

NEW
MUS
DUB

AMBIENT / SYMPHONY

27th April 2024, 7pm | Main Stage, National Concert Hall, Dublin

1st half:

Jóhann Jóhannsson *A Prayer to the Dynamo* (2012) (Irish premiere)

National Symphony Orchestra

Daníel Bjarnason conductor

INTERVAL

2nd half:

A Winged Victory For The Sullen original set

PROGRAMME NOTES

Jóhann Jóhannsson *A Prayer to the Dynamo* (2012)

A Prayer to the Dynamo takes its title from a poem by Henry Adams, inspired by his mystical experience in The Great Hall of Dynamos at the World's Fair in Paris in the year 1900. Adams describes this experience in a famous passage in his autobiography:

'As he grew accustomed to the great gallery of machines, he began to feel the forty-foot dynamos as a moral force, much as the early Christians felt the Cross. The planet itself seemed less impressive, in its old-fashioned, deliberate, annual or daily revolution, than this huge wheel, revolving within arm's length at some vertiginous speed, and barely murmuring — scarcely humming an audible warning to stand a hair's-breadth further for respect of power — while it would not wake the baby lying close against its frame. Before the end, one began to pray to it; inherited instinct taught the natural expression of man before silent and infinite force. Among the thousand symbols of ultimate energy the dynamo was not so human as some, but it was the most expressive.'

— Jóhann Jóhannsson

A Prayer to the Dynamo was commissioned by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

BIOGRAPHIES

Daníel Bjarnason

Daníel Bjarnason is a conductor, composer and programmer, and Artist in Collaboration with Iceland Symphony Orchestra—an appointment that follows tenures as Principal Guest Conductor and Artist in Residence. He has appeared as a guest conductor with orchestras worldwide including Lahti Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonisches Orchester Freiburg, Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, Gothenburg Symphony, Gävle Symfoniorkester, Aalborg Symfoniorkester, Turun Filharmoninen Orkesteri, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Toronto Symphony and Tokyo Symphony Orchestra. He conducted the world premiere of Jóhann Jóhannsson's *Last and First Men* at the 2017 Manchester International Festival with the BBC Philharmonic, and since then has been a regular exponent of the composer's music, releasing an album of his work with Deutsche Grammophon in 2023.

Alongside Bjarnason's conducting commitments, his compositions receive international acclaim, his works including *Inferno*, *A Fragile Hope*, *I Want to Be Alive – Trilogy for Orchestra*, *FEAST* and the violin concerto *Scordatura*. In 2023, he was named Guest Artist in Residence at Copenhagen Opera Festival, where a co-production of his first opera, *Brothers*, by Den Islandske Opera, Malmö Opera and Copenhagen Opera Festival was performed.

He is a recipient of numerous accolades, including the Optimism prize by the President of Iceland (2018), the 8th Harpa Nordic Film Composers Award for the feature film *Under the Tree*, and a nomination for the Nordic Council Music Prize. He has also won Composer of the Year, Best Composer/Best Composition and Best Performer at the Icelandic Music Awards in recent years.

He studied piano, composition and conducting in Reykjavík and pursued further studies in orchestral conducting at Hochschule für Musik Freiburg. He has released several albums for the label Bedroom Community. harrisonparrott.com/artists/daniel-bjarnason

Jóhann Jóhannsson

Jóhann Jóhannsson (1969–2018) was a versatile composer known for blending classical and electronic elements. His discography includes albums like ‘Englabörn’ and ‘Orphée’. Posthumous releases include the EP ‘Gold Dust’ and the oratorio *Drone Mass*.

Jóhannsson collaborated with filmmakers like Bill Morrison for *The Miners’ Hymns* and scored films like *Prisoners*, *Sicario* and *Arrival*, earning him accolades like Golden Globe and BAFTA nominations. Noteworthy works include *The Theory of Everything* and *Mandy*. Besides composing, he directed films such as *End of Summer* and *Last and First Men*, combining film and music to explore themes of memory and utopia. *Last and First Men* premiered in 2020 at the Berlinale.



First violin

Charles Mutter
Jens Lynen
Sebastian Liebig *principal*
Orla Ní Bhraoin *string*
sub-principal
Catherine McCarthy
David Clark
Anne Harte
Bróna Fitzgerald
Sylvia Roberts
Claudie Driesen
Karl Sweeney
Molly O’Shea

Second violin

Anna Smith
Joanne Fleming Campbell
string sub-principal
Rosalind Brown
Paul Fanning
Dara O’Connell
Melanie Cull
Evelyn McGrory
Elena Quinn
Jenny Burns Duffy
Magda Kowalska

Viola

Steven Burnard
Francis Harte *string*
sub-principal
Ruth Bebb
Cliona O’Riordan
Margarete Clark
Nathan Sherman
Alison Comerford
Carla Vedres

Cello

Martin Johnson *section*
leader
Polly Ballard *associate*
principal
Violetta-Valerie Muth
string sub-
principal
Úna Ní Chanainn
Filip Szkopek
Jonathan Few
Eva Richards

Double bass

Lucy Shaw
Jamie Manson

Cathy Colwell
Waldemar Kozak
Helen Morgan
Jenni Meade
Callum Cronin

Flute

Catriona Ryan *section*
leader
Ríona Ó Duinnín
associate principal
Sinéad Farrell *principal*

Piccolo

Sinéad Farrell *principal*
Ríona Ó Duinnín
associate principal

Oboe

Matthew Manning *section*
leader
Sylvain Gnemmi *associate*
principal
Deborah Clifford *principal*

Cor Anglais

Deborah Clifford *principal*

Clarinet

Matthew Billing *principal*
Seamus Wylie
Fintan Sutton

Bass Clarinet

Seamus Wylie

Contrabass Clarinet

Fintan Sutton

Bassoon

Sinead Frost
Ates Kirkan

Contra Bassoon

Hilary Sheil *principal*

Horn

Brendan Thomas

Peter Ryan

Bethan Watkeys *principal*
David Atcheler *sub-
principal 1*
Dewi Jones *bumper*

Trumpet

James Nash
Thomas Freeman-
Atwood
Pamela Stainer

Trombone

Jason Sinclair *section
leader*
Gavin Roche *associate
principal*

Bass trombone

Josiah Walters *principal*

Tuba

Francis Magee *section
leader*

Percussion

Bernard Reilly *sub-
principal 1*
Richard O'Donnell

Prepared piano

Fergal Caulfield

Players correct at time of writing

Founded in 1948, the National Symphony Orchestra has been at the centre of Ireland's cultural life for 75 years.

Resident orchestra of the National Concert Hall since its opening in 1981, it is a leading force in Irish music through its varied, year-long programmes of live concerts, innovative educational projects and mentoring scheme for young musicians. Recordings and broadcasts on RTÉ and internationally through the European Broadcasting Union extend its reach.

With more than 30 concerts and events for families and schools, the 2023/24 season includes concerts in Dublin, Limerick, Waterford and Galway. Chief conductor Jaime Martín will conduct nine concerts, including the season's curtain raiser, Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*, and its finale, Verdi's *Requiem*.

Attracting the cream of international and Irish talent, the season sees mezzo-soprano Elīna Garanča, cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason and pianist Wayne Marshall making their NSO debuts.

A commitment to new music sees two NSO-commissioned world premieres by Brian Byrne and Shaun Davey; the Irish premiere of Gerald Barry's *Aus Die bitteren Tränen der Petra von Kant*; and European premiere of Australian composer Joe Chindamo's, *Ligeia*. The season also marks the centenary of Charles Villiers Stanford's death with the mini-series, Stanford 100, and we celebrate the Royal Irish Academy of Music's 175th anniversary. www.nch.ie

A Winged Victory for the Sullen

A Winged Victory for the Sullen are an ambient music project by Redbird Music composers and frequent collaborators Adam Bryanbaum Wiltzie and Dustin O'Halloran. The duo met in Italy many years ago and initially only intended to release a single record as A Winged Victory for the Sullen, but the project has continued to live on and the pair have recorded a total of three full length albums and an EP since forming in 2011.

In 2013, A Winged Victory for the Sullen were commissioned by famed choreographer Wayne McGregor to compose the score for his critically acclaimed dance piece *Atomos*. This music would form the basis for their second album, 'Atomos' (2014, Erased Tapes). Another high note came in 2015, when Mary Anne Hobbs invited A Winged Victory For The Sullen to perform at the BBC Proms. In 2019, the two were commissioned to write the score for *Invisible Cities*, a large site-specific stage production, which premiered at the Manchester International Festival in July 2019.

Their latest album 'The Undivided Five' was released on Ninja Tune in November 2019. awvfts.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

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NAISIÚNTA



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