

# NEW MUSIC DUBLIN

## NCH CREATIVE LAB FINALE

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1st May 2022, 2pm | The Studio, National Concert Hall, Dublin

### Creative Lab Participants

**Aaliyah Lovett • Aleda Brady • Aoibhe Kettle • Chimene Ferreira •  
Cormac Tsang • Giovana Alice de Melo Brito • Piera Peruzzo •  
Rohan Harron • Róisín Crowley • Ruby Moss**

### Creative Lab Artistic Directors

**Emma O'Halloran • Amanda Feery**

### Creative Lab Mentors

**Bushra El-Turk • Sophie Cooper • Tonia Ko • Emma O'Halloran •  
Amanda Feery**

### Performing Musicians

**Lioba Petrie cello • Maeve O'Hara vibraphone • Máire Carroll piano •  
Miriam Kaczor flute • Sean Carpio drum kit •  
Tomás O'Durcain electric guitar**

NCH Creative Lab, supported by The Community Foundation for Ireland/ RTÉ Toy Show Appeal and Accenture, in partnership with New Music Dublin.

## PROGRAMME

**Aaliyah Lovett** *Love Me Again*

**Cormac Tsang** *Shrimps*

**Aleda Brady** *Scared of Love*

**Piera Peruzzo** *Rhode*

**Rohan Harron** *Existence*

**Róisín Crowley** *New Work*

**Ruby Moss** *One*

**Giovanna Alice de Melo Brito** *Continuance*

**Aoibhe Kettle** *Lir's Reel*

**Chimene Ferreira** *They Say*



Creative Lab Participants. Image: Mark Stedman

**NCH** NATIONAL  
CONCERT  
HALL \ AN  
CEOLÁRAS  
NÁISIÚNTA

**CREATIVE LAB**

NEW  
MUSIC  
DUBLIN

RTÉ  
ToyShow  
Appeal 

 The Community  
Foundation for Ireland

supported by

**accenture**

## **What is NCH Creative Lab?**

NCH Creative Lab, supported by the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal and Accenture, and in partnership with New Music Dublin, is an eight-month programme for young people (ages 12-18) from traditionally underrepresented groups who are passionate about music.

The composition programme consisted of one-on-one tuition, mentorship, professional development, performance opportunities, and high-quality recordings of the young composers' work. Thanks to the generous support of the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal and Accenture, the programme is offered at no cost to the participants.

Beginning in September 2021, the composers commenced fortnightly online lessons with their mentors and each developed a new piece that is being premiered today at Ireland's foremost contemporary music festival, New Music Dublin.

## **Why did we run this programme?**

Conversations about diversity in classical music have been happening for many years, and while some progress has been made, there is still a long way to go. Composers from traditionally underrepresented groups, continue to make up an overly small percentage of professional composers who are regularly commissioned, performed, and championed. To address and highlight this imbalance, the National Concert Hall launched Creative Lab with Artistic Directors Amanda Feery and Emma O'Halloran in 2021.

'The pace of change has been far too slow in classical music and there remains significant barriers to participation. I'm delighted that we can launch this important initiative, as part of our Learning & Participation programme of events, which aims to support young people to develop musical skills in composition, from typically underrepresented communities.

The NCH is committed to ensuring all members of our diverse society are represented on the stage and in the music industry with this and many other programmes and initiatives. I would like to thank the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal and Accenture for their support in making Creative Lab possible, and New Music Dublin for their support of the project.'

—Robert Read, CEO, National Concert Hall

'Accenture is delighted to support the Creative Lab at NCH. We are a longstanding supporter of the arts in Ireland as we recognise the role that arts play in fostering a creative and inclusive environment. At Accenture we have an unwavering commitment to a culture of equality and the ambition of the Creative Lab to tackle an imbalance in the arts reflects our own ethos of inclusion and diversity.'

—Dr Michelle Cullen, Managing Director and Head of Inclusion & Diversity, Accenture

'We are passionate about equality, including access to the Arts. Thanks to the huge generosity of viewers who responded to the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal we are delighted to support the Creative Lab at the National Concert Hall. By opening up opportunities to young talent this exciting project will not only support a new generation of musicians but also bring joy to audiences long into the future.'

—Denise Charlton, Chief Executive of The Community Foundation for Ireland

## ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS

### **Aaliyah Lovett**

Hi there my name is Aaliyah Lovett. I am a 17 year old from County Offaly. I am a singer who has a great passion for music and song writing. I hugely enjoy performing and always have felt most comfortable on a stage singing and doing what I love to do, since I am hugely passionate about music I was really keen on learning more and was determined to write my own music. When I heard about the NCH Creative Lab programme I instantly knew this was something I needed to be apart of, I wanted to write music but knew guidance would be necessary and this programme has given me just that. It feels exhilarating and almost unbelievable to think that my work that I have worked so hard on will be played at the New Music Festival, it's an honour to be presented with such an opportunity to have those listen to my music. Thank you!

### **Aleda Brady**

Hi, my name is Aleda. I am 16 years old, and I am part of the NCH Creative Lab programme. I have had a big interest in music for as long as I can remember. I play piano, ukulele and guitar, I also love to sing. I am incredibly grateful to be a part of this programme. It is amazing to be given the opportunity to work with professional musicians and a mentor to aid me in writing and performing a song of my own.

### **Aoibhe Kettle**

My name Aoibhe Kettle and I am 17 years old. I am a passionate musician and composer and play both classical violin and traditional harp. I will pursue my studies on harp and violin in the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland later this year. Being part of the NCH Creative Lab has afforded me the opportunity to work with an array of inspiring professionals within the industry. It has encouraged me to explore my own abilities and creativity. I look forward to performing my work and will take the lessons learned into my performance and will continue to compose.

### **Chimene Ferreira**

My name is Chimene I am 16 years old. I am living in county Monaghan but am from Angolan origin. I applied for the NCH Creative Lab because I felt like it was the next step for me and my music. Music means everything to me I just connected to it on another level. This program had been a great opportunity and super educational if I could I would definitely do it again and I would recommend it to all young upcoming musicians. To even think that my piece will be performed at the NCH is unreal.

### **Cormac Tsang**

I'm a 17 year old born in Dublin who grew up playing violin and producing beats from home. NCH Creative Lab gave me a chance to find my voice as a person and as a creator. I learned that composing isn't just about making music, but about communication, and how you can convey musical ideas in a massive variety of ways, to your performers, and to your audience. Music is everything to me, it's an extension of self and my story. I wanted an opportunity to be recognised as someone with potential in music and to explore new musical avenues independently. It gave me a tangible justification to follow my dreams in music and now I can finally share a part of my message with people I never thought I'd be able to. I hope they have fun listening!

## **Giovana Alice de Melo Brito**

Giovana Alice de Melo Brito was born in Minas Gerais, Brazil. She immigrated at four years old to the quaint town of Athenry in County Galway. Always feeling like the outsider, music gave her a place to belong. It gave her a connection to the world around her. She soon sought to create a sound of her own, and began learning violin and joining local orchestras. Giovana Alice fell into the world of composing thanks to programs such as Composer in the Classroom and now NCH Creative Lab. At 19, NCH Creative Lab has given her the opportunity to find what is important to her. It has been a chance to find her voice and has given her the courage, and a platform, to use it. It has taught her an enormous amount, but primarily it has shown her that there is no one way to compose. There is no one way to exist, or hear, or create. Everyone is unique and that is celebrated throughout the NCH Creative Lab. She is honoured to be representing her family, her lineage, and all that they have gone through. Giovana is proud to have gotten this far in life, and has re-found hope in her future.

## **Piera Peruzzo**

My name is Piera I am 16 years old. My passion is music, particularly producing. I spend most of my free time making music in my room. My other interest is using 3D software to create animations. I've enrolled into a music production diploma in Derry starting this September. I'm really excited to learn more about music theory in this course. I was so happy to be chosen to be part of the NCH Creative Lab programme, I have learned so much from my mentor Amanda, it has enriched my knowledge in parts of music that I wouldn't normally explore. This whole experience has really boosted my confidence. The highlight has definitely been hearing my piece of music being performed live with instruments.

## **Rohan Harron**

I am a composer and violinist originally from Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. I now live in Dublin and am studying at the Royal Irish Academy of Music under Kevin O'Connell and Sarah Sew. For me, the NCH Creative Lab programme has been an amazing opportunity to meet a diverse group of like-minded musicians, and I am so excited to hear the results of the programme in New Music Dublin 2022!

## **Róisín Crowley**

Hi, I'm Róisín and music is a huge part of my life! I grew up in Dublin and started messing with tunes on piano before I had any lessons, and though they weren't exactly concert worthy they sparked my interest in composing. I'm always learning new instruments and experimenting with new sounds. I'm autistic, which allows me to experience music in a unique way  
I hate Morrissey and love Blindboy.  
Stay groovy!

## **Ruby Moss**

Hi, I'm Ruby Moss and I'm 14 from Dublin. I signed up for the NCH Creative Lab programme as I thought it would be an amazing opportunity to learn and grow. It has been. The programme is really important because it represents people of all backgrounds. I first started playing piano when I was seven, but I've been interested in music for as long as I can remember. I sing and write songs for vocals, so this has been an amazing opportunity to focus on instrumentals and scoring. I play piano, flute, guitar and organ and I've wanted to compose for them for a while now, but before this I didn't really know where to start. I have learned so much, especially from my mentor Emma O'Halloran - the lessons with her have been incredible. I cannot put into words how great an experience this has been, but I really hope my music can stand as proof. Aside from learning, it's been great to meet other young musicians and composers and all of the mentors and people involved. Everyone has been so inspiring. I wish there was a Year 2, I'd love to continue on with this programme if that were ever possible. I am really grateful that I was chosen and I am really looking forward to hearing everyone's music and seeing what happens in the future.

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Amanda Feery (artistic director & mentor)**

Amanda Feery (she/her) is a composer working with acoustic, electronic, and improvised music, having written for chamber and vocal ensembles, film, theatre, installation, and multimedia.

Graduating from Trinity College Dublin with a degree in Music in 2006, she continued her studies in Music and Media Technologies at Trinity College Dublin, completing an MPhil in 2009. She was the Mark Nelson Fellow in Music at Princeton University, completing her PhD in Music Composition in 2019. Her research focused on Kate Bush's song suite, *The Ninth Wave*.

Whilst in the U.S, she formed collaborative relationships with a number of ensembles and musicians including Alarm Will Sound, Third Coast Percussion, Ensemble Mise-en, Bearthoven, Quince Contemporary Vocal Ensemble, and cellist Amanda Gookin. Closer to home, past collaborators include Irish National Opera, Crash Ensemble, RTÉ ConTempo Quartet, RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, This is How We Fly, Chamber Choir Ireland, Dublin Guitar Quartet, Paul Roe, Michelle O'Rourke, and Lina Andonovska. Her work has featured at New Music Dublin, First Fortnight Festival and Dublin Fringe Festival, among others, and she has been composer-in-residence at Bang on a Can Summer Festival, SOUNDscape and Greywood Arts. Her 2019 residency at Centre Culturel Irlandais focused on recording piano improvisations on public pianos in Paris.

Recent work includes music for Tadhg O'Sullivan's feature film, *To the Moon*, and a filmed opera, *A Thing I Cannot Name*, with Irish National Opera and a libretto by writer Megan Nolan.

She is currently Lecturer in Music Composition at National University of Ireland, Galway.

### **Emma O'Halloran** (artistic director & mentor)

Emma O'Halloran (she/her) is an Irish composer and vocalist. Freely intertwining acoustic and electronic music, she has written for folk musicians, chamber ensembles, turntables, laptop orchestra, symphony orchestra, film, and theatre. For her efforts, she has been praised by I Care If You Listen editor-in-chief Amanda Cook for writing 'some of the most unencumbered, authentic, and joyful music that I have heard in recent years,' and has won numerous competitions, including National Sawdust's inaugural Hildegard competition and the Next Generation Award from Beth Morrison Projects.

Her music aims to capture the human experience, exploring complex emotions felt in specific moments in time. This approach has found a wide audience: her work has been featured at the international Classical NEXT conference in Rotterdam, the Prototype Festival in New York, Bang on a Can Summer Music Festival, and MATA Festival. Additionally, her music has been performed by Crash Ensemble, Contemporaneous, Boston Lyric Opera, Irish National Opera, ~Nois Saxophone Quartet, the Refugee Orchestra Project, PRISM Saxophone Quartet, and the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, amongst others.

She holds a PhD in Music Composition from Princeton University and is currently working as a freelance composer. Current and future projects include a percussion duo for New Works Project, a percussion quintet for the Everybody Hits Initiative, and an opera called Trade that will be developed, produced, and toured by Beth Morrison Projects.

### **Tonia Ko** (mentor)

Composer Tonia Ko has collaborated with leading soloists and ensembles across a variety of media—from acoustic concert pieces to improvisations and sound installations. Recipient of numerous accolades including a Guggenheim Fellowship, her music has been performed throughout the US as well as in Europe and Asia, and lauded by The New York Times for its 'captivating' details and 'vivid orchestral palette.' Born in Hong Kong and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, she holds a DMA from Cornell University and served as 2015-17 Composer-in-Residence for Young Concert Artists. She was appointed Lecturer in Composition at Royal Holloway, University of London in 2020.

### **Bushra El-Turk** (mentor)

Bushra El-Turk (b. London, 1982) is a British-Lebanese composer, selected by the BBC as one of the most inspiring 100 Women of today. She has written over fifty works for the concert hall, the stage and multi-media, performed and broadcast on radio and television worldwide, including the London Symphony Orchestra, BBC Proms, BBC Symphony Orchestra, and the Latvian Radio Choir amongst others, often integrating the musics and musicians of different cultural traditions, creating works that are '...ironic...; '...arresting...! and of 'limitless imagination'!

### **Sophie Cooper** (mentor)

Sophie Cooper is a sound artist who Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival (hcmf//) refer to as 'a crucial member of Yorkshire's far-reaching experimental music scene'. Her practice pivots around new presentations of acoustic instrumentation (primarily the trombone) with electronics, challenging conventions around composition, text placement and performance.

# 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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