



CORK ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY

73rd Season



Programme Autumn / Winter 2010

the arts
council
is chomhairle
ealaíon

funding

music

artscouncil.ie



Carducci Quartet



:nota bene:



Staatskapelle Berlin Woodwind Quintet



RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet



Welcome to the Winter season of the 2010/11 Cork Orchestral Society's concert programme and the second part of the year celebrating the centenary of **Aloys Fleischmann**. With 17 concerts taking place between September and Christmas including chamber, orchestral and choral concerts, there is a wealth of music on offer.

At the core of our season, the RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet embarks on a landmark project in Cork, Dublin and London. "To perform all the Beethoven quartets is a huge physical, technical, musical and emotional challenge, but one which brings with it considerable rewards for both musicians and audience. No other composer has left such an all-encompassing body of music for the string quartet medium; original and impeccably crafted from the first note to the last, the quartets trace an extraordinary path of musical and spiritual development over the last 27 years of Beethoven's life. The cycle concentrates that powerful process into a matter of days and in so doing always casts fascinating new light on this great music." (VQ) Look out for notes throughout this brochure that highlight what makes each Beethoven quartet special to members of the Vanbrugh Quartet: Greg Ellis (vl), Keith Pascoe (vl), Simon Aspell (vla) and Christopher Marwood (vcl) .

The committee is happy to have new members on board and to face national funding shortages with a team that is very committed to bringing great classical music to Cork. The best possible way to ensure that we can continue to build on 73 years of successful service is for you to enjoy the fruits of our labours at every opportunity!



Take a bow!

The arts really matter to us in Ireland; they are a big part of people's lives, the country's single most popular pursuit. Our artists interpret our past, define who we are today, and imagine our future. We can all take pride in the enormous reputation our artists have earned around the world.

The arts play a vital role in our economy, and smart investment of taxpayers' money in the arts is repaid many times over. The dividends come in the form of a high value, creative economy driven by a flexible, educated, innovative work force, and in a cultural tourism industry worth €2.4 billion directly a year.

The Arts Council is the Irish Government agency for funding and developing the arts. Arts Council funding from the taxpayer, through the Department of Tourism, Culture and Sport, for 2010 is €69.15 million, that's less than €1 a week for every household.

So, at the end of an enthralling music performance, don't forget the role you played and take a bow yourself!

Find out what's on at

www.events.artscouncil.ie

You can find out more about the arts here:

www.artscouncil.ie

Thursday 30 September

New Season, New Stars

Ciara Glasheen (oboe)

Sinéad Frost (bassoon)

Conor Palliser (piano)

with piano accompanist Ciara Moroney

8.00 p.m.

Curtis Auditorium, CIT Cork School of Music

Our opening concert of the season features three professional débuts by recent graduates of the Cork School of Music. Each of these Cork-born musicians have a wealth of experience, as well as talent, far beyond their years and this concert will prove that the future of music in Ireland is in safe hands (as well as mouths and diaphragms!). Their recitals are sure to have something to please everyone with works by Grovlez, Tansman, Lutoslawski, Poulenc, Liszt and more on the programme.



Thursday 7 October

Friday 8 October

RTE Vanbrugh Quartet
Beethoven Cycle 2010

8.00 p.m.

Aula Maxima, UCC

Thursday 7 October 2010

Introduced by Emeritus Professor David H. Cox

String Quartet in A, Op. 18, No. 5

(GE) You'll get happy listening to this A major quartet – guaranteed!

String Quartet in f, Op. 95

(CM) The "serioso". Beethoven wrote: "This quartet was written for a small circle of connoisseurs; it is not to be performed in public". Not many laughs in this one, until the last page, anyway. The first movement is both spectacular and very short.

String Quartet in E^b, Op. 127

(SA) A Prince among quartets, the noble 127.

Friday 8 October 2010

Introduced by Emeritus Professor David H. Cox

Post-concert: Meet the Artists

String Quartet in A, Op. 132

(CM) An epic first movement gives way to a curious street-scene. The otherworldly mood of the third movement's extraordinary Hymn of Thanksgiving is broken by a strange march and then a surging, powerful finale.

String Quartet in F, Op. 59, No. 1

(CM) Beethoven at his most confident and life-affirming. The grand sweeping panorama of the first movement gives way to the playfulness of the second, the serenity of the third and the fiendish virtuosity of the finale.

Thursday 14 October

AUSTRIAN EMBASSY

Dublin

**Duo :nota bene:
Eva Steinschaden (violin)
Alexander Vavter (piano)
with Ulrike Sych (soprano)**

8.00 p.m.

Curtis Auditorium, CIT Cork School of Music



Since its inception in 1996, the Duo :nota bene: has performed some 400 concerts in 30 countries and critics have described these “technically perfect musicians” as performing “with intelligence and verve”. The duo will be joined by the esteemed soprano, Ulrike Sych, to give Cork a unique opportunity to experience some 20th-century classics. This concert will be the concluding concert of their Irish tour and is given in collaboration with the Austrian Embassy, Dublin. The programme will include works by Mahler, Schönberg, Reger, and Webern.

RTE Vanbrugh Quartet Beethoven Cycle 2010

8.00 p.m.

Aula Maxima, UCC

RTE

Thursday 21 October 2010

Introduced by Professor Barry Cooper

Professor Barry Cooper's participation is sponsored by UCC

String Quartet in B^b, Op. 18, No. 6

(KP) Like the pop of a Champagne cork this quartet springs to life, and yet is the most bi-polar. Beethoven's rapid mood changes are a symptom of his need not to please an audience, but to exorcise his own demons through composition.

String Quartet in F, Op. 18, No. 1

(GE) Full of confidence – the debutante shows complete mastery of the classical form, yet stamps his originality, craftsman and ingenuity on every note.

String Quartet in C, Op. 59, No. 3

(GE) The last of the Rasumovskys – brilliant, virtuosic... hang on to your hats in the last movement, lads!

Friday 22 October 2010

Introduced by Professor Barry Cooper

Professor Barry Cooper's participation is sponsored by UCC

Post-concert: Meet the Artists

String Quartet in G, Op. 18, No. 2

(KP) It was with this work that the young composer introduced silence into his music. Notice how many breathing, quiet spaces he makes for contemplation.

String Quartet in E^b, Op. 74

(KP) Nicknamed *The Harp*, a resting place full of calm and serenity, broken only by a storm-like scherzo so typical of Beethoven.

String Quartet in c[#], Op. 131

(KP) Transcending the mundane and bombastic, and searching inwards, doffing the cap to JS Bach among others. It is the only continuous quartet in the cycle and my personal favourite for its simple spiritual beginning and its towering infernal conclusion.

RTE Vanbrugh Quartet
Beethoven Cycle 2010

8.00 p.m.

**NB: Curtis Auditorium,
CIT Cork School of Music**

Thursday 4 November 2010

Introduced by Professor Barry Cooper

Professor Barry Cooper's participation is sponsored by UCC

String Quartet in D, Op. 18, No. 3

(CM) A gentle, subtle quartet that moves effortlessly from the elegant simplicity of the opening to the effervescence of the last movement.

String Quartet in F, Op. 135

(GE) Muss Es Sein? Yes, this must be one of my favourite slow movements – it reaches for heaven, and finds it!

String Quartet in B^b, Op. 130

(GE) Capturing the essence of human warmth, dignity and intimacy- the one with the marvellous “cavatina”.

Friday 5 November 2010

Introduced by Professor Barry Cooper

Professor Barry Cooper's participation is sponsored by UCC

Post-concert Members' Reception

- hosted by Cork Orchestral Society

String Quartet in e, Op. 59, No. 2

(SA) The Master of Suspense - a titanic struggle between good and evil!

String Quartet in c, Op. 18 No. 4

(SA) A tempestuous quartet this one, in Beethoven's famously dramatic c minor.

String Quartet in G, Op. 133 “Grosse Fuge”

(SA) From the demonic to the ethereal! Fasten your seat belts, we're in for a bumpy ride!

Thursday 11 November

Irish Brass Ensemble

David Collins (trumpet)
Pamela Snell (trumpet)
Stephen Nicholls (horn)
Eoghan Kelly (trombone)
Jonathan Gawn (tuba)

8.00 p.m.

Curtis Auditorium, CIT Cork School of Music



The Irish Brass ensemble was formed in 2009 and consists of five of Ireland's finest young professional brass players. As well as recital performances, the quintet regularly tours the South of Ireland giving workshops and performances in schools for the education programme of West Cork Music. The groups' members lead busy freelance careers, working regularly with orchestras across Ireland and the UK, including the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra, Irish Chamber Orchestra and the RTÉ and BBC Orchestras.

Programme to include:
James MacMillan: *Exsultet*
Victor Ewald: *Brass Symphony*
Astor Piazzola: *Libertango*

Thursday 18 November

**Staatskapelle Berlin
Woodwind Quintet
with Elisaveta Blumina (piano)**

8.00 p.m.

Curtis Auditorium, CIT Cork School of Music



Building on the success of his duo performances with Elisaveta Blumina in Ireland, bassoonist Mathias Baier returns to Ireland with the wind quintet he joined in 2009. Formed in 1994 by five soloists of the Staatskapelle Berlin, the Berlin Wind Quintet is renowned for lively musicianship, versatile repertory and exciting programmes. All five musicians are constantly engaged in the development of new playing techniques and the application of historical performance practices in their interpretation of works from different periods. Russian pianist Elisaveta Blumina has established herself across Europe as an eminent soloist, enthusiastic teacher, and sought-after chamber musician.

Saturday 20 November

Cork School of Music Symphony Orchestra

**Geoffrey Spratt
& Conor Palliser (conductors)
Hugh Murray (leader)
Cillian Ó Ceallacháin (trombone)**

1.10 p.m. [NOTE TIME]

Curtis Auditorium, CIT Cork School of Music

Sibelius	<i>Finlandia</i>
Jacob	<i>Trombone Concerto</i>
Arnold	<i>Peterloo</i>

This lunchtime concert takes us from the sweeping melodies of Sibelius' popular tone-poem to Arnold's portrayal of the tragic events of the Peterloo Massacre in Manchester, 1819. In between these two works is a concerto that shows off the full expressive and technical range of the trombone.

The soloist, Cillian Ó Ceallacháin, won the Cork School of Music's Senior Concerto Competition in 2009, and spent many years as the orchestra's principal trombonist before continuing his studies at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

The Cork School of Music Symphony Orchestra enjoys an extraordinary reputation for an amateur orchestra. This concert will sell out very quickly - you have been warned!



Thursday 25 November



Cara O'Sullivan (soprano) with Ciara Moroney (piano)

8.00 p.m.

Curtis Auditorium, CIT Cork School of Music



No strangers to Cork audiences, Cara and Ciara launch their Music Network December Tour of Ireland in the beautiful acoustics of the Curtis Auditorium. The programme, consisting of a collection of art songs and lieder, reveals a more intimate side to the opera star we know and love. The Irish Times has described Cara as “undoubtedly the Irish superstar of her generation” and her performances have captivated audiences in venues all around the globe including the Sydney Opera House, the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, the Opéra de Paris and the Amsterdam Concertgebouw.

Cara will be joined by the award-winning Ciara Moroney, who is in huge demand throughout Ireland and the UK for her specialised fields of duo playing, chamber music and accompaniment.

The concert will include the world première of a song cycle commissioned by the Cork Orchestral Society from the Irish composer, David Wallace who currently holds the position of Aloys Fleischmann Composer in Residence to the CIT Cork School of Music. Other highlights of the programme will be works by Schubert, Debussy and Fleischmann.

Thursday 2 December

RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet
The Carducci Quartet
Rebecca Čápova (piano)
Conor MacCarthy (double bass)

8.00 p.m.

Aula Maxima, UCC

Schubert

Piano Quintet ("Trout")

David Harold Cox

String Quartet ("The Cherry Tree")

Mendelssohn

Octet

Celebrating Ireland as a wellspring for great music, the Vanbrugh Quartet is joined by some of our best-loved musicians in a concert to support future generations of musicians. A UCC-Cork Orchestral Society-West Cork Music co-promotion, proceeds will be donated to the Vanbrugh Quartet's Scholarship Fund.

Pianist Rebecca Čápova and double-bass player Conor MacCarthy will join members of the quartet for Schubert's wonderful 'Trout' Quintet. The Irish-English Carducci Quartet will join forces with the Vanbrugh for Mendelssohn's marvelous Octet, composed when he was just 16 years old. This evening's performance of *The Cherry Tree* is a tribute to the work of David Harold Cox who retired from his post as Professor of Music and Head of the College of Arts, Celtic Studies & Social Sciences at UCC in August 2010.



RTÉ

www.corkorchestralsociety.ie

Sunday 5 December - 6.00 p.m.

Monday 6 December - 8.00 p.m.

Benjamin Britten's *St Nicholas*

with Robin Tritschler (Tenor)

[NOTE TIMES ABOVE]

St Michael's Church, Blackrock



The first performance in Cork of Benjamin Britten's dramatic cantata *St Nicholas* with Robin Tritschler (Tenor), Fleischmann Choir, Ursuline School Singers (Director: Annette O'Sullivan), Cork School of Music Cappella Lyrica (Director: Maria Judge), Madrigal '75 Vocal Ensemble (Director: James Taylor) and members of the Cork School of Music Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Geoffrey Spratt, **with audience participation!**

Saturday 18 December

Madrigal '75

James Taylor (director)

8.00 p.m.

Curtis Auditorium, CIT Cork School of Music



Christmas is almost upon us!

What better way to immerse yourself in the spirit and charm of Christmas than to spend a festive evening in the company of the Cork-based vocal ensemble *Madrigal '75*? Beautiful vocal lines evoke the music of Christmas, blending new melodies with the more familiar, in a seasonal programme that draws together music of times past and present. In the warmth of candlelight, *'Nowell Sing We'* will weave its yuletide spell... Not to be missed!

Merry Christmas!

THE VENUES

Curtis Auditorium

The magnificent Curtis Auditorium lies at the heart of the state-of-the-art CIT Cork School of Music on Union Quay. The Auditorium is fully equipped with a moveable ceiling and adjustable walls to cater for different acoustical needs. Enhance your evening by arriving early and enjoying the fine cuisine offered by the School's *offquay bistro*.



Aula Maxima, UCC

Described in 1849 by The Cork Examiner as 'one of the most magnificent rooms in Ireland', the Aula Maxima is at the heart of the University and is a truly superb setting for concerts. A 10-minute walk up Washington Street from the Grand Parade, followed by a leafy stroll up the picturesque path from the main gates to the Aula in the old stone Main Quadrangle.



**MEMBERSHIP
& ADMISSION
SEPT 2010 - AUG 2011**



Ordinary Membership €25
Concessionary Membership €15

Admission Prices for the 73rd Season

Cork Orchestral Society

Curtis Auditorium

8.00 p.m. recitals / concerts

Raked seats: €25 (€15 & €10)

Flat-floor seats: €20 (€12 & €8)

Lunchtime recitals / concerts

Raked seats: €12 (No concessions)

Flat-floor seats: €10 (€8 & €5)

St Michael's Blackrock

€20 (€15 & €10)

Family (2 adults + children): €30

RTÉ

Aula Maxima

€16 (€14 & €10)

Beethoven Cycle Season Ticket (6 concerts)

€70 (€60 & €45)



Conor Palliser



Rebecca Čápovalová



Ulrike Sych



Conor MacCarthy



RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet

New Season, New Stars

Thursday 30 September
Curtis Auditorium, CIT Cork School of Music



RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet

Thursday 7 October - Beethoven Cycle 2010 - Part I
Friday 8 October - Beethoven Cycle 2010 - Part II
Aula Maxima, UCC

Duo :nota bene: with Maximilian Kiener (tenor)

Thursday 14 October
Curtis Auditorium, CIT Cork School of Music

RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet

Thursday 21 October - Beethoven Cycle 2010 - Part III
Friday 22 October - Beethoven Cycle 2010 - Part IV
Aula Maxima, UCC

Thursday 4 November - Beethoven Cycle 2010 - Part V

Friday 5 November - Beethoven Cycle 2010 - Part VI

Curtis Auditorium, CIT Cork School of Music

Irish Brass Ensemble

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Curtis Auditorium, CIT Cork School of Music

Staatskapelle Berlin Woodwind Quintet with Elisaveta Blumina (piano)

Thursday 18 November
Curtis Auditorium, CIT Cork School of Music

Cork School of Music Symphony Orchestra with Cillian Ó Ceallacháin (trombone)

Saturday 20 November - N.B. 1.10 p.m.
Curtis Auditorium, CIT Cork School of Music

Cara O'Sullivan (soprano) with Ciara Moroney (piano)

Thursday 25 November
Curtis Auditorium, CIT Cork School of Music

RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet with The Carducci Quartet Rebecca Čápova (piano) & Conor MacCarthy (double bass)

Thursday 2 December
Aula Maxima, UCC

Benjamin Britten's *St. Nicholas*

Sunday 5 December - 6.00 p.m. & Monday 6 December - 8.00 p.m.
St Michael's Church, Blackrock

Madrigal '75

Saturday 18 December
Curtis Auditorium, CIT Cork School of Music



Ceol-Scoil Choral
Cork School of Music

