

NEW MUS DUB

BRASSFEST

30th April 2022, 11:30am | Dublin Castle Main Courtyard

Sigrid Anita Haugen *Suckin' Diesel* (World Premiere)

William Chester *Turas Laoich* (World Premiere)

Conor Cuffe *Mr. Mulligan* (World Premiere)

Aran O'Grady *The Golden Stone* (World Premiere)

Jack Mahony *Turn Back* (World Premiere)

Anselm McDonnell *Rasp* (World Premiere)

The Wallace Collection

Drogheda Brass Band • John Carpenter, conductor

City of Waterford Brass • Julie Quinlan, conductor

Boherbuoy Brass Ensemble • Andrew Jordon, conductor

Roughan Silver Band • Stephen Crooks, conductor

Clonakilty Brass Band • Ger Condon, conductor

1st Old Boys Brass Band • Stephen Cairns, conductor

The Wallace Collection lead the massed ensemble, and have been working remotely with the bands online during the last year. Andrew Duncan mentored the six composers during the composition process and worked with the composers on scoring for brass band. thewallacecollection.world

Presented in partnership with the Royal Irish Academy of Music.



NOTES FROM THE COMPOSERS

Sigrid Anita Haugen *Suckin' Diesel*

Performed by Drogheda Brass Band with conductor John Carpenter.
droghedabrassband.ie

Sigrid Anita Haugen is a composer from Oslo, Norway. When she was 10, she and her family went on a holiday to Ireland. She was fascinated by the culture and hoped that one day, she would come back. Which she did, many, many times, and more to come. And every time, she learned something new about Irish culture. One day she was told about the Irish slang 'Now we're sucking diesel', which I believe means 'now things are going well.'

The pandemic has been tough for many people around the world, so it is important to bring back some joy which is why this piece is named Sucking Diesel. This piece is being performed by the wonderful Drogheda Brass Band which I had the pleasure to work with and who will share with you what is a cheerful and quite frankly, a quirky little piece.

William Chester *Turas Laoich*

Performed by City of Waterford Brass with conductor Julie Quinlan.
sites.google.com/site/cityofwaterfordbrass01/home

Turas Laoich uses short snippets from the traditional Irish tune *Maggie In the Woods*, which was later used in the nursery song *An Bhfaca Tú Mo Shémuísín?* This song speaks of young Seamus as he heads to school with no shoes on his little feet, nor a little hat or coat, just a little yellow book in his pocket. It is the lyrics that inspired this piece, as it unfolded to become a hero's journey, centred around Seamus. The *grandioso* opening leads us into a rather playful and childlike canon. Just like any great hero's journey, there must be conflict; tumultuous turmoil is presented to Seamus rather unexpectedly, before he makes his return home.

Conor Cuffe *Mr. Mulligan*

Performed by Boherbuoy Brass Ensemble with conductor Andrew Jordon.
boherbuoyband.com

Mr Mulligan (Symphonic Dances for Brass Band) is a collection of jazz dances with improvisation-inspired solos throughout the ensemble. The piece opens with a dixieland before moving to a rhumba, which then accelerates to a big band sound. The second half begins with a jazz waltz which leads into a clave, before returning to the dixieland which was heard in the opening of the piece. The name *Mr Mulligan* is named after the great Irish flautist Thomas Mulligan, who's bubbly and whimsical personality inspired the vibrant and light-hearted sounds of the music.

Aran O'Grady *The Golden Stone*

Performed by Roughan Silver Band with conductor Stephen Crooks.
facebook.com/roughansilver/

This is a programmatic work inspired by the Clogher Valley from which the Roughan Silver band hails.

There is said to be a famous oracle in the region (the Cloch Óir, meaning Golden Stone), which the ambitious son of Conchobar mac Nessa consulted as the young warrior sought to gain a kingdom. The oracle advised him to proceed to the Isle of Man and get Culann to make a sword and shield for him. While waiting for their completion he met a benevolent siren on the beach who told him to inscribe her name on the new shield. This imbued it with a special power draining ability. When Conchobar returned to Ireland, such extraordinary success attended his arms, that he won the kingdom of Ulster.

It is unknown whether the stone that stands today at the Clogher Cathedral in Tyrone is the original pagan idol, or just a lintel from a 9th century church door.

Jack Mahony *Turn Back*

Performed by Clonakilty Brass Band with conductor Ger Condon.
facebook.com/clonakiltybrassband/

Jack Mahony has been a member of Clonakilty Brass Band since the age of eleven, and his knowledge of the ensemble helped greatly in the writing of *Turn Back*. The work is based on a simple yet mysterious motif outlined in the lower brass at the very beginning of the piece. The theme is then further developed and expressed very freely by the flugelhorn over a strong drone laid down by the basses. Tension is gradually built, which ultimately crescendos into the lively *vivace* section. This section is driven by a 3+3+2 rhythm, which is articulated by all players of the band and further punctuated by the percussion. The original theme is reimagined as an angsty and moody line. Solo cornet and euphonium have solos to show the huge range that the players can achieve, and this is answered with a rhythmically and harmonically unusual motif in the 2nd and 3rd cornets. After a brief return to the introduction, the work meets its climax with a huge fortissimo chorale. This gradually winds down to the trombone section and E-flat bass resolving to A-flat major, and the added 9th in the bass trombone adds a feeling of reflectiveness to the final bars.

Anselm McDonnell *Rasp*

Performed by 1st Old Boys Brass Band with conductor Stephen Cairns.
facebook.com/1stoldboysbandbelfast/

The inspiration for *Rasp* was an exploration of rough, rasping sounds on brass instruments and juxtaposing these with smoother effects. I had a clear idea in my head of the opening gesture, a descending growl in the trombone, and the material develops out of this moment, often returning to this gesture to launch the piece forward.

BIOGRAPHIES

William Chester

William Chester is a Waterford-born composer. He is a lifelong member of the Barrack Street Concert Band, Waterford, and he currently holds the rank of Bandsman in the Defence Forces, as a member of the Band of the 1st Brigade, Cork. He is in his final year of the BMus degree at MTU Cork School of Music. His first venture into the world of composition was at New Music Dublin 2021, where his brass quintet *Turas Laoich* was selected as one of six pieces to be performed by Earlsfort Brass. Since then, he has gone on to join the Irish Composers Collective, and has recently been offered a place at the Royal Northern College of Music's School of Composition, where he is due to begin his postgraduate studies this September.

Conor Cuffe

Conor Cuffe is an Irish trombone player who regularly performs in jazz and classical ensembles. He studied BMusEd in Trinity college Dublin and the Royal Irish Academy of Music, and a short period of study at the Royal Scottish Conservatory. He completed his degree with a major in composition and is currently teaching in Santa Sabina Dominican College. As well as *Mr Mulligan*, Conor has recently finished recording his first album named *Amber and the Bear*, which will be released in the summer.

Sigrid Anita Haugen

Sigrid Anita Haugen is a composer from Oslo, Norway. She has a diverse musical background from her jazz studies from London Centre of Contemporary Music in London, classical studies from Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo and audio-visual music from Pulse College in Dublin, which are often combined and reflected in her musical works. She has composed music for various short films such as *Mother* and *Infinite Logic*, a feature documentary called *The Human Aspect* and a feature film called *SPEARS*. She is currently composing music for three immersive experiences as part of her doctoral studies.

Jack Mahony

A native of West Cork, Jack Mahony studied euphonium and trombone under the tutelage of Mr. Gerard Condon from the age of 11. Beginning in Clonakilty Brass Band, he went on to play with groups such as Irish Youth Wind Ensemble, Irish Youth Brass and Irish Symphonic Wind Orchestra.

He recently graduated from MTU Cork School of Music with a Bachelor of Music. Here, he studied trombone performance under Mr. Tony Neal. He has performed multiple solo recitals and has received masterclasses from world-renowned artists such as Katy Jones, David Rejano, Gary Curtin and Adam Rapa. During his degree, he was principal trombonist with CSM Symphony Orchestra and CSM Jazz Big Band, and he has performed with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland.

Mahony also studied composition, orchestration and arranging at MTU Cork School of Music. He has written works in varied instrumentations, from solo trombone to full symphony orchestra. He is honoured to have been commissioned by New Music Dublin 2022, and it is truly special to him to have his work performed by his home band.

Anselm McDonnell

Anselm McDonnell is an Irish/Welsh composer based in Belfast. He has written over seventy works for a variety of ensembles and regularly works with artists from other disciplines. His music has been performed in Thailand, North America, Canada, Finland, Japan, Russia, and across Europe. McDonnell has written for ensembles such as the London Symphony Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, RSNO, Crash Ensemble, Chamber Choir Ireland, BBC Singers, Ulster Orchestra, 1st Old Boy's Brass Band, and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. His debut double album *Light of Shore*, showcasing his music for solo instruments, was released in 2021.

Aran O'Grady

Aran O'Grady is a Dublin-born composer currently based in London. He is a graduate of Composition from the Royal Irish Academy of Music and the MA in Opera Making & Writing from Guildhall School of Music. His music has been performed by the Aurelia Quartet, Chatham Sax Quartet, David Adams, Con Tempo Quartet, Elizabeth Hilliard, Kirkos and many more.

Current projects include a commission by Grange Park and Sky Arts for a football opera in celebration of the World Cup 2022, and an opera development project with Tasteinyourmouth and Glasshouse Ensemble.

Andrew Duncan (scoring/mentor)

Andrew Duncan was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1962. He studied music at Napier University in Edinburgh and at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. In 1984 he became Principal Tuba with the Hallé Orchestra, a post he held until 2000. During this time gave the premiere of John Golland's Tuba Concerto with the Hallé in the Bridgewater Hall (1998). As well as playing with most of the major British orchestras and with London Brass, he was a member of Hallé Brass.

He was professor of Tuba at The Royal Northern College of Music, The University of Salford, Chethams School of Music and Huddersfield University. In addition he has given masterclasses and recitals all over the UK, and abroad.

As a member of the Hallé, he developed his composing and arranging skills and in 1994 the Hallé gave the premiere of his Concerto for Trombone. He then began arranging regularly for the Hallé. In 2000 he was commissioned to compose a work about the history of Manchester. The result was *A Tale of Two Empires*, first performed in 2000 with the Hallé.

In 1995, Duncan began an MA in Composition at Salford University and began to write and arrange for Brass Band. He has won the prize for the best new arrangement six times in the Spennymoor Brass in Concert competition, consecutively from 1996-2000 and once again in 2002.

In 2001 Duncan and his family moved to Stornoway in the Isle of Lewis in Scotland where he now works as a freelance composer/arranger and conductor, and runs the Lewis Music Press.

NEW MUSIC DUBLIN 2022

Welcome one and welcome all to New Music Dublin 2022. It's so good to see you!

I very well remember just after the end of the last live, in-person festival in March 2020, standing at the bus stop on what was the day of the first confirmed Covid case in Ireland, wondering how long it would be before we were all together again: a few months at most, I reckoned. Certainly not later than the 2021 Festival?

And yet ... here we all are, 2 years and one fully-digital 2021 lockdown New Music Dublin later - finally together, Back in the Room. I'm not feeling the need to add to the screeds and reams that have been written and will be written about the pandemic; suffice to say, I suspect very few of us right now are able to say exactly how we feel about what just happened to us for the past 2 years.

Which is probably the perfect state to be in for coming to this smorgasbord of a festival! Here you will find musical expression for a vast array of emotional states: joy, elation, confusion, melancholy, nostalgia, awe, contentment, despair, exasperation, bliss, relief, rapture, dismay, tenderness - and many others we don't really have words for, often all at the same time, and often all piled one on top of the other.

You'll also find an increasing variety and diversity of people writing and performing the music that you hear. This festival we are delighted to include world premieres by young composers for young performers in the Cór na nÓg and Cór Linn programme, thrilling new work from emerging under-represented voices in the NCH Creative Lab project, new work by and for young musicians in BrassFest, new work with sign language in George Higgs' ground-breaking new performance, and the up-and-coming compositional voices represented by the Irish Composers' Collective. Add to this work by a whole raft of Ireland's most garlanded, radical and highly-regarded professional composers and music creators, and - well - there's something by everyone, not just for everyone!

Our hope is that somewhere in amongst the 39 world premieres, 10 Irish premieres, multiple repeat listens and everything else that is going on in the 25 concerts this weekend, there are likely to be expressions for many things you have been feeling recently. Whether it's something massive and orchestral, or something choral, or something played by a solo musician, or something heard via a hidden loudspeaker somewhere, it may catch you unawares, just like that - and remind you, that although we have all been desperately separated from each other these past two years, someone somewhere, maybe quite a lot like you, also felt what you were going through back there. Although we went through it all by ourselves, we also, in no small measure, went through it all together.

And here we all are! Welcome back!!

John Harris

Festival Director, New Music Dublin

NEW MUSIC DUBLIN

Thursday 28 April 2022

MUSIC ALLIANCE IRELAND LAUNCH

TOTEMIC: Nathan Sherman and Alex Petcu
presented by Ergodos

CHORAL SKETCHES: Chamber Choir Ireland

ÉTUDES: Kevin Volans and Jill Richards

PERSONHOOD: Oslo Sinfonietta and Andreas
Borregaard

TONNTA presented by Ergodos

Friday 29 April 2022

AMPLIFY LIVE with Contemporary Music Centre

CORCORAN AT NMD: Hard Rain
SoloistEnsemble

YOU HEARD IT FIRST: Crash Ensemble

ICC ALBUM LAUNCH

IN MEMORIAM / IN CELEBRATION:
National Symphony Orchestra and Ensemble
Interforma

AVENUE AZURE presented by Ergodos

SONGS FROM THE BRAIN BOOK: Diatribe
album launch with Diamanda La Berge Dramm

Saturday 30 April 2022

BRASSFEST in partnership with RIAM

LANDSCAPE SERIES presented by Diatribe

MUSIC FOR 5 SILENT POEMS: George Higgs

PUTTING IT INTO MUSIC: Crash Ensemble

A BRIEF DESCENT INTO DEEP TIME:
Chamber Choir Ireland

DIATRIBE – JAZZ TRIPLE BILL

Sunday 1 May 2022

NARLI RECORD FAIR

THINGS THAT NEVER DIE: Cór na nÓg and
Cór Linn

NCH CREATIVE LAB FINALE

NARLI AGM 2022

ISABELLE O'CONNELL PIANO

DELIVERANCE: RTÉ Concert Orchestra

**THE POSSIBILITIES FROM HERE ARE
ENDLESS:** Crash X Diamanda Dramm

COLM O'HARA 10TET presented by Diatribe

Throughout the festival:

ULYSSES JOURNEY 2022: newly
commissioned music and film works

WINGFORM: an installation of music and
light

REACTIONS film screenings

HAUNTOLOGY

NMDX (hosted by The Contemporary Music
Centre, Ireland and New Music Dublin)

New Music Dublin is a partnership between:

RTÉ

NCH

**NATIONAL
CONCERT
HALL / AN
CEOLÁRAS
NAISIÚNTA**



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