

**N E W
M U S
D U B**

THINGS THAT NEVER DIE

1st May 2022, 11:30am | Main Stage, National Concert Hall, Dublin

Cór na nÓg
Cór Linn

Carole O'Connor piano
Nicky Bailey percussion
Mary Amond O'Brien director

PROGRAMME

Bob Chilcott Green Songs

Be Cool

Keep It Good

Nozone (additional text by Cór na nÓg members Theo Davis and Nora Verdier)

Peter Leavy Four Seasonal Songs (NMD commission, World Premiere)

Spring is The Time

Trick or Treat

Sing Unto The Green Holly

In Summer

Traditional Irish / arr. **David Hayes** *Beidh Aonach Amárach*

Ferdia Ó Cairbre / **Charles Dickens** *Things That Never Die* (World Premiere)

Esther Ayomide Adanikin / arr. **Ferdia Ó Cairbre** *Hope Filled Change* (World Premiere)



Cór na nÓg performing with Joyce Di Donato, 2022

PROGRAMME NOTES

During the 2020 lockdown a choral music setting of Charles Dickens' poem *These Things Shall Never Die* sat on my piano among a pile of repertoire I was planning to research. After reading through the text I decided to send it to one of our Cór Linn members Ferdia Ó Cairbre, who had composed for us for New Music Dublin 2019 and 2020. Like all things we take for granted when life is good, this text took on a whole new meaning during the pandemic - perfectly framing the simple though sometimes challenging things, actions and feelings we need to implement and treasure every day; my hope was that Ferdia might consider setting the text for us. Two weeks later his new composition being premiered today landed in my inbox, hence the title of our concert!

These Things Shall Never Die

Charles Dickens

The pure, the bright, the beautiful
That stirred our hearts in youth,
The impulses to wordless prayer,
The streams of love and truth,
The longing after something lost,
The spirit's yearning cry,
The striving after better hopes --
These things can never die.

Let nothing pass, for every hand
Must find some work to do,
Lost not a chance to waken love,
Be firm and just and true.
So shall a light that cannot fade
Beam on thee from on high,
And angel voices say to thee --
"These things shall never die."

The timid hand stretched forth to aid
A brother in his need;
A kindly word in grief's dark hour
That proves a friend indeed;
The plea for mercy softly breathed,
When justice threatens high,
The sorrow of a contrite heart --
These things shall never die.

Today we ***'sing to the joys of life, of the pleasures of work and rest'***.

Today we sing about the seasons and in particular the importance of stopping climate change to allow us to curate and create a brighter future for all. ***'The world is a part of the universe'***, we ask everyone here to ***'show the world a little respect'*** and ***'keep it good'*** so all of us can play our part and ***'leave a better world behind'***.

Today ***'we'll shine our light'*** because we believe ***'change can start with us'***.

After two years since our New Music Dublin 2020 performance we ***'taunt old care with a merry air and sing in the face of ill'*** because ***'poor were the worth of the world if never a song were heard'***. The text in bold italics above has been extracted from the some of the songs we perform for you today as the extra things we believe shall and should never die. We are extremely proud and excited to be performing six of the 39 NMD 2022 world premieres - Four Seasonal Songs by Peter Leavy commissioned by NMD, *These Things Shall Never Die* by Cór Linn member Ferdia Ó Cairbre and *Hope-filled Change* by Cór Linn member Esther Ayomide Adanikin.

—Mary Amond O'Brien

CÓR NA NÓG

Aaron Joseph
Ailbhe Sheehan
Ailbhe Quinn
Ailbhe McGowan
Aine McPolin
Alison Walsh
Amelia Rowan
Anna O'Cathain
Annabel Murphy
Antoni Panszczyk
Amelia Rowan
Aoibhinn Galvin
Aoileann Monaghan
Ava McEntee
Cara O'Rourke
Charlene Sone Lenou

Christian Shine Walsh
Conor Byrne
Dylan Moran
Elizabeth Cantwell
Emer Duffy
Emma Kerrigan
Filip Panszczyk
Gracie Hourihane
Helen Bueckert
Holly Robbins
Isabel O'Cathain
Isobel Owens
Jack Cahill
Ken Paulson
Líadan O'Sullivan
Maedhbh McCarthy

Maeve Hynes
Mia O'Connor
Michael Kennedy
Naomi Thomas
Neasa McMenamy
Nora Verdier
Oisín Govender
Rachel Walsh
Robert O'Brien
Rosa Tottenham
Seán Hynes
Selena Gan
Shaun Paulson
Sophie McKenna
Theo Davis
Triona Robertson

CÓR LINN

Aaron Walsh
Abigail McGowan
Aisling Okeeffe
Aisling McGowan
Aisling Reilly
Alan Joseph
Alannah Birmingham
Aoife Stuart
Aoife Ryan
Bana Olawoye
Caoimhe Kavanagh
Ciara Stell
Cillian Bowen
Clara Donaghy

Colin Brown
Cormac Carney
Daniel Flannery
Elizabeth Quigley
Esther Adanikin
Ferdia Ó Cairbre
Gavin Bowen-O'Connor
Grace Quigley
Grace O'Dwyer
Gregory Hayes
Hannah Löfstrand
James Donohoe
Lara Devitt
Matthew Leamy

Meabh Maguire
Megan Bolger
Molly O'Connell
Molly Verdier
Rachel Pirie
Ralph Gowran
Rosie Clarke
Sarah Walsh
Sasha Ward
Solomon Gleeson
Sophie Walsh
Tadhg Verdier
Tiya Tijo
Zoë Moore

Music Director

Mary Amond O'Brien

Music Assistant

Jennifer McMahon

Accompanist

Carole O'Connor

Stewards

Ciarán Crangle
David Maloney

Guest Percussionist

Nicky Bailey

Choral Administrator

NCH Choirs

Lesley Bishop

General Manager NSO and NCH Choirs

Anthony Long

Cór na nÓg and Cór Linn

Right from the beginning, this concert had a magical quality and turned out to be one of the unexpected highlights of the Festival (Journal of Music, NMD 2019)

Cór na nÓg was founded by RTÉ in 1987 for treble singers aged 9-14 and is one of Ireland's leading children's choirs. It was joined by Cór Linn youth choir in September 2018, giving older singers and those with changing voices the opportunity to learn SATB repertoire, and build on both the musical foundations and friendships formed whilst in Cór na nÓg.

After rising above the many challenges of covid, and moving from RTÉ to the National Concert Hall in February 2022 (with the National Symphony Orchestra and National Symphony Chorus) the choirs are enjoying rehearsals in their new home. Cór na nÓg recently guested with soprano Joyce DiDonato, and future projects are being planned with the National Symphony Orchestra and the NCH.

The music team provides first-class musical education in a relaxed and happy atmosphere where young singers can develop both vocally and socially. Repertoire is varied and challenging, the only stipulation being that it is the very best music of its genre. Many members continue their singing as adults, life-long friendships are formed and some have even returned as Cór staff, including Jennifer, Carole and Ciaran!

This concert is the first since NMD 2020 for Cór Linn, and we are immensely proud that it includes two world premieres written by members Ferdia O'Cairbre (already a seasoned NMD composer) and Esther Adanikin – both aged 18 and the two youngest composers represented in the Festival.

Singing is not just a hobby for us, it is a vital part of who we are, and as we head into our futures, we go confidently, knowing that we have been given, literally, Voices for Life

If you would like to know more about joining us, please contact Lesley - lesley.bishop@nch.ie, 087 247 2993

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
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NAISIÚNTA



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