

NEW  
MUS  
DUB

THE TOTALLY MADE UP  
ORCHESTRA

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27th April 2024, 1.30pm | Kevin Barry Recital Room, National Concert Hall, Dublin

**Brian Irvine** *A 15 minute walk in any direction* (world premiere) and other new, unheard creations

**The Totally Made Up Orchestra**

**Brian Irvine** composer/director

Today's programme will include (maybe) *A 15 minute walk in any direction* and other new, previously unheard creations, all of which will have been dreamed up collectively at some point in the past three and a half hours by the remarkable members of the Totally Made Up Orchestra, with the unstinting encouragement, support and general love of the deeply surprising Brian Irvine, whose fault this (partly) is.

## BIOGRAPHIES

### Brian Irvine

Born in Belfast, Brian Irvine's unique musical world combines the known and the unknown, the free and the fixed, the schooled and the unschooled. He is driven by a single desire to connect, disrupt, reinvent and re-imagine all aspects of life, people, society, art and understanding in any and as many ways possible.

His huge output includes operas, film scores, large scale oratorios, orchestral, ensemble, chamber, solo and dance works as well as games and installations. Often combining and layering diverse, experimental and opposing elements, his music has been commissioned, broadcast and performed all over the world by a vast array of performers and organisations, including Irish National Opera, London Symphony Orchestra, Welsh National Opera, RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Red Note Ensemble, Ulster Orchestra and the Fidelio Trio, to name but a few.

He has collaborated and made work with artists from vastly different disciplines including Seamus Heaney, Keiji Haino, Willie Doherty, David Holmes, Joanna Macgregor, Paul Dunmall, Primal Scream, Eduard Bersudsky, U2 and Jennifer Walshe, as well as thousands of groups and individuals from all dimensions of society including ex-paramilitaries, young offenders, victims of violence, special needs groups, residential homes, community choirs, gardeners, footballers, bankers, homeless associations, call centre workers and schools.

His recent opera *Least Like the Other: Searching for Rosemary Kennedy* won the 2023 Ivor Novello Award for opera and was shortlisted in the same year for an Olivier Award. He has been nominated for six British Composer Awards (BASCA's), and has won two. He has also been awarded the BBC Radio 3 Jazz Award (with his own 13-piece ensemble) and the UK's most prestigious Paul Hamlyn Composers Award. He is Co-Artistic Director and founder of the internationally award-winning creative production company Dumbworld, part-time Professor of Music at Ulster University and was Associate Composer with the Ulster Orchestra for four years. In 2016 became the first Music Laureate for the City of Belfast, and was awarded an MBE for services to music.

In 2022, his work for violin and orchestra, *A Mon Seul Desir*, was recorded for the BBC Radio 3 New Music Programme and was shortlisted for an Ivor Novello Award the same year. *The Scorched Earth Trilogy* (a triptych of projected street art operas created with Dumbworld partner John McIllduff) was also shortlisted for the 2023 Ivor Novello Award in the opera/stage works category. Recent collaborations with composer David Holmes include the score for the six-part BBC drama *The Woman in the Wall* (by Joe Murtagh) and *Ordinary Love* (starring Liam Neeson and Lesley Mannville, written by Owen McCafferty and directed by Glen Leyburn and Lis Barros D'S). He has also worked with David Holmes on Neil Jordan's *Marlowe* and Steven Soderberg's *The Laundromat*.

In 2023 he conducted and premiered his large-scale work *FAT CHAIR* for the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland and the multi-ability The Totally Made Up Orchestra as part of New Music Dublin. *A New Topography of Love*, a new work for video game, ensemble and singers is currently touring numerous venues throughout UK and Ireland, and his theatre work for children *Wires, Things and Other Things* (a collaboration with Wouter Van Looy and Zonzo Compagnie, Belgium) also recently completed an extensive tour of European theatres.

He is currently working on a new opera project with Least Like The Other collaborator Netia Jones, and has just finished the score for Allesandra Celesia's new film *The Flats*, which will receive its world premiere in Copenhagen in March 2024.

He loves to paint, is awful at DIY but can do a Rubik's cube in a fairly respectable time. [brianirvine.uk](http://brianirvine.uk)

## **The Totally Made Up Orchestra**

The Totally Made Up Orchestra is probably the world's longest-running musical fever dream, the product in 2018 of one of John Harris and Brian Irvine's regular and slightly unhinged conversations about music and what to do about it. The Orchestra was born of a mutual wondering about what could be the very purest, most open and accessible form of collective music-making they could think of at the time, and so the criteria for membership of the Totallies (as they are sometimes known to no-one apart from John and Brian) were devised: Any Age, Any Instrument, Any Ability.

Completely open access, without charge for joining (members are simply required to sign up in advance), and with only the love of collective musical creation in their hearts, the members of the orchestra gather on the morning of their show without a plan. They make a plan, they play some music, and they perform a show. The Totally Made Up Orchestra has done this as part of New Music Dublin come rain, shine or Covid since 2018. Last year, the Totallies even went up against the National Symphony Orchestra, taking their professional rivals on in the bear pit arena of the Main Stage of the National Concert Hall for a nil-all draw (although the NSO were definitely down at half-time). Unbeatable, unmatchable and wholly unpredictable, The Totally Made Up Orchestra are here again for one of the purest expressions of joy in creative music-making that can be experienced without using performance-enhancing supplements.

They will be back next year.

# THE TOTALLY MADE UP ORCHESTRA

## **Violin**

Aditya Mukherji  
Beatrice Tola  
Billy Ellis Tangney  
Fiadh McCullagh  
Iggy Morrell Moore  
Joanne Banks  
Kseniia Terokhina  
Lauren (the legend)  
Mary Gallagher  
Maude Coleman  
Siobhan Keogh  
Sofiia Mishchenko  
Sophie Hauer  
Sorina Fabian  
Tara Tudor Vasic  
Toby Sherman  
Vera Price

## **Cello**

Elizabeth Fuller  
Mila Coleman  
Victoria Ekerin

## **Guitar**

Amber Moran  
Harry Martin  
Jack Coleman

## **Electric/Bass Guitar**

Thomas Kerr

## **Flute**

Avril Kneafsey  
Claire Kirwan  
Joanne Gillen  
Magali Montero  
Ruby Moss

## **Recorder**

Arlo Morrell Moore

## **Melodica**

Gavin Coleman

## **Oboe**

Charlie O' Donovan

## **Clarinet**

Patricia Flynn  
Peter Moran

## **Saxophone**

Henry Murray  
Paula McCarthy

## **French Horn**

Miriam Mc Nally

## **Trombone**

Simon Kellett

## **Piano**

Conor Dennis  
Emer Murray  
Keela McGauran  
Rory Corbett  
Salma Elshamy  
Sam Elliott

## **Accordion**

Ken Whelan

## **Percussion**

Arnie Kokanovic  
Leslie Dowdall  
Willem Murray Burns

## **Spoons**

Kerry

Players correct at time of writing

# 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**

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**NATIONAL  
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NAISIÚNTA**



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