

# NEW MUS DUB

## PUTTING IT INTO MUSIC

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30th April 2022, 5:30pm | The Studio, National Concert Hall, Dublin

**Emma O'Halloran** *What I Was Gonna Say* (World Premiere)

**Sam Perkin** *Children in the Universe* (World Premiere)

**Crash Ensemble**

**Peter Biloen** conductor

**Diamanda La Berge Dramm** solo violin

**Laura Sheeran** visuals & performance direction (*Children in the Universe*)



## PROGRAMME NOTES

### **Emma O'Halloran** *What I Was Gonna Say* (2022)

In November 2019, I was living in New York and found myself at Comic Arts Brooklyn, a free annual festival of comics and graphics. It was an explosion of colour and shapes with hundreds of artists displaying and selling their work. At one stall, the well-known artist and muralist Stephen J. Powers (also known by the name ESPO) sat making free prints for anyone who brought their own paper. My friend Jess came prepared with several blank sheets and we both walked away with a print. The image was of an impossibly large black book with a white title in all capitals that said WHAT I WAS GONNA SAY and on the spine of the book, 'Vol. 8'. I love this print, it's hilarious and joyful but it also resonates deeply because that's what my music is about. When I compose, I try to capture the things that I have difficulty putting into words, all of the complicated and messy feelings I have about what it is to be alive.

In a way, this piece is about getting to the root of why I write music, and Crash Ensemble are the perfect people to explore this with. They were the first group I ever saw performing contemporary music and that experience opened up a whole new world of possibility for what sound can do and express. *What I Was Gonna Say* is about trying to capture moments in time: the highs and lows, the irritations, the revelations, the light, the heavy, all of it, and there's no better group to say it than Crash.

— Emma O'Halloran

### **Sam Perkin** *Children in the Universe* (2020-2022)

A Hybrid Symphony for Crash Ensemble and Halo Track with Diamanda La Berge Dramm as Guide

- I WE HOWLED LIKE WOLVES
- II LIFEBLOOD
- III TEARS OF PURE INTUITION

'She goes into nature, into the dunes, and talks to the clouds.  
She talks to the wind. I think it's something adolescents do.' - Bavo Defurne

I have gone deep for this work, the deepest yet. There are two years of life in here. Our Guide, Diamanda, will take us on a sacred journey to a place where only music can. She will act as a medium through which, with open ears, we can dream much needed counsel.

Together, we can use this guidance to create the more beautiful world our hearts know is possible.

Dedicated to Kate Ellis, Diamanda Dramm and Charles Eisenstein.

The Halo Track is a mirror of the Live element, creating a glow around the ensemble; a halo around the music. Each element, Live Performance and Halo Track, is a reflection of the other, acting like two resonant mirrors. This notion of a Hybrid Ensemble is part of what I have been exploring compositionally over the last decade.

— Sam Perkin

## BIOGRAPHIES

### Emma O'Halloran

Emma O'Halloran is an Irish composer and vocalist. Freely intertwining acoustic and electronic music, O'Halloran has written for folk musicians, chamber ensembles, turntables, laptop orchestra, symphony orchestra, film, and theatre. Her work has been described as 'intensely beautiful' (Washington Post) and 'unencumbered, authentic, and joyful' (I Care If You Listen), and has won numerous competitions, including National Sawdust's inaugural Hildegard competition and the Next Generation award from Beth Morrison Projects.

O'Halloran's 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, Khemia Ensemble, ~Nois Saxophone Quartet, the Refugee Orchestra Project, PRISM Saxophone Quartet, and the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, amongst others.

Along with composer Amanda Feery and in collaboration with the Irish National Concert Hall, O'Halloran founded the [Creative Lab](#), a mentorship programme for young composers from traditionally underrepresented groups in music composition. She holds a PhD in Music Composition from Princeton University. Current and future projects include works for F-PLUS, Friction Quartet, an orchestra commission, a large-scale work for Crash Ensemble, and an opera called *TRADE*.

### Sam Perkin

Sam Perkin, who lives between France and Ireland, is composer-in-residence with Crash Ensemble. His works include *Grey Area* (2017-19), his first major composition for Crash, which blends the worlds of Street Skateboarding with Contemporary Music; *Waves* (2016-18), an attempted self-cure for tinnitus performed by The Irish Chamber Orchestra; *Language* (2017), a substantial work for Solo Violin commissioned by West Cork Chamber Music Festival for contemporary violin specialist Miranda Cuckson; *Twitter* (2018) for Flute Choir, Audience, Smartphones and Video commissioned by La Côte Flûte Festival Switzerland; *Orchestra In The Digital Age* (2019) for Orchestra and *Sine Tones*, for the CMC's Composer Lab with the RTÉ NSO. '<3' (2019) for double bassist Caimin Gilmore; *Alta* (2019), commissioned by Alta Chamber Music Festival Norway; *Visualization* (2021), performed by Luminosa Orchestra; and *Suburban Distortion* (2021), for three guitars, which will be premiered at Network For New Music Philadelphia in 2022.

Perkin has enjoyed fruitful collaborations with artists such as Finghin Collins, The Irish Chamber Orchestra, Miranda Cuckson, Vanbrugh Quartet, RTÉ ConTempo Quartet, IAYO, RTÉ NSO, Fidelio Trio, Thomas Schuttenhelm; and festivals such as Ortús Festival, Engage Arts Festival, Kilkenny Arts Festival, Killaloe Festival, New Ross Piano Festival, West Wicklow Festival, West Cork Chamber Music Festival, Gregynog Festival Wales, La Côte Festival Switzerland, Sound Scotland Festival, Musica Nova Festival Finland, Alta Festival Norway, and Network for New Music Philadelphia. He holds degrees in Composition from CIT Cork School of Music, Ireland, and an Artist

Diploma from Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Lyon, France, where he was awarded the Prix Salabert for Composition. In 2017, he was awarded The Next Generation Bursary from The Arts Council of Ireland.

### **Peter Biloen** (conductor)

Peter Biloen was the only Dutch conductor ever to reach the finals of London's international Donatella Flick Conducting Competition in 2004, directing the London Symphony Orchestra in concert. He was awarded the Anton Kersjes Foundation's national conducting prize in 2005 and the prestigious Academy Conductor Fellowship at the Aspen Music Festival.

In much demand as a guest conductor, engagements have included appearances with the Orchestre National de Montpellier, the Antwerp Symphony, the Moscow Symphony, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, several contemporary music ensembles and many orchestras in the Netherlands. Numerous concerts were recorded for CD and radio broadcasts.

Biloen has conducted world premieres and collaborated with renowned composers including Louis Andriessen, Philip Glass, David Lang, Witold Lutoslawski, John Cage, and Pierre Boulez in performances of their works in Europe, the United States, Russia and China.

Biloen assisted Music Director Jaap van Zweden at the Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic and most recently at the New York Philharmonic.

### **Diamanda La Berge Dramm** (solo violin)

Diamanda La Berge Dramm (b. 1991) grew up in Amsterdam, the Netherlands playing the violin from the age of four among the leading figures of the Dutch classical, avant-garde and improvisation scene. At the age of thirteen, she premiered Raadsels by Louis Andriessen in the Concertgebouw for the opening of the Holland Festival 2005 and has gone on to perform internationally as a soloist, chamber music player and band member. In April 2018 she won the Dutch Classical Talent Tour & Award, the first ever string soloist to do so. In March 2020 NRC Handelsblad named her one of the 101 talents for the next decade.

She has worked extensively with modern music luminaries such as Christian Wolff, Alvin Lucier, Gunther Schuller, Chaya Czernowin, George Benjamin, and Georg Friedrich Haas. She completed her Bachelor of Music at the New England Conservatory in Boston and was awarded the John Cage Award for her contribution to new music. She received her Masters of Music from the Royal Conservatory of the Hague where she received the Nicolai Prize for the most exceptional recital.

In 2018 she released the *Violin Spaces* series together with Garth Knox (published by Schott), a brand new set of concert etudes focusing on extended techniques. Her longtime collaboration with UK poet SJ Fowler resulted in the EP *Beastings* in 2019. As part of her residency at Muziekgebouw Eindhoven, she initiated a project around Charles Ives' Fifth Violin Sonata. She is a co-founder of [Splendor](#), a collective of musicians, composers, and stage artists who transformed an old bathhouse in the heart of Amsterdam into a local cultural paradise.

She plays on an Andreas Grütter bow (2015), and an Andranik Gaybaryan violin (2014), purchased with the generous support of the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds and the Stichting Eigen Muziekinstrumentenfonds.

### **Laura Sheeran** (visuals & performance direction, *Children in the Universe*)

Laura Sheeran is a multidisciplinary artist and director from Galway, currently living in Dublin. Laura works mainly with sound, video, theatre and dance. She began working with Crash Ensemble in 2015, since then she has worked extensively with Crash filming performances, creating accompanying visuals for new compositions and live performances, documenting their processes and helping craft a visual identity for the band through performance direction.

### **Crash Ensemble**



Crash Ensemble. Image: Ros Kavanagh

**Susan Doyle** flute  
**Léonie Bluett** clarinet  
**Roderick O'Keefe** trombone  
**Brian Bolger** guitar  
**Barry O'Halpin** electric guitar  
**Caitríona Frost** percussion

**Eliza McCarthy** piano  
**Larissa O'Grady** violin  
**Lisa Dowdall** viola  
**Kate Ellis** cello  
**Caimin Gilmore** double bass  
**Diamanda La Berge Dramm** solo violin

**Rob Kearns** Production Manager • **Ian Dowdall** Front of House Sound • **Sachit Anan** Monitors • **Adrian Hart** Audio Producer

**Siân Cunningham** CEO • **Kate Ellis** Artistic Director • Matt Rafter **Producer/Concerts Manager** • Larissa O'Grady **Community Manager** • **Lisa Dowdall** Education Coordinator

Crash Ensemble is Ireland's leading new music ensemble; a group of world-class musicians who play the most adventurous, ground-breaking music of today. Crash is innovative, adventurous and ambitious.

Led by cellist and Artistic Director, Kate Ellis and Principal Conductor, Ryan McAdams, the ensemble commissions, collaborates, explores, investigates and experiments with a broad spectrum of music creators and artistic collaborators: 'We love to

innovate, with quality always at the heart of everything we do. We are passionate about the music we play. We create experiences; exploring new ways of presenting music and bringing our audiences on new adventures. Community for us is key - our community inspires us to create and experiment more. We value our audiences and our connection with them.'

Crash performs both in Ireland and Internationally. The ensemble's music is available on their own label, Crash Records and they have recordings on Nonesuch, Cantaloupe, NMC, Ergodos and Bedroom Community labels.

Many well-known artists from diverse musical backgrounds have performed with the ensemble; Terry Reilly, Gavin Friday, Dawn Upshaw, Diamanda Le Berge Dramm, Julie Feeney, Lisa Hannigan, Íarla Ó Lionáird (The Gloaming), Bryce Dessner (The National), Richard Reed Parry (Arcade Fire), Sam Amidon and Beth Orton.

As well as performing throughout Ireland, Crash regularly perform internationally, with appearances in the last few years at the Edinburgh International Festival, The Royal Opera House (London), The Barbican (London), Carnegie Hall (NYC) The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington DC), Virginia Tech (Virginia), GAIDA Festival (Lithuania) and residencies at The Huddersfield Contemporary Music festival (UK) and Princeton University (NJ).

**Crash Ensemble is strategically funded by the Arts Council of Ireland and is a resident ensemble at the National Concert Hall in Dublin, Ireland.**



## 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**

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