

NEW  
MUS  
DUB

BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO  
SLOW TRAVEL

---

28th April 2024, 3pm | Kevin Barry Room Concourse, National Concert Hall, Dublin

**Kirkos** *Beginner's Guide To Slow Travel* (2023) (Irish premiere)

**Kirkos**

**Sebastian Adams**

**Robert Coleman**

**Yseult Cooper Stockdale**

**Jane Hackett**

**Hannah Miller**

**Joan Somers Donnelly**

KIRKOS

## PROGRAMME NOTE

### **Kirkos** *Beginner's Guide To Slow Travel* (2023)

How can we craft new ways to live, work and relate to our surroundings as the tangible impact of anthropogenic climate change accelerates? At a time when air travel no longer seems justifiable, leap with Dublin-based new music group Kirkos into this fascinating sonic and spatial exploration of slowness.

*Beginner's Guide To Slow Travel* was composed collaboratively by Sebastian Adams, Robert Coleman, Yseult Cooper Stockdale, Jane Hackett, Hannah Miller and Joan Somers Donnelly. Taking the logistics of their journeying during this project as a starting point, with the extra time, expense and change of internal rhythm those logistics called for, these adventurous experimentalists have created an absorbing work that folds together ideas of rest, energy transfer, collecting and reusing, interspecies entanglement and collective grief.

Additional elements of this piece, including artistic documentation of the journey to the festival, will gradually become available at [kirkosensemble.com/beginners-guide](http://kirkosensemble.com/beginners-guide)

Produced by hcmf// as part of The Current Climate; supported by Culture Ireland and PRS Foundation Beyond Borders.

Commissioned by New Music Dublin, sound and hcmf//.

Kirkos is funded through Arts Council of Ireland Arts Grant Funding and supported by Dublin City Council.

## BIOGRAPHIES

### **Kirkos**

Kirkos is a new music group from Dublin, Ireland, as well as the operator of Unit 44—a DIY venue in Stoneybatter with a radically open approach to programming. The ensemble focusses on trying to develop the ecosystem that thrives at the fringes of Irish new music and high-concept performances. Threading the line between experimental music and contemporary classical music, it rarely performs straightforward concerts, preferring to incorporate every part of the audience's experience into their thinking about music. Much of the ensemble's work is devised collaboratively, with influences from theatre, visual art and performance art.

Unit 44 is part of a DIY movement making up for the appalling lack of affordable cultural space available in Dublin. Booking is open to artists from all genres and backgrounds, and Kirkos tries to give the space away for free wherever possible.

Since 2012, Kirkos has given 200 premieres, encompassing most of Ireland's leading composers. As a young ensemble, it is proud of its work with newly emerging composers, and has given many Irish composers their first performances and commissions.

[kirkosensemble.com](http://kirkosensemble.com)

## **Sebastian Adams**

Sebastian Adams (he/him) (b. 1991) is an Irish composer and performer. He founded Kirkos as an undergraduate student and his artistic practice has been enmeshed with it ever since. His projects include a string quartet performing in the sea as the tide rises around them, an interactive program that turns Twitch chat streams into music notation, and a large-scale project *Stolen Music* comprising nothing but uncleared and unauthorised audio and video samples. He has been widely commissioned and performed in Ireland and in places including Vienna, Graz, Paris, Marseille, Montreal, Cologne, New York, Potsdam, Antwerp and Görlitz. He studied composition in Dublin (RIAM), Vienna (mDW) and Paris (IRCAM). As a performer, he has created solo projects, premiered many solo and chamber works for viola, and enjoys working closely with composers on their new music. He also occasionally performs early music on viola and gamba. He is particularly active as an improviser. [sebastianadams.net](http://sebastianadams.net)

## **Robert Coleman**

Composer Robert Coleman's current work draws from numerous fields such as soundscape studies, site-specific art, field recording and community and participatory arts. In 2019 he completed his Masters studies at the Royal Conservatory of the Hague and, having also previously studied architecture, his work often features spatial concepts and metaphors as frameworks for the composition process. He is currently a PhD student at the Sonic Arts Research Centre, Belfast focussing on Ecological Sound Art. He has been commissioned by Crash Ensemble and New Music Dublin, the National Concert Hall Dublin, Irish National Opera, the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA), Tallaght Community Arts, violinist Larissa O'Grady and others. Highly active in artistic direction he is a founding member and performer with Kirkos, and in 2023 founded the School of Wild Listening—a platform for the discussion and dissemination of ecological sound art that aims to promote an understanding of the living world and the current challenges we face. [robertcolemancomposer.com](http://robertcolemancomposer.com)

## **Yseult Cooper Stockdale**

Yseult Cooper Stockdale enjoys a career of unusual variety. Her interests range widely from experimental performance and the championing of new music, to working with every orchestra in the ROI, as well as performing frequently as a highly-regarded chamber musician. Favouring more intimate ensembles, recent projects have included several tours with the Irish Chamber Orchestra and two performances at Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival. She also toured, thanks to the National String Quartet Foundation, with the Spero Quartet, Ficino Ensemble, alongside the Vanbrugh, and most recently with the Ora Quartet. Other artists she has collaborated and performed with include: Bell X1, Caimin Gilmore, Kojaque, Anna Meredith, Welsh National Opera, Evlana, Southbank Sinfonia, Musici Ireland and Bastard Assignments. She has been a member Kirkos since 2013, and has performed countless premieres, including many solo cello works.

## **Jane Hackett**

Jane Hackett is a violinist and mixed-genre performance artist specialising in classical and contemporary music. Her arts practice is centered around empathetic artistic research, cultural and societal observations and furthering accessibility within the music sector. From an extensive musical training (BA and MA degrees in solo and chamber performance), her career spans from classical concert settings with orchestras and ensembles (including National Symphony Orchestra, Irish Chamber Orchestra, RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Irish National Opera, ORF Radio Symphony Orchestra Vienna, London Concertante, Wexford Festival Opera and with Musici Ireland, Vanbrugh Quartet, Camerata Ireland and under conductors Maxim Vengerov, Gianandrea Noseda, Nathalie Stutzmann, Leonard Slatkin, Julian Rachlin) to creating and directing multi-faceted concerts and projects combining classical music with various other forms of art.

[janehackett.net](http://janehackett.net)

## **Hannah Miller**

Horn player Hannah Miller grew up in Ireland, received her Bachelor's degree from Finland's Sibelius Academy and graduated with a Master's degree from New York's Juilliard School, where she was awarded with the William Schuman Prize for outstanding achievement in music and leadership. She is currently Principal Horn with the Irish National Opera Orchestra, a member of the Irish Chamber Orchestra and a Trialist with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. She also performs with the Wexford Festival Opera Orchestra, RTÉ Concert Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, and is a former member of the Verbier Festival Orchestra in Switzerland and the Kuopio Symphony Orchestra in Finland. As a member of Kirkos since 2012, she has been featured in many of their concerts and series over the years performing a wide range of experimental works. Her dedication to new music also includes performances with Crash Ensemble, Le Concert Impromptu and Ulysses Ensemble in recent years.

## **Joan Somers Donnelly**

Joan Somers Donnelly is an Irish artist based between Brussels and Dublin, whose collaborative practice includes performance, visual art, writing and organising. Previous work includes a human choir for cows; a piece for sea swimmers; an interactive fantasy about the politics of housing in Dublin; a video essay about social spaces of gig economy workers; and performance interventions for lamp posts, zoom calls, U-bahn stations and apartments. She studied Drama and Theatre Studies (Trinity College Dublin, Freie Universität Berlin) and in 2021 completed a Masters of Fine Art (Autonomous Design) at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Ghent. She has also trained through workshops and intensive courses in physical theatre with DAH Teatar (Belgrade), Butoh with Minako Seki (Berlin), dance theatre with Michael Keegan Dolan (Dublin), and choreography at SNDO (Amsterdam). Her practice is primarily concerned with examining existing social structures and creating not-yet-existing ones, using live situations as a testing ground for experiments in relating. [joansomersdonnelly.com](http://joansomersdonnelly.com)

# NEW MUSIC DUBLIN 2024

Welcome back to New Music Dublin 2024!

In four days this April, NMD 2024 travels through more than 23 events: from the main-stage ambient music mastery of A Winged Victory for the Sullen all the way to Mariam Rezaei's virtuoso turntablism; from Aoife Ní Bhriain and Liam Byrne's ancient music reborn in *The Harmonic Labyrinth* to *ADVERT*, Laura Bowler's right-up-to-date exploration of the contemporary self; from the youthful voices of Cór Linn and Cór na nÓg in *Everyday Wonders* to Ann Cleare's exploration of deep time with Crash Ensemble in *TERRARIUM*; and it stops off at many many places in-between.

NMD 2024 is – as always – jam-packed.  
It is also – as ever – wildly eclectic.

My long-suffering team here at New Music Dublin wonder where both my preference for putting together an insanely hectic programme and my general delight in eclecticism come from, and I guess they both come from the same place. The only criterion I have when I ask artists to make new works for NMD is that I shouldn't be able to imagine in advance what they're going to make, because for me, surprise and enchantment in the new is the very essence of creativity – the delight in making something that has not been thought of before. And because the number of people making genuinely creative new work here in Ireland is far, far more than can be fitted in to one festival, the festival schedule is crazy-packed with as many new things as possible (I have already apologised to the team!)

You'll also notice that I also like to throw in the occasional reminder of good things that we may have missed the first time around, to provide a bit of context and extra depth. However – fundamentally – we are here for the new adventures, the experiences we don't know of, the ideas that we've not come across before and the challenges that we didn't know we might want to accept.

Here, there is something new for everyone, and everyone is very welcome at New Music Dublin 2024!

**John Harris**

Festival Director, New Music Dublin

## NEW MUSIC DUBLIN

*Thursday 25 April 2024*

**THERE WILL BE NO SILENCE:**

David Downes, Diatribe Stage

**THE HARMONIC LABYRINTH:**

Aoife Ní Bhriain & Liam Byrne, Diatribe Stage

**THE MONOCHROME PROJECT**

**DEANE, GRIBBIN & SAARIAHO:**

RTÉ Concert Orchestra

**ADVERT:** Laura Bowler & Decoder Ensemble

**IN FORMATION:** Stone Drawn Circles

*Friday 26 April 2024*

**GERALD BARRY IN FOCUS:**

Darragh Morgan & Mary Dullea

**YOU HEARD IT FIRST:** Crash Ensemble

**FESTIVAL RECEPTION / MONOCHROME PROJECT FANFARE**

**HAIGH, BUCKLEY & DENNEHY:**

National Symphony Orchestra

**THE ARCHETYPES PROJECT:**

Nathan Sherman & Alex Petcu, Diatribe Stage

**AWAY:** Anne La Berge & Diamanda La Berge  
Dramm, Diatribe Stage

*Saturday 27 April 2024*

**TRUMPETS:** Monochrome Project

**A 15 MINUTE WALK:**

The Totally Made Up Orchestra

**THE DANCERS INHERIT THE PARTY:**

Chamber Choir Ireland

**AROUND HERE, THE BIRDS PLANT THE**

**TREES:** Natalia Beylis

**AMBIENT / SYMPHONY:** A Winged Victory  
for the Sullen & National Symphony Orchestra

**CHANGING STATES:** Crash Ensemble

*Sunday 28 April 2024*

**EARTHRISE:** Musici Ireland

**EVERYDAY WONDERS:**

Cór Linn & Cór na nÓg

**BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO SLOW TRAVEL:**

Kirkos

**TALAMH:** Evlana Sinfonietta

**TERRARIUM:** Crash Ensemble

**IL RITORNO DEL ANGELO & MARIAM**

**REZAEI:** Diatribe Stage

*Throughout the festival:*

**THANKS – AN INSTALLATION:**

Diamanda La Berge Dramm

**INVISIBLE THREADS** installation:

Scott McLaughlin

**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



Festival Box Office 01 417 0000 | New Music Dublin, c/o National Concert Hall Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2  
www.nch.ie | email: info@newmusicdublin.ie