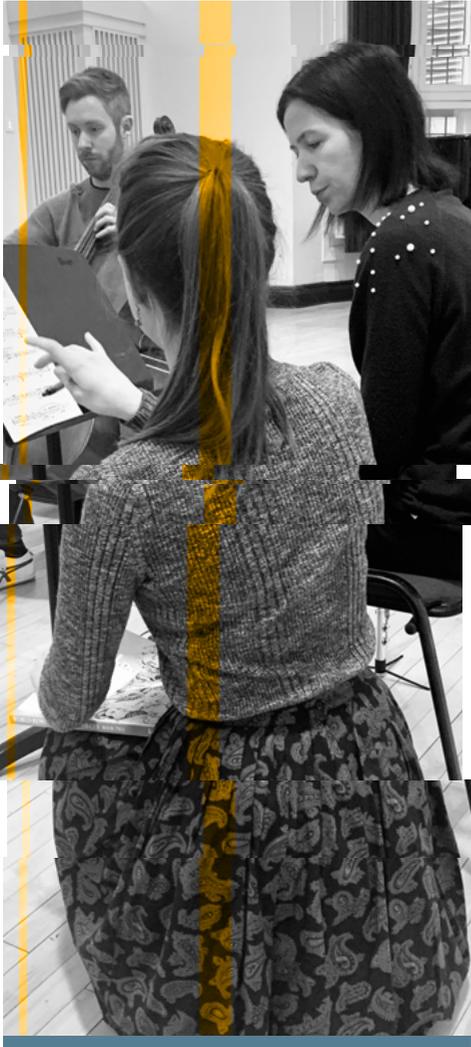
Ensemble in Residence and Industry Professionals at Queen's University Belfast

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

Naturally, the exact nature of our activity will depend on COVID restrictions, however, as always, our plans are to provide workshop read-throughs for composition students at various stages in their development along with instrumental demonstrations, talks and support for students studying Audio Engineering and Production.

Working with the Ulster Youth Orchestra

As always HRSE is delighted to work with the talented players of the UYO and this year will be our 4th year of collaboration. The full Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble line-up, with conductor **Sinead Hayes**, will engage with the UYO players in a workshop culminating in an informal concert in the evening. For many of the young players this will be their first experience of contemporary music and it's always such a positive one for both ensembles.





Workshop with the Ulster Youth Orchestra

QUB, Harty Room

Sunday 28th March 2021

3.00 – 6.00pm (workshop not open to the public)

Informal performance 7.30pm (open Invite)

Entrance is free of charge, but tickets must be booked in advance.

Booking detail at www.hardrainensemble.com

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

5th Peter Rosser Composition Award

The Peter Rosser 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 Redbox Recording Studio, Queen’s University Belfast** as well as through generous donations made in Peter’s memory by friends and colleagues. This year we congratulate our finalists **Samantha McCoy, Kevin Terry** and **Anita Mawhinney** and we look forward to the advance performance of their works at *Ink Still Wet* on Friday 15th January 2021 and then to the final on Monday 29th March 2021.

Due to the postponement of the **5th Peter Rosser Award** we will not initiate a call for scores again for the next opportunity until Autumn 2021.



New Repertoire Bespoke Music

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 Rhona Clarke and Ed Bennett, two of Ireland's most influential figures in contemporary music. The Ensemble will offer two performances of each of these new works during our season.

Previous HRSE commissions will receive continued exposure this year. **Piers Hellawell's** *Ground Truthing*, **Jane O'Leary's** *Beneath the dark blue waves*, **John Buckley's** *Three Mobiles after Alexander Calder*, **Amy Rooney's** *Attrition* and **Gráinne Mulvey's** *LUCA* will all appear in concerts this season.

Together with our exciting new additions to the repertoire, we will be presenting other pieces written especially for the ensemble. We have three works that have emerged in our 5th **Peter Rosser Composition Award** from the composers, **Samantha McCoy**, **Anita Mawhinney** and **Kevin Terry**. Additionally, we have a work dedicated to HRSE by French composer **Philippe Festou**, director of **Ensemble Yin**.

As if all this new music were not enough, we initiated a competitive call for three more commissions again this year with funds from **PRSF Talent Development Partnership**. These are for smaller works aimed at early career composers and this year they were awarded to **Katie Bamford**, **Samantha McCoy** and **Anselm McDonnell**.

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

Michael Quinn
Culture NI

Thank You

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

Support from **Queen's University School of Arts, English and Languages**, who host our residency, is invaluable, while our myriad of collaborators: **Maiden Voyage Dance, Ulster Youth Orchestra, Peter Rosser Foundation, Red Box Studio, Contemporary Music Centre, Ireland** and **Sounding the Feminists** are essential to the ensemble's success.

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 the 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 newcomers. This year we offer this programme with enormous hope and optimism and in the knowledge that art is more important now, in these uncertain times, than ever. We are so appreciative of your continued commitment and fervour.



Friends

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 to help us continue our work. The most enjoyable way to support us is to continue to attend our concerts and we hope that that may still be possible this season.

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



→ Rain Support on Us →

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

Drizzle contributor

→ **£5 per month or £60 per year**

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

Hard Rain contributor

→ **£10 per month or £120 per year**

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

Deluge contributor

→ **£25 per month or £300 per year**

This contribution could help towards fees for our wonderful performers.

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

→ more info

Or make a single **Cloudburst donation**

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

- Donations can be made using the 'Donate Here' button on our website. www.hardrainensemble.com
 - **By cheque** (though cheque donations incur bank charges)
 - **We can also furnish you with our bank details if you would like to make a transfer from your account.**
- Contact: info@hardrainensemble.com

Monsoon contribution for businesses and organisations.

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

To enquire contact **Greg Caffrey** at hardrainensemble@icloud.com

In these difficult financial times, we realise that life is hard for everyone, not just our organisation, so the schemes above are aimed only at those HRSE supporters that can genuinely afford to contribute. Otherwise, having you at a concert is brilliant support on its own. Where concerts go ahead as planned we are holding our ticket prices for Season 2020/21 at £10/5 because we feel high quality contemporary music should be accessible to everyone.

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



How to book

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

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

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

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

Otherwise tickets will be available:

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

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

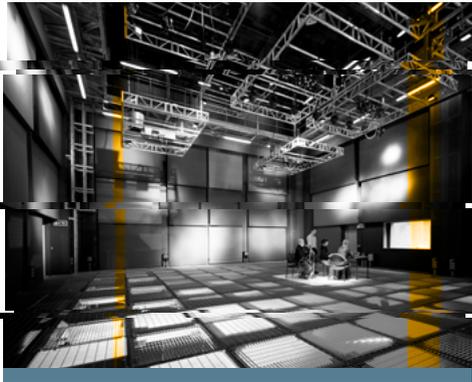


Principal Venues



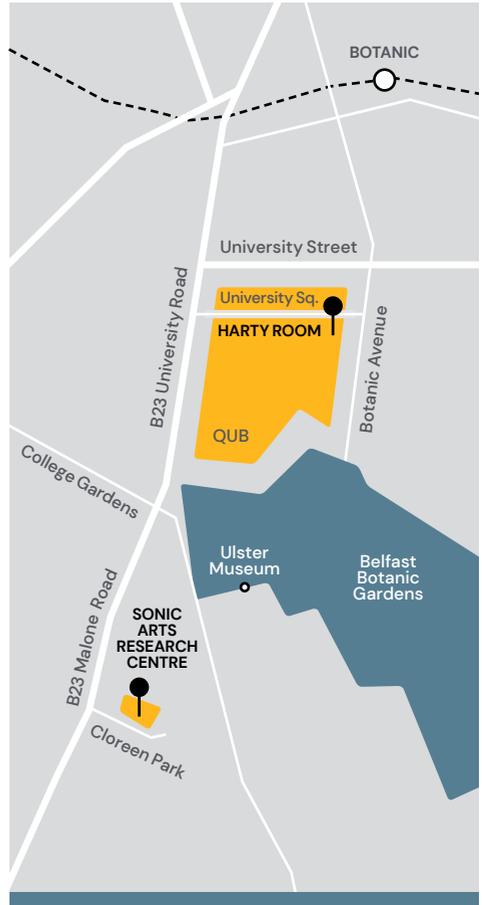
Harty Room

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



Sonic Arts Research Centre

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

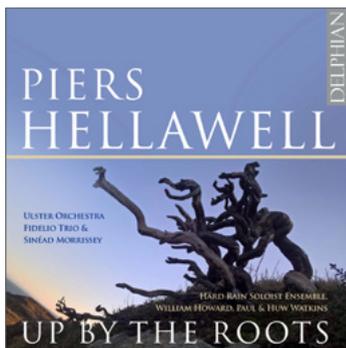


General box office/event enquiries:
info@hardrainensemble.com



New releases featuring HRSE

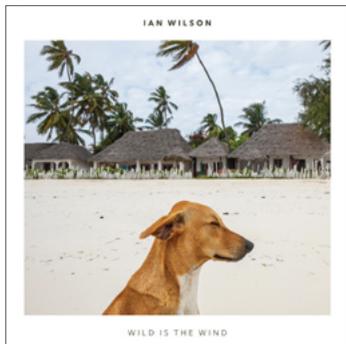
on Delphian and Diatribe labels



OUT NOW

Piers Hellawell's Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble commission from 2018, *Ground Truthing*, features on the composer's new Delphian release, *Up By The Roots* (DCD34223).

Available at
www.prestomusic.com



OUT NOW

Ian Wilson's Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble commission from 2018, *The emptiness of the ever expanding universe cannot be compared to the void where your heart should be*, features on the composer's new Diatribe Records release, *Wild is the Wind* (DIACDO33).

Available at
www.diatribe.ie



Credits

We acknowledge support from the following organisations:

→ Principal Funding Partners



LOTTERY FUNDED



→ Ensemble in Residence & Industry Professionals



→ Partner organisations and collaborators



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

Michael Quinn
Culture NI

