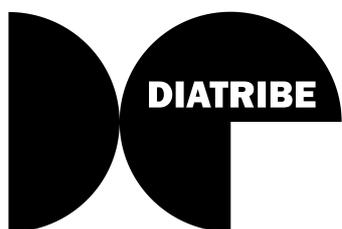


**NEW
MUS
DUB**

**DIATRIBE STAGE —
THE HARMONIC LABYRINTH**

25th April 2024, 3pm | Kevin Barry Recital Room, National Concert Hall, Dublin

Aoife Ní Bhriain violin
Liam Byrne viola da gamba



From very old to very new music, this programme of works for violin, Norwegian Hardanger fiddle and viola da gamba displays the versatility and virtuosity of two extraordinary musicians on NMD 2024's multi-venue Diatribe Stage.

Violinist Aoife Ní Bhriain and viola da gamba player Liam Byrne's contributions to the music world encompass a remarkable spectrum. Born to a family of musicians, Ní Bhriain is regarded not only as one of Ireland's foremost fiddle players but also a violinist of international stature, while Byrne – widely acclaimed as the leading viol player of his generation – is both a leader of Europe's early-music scene and a pioneer of new music.

Following countless appearances and recordings with the world's most renowned musicians and ensembles, their collaboration for NMD showcases their highly individual interpretations of music from Bach to Locatelli, Tommie Potts to St. Colombe, as well as presenting new, original works. The subtle combination of violin, viola da gamba and Hardanger fiddle brings new sounds to life, affording the listener a unique experience.

BIOGRAPHIES

Aoife Ní Bhriain

Born in Dublin to a family of musicians, Aoife Ní Bhriain has established herself as one of the most versatile musicians of her generation. Thanks to her musical heritage combined with her classical studies she has collaborated and performed with musicians such as pianist Eliso Virsaladze, fiddle player Martin Hayes, violinist Mariana Sirbu, jazz guitarist Wolfgang Muthspiel and Oscar-winning actor Tim Robbins. She has been guest co-leader of the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, Guest Leader of Crash Ensemble, Stargaze Ensemble, Concorde Ensemble and has also co-led the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. She is a member of the avant-garde string quintet Wooden Elephant as well as the Goodman Trio. She joined forces with Welsh harpist Catrin Finch in 2021, and in October 2023 they released their debut album 'Double You' to critical acclaim.

Winner of the RTÉ Best Folk Instrumentalist of the Year 2024 as well as the prestigious Bonn Óir Sean Uí Riada in 2010, she has also won seven All Ireland titles as well as prizes in international violin and chamber music competitions. In 2024 she was shortlisted for Best Folk Album for her album with Catrin Finch in the RTÉ Radio 1 Folk Awards.

She has a particular interest in solo violin works, and curated a performance on the solo violin works of J.S. Bach and the improvisations of acclaimed Dublin fiddle player Tommie Potts, on whom she has co-written a book to be released by the Irish Traditional Music Archives in 2024. She graduated with first class honours from the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Leipzig in 2018 and plays on a violin by J.B. Vuillaume on generous loan, as well as a Jurgen Manthey violin purchased through the Music Network Music Capital Scheme.

Liam Byrne

Liam Byrne spends most of his time playing either very old or very new music on the viola da gamba. His fascination with obscure 16th and 17th-century repertoire permeates his work, whether in devising baroque performance installations for the Victoria & Albert museum, or in collaboration with the Appalachian fiddler Cleek Schrey, or creating new electronic works with Icelandic composer Valgeir Sigurðsson.

He frequently blends old viol music with contemporary compositions by notable names such as David Lang and Nico Muhly. As a member of the Icelandic record label and artist collective Bedroom Community, he has contributed to ambitious studio projects including recordings of Donnacha Dennehy's *Tessellatum* and Sigurðsson's *Dissonance*. His commissions include *Partials*, an eight-hour sound installation at the Victoria & Albert museum and a collaboration with Muhly for the National Gallery's *Soundscapes* exhibition.

Over the years, he has worked closely with a wide variety of musicians, from Damon Albarn to Emma Kirkby, and is a frequent guest of new music ensembles Stargaze, the London Contemporary Orchestra and Crash Ensemble. With a background in historical performance and degrees from Indiana and Oxford universities, he has played and recorded with many of Europe's leading early music ensembles, including the Huelgas Ensemble, Dunedin Consort, The Sixteen, i Fagiolini, and the viol consorts Phantasm, Concordia and Fretwork. liambyrne.net

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
NAÍSIÚNTA**



Festival Box Office 01 417 0000 | New Music Dublin, c/o National Concert Hall Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2
www.nch.ie | email: info@newmusicdublin.ie