

NEW  
MUS  
DUB

SONGS FROM THE BRAIN BOOK

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29th April 2022, 11pm | Diatribe Stage - Room 103, National Concert Hall, Dublin

**Diamanda La Berge Dramm** voice, violin, moog

**Nick Roth** saxophone, keyboards, amplified objects

**Steven J Fowler** himself



## PROGRAMME NOTES

born too late to explore the world  
born too early to explore the universe  
born just in time for this

*Songs from the Brain Book* is a collection of songs and sonic spaces by Diamanda La Berge Dramm, based on writings by Steven J Fowler. For this late-night celebratory concert, marking the launch of their album *Chimp* on Diatribe Records, they are joined by improviser Nick Roth.

## BIOGRAPHIES

### **Diamanda La Berge Dramm**

Diamanda La Berge Dramm is a violinist, composer and singer. Growing up in the Dutch classical, avant-garde and improvisational music scenes, she has emerged as a leading voice in European new music.

### **Nick Roth**

Nick Roth is a saxophonist, composer, producer and educator. His work seeks the liberation of improvisation from composition, the poetic syntax of philosophical enquiry, and the function of music as translative epistemology.

### **Steven J Fowler**

Steven J. Fowler is a contemporary English poet, writer and avant-garde artist, and the founder of European Poetry Festival.

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The Diatribe Stage features a specially commissioned installation by artist Rory Tangney. Diatribe Records gratefully acknowledges the support of the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.



# 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:

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