

NEW  
MUS  
DUB

HAIGH, BUCKLEY &  
DENNEHY

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26th April 2024, 7.30pm | Main Stage, National Concert Hall, Dublin

**Robin Haigh** *SLEEPTALKER* (2021) (Irish premiere)

**Linda Buckley** *Tuile agus Trá* (2024) (world premiere)

**Donnacha Dennehy** Violin Concerto (2020) (Irish premiere)

National Symphony Orchestra

**David Brophy** conductor

**Iarla Ó Lionáird** voice

**Stephen Waarts** violin



## PROGRAMME NOTES

### **Robin Haigh** *SLEEPTALKER* (2021)

*SLEEPTALKER* is about dreams, as metaphors for predictions of the future. Like our dreams, predictions are hazy, ungraspable, often fearsome. Both are built out of our perceptions of events of the past and present, uncanny reflections of things that have been. This is what the music in *SLEEPTALKER* means to me; dreamlike, clouded visions of a future both unknowable and inevitable.

— Robin Haigh

### **Linda Buckley** *Tuile agus Trá* (for Mary Buckley)

Text from poems by Doireann Ní Ghríofa with kind permission by the author (from *Lunulae*, Wake Forest University Press)

The title *Tuile agus Trá* means ‘Flood and Tide’ (or also ‘Ebb and Flow’) and comes from one of the poems set here by Doireann Ní Ghríofa. I have long worked with the astounding sean nós singer Iarla O Lionáird, feeling a kinship personally as well as musically, and through our shared backgrounds of growing up in large families in rural Cork.

This is my first time working with the combined larger forces of voice with the symphony orchestra and I knew that it somehow had to pay tribute to the memory of my mother Mary Buckley, who passed away last year. I grew up singing sean nós and she loved to hear my own singing.

This draws upon the melodic worlds of medieval Armenian hymn ‘Ur Es Mayr Im’ (‘Mother, where are you?’) and sets text which has such poignant resonance for me:

*I hear the echo of your voice too. You live, still, in the song of the shore; you are with us, both in the tide's pulse and in our hearts' twinned lull and gush.  
Maireann tú fós, i gceol an chladaigh. Tá tú linn i gcuisle na taoide, agus i ngach tuile agus trá dár gcroíthe.*

— Linda Buckley

#### **Lunulae**

Bíodh is gur theip ar an lá  
mar a theip ar a sholas,

bíodh is gur ghéill an spéir arís  
don ndorchadas,

i gcorráin ár n-ingne, lonraíonn  
gealáin an dóchais—deich ngealach bheaga

a lasann gach greim, gile nach múchfar  
fiú i scamail na ndraighean.

#### **Lunulae**

Though it grew dark and darker,  
how could we despair

when we remembered the crescents  
in each fingernail?

Ten little moons  
to glimmer our grip,

slips of brightness that persist,  
holding our hands, even in darkness.

### Aistriúchán ar Fán

Cuirim sliogán le mo chluas amhail fón  
brúite idir leiceann is gualainn,

ach ní fuaim na farraige amháin  
atá le clos laistigh. Airím macalla

do ghutha chomh maith. Maireann tú fós,  
i gceol an chladaigh.

Tá tú linn i gcuisle na taoide,  
agus i ngach tuile agus trá dár gcroíthe.

### A Translation Astray

I hold a shell to my ear, as though it could be  
a phone nestled between cheek and shoulder  
bone,

but the sound of the sea is not all  
that whispers within. I hear the echo

of your voice too. You live, still,  
in the song of the shore;

you are with us, both in the tide's pulse  
and in our hearts' twinned lull and gush.

*Tuile agus Trá* is commissioned by the National Symphony Orchestra and New Music Dublin.

### Donnacha Dennehy Violin Concerto (2020)

Written especially for the violinist Augustin Hadelich, this is actually my first multi-movement concerto. People have referred to my *Elastic Harmonic* of 2005 as a violin concerto, but actually I have thought of that always as a one-movement piece for violin and orchestra, where the solo violin is suspended above consistently. This, on the other hand, plays on the dialogue between the solo and the mass constantly, and the mass of the orchestra itself splinters into smaller shards. The first movement especially zooms in and out of various perspectives. I think of this aerial zooming as being essential to its nature. The second movement feels redolent of the sea to me. The sea always emerges in my music it seems. Maybe it has to do with growing up in Ireland, surrounded by water on all sides. There is a real feeling of yearning to this movement. It was written during the first lockdown of the pandemic, and I feel that a kind of desire to transcend the conditions of everyday life permeates this movement. The final movement is more earthy and cheeky. A strange, splintered, fierce jig eventually appears and then abstractions of that start to eat away at the very fabric of the music, when the violin threatens to spiral everything out of control leading to a fierce conclusion on the very edge of what is possible!

— Donnacha Dennehy

Dennehy's Violin Concerto was commissioned by Oregon Symphony, philharmonie zuidnederland and Aspen Music Festival.

## BIOGRAPHIES

### David Brophy

Dublin-born David Brophy is a graduate of the city's Technological University and Trinity College. He started his career as an Apprentice Conductor with Chamber Choir Ireland and later became the first Assistant Conductor of the (then RTÉ) National Symphony Orchestra. A former Principal Conductor of the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, he maintains strong ties with both orchestras, often guest conducting with the Ulster Orchestra. He has conducted across Europe, North America, Africa, and Asia, collaborating with renowned soloists including Tasmin Little, Lang Lang and Nicola Benedetti. Recent

engagements have taken him to Spain, Denmark, the UK, Finland and Germany, alongside debuts with some of America's finest orchestras in Atlanta, Buffalo, Nashville, Naples, Pittsburgh and the National Symphony Orchestra.

Work with new music ensembles, among them Vox 21 and Crash Ensemble (of which he is a board member), includes the Irish premiere of Steve Reich's *Music for Eighteen Musicians*, and world premiere of Nico Muhly arrangements for Iarla Ó Lionáird. For the opera stage, he has worked with Lyric Opera, Opera Theatre Company, Opera Ireland and Northern Ireland Opera. He won the 2013 Sky Arts Ignition Award for Kurt Weill's *Mahagonny* at Dublin's Olympia Theatre.

His extensive repertoire extends beyond classical music to collaborations with actors including Brendan Gleeson and Fiona Shaw, and musicians including U2, The Chieftains and Sinéad O'Connor. He has appeared on international broadcasts and recordings, including work with RTÉ, BBC, CBC and Sky Arts, and recorded for Silva Screen, lyric fm, Tara Music and New World. He has an honorary doctorate from The Open University for services to music and the community in Ireland. [halacartists.com/en/artists/david-brophy](http://halacartists.com/en/artists/david-brophy)

## **Iarla Ó Lionáird**

Iarla Ó Lionáird is a leading figure in Irish Music. His work defies generic categorisation and boundaries, having deployed his unique vocal skill in contexts which include opera, new classical, Worldbeat and folk music. He has had international success with various groups including Crash Ensemble, the Afro Celt Sound System and most recently as vocalist with The Gloaming. A twice Grammy nominated artist, he has recorded and performed with some of the biggest names in music including Peter Gabriel, Sinéad O'Connor and Robert Plant. He has lent his voice to various film soundtracks, including *Gangs of New York*, *Calvary*, *Hotel Rwanda* and *Brooklyn*. Collaborations with composers internationally include Donnacha Dennehy, Dan Trueman, Gemma Peacocke, Nico Muhly, Gavin Bryars, Mel Mercier, Linda Buckley and David Lang. He is the recipient of a Meteor Music Award, a TG4 Gradam Ceoil Award, RTÉ Radio 1 Irish Folk Music Award and a BBC Radio 2 Folk Award. He has performed with Concert and Symphony Orchestras including the Ulster Orchestra, The National Symphony Orchestra at The Kennedy Centre, USA, The Irish National Symphony Orchestra and the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, as well as with a wide range of chamber and smaller ensembles across the world including: Contemporaneous, Alarm Will Sound, So Percussion, Eighth Blackbird, Present Music, The Vanburgh Quartet, The West Ocean Quartet, Publiq Quartet, Quartetto Maurice and Crash Ensemble. [iarla.com](http://iarla.com)

## **Stephen Waarts**

Stephen Waarts' innate and poetic musical voice has established him as a firm favourite with audiences across the globe. He has performed with orchestras such as Konzerthausorchester Berlin, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, hr-Sinfonieorchester, Antwerp Symphony Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre National de Belgique, Lucerne Symphony Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and Halle Orchestra, and with conductors including Christoph Eschenbach, Sir Andras Schiff, Marin Alsop, Constantinos Carydis, Nicholas McGegan, Maxime Pascal, Markus Stenz and Elim Chan. A passionate recitalist and chamber musician, he has appeared in recital at Philharmonie Luxembourg, Philharmonie Haarlem, Fundación Juan March, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Auditorium du Louvre and the Boulez Saal and Concertgebouw Amsterdam. His regular chamber partners include Andras Schiff,

Francesco Piemontesi, Daniel Müller-Schott, Marie-Elisabeth Hecker, Timothy Ridout, Tabea Zimmermann and Martin Helmchen. Festival appearances include Aspen, Marlboro, Gstaad, Krzyżowa, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Rheingau and Jerusalem.

His recordings include discs for Alpha Classics, Ondine and his acclaimed debut recital album with pianist Gabriele Carson, featuring works by Schumann and Bartók (Rubicon Classics). Awards include the International Classical Music Awards Orchestra Award by Lucerne Symphony Orchestra (2019), the Avery Fisher Career Grant and the Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern's soloist award (2017), the Queen Elisabeth Competition (2015) and the Menuhin Competition (2014).

He studied at the Kronberg Academy and the Curtis Institute, Philadelphia, and also worked with Itzhak Perlman, Li Lin and Alexander Barantschik.

Appearances in the 2023/24 season will include his debut with Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra performing Beethoven's Violin Concerto and appearances with Berner Symphonieorchester, Meininger Hofkapelle and at San Francisco Performances, the Vancouver Recital Society, Wigmore Hall and the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg. [stephenwaarts.com](http://stephenwaarts.com)

## **Robin Haigh**

Irish/British composer Robin Haigh works internationally with leading orchestras, ensembles and soloists. Described as possessing an 'idiomatic and unique compositional approach, blending together styles [...] in a way that feels genuine, honest, real' (*What is Metamodern? Journal*), Haigh's output includes the orchestral works *SLEEPTALKER* (Ivor Novello Award nominee) and *Grin* (Ivor Novello Award winner 2020) written for the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Britten Sinfonia respectively, ensemble works *AESOP 2* (Ivor Novello nominee) and *FILTH* for Orchester im Treppenhaus, quadruple trombone concerto *THE DREAMERS* for Aldeburgh Festival, and the British Composer Award-winning recorder quintet *In Feyre Foreste*. Future performances include his new Trumpet concerto *LUCK* for Matilda Lloyd, co-commissioned by Aldeburgh Festival and the Ulster Orchestra, and the UK premiere of his Concerto for Orchestra next season by a major British orchestra. [robinhaigh.com](http://robinhaigh.com)

## **Linda Buckley**

Linda Buckley is a composer who creates electronic and acoustic music, with a particular interest in working across many disciplines. Her NMC record 'From Ocean's Floor' was featured by Iggy Pop on BBC Radio 6 as 'beautiful music – here is somebody really special.' Her work has been described as 'sublime and brilliant' (BBC Radio 3) and 'engaging with an area of experience that new music is generally shy of, which, simplified and reduced to a single word, I'd call ecstasy' (Bob Gilmore). She has worked in many collaborative contexts including scoring film by Kathryn Ferguson (*Nothing Compares*, co-composed with Irene Buckley, nominated for Best Score at the IFTA Awards), Mark Cousins (*A Sudden Glimpse to Deeper Things*), Pat Collins (*That He May Face the Rising Sun*, co-composed with Irene Buckley and Tadhg O'Sullivan (*To The Moon*). Recent collaborations include work for the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Liam Byrne with Crash Ensemble and piper Brighde Chaimbeul. [lindabuckley.org](http://lindabuckley.org)

## Donnacha Dennehy

Called ‘thrilling’ by *The Guardian* and ‘arrestingly beautiful’ by *The New Yorker*, Donnacha Dennehy’s music has featured in festivals and venues such as the Berliner Festspiele; Edinburgh International Festival; Beethovenfest, Bonn; Royal Opera House, London; Carnegie Hall, New York; Muziekgebouw, Amsterdam; Barbican, London; the Huddersfield Festival; and BAM, New York among others. In addition to a trilogy of operas with the writer Enda Walsh, recent large-scale works include *Land of Winter* for Alarm Will Sound, *Tessellatum*, a microtonally shifting 40-minute piece for strings, *The Hunger*, a docu-cantata, and a violin concerto for Augustin Hadelich that has received performances in Europe and the US. The Konzerthaus Orchester gave the German premiere, conducted by Joanna Mallwitz, at MusikFest Berlin in the Autumn of 2023. Portrait albums of his music have been released by Nonesuch, New Amsterdam, Cantaloupe, NMC and Bedroom Community. He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2021 and is now a professor at Princeton University. [donnachadennehy.com](http://donnachadennehy.com)



### First violin

Elaine Clark *leader*  
Jens Lynen  
Sebastian Liebig *principal*  
Orla Ní Bhraoin *string*  
*sub-principal*  
Catherine McCarthy  
Ting Zhong Deng  
David Clark  
Anne Harte  
Bróna Fitzgerald  
Claudie Driesen  
Karl Sweeney  
Molly O’Shea  
Gemma O’Keeffe  
Erin Hennessey

### Second violin

Anna Smith  
Elizabeth McLaren  
*associate principal*  
Lara Sullivan  
Rosalind Brown  
Paul Fanning  
Dara O’Connell  
Melanie Cull  
Evelyn McGrory

Elena Quinn  
Magda Kowalska  
Hannah Choi  
Matthew Wylie

### Viola

Steven Burnard  
Francis Harte *string*  
*sub-principal*  
Ruth Bebb  
Neil Martin  
Cliona O’Riordan  
Margarete Clark  
Alison Comerford  
Carla Vedres  
Aoife Magee  
Jane Tyler

### Cello

Martin Johnson *section*  
*leader*  
Polly Ballard *associate*  
*principal*  
Violetta-Valerie Muth  
*string sub-*  
*principal*  
Úna Ní Chanainn

Filip Szkopek  
Matthew Lowe  
David McCann  
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*

### Piccolo

Sinéad Farrell *principal*

### Oboe

Matthew Manning *section*  
*leader*  
Sylvain Gnemmi *associate*

**Cor Anglais**  
Deborah Clifford  
*principal*

**Clarinet**  
Matthew Billing *principal*  
Seamus Wylie

**Bass Clarinet**  
Fintan Sutton *principal*

**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  
Ronan Scarlett

**Timpani**  
Tom Daley

**Harp**  
Andreja Malir *section*  
*leader*

**Piano/Celeste**  
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](http://www.nch.ie)

# 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**

**NATIONAL  
CONCERT  
HALL** / AN  
CEOLÁRAS  
NAISIÚNTA



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