

cork orchestral society presents

CORK PHILHARMONIC WINDS

CONDUCTED BY

LIAM DALY & ROBERT O'BRIEN

LEAMCON OVERTURE • ROBERT O'BRIEN

TAIDHREAMH • DECLAN TOWNSEND

JUBILO • FERGAL CARROLL

DANCE OF ELVES • ADAM SCHECK

SOUNDSHOCK • EIBHLÍS FARRELL

EN ESTA NOCHE CLARA • MURROUGH CONNOLLY

AN CNOC RUA • PAUL DUNLEA

WHATSA HEAVEN FOR? • VINCENT KENNEDY

THE BOYS OF FAIRHILL • JOHN C. MURPHY

SATURDAY 2ND APRIL 2022 | 8PM
CURTIS AUDITORIUM
MTU CORK SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Leamcon Overture • **Robert O'Brien**

Leamcon Overture was written in 2020 during one of the first Covid-related lockdowns. It contains two main ideas, one modal, in mixed-metre and with a slightly Irish, slightly pre-classical feel to it; the other a more conventional cinematic type melodic theme. The title refers to Leamcon in West Cork, now a rocky, wind-swept promontory at the very edge of Europe but during the late 16th and early 17th centuries a hive of pirate activity. *Leamcon Overture* aims to capture some of the feel of that era, albeit filtered through a more modern, romanticised image of what it was to be a pirate.

Taidhreamh • **Declan Townsend**

Taidhreamh was composed for the Cork School of Music Concert Band in 1994. Some of the music was reworked from a string quartet the composer had previously written for the then RTE String quartet. The composer writes that 'while it does not quote any traditional Irish tunes, it sets out to convey the atmosphere, poetry and vigour of Ireland in an affectionately general way, hence the title'. For various reasons, *Taidhreamh* was not initially performed in Cork and it received its premiere performance in 1998 in Manchester, played by the RNCM Wind Orchestra conducted by the composer's son, Peadar.

Declan Townsend was born in Tralee, Co. Kerry. He has worked as a string teacher, secondary school music master, light opera and choral conductor, adjudicator, author and arranger. He is a former member of staff at the Cork School of Music where he was Head of Wind, Brass & Percussion. His compositions have won prizes at the Cork International Choral Festival and have been performed in many countries including the Netherlands, Germany and the USA. He was awarded a PhD for his study of the choral folk-song arrangements of Holst, Vaughan Williams, Kodály and Bartok. He has completed commissions for the Cork School of Music, the Cork Chamber Orchestra and the Cork Youth Orchestra and his arrangements of traditional Irish material have been published in the UK and Germany.

Jubilo • **Fergal Carroll**

Commissioned for the Association for Music in International Schools (AMIS) by Richard Bassett in celebration of his 70th Birthday and in memory of Dick Tener, who loved life and lived well.

The title of the piece, 'Jubilo', means 'joyful' or to 'shout out joyfully', as this is intended to be "happy music". The tuned percussion instruments are prominent as they set out the dominant time signature of the piece – a bar made up of 9 quavers grouped as 3+2+2+2. Over this the main tune is first played by solo trumpet and then by solo flute, answered by clarinet. This theme is developed as the work progresses. The frequently changing time signatures and syncopated rhythms are strong characteristics during the 5 minutes duration of the work. The premiere of

'Jubilo' was given on 19 March 2011 by the Association of Music in International Schools Honor Band, conducted by Jerry Luckhardt, at the American School of The Hague, Netherlands.

Fergal Carroll was born in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. He studied music at the Waterford Institute of Technology and in 2000 he graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, with a Master of Music degree in composition. His teachers have included Eric Sweeney, Anthony Gilbert and Adam Gorb. He has been commissioned by various organisations including RTÉ lyric fm, "The Rescue" (2007), the Association for Music in International Schools, "A New Song's Measure" (2009) and "Zethus" (2018), and Warrington Borough Council, "Winter Dances" (2002). His music has been performed in significant venues around the world, including Carnegie Hall - New York, the KKL - Lucerne, St Andrew's Cathedral - Sydney and Ford Hall - Ithaca, New York. Many of his works have been recorded commercially and are available on the Klavier, Mark Custom and Amos labels. His band music is published in the U.K. by Maecenas Music and Brasswind Publications. His music can be characterised as rhythmically inventive, often contrapuntal with unusual time signatures; it tends to be harmonically consonant and sometimes modal. Since 2005 Fergal Carroll has served as a band officer/conductor with the Irish Defence Forces and is currently based in Cork as conductor of the Band of the 1st Brigade.

Dance of Elves • **Adam Scheck**

Adam Scheck is a composer, Cello, Double Bass and Piano and Music Theory teacher, Cello Ensemble Director in the Athenry Music School and Double Bass Orchestra Director in the Limerick School of Music. He studied at the Ferenc Liszt Music Academy, Hungary and he was a student of Academos, Irish World Academy from 2010, graduating with a Master of Arts in Classical String Performance with first class honours in 2012. He is a very active composer continually producing new works and instrumentations. In 2006 Adam's first major work, the *Dance of Elves* was premiered by the Symphonic Band in Hungary. The piano transcription of this brass orchestra piece is popular among piano students. The piece paints a mystical fairytale world in front of us, where we can follow the funny dance of little elves.

Soundshock • **Eibhlís Farrell**

Eibhlís Farrell is a native of Rostrevor, County Down. Her output as a composer comprises works for orchestra, choir, solo voices, and for various chamber music combinations. In 1992 she was commissioned by William Halpin to write a work for what was then the DIT College of Music Concert Band.

The composer has written about her work as follows: "*Soundshock* evokes the spirit of the late 16th century polychoral antiphonal style where sonority and the exploration of instrumental colour contrasts became a vital structural element. It highlights the unique sound of the different sections of the concert band and the use of timpani and unpitched percussion throughout forms an important structural, unifying function. The bass drum ostinato patterns are reminiscent of the force and power of the Lambeg drum, a sound very strongly etched into my early soundworld."

Soundshock has been recorded by both Irish Youth Wind Ensemble and Rutgers Wind Ensemble.

En Esta Noche Clara • **Murrough Connolly**

Murrough Connolly is an Irish composer and classical guitarist living in Manchester, where he is studying for a PhD in Music Composition at the University of Manchester. His doctoral research, supervised by Prof. Camden Reeves, explores the concept of harmonic colour in music by integrating harmonic practices from contemporary classical music and jazz. Murrough's music has been performed by renowned ensembles such as The Irish Guitar Quartet, Quatuor Danel and Psappha. Future plans include working with pianist Ben Powell as part of Psappha's *Composing for...* scheme. Murrough's choral piece, 'From the Chrysalis', will also be premiered by the UCC singers in Co. Cork in the summer.

In the composer's own words: "As a guitarist, I have always enjoyed the folk music of Spain and its strong emphasis on the guitar. During my B.Mus studies at MTU Cork School of Music, I was introduced to an anonymous Spanish folk melody called *En Esta Noche Clara*. While it has been performed and arranged by a variety of intimate folk ensembles, this wind band arrangement explores the tuneful melody in a more brilliant and dynamic setting."

An Cnoc Rua • **Paul Dunlea**

Although at home in a variety of musical styles, Cork trombonist/composer/arranger Paul Dunlea concentrates primarily on Jazz and Improvisation. This has furthered his reputation as one of Ireland's most in demand trombonists. He has performed/toured/recorded with the likes of Michael Buble, Cassandra Wilson, Frankie Valli, Mick Flannery, Richard Reed Parry (Arcade Fire), Bryce Dessner (The National), Lewis Nash, Peter Washington, Billy Drummond, Marshall Gilkes, Ryan Keberle, Taylor Eigsti, Bob Millikan, The Crash Ensemble, The Dublin City Jazz Orchestra, Syd Lawrence Orchestra & Hot House Big Band. Dunlea is a graduate of the CIT Cork School of music holding both a Bachelor's Degree in trombone performance and a Masters Degree in Composition. He has held the chair of principle trombone with the Band 1 Brigade - Irish Defence Forces since 2001.

The four movements that make up the complete work *An Cnoc Rua* were inspired by the beautiful landscape and waterways near Redhills in Co. Cavan. The first movement – Cuilcagh – (performed here) depicts Cavan's highest peak and its surrounds. The opening of the movement describes first setting eyes on the mountain whereas the "plodding" rhythmic figure towards the end of the movement describes the blanket bog surrounded by streams and lakes at its foot.

Whatsa' Heaven For? • **Vincent Kennedy**

Vincent grew up in Dublin, the son of a Dublin Bus conductor and beloved mother from Glenahula, Mitchelstown, Count Cork. On 13th March 2022 Vincent conducted the premiere of "Colmcille - Dove of Peace" a musical suite commissioned to celebrate the 1500th anniversary of the Irish saint Colmcille (Latin Columba). A work of twenty movements for Orchestra, Choir, Soprano, Tenor, Uilleann Pipes, Irish Harp and Narrator the performance took place in An Grianan, Letterkenny. Vincent has also just completed music with the title "Dingle Starry" inspired by Dylan Thomas's poem "Fern Hill" for the Ensemble Telyn Cymru consisting of over 70 Welsh Harpists. This

work will be premiered at the World Harp Congress to be held in Cardiff in July 2022. In the coming months, he plans to complete a solo Violin piece for the brilliant French Violinist Marie Cantagrill and a celebratory piece for the Rathfarnham Concert Band Society commissioned by South Dublin County Council. Through his collaboration with the Three Essential Elements, Vincent will also write a clarinet quintet for the London based ChamberMusicBox, a piece for the ancient Greek Lyre for Nikos Xanthoulis, set a poem by the poet Stiggas for the contralto Luciné Aproz and a new piece also for The Cuarteto de Clarinetes Vert (Clarinet quartet from Valencia, Spain). In addition, he will continue his collaboration with the brilliant Brazilian Ballerina and Film Maker Juliana Rodrigues and prepare scores of my music for a recording he will conduct with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra later in the year.

Whatsa' Heaven For? was commissioned for the 25th anniversary of the Rathfarnham Concert Band Society (RCBS) with funding from the Arts Council. It received its premiere at the National Concert Hall conducted by the composer Vincent Kennedy and has since also been a test piece for the National Band Championships, performed by the combined Army Bands at WASBE in Killarney and is on the senior high school band curriculum in a number of states in the US. The three movements are titles "Sunday Morning, Monday Night", "Friends" and "March". "Sunday Morning, Monday Night" describes the Rathfarnham area of Dublin on a Sunday morning and Monday night as many young people carrying musical instruments make their way to rehearsal. The motto of RCBS is "making great music and great friendship since 1980" and the movement "Friends" celebrates the lifelong friendships that grow from people's participation in bands everywhere. Finally, "March" to conclude, a March being a staple of the repertoire of all bands. The overall title comes from a poem by Robert Browning, suggesting that, to achieve anything worthwhile, a person should attempt even those things that may turn out to be impossible. The founders of RCBS set no limits for where it would go and the ethos has always been to reach the highest playing standards possible.

The Boys of Fairhill • **John C. Murphy**

John C. Murphy graduated from UCC in 1967 where he had been a student of Aloys Fleischman. He subsequently lectured there before being appointed Director of Cork School of Music in 1980, a post he held for over a decade. During this time he composed *The Boys of Fairhill - Variations for Concert Band* for the CSM Concert Band. The piece consists of a number of light-hearted and tongue-in-cheek variations of the well-known Cork song, with nods towards Mozart and popular music along the way. In 2021 Cork Philharmonic Winds made a remote recording of a new edition of the piece with support from MTU's Teaching & Learning Unit. This is the first live performance of that new edition.

Liam Daly, guest conductor

Liam Daly was a member of the Artane Boys Band from the age of nine and studied French horn with Victor Malirish at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. He was a member of the National Youth Orchestra, National Wind Ensemble and National Youth Choir. He obtained a Diploma in Advanced Music Studies, an LTCL Performance Diploma on French Horn and a BA Music from Waterford Institute of Technology.

Liam has worked extensively with youth bands and wind ensembles in Ireland and was Music Director of the Barrack Street Concert Band Waterford, Carlow Choral Society, Mayfield Brass Band, Dungarvan Brass Band, Athlone and Fermoy Musical Societies and conducted the Ruckert Orchestra and the Cork Symphony Orchestra.

Liam took up a commission with the Irish Defence Forces in 1989 and served for fourteen years where he was Officer Commanding and Music Director of the Band of the Western Brigade Athlone and the Band of the Southern Brigade Cork. In 2004 he took up a commission in the Australian Defence Forces where he was Second in Command/Deputy Music Director of the Australian Army Band Melbourne, Officer Commanding/Music Director of the Australian Army Bands Darwin and Perth. While in Darwin he worked at Darwin University teaching at a youth orchestral music programme and directed the Darwin Symphony Orchestra.

Since returning to Ireland in 2008, Liam has taught at Kilkenny's St Canice's Co-Ed National School, Coolcotts in Wexford and at the Redemptorist Centre of Music, Limerick. Liam was conductor of the University of Limerick Orchestra from 2012 to 2019 and of the Irish Symphonic Wind Orchestra (ISWO) for three years. He currently teaches brass and theory at the Limerick School of Music. Liam is the events manager for Discover Ireland Tours and organises concerts for international ensembles. He is the administrator of the Symphony Club of Waterford (SCOW) where he organises up to six concerts a year in Waterford.

Robert O'Brien, conductor

Robert is from Cork, where he is a tuba player with the Band 1 Brigade of the Irish Defence Forces and a lecturer at CIT Cork School of Music. As a tuba player he has worked with the RTE National Symphony Orchestra and has featured as soloist with the Band 1 Brigade and the CIT CSM Wind Ensemble. After majoring in tuba and music history at undergraduate level, Robert studied conducting on courses with Timothy Reynish (Canford), Clark Rundell (RNCN, Manchester) & Gunter Herbig (Liszt Academy, Weimar) as well as with Atso Almila & Robert Houlihan in Ireland. Robert was awarded an MA in conducting in 2013 by CIT Cork School of Music. Robert is musical director of Middleton Concert Band, St Nicholas Brass Band & Cork Philharmonic Winds. He has also worked frequently as a guest conductor with CIT CSM Wind Ensemble and was General Manager of Irish Youth Wind Ensemble from 2008-2015. His articles on wind band repertoire by Irish composers have been published in Irish, British and Canadian journals.



Cork Philharmonic Winds

Cork Philharmonic Winds was founded in 2012 to give Cork-based wind, brass and percussion players the opportunity to perform original music of the highest quality written for wind ensembles and bands. Since then it has built a reputation for performances of some of the most challenging music in the band repertoire while working with some of Ireland's best wind, brass and percussion soloists.

Bb Clarinet	Bassoon	Oboe	Trumpet	Trombone
Ian O'Shea	Katie Cody	Coral O'Sullivan	Ross O'Hea	Roddy O'Keeffe
Ciara Lineen	Clare Daly	Claudia Bauch	Joanne Mullins	Oran O'Neill
Ian Bisby			Rian O'Dwyer	John Kinsella
Gabriel Buffa	Flute	Saxophone	Eoin Allen	Cezary
Marcus Calvert	Maria Mulcahy	Alan Coonagh		Tomaszewski
Eoin McCarthy	Aoife O'Donovan	Sally Kelly	Euphonium	Eoin Leahy
	Eileen Cleary	Niamh O'Sullivan	Oscar Leamy	
Eb Clarinet	Ann O'Leary			Percussion
Gretta Daly	Eithne Egan	French Horn	Tuba	Colin Beausang
	Ciara Eccles	Stephen Crowley	Luca Andreoni	Clare O'Keeffe
Bass Clarinet		David Barnett		Kevin Power
Maire O'Sullivan		Cian McCarthy		Anne Ralph

Acknowledgements

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Thanks are also due to Presentation Secondary School, Ballyphehane for hosting our rehearsals, and to Middleton Concert Band for allowing us to use their percussion instruments.
