

NCM
NEWRY CHAMBER MUSIC



SEASON 2025/26
NOVEMBER-MAY

THE FEWS
ENSEMBLE

PRINCIPAL
FUNDER

arts
council
of Northern Ireland



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
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and Down
District Council

AN IMMERSIVE
CHAMBER MUSIC
EXPERIENCE.



"You could just call it a successful melding of arts forms wonderfully presented. But that doesn't do justice to the piece as offered ... Perhaps it's best to say: it's a cracker. And that's whether your taste is for drama, poetry, modern music, jazz or dance. All the art forms are there, brilliantly delivered."

Emer O'Kelly, Sunday Independent
NCM/The Fews Ensemble, Ciarán Hinds, Emily Ayers

Contents

02	Welcome from Artistic Director
03	Welcome from our Patron
04	Season 2025/26
05	Opening Flourish! The Fews Ensemble & Friends
06	Music Network presents Emmanuel Ceysson with special guest Sarah Shine
09	The Fews Ensemble Sharon Carty Soprano / Aaron O'Hare Tenor
10	Newry Chamber Music Piano Fest A weekend celebrating the piano in all its brilliance and majesty
12	Piatti Quartet Cinematic Sounds
15	Newry Chamber Music & Music Network Théo Ould Accordion / Alison Langer Soprano
18	Contrasts – Fews Ensemble Season Finale
20	Biographies
21	The Fews Ensemble
28	The Fews Ensemble Guest Artists
33	Support Us

Welcome from Artistic Director



Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2025–2026 season of Newry Chamber Music — a season where we celebrate creativity, collaboration, and community through the power of live performance.

This season we are especially excited to launch our inaugural Piano Fest in February, a joyful celebration of the piano in all its majesty. The festival will feature performances from renowned artists Steven Osborne, Finghin Collins, David Quigley, and the Rob Barron Trio, as well as our inclusive “Open Keys” event, where aspiring pianists and enthusiastic amateurs will have the opportunity to perform and share in the spirit of the festival.

Our ongoing association with Music Network continues to enrich our season bringing outstanding International artists to our area. We are delighted to present two of their touring concerts this season kicking off with the incredible harpist Emmanuel Ceysson and Irish soprano Sarah Shine in November, and Accordion virtuoso Théo Ould with soprano Alison Longer in April.

Welcome from our Patron



It is a great privilege and a huge pleasure to be part of these excellent, thriving and vibrant music makers. Newry is blessed as the home of these world class musicians who bring uplifting and inspiring balm to our collective spirit. To enjoy their performances live is an unparalleled gift and I hope to be able to communicate this to as wide an audience as possible.

Sean Rafferty

We are also thrilled to welcome an array of outstanding guest artists, including Katherine Hunka, Joel Hunter, Martin Johnson, Mia Cooper, Sharon Carty, and the Piatti Quartet, each bringing their unique artistry and insight to our stage. A particularly exciting development this season is our new home at The Quays in Newry, which will become a vibrant hub for our community concerts and a dedicated rehearsal space. We look forward to hosting open rehearsals, where audiences can drop in to hear The Fews Ensemble at work, witnessing first-hand the creative process that brings our programmes to life.

As ever, we are proud to continue our outreach programme throughout the year, bringing live music to schools, care homes and community settings, and creating welcoming concerts for children and their families.

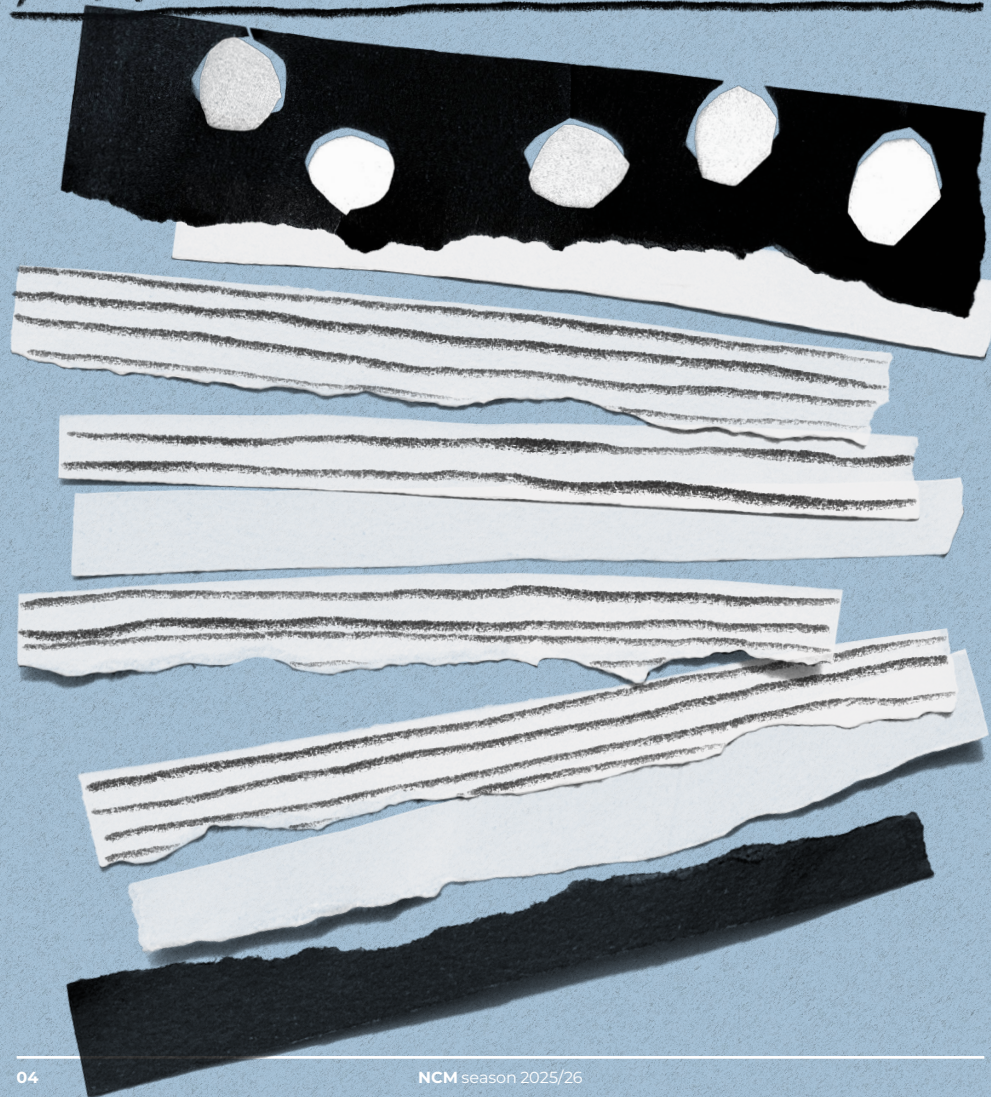
We are especially looking forward to working closely with our esteemed colleagues in The Fews Ensemble, whose artistry, passion and commitment remain the crowning glory of Newry Chamber Music.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. Your presence and support make everything we do possible. We can't wait to share another inspiring season of music making with you.

**With warmest regards,
Joanne Quigley McParland**

Artistic Director, Newry Chamber Music

SEASON 2025/26 PROGRAMME



Opening Flourish! The Fews Ensemble & Friends

- Sunday 16th November 2025
- Warrenpoint Town Hall
- 2pm
- £20 / £10 (under 18)

For more information
and tickets visit
newrychambermusic.org
or scan QR code



Newry Chamber Music opens its 2025/26 season with a thrilling afternoon of Chamber Music featuring The Fews Ensemble with special guests Katherine Hunka, Joel Hunter and Martin Johnson. The programme showcases two masterworks of the string repertoire with Brahms' warm and expansive Sextet in B flat Major and Tchaikovsky's fiery and flamboyant Souvenir de Florence. Join us for what promises to be an unforgettable start to a new season of exceptional music making.

Johannes Brahms (1833 – 1897)
String Sextet No. 1 in B-flat major, Op. 18

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840 – 1893)
Souvenir de Florence, Op. 70

Violin	Katherine Hunka Joanne Quigley McParland
Viola	Rose Redgrave Joel Hunter
Cello	Jonathan Aasgaard Martin Johnson

Music Network presents

Emmanuel Ceysson with special guest Sarah Shine

- **Tuesday 18th November 2025**
- Warrenpoint Town Hall
- 7.30pm
- £20 / £10 (under 18)

For more information
and tickets visit
newrychambermusic.org
or scan QR code



Join us for a stunning musical collaboration as world-renowned harpist Emmanuel Ceysson joins forces with the exceptional Irish soprano Sarah Shine for an evening of music and song.

Described as “brilliantly gifted”, Ceysson is one of the world’s leading harpists, having held principal positions with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera and Opéra de Paris. A master of his instrument, he brings technical brilliance and a flair for the dramatic to every performance.

Joining him as a special guest is rising star of Irish opera Sarah Shine, whose radiant voice has captivated audiences across Europe. Quickly establishing herself as an artist of international acclaim, Sarah has performed with Irish National Opera, Académie Opéra National de Paris, Wexford Festival Opera and the RTÉ Concert Orchestra.

The programme will feature virtuosic and flamboyant instrumental performances of music by Tournier and Caplet and together the duo will perform exquisite songs by Vienne in addition to popular favourites by Debussy and Fauré.

Don’t miss this rare opportunity to experience the artistry of a true master of the pedal harp alongside one of Ireland’s most exciting young sopranos.

André Caplet (1878 – 1925)
2 Divertissements
À la française
À l’espagnole

Louis Vienne (1870 – 1937)
Quatre poèmes grecs, Op. 60
Offrande à Pan
Le repos
Offrande à Kypri
Chanson pour avril

Music Network Commission by
Anne-Marie O’Farrell

Marcel Tournier (1879 – 1951)
Sonatine, Op. 30

INTERVAL

Claude Debussy (1862 – 1918)
Suite Bergamasque 1902 (arr. Ceysson)
Prélude
Menuet
Clair de lune
Passepiéd

Claude Debussy (1862 – 1918)
(Soprano and Harp)
Beau soir
Nuit d’étoiles
Le Lilas

Gabriel Fauré (1845 – 1924)
Impromptu, Op. 86
Après un Rêve
Notre Amour (Soprano and Harp)

Harp Emmanuel Ceysson
Soprano Sarah Shine

Emmanuel Ceysson

Harpist



With his powerful, virtuoso playing, Emmanuel Ceysson sweeps away all the clichés associated with his instrument. His infectious enthusiasm and boundless energy reveals the harp in all its sparkling splendour, in a world where poetry rhymes with temperament.

Chosen amongst 70 others of his best peers in a totally blind and anonymous audition process, he is since September 2020 the new Los Angeles Philharmonic Harpist under the baton of Gustavo Dudamel. This exciting symphonic position comes after almost 15 years playing opera in the pit, as Principal Harp: first with the Opéra National de Paris, a job he won aged 22, and then for 5 full seasons with the legendary New York MET Opera Orchestra.

Born and raised in France, he studied at the Paris Conservatoire under the tutelage of Isabelle Moretti, and then managed to collect the highest international distinctions and prizes in the course of 5 years: Gold Medallist at the 2004 USA international Harp Competition, First Prize at the New York Young Concert Artists Auditions in 2006, and First Prize at the 2009 ARD competition in Munich; thus securing a press acclaimed solo career, as recitalist in major concert venues like Carnegie Zankel Hall, Wigmore Hall, Salle Gaveau, Munich

Gasteig, Wiener Konzerthaus, Hyogo concert hall, and as soloist with orchestras such as the Oslo Philharmonic, Bavarian Radio Orchestra, Deutsche Symphonie Orchester, RAI Orchestra Torino, Orchestre National de Lyon, PKF Prague Philharmonia...

He also took part in important music festivals all over the planet including the Edinburgh International Festival, the Cartagena Music Festival, the Mecklenburg Vorpommern Festival, Hong Kong Premiere Performance, Caramoor and Classical Tahoe...

As a recording artist, his wide discography covers solo, chamber music and concerto harp repertoire with labels such as Naxos, BR klassik, Naïve, Aparte, Alpha Classics, and received praise from the specialized press.

He also invests lots of time teaching masterclasses worldwide, held Visiting Professor positions at the London Royal Academy of Music and Helsinki Sibelius Academy, and teaches a harp studio at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Finally, he was recently appointed associate music director of the USA International Harp Competition, and works hand in hand with Linda Wood Rollo and Elizabeth Hainen-DePeters to help prepare the upcoming contests.

Sarah Shine

Soprano



Sarah Shine is a soprano from Limerick based in Turin, Italy. She was most recently heard in Irish National Operas nationwide tour of *Die Fledermaus* as “a gloriously soaring and cheeky Adele” (The Irish Independent). Upcoming engagements this season include a concert tour in Japan in the Spring of 2025 with musicians from the Opera National de Paris.

In 2024 she performed title role of Handel's *Atalanta* at the Barokkfest Festival in Norway and joined French ensemble *Miroirs Étendus* for the revival and nationwide tour of Michael Gallens opera *Elsewhere*. She also began the process of workshopping a new opera *Lucia Joyce* by New-York based composer Patrick Zimmerli.

Sarah made her debut at the Bregenzer Festspiele in 2023 as Sophie in *Werther* directed by Jana Vetten with musical direction by Claire Levacher. She made her debut in the same role with Irish National Opera in May 2023 under the direction of Sophie Motley for a nationwide tour. In June of 2023, she was seen on stage once again with the Académie Opéra National de Paris in *Looking for Bernstein* directed by Victoria Sitja. In December, she performed in concert with conductor David Brophy and the RTE Concert Orchestra at the National Concert Hall, Dublin.

In the 2021/22 season, she collaborated with composer Donnacha Dennehy and writer Enda Walsh to sing the role of Karen in *The First Child*, the final opera in a trilogy produced by

Irish National Opera and Landmark productions with a nationwide tour and performances at the Galway International Arts Festival. In July 2021 and October 2021, she was soprano soloist for Mozart's *Mass in C Minor* with the Orchestre de Pau Pays de Béarn under the direction of conductor Faycal Karoui in Pau, France. At the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, she was heard in *Elsewhere* a new opera by Michael Gallen with French ensemble *Miroirs Étendus*. In 2020, she appeared at the Wexford Festival Opera as Nannetta in *Falstaff* and performed in Irish National Opera's *20 Shots of Opera* in the mini-opera *Glauch* composed by Linda Buckley with a text by Doireann Ní Ghríofa and directed by Hugh O Conor.

At the Salzburg Festspiele in 2019, she was a member of the Young Singers Project. She performed the role of Angelika in *Der Gesang der Zauberinsel* a commissioned children's opera by Marius Felix Lange, performed in Masterclass with Helmut Deutsch and sang a final concert with the Mozarteumorchester Salzburg.

From 2017-2019, Sarah was an artist in residence at Opera National de Paris, where she participated in concerts of the Academy at the Amphitheatre Bastille and Palais Garnier and performed the role of Adele in ‘*Die Fledermaus*’ presented at the MC93 before a tour of several French cities. She made her debut in Paris as Leocadia in ‘*Reigen*’ by Phillippe Boesmans conducted by Jean Deroyer, and performed in concert with the Philharmonic Radio Orchestra, Bucharest for the Beirut Chants Festival 2017. After a performance at Palais Garnier in 2018, Sarah was awarded the Siemens Opera Award of €10,000.

Sarah graduated with a B.A in Music Performance and a Recital Artist Diploma from the Royal Irish Academy of Music where she studied with Dr. Veronica Dunne. Sarah has been a grateful recipient of bursaries from Siemens, The Arts Council of Ireland, Limerick City Arts Council and the Christopher Lynch Operatic Bursary.

The Few's Ensemble

Sharon Carty Soprano / Aaron O'Hare Tenor

- **Sunday 7th December 2025**
- **Carlingford Heritage Centre**
Carlingford, Co. Louth
- **2pm**
- **€20 / €10 (under 18)**

For more information
and tickets visit
newrychambermusic.org
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Experience the joy, charm, and depth of Franz Schubert's music in a programme of some of his most beloved songs and instrumental chamber music. His *Lieder* from the tender and achingly beautiful *An die Musik* to the playful *Heidenröslein*, reveal the heart of a true Romantic and display his unsurpassed gift for melody.

The afternoon culminates in a performance of one of his most famous works *The Trout Quintet*. Composed when he was just 22 years old, it was commissioned by his friend Sylvester Paumgartner who requested both the slightly unconventional instrumentation and the inclusion of Schubert's earlier song ‘*Die Forelle*’ as a set of variations within the piece. This pillar of the chamber music repertoire overflows with wit, sparkle, and lyrical beauty.

Franz Schubert (1797–1828)
An die Musik, D. 547
Heidenröslein, D. 257
Der Musensohn, D. 764
Der Doppelgänger, D. 957, No. 13
Die Forelle D. 550
Ständchen, D. 957, No. 4
Auf dem Strom, D. 943
Die Sommernacht, D. 289
Licht und Liebe, D. 352

INTERVAL

Piano Quintet in A major, D.667, “Die Forelle”
 (“Trout Quintet”)

Mezzo Soprano	Sharon Carty
Tenor	Aaron O'Hare
Violin	Mia Cooper
Viola	Rose Redgrave
Cello	Jonathan Aasgaard
Bass	Dominic Dudley
Piano	David Quigley

PIANO FEST

Newry Chamber Music Piano Fest

A weekend celebrating the piano in all its brilliance and majesty

● 6th - 8th February 2026

Experience the piano in all its colours and moods at the first-ever Newry Chamber Music Piano Fest. Enjoy three unforgettable days of world-class performances, inspiring masterclasses, and community music-making.

Opening Concert

David Quigley & Finghin Collins – two of Ireland's finest pianists open the festival in spectacular style with Rachmaninoff's Symphonic Dances - performed on two magnificent 9ft Steinway Model D grand pianos.

Festival Highlights

Children's Concert – a fun and engaging introduction to the magic of the piano.

Open Mic Piano Evening – an opportunity for local pianists to share their passion on stage.

Masterclasses – in both classical and jazz piano, led by distinguished festival artists.

The Rob Barron Trio – bringing world-class jazz energy to the area in their Leonard Bernstein tribute concert entitled 'Tonight'.

Sunday Morning Coffee Concert – Have your coffee accompanied by some smooth Sunday morning jazz performed by jazz virtuoso Rob Barron.

Festival Finale

Steven Osborne – one of the UK's most celebrated pianists closes the festival in unforgettable style on Sunday afternoon.



Join us at Newry Town Hall, 6th – 8th February 2026, for a weekend of piano artistry, creativity, and community spirit.

Full brochure available Monday 1st December.

For more information
and tickets visit
newrychambermusic.org or
scan QR code



Piatti Quartet

Cinematic Sounds

- Saturday 14th March 2026
- Warrenpoint Town Hall
- 1pm
- £20 / £10 (under 18)

For more information
and tickets visit
newrychambermusic.org
or scan QR code



The Piatti Quartet present a fascinating programme of music all of which was used to dramatic event in various blockbuster movies over the years.

From the silver screen to the concert hall, this programme reveals the powerful storytelling capacities of a string quartet. Philip Glass's haunting and hypnotic *Mishima* and Greenwood's terrifying *There Will Be Blood* make way for the shimmering impressionism of Ravel's quartet and the iconic and thought provoking *Adagio for Strings* by Samuel Barber. The fantastic players of the Piatti Quartet will take us on a fascinating journey culminating with Shostakovich's searing and rhythmically driven Quartet No. 8. A concert that is sure to set you up for your Saturday movie night!

Philip Glass (b. 1937)
String Quartet No. 3 'Mishima'

Jonny Greenwood (b. 1971)
Prospector's quartet from There Will Be Blood

Maurice Ravel (1875 – 1937)
String Quartet

Samuel Barber (1910 – 1981)
Adagio for Strings, Op. 11

Dimitri Shostakovich (1906 – 1975)
String Quartet No. 8

	Piatti Quartet
Violin	Michael Trainor
Violin	Emily Holland
Viola	Miguel Sobrinho
Cello	Jessie Ann Richardson

Piatti Quartet

String Quartet



Resident Quartet at Kings Place, London, the distinguished Piatti Quartet are widely renowned for their 'profound music making' (The Strad) and their 'lyrical warmth' (BBC Music Magazine). Since their prizewinning performances at the 2015 Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition, they have performed all over the world with numerous international broadcasts.

The Piattis are famed for their diverse programming and passionate interpretations across the spectrum of quartet writing with commissions and recordings of some of the most major and impressive works added to the quartet canon in recent years.

Since their inception they have always had projects in the recording studio with critically acclaimed releases through a multitude of classical music's top recording labels. Their wide ranging discography and repertoire is thanks to their enthusiasm and curiosity in collaborating with a broad range of artists including some of the most recognisable names in classical music. Recent accolades include five star BBC Magazine reviews for 2023 *Mark-Anthony Turnage: Winter's Edge*, 2024 *Joseph Phibbs: Quartets* and *Ned Rorem: Choral Works* with St. Martin's Voices, a Presto Music Award as one of the 'Top 10 Recordings of the Year 2023', and a nomination for 'Recording of the Year' with both Limelight and Gramophone for their 2022 collaborative disc with Nicky Spence and Julius Drake on the Hyperion label. This same album entitled '*On Wenlock Edge*' was also singled out as one of the top 20 Ralph Vaughan Williams' recordings of all time with Gramophone ►

Magazine. Their follow up album, *Fauré: La Bonne Chanson & Other Songs*, has been shortlisted for the 2025 Gramophone Awards.

Contemporary music has been ever present in their repertoire and leaving a legacy to the quartet genre through commissions is one of the quartet's central tenets. Major commissions and dedications have stemmed from Mark-Anthony Turnage, Emily Howard, Charlotte Harding, and Joseph Phibbs whilst they have premiered a mesmerising number of new works over the years beginning with Anna Meredith back in 2009. The Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Flagey Radio Hall Brussels, Wigmore Hall London, and the Aldeburgh Festival are some of the high profile occasions where new music has been presented and recordings of Turnage, Phibbs, and Gavin Higgins' chamber music has also been extensively lauded by critics. After the UK premiere Julian Anderson's *Ice Quartet*, the composer himself described them as 'living treasures of chamber music.'

Historical research into quartet music that has been undiscovered or deserves to be better known has led to the premiere recording of Irish composer Ina Boyle's String Quartet in E Minor, Louise Farrenc's Piano Quintet in C minor, and performances of lesser known quartet gems by Ralph Vaughan Williams, E.J. Moeran, Rachmaninov, Ireland, Haas, Ulmann, and Durosoir.

The quartet's name is dedicated to Alfredo Piatti, a 19th Century virtuoso cellist who was a professor at the Royal Academy of Music (the alma mater of the founders of the quartet) and also a major exponent of chamber music and contemporary music of his time.

Recent highlights includes the quartet's ongoing residency at Kings Place alongside performances at Brighton Festival, Buxton Festival, Wigmore Hall, and Oxford International Song Festival. Upcoming events for the 25/26 season onwards involves a return to Amsterdam at the Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ, tours of Ireland and South America, and album releases on Signum Classics, Rubicon, and Chandos Records.

Newry Chamber Music & Music Network

Théo Ould Accordion / Alison Langer Soprano

- **Wednesday 1st April 2026**
- **Warrenpoint Town Hall**
- **7.30pm**
- **£20 / £10 (under 18)**

For more information
and tickets visit
newrychambermusic.org
or scan QR code



NCM are delighted to partner with Music Network for a second time this season to brings you a fascinating concert which promises a fresh take on music from Bach to Kurt Weill. We warmly welcome French Accordion virtuoso Théo Ould and outstanding British-Irish Soprano Alison Langer to Warrenpoint for a early summer concert of exuberance, vitality, flair and artistry.

"Served by a masterly technique (an unbelievably supple left hand and an inexhaustible wealth of phrasing), Théo Ould's interpretations show a personality expressing itself naturally ... with all the enchanting freshness that word implies."
Le Monde

"Alison Langer delivers quality on every front ... she acts persuasively ... a voice that just soars."
The Times

Franz Schubert (1797 – 1828)
An den Mond
Gute Nacht

Antonín Dvorak (1841 – 1904)
Rusalka: Chant à la lune
Mein Lied ertönt

Reynaldo Hahn (1874 – 1947)
L'heure exquise

Francis Poulenc (1899 – 1963)
A selection from La courte paille

Jules Massenet (1842 – 1912)
Nuits d'Espagne

Vladislav Zolotarev (1942 – 1975)
Sonata No. 3 - Final

INTERVAL

New Music Network commission by
Donnacha M. Dennehy (b. 1970)

Samuel Barber (1910 – 1981)
Slumbersong of the Madonna
Sure on this shining night

Ilse Weber (1903 – 1944)
Wiegala

Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976)
Cabaret Songs - Tell me the truth about love

Francis Poulenc (1899 – 1963)
Les chemins de l'amour

Kurt Weill (1900 – 1950)
Nana's Lied
Schickelgruber
Buddy on the Nightshift
Speak Low
Mack the Knife

Théo Ould

Accordion



The Stromae of the accordion” (Le Figaro) began his musical education at the Marseille Conservatoire at the age of 6: ‘When I held the accordion between my hands for the first time, I was fascinated both by the sound it made and by the object itself, halfway between a computer keyboard and a spaceship: a machine to play with in every meaning of the word.’

The history of the accordion is still in the making, as its repertoire, technique, and even its construction continue to evolve. Following in the footsteps of his teachers at the Paris Conservatoire, Théo is fully engaged in the same artistic debate: how best to make sure that the instrument takes its rightful place in the classical repertoire.

And so as a soloist he freely plays the music he loves, Bach, Haydn, and Mozart, without feeling at all constrained by the burden of tradition – at the same time collaborating with composers of today such as Régis Campo, Tomás Gubitsch and Philippe Hersant, to expand the instrument’s work catalogue and exploit all its capabilities. In 2023, he signed an artist contract with the Alpha Classics label and recorded his first solo album: *Laterna Magica*. He continues his collaboration with an upcoming album dedicated to the music of Astor Piazzolla which will be released in 2025. For the occasion, the artist creates his own arrangements for string quintet and accordion. From autumn 2024, Théo will also offer us a dive into the history of music. From Bach to the present day, you will be able to (re) discover a dozen pieces from the most beautiful pages of the repertoire through the sound of the accordion. Conceived as a real musical odyssey, two new tracks will be unveiled each month on streaming platforms. Passionate about opera as well as the UK rock scene, he has freely rewritten the conventions of the classical concert – not in any way to sacrifice the music, but rather to let it be heard in a different way, one in tune with our time.

Alison Langer

Soprano



British-Irish Soprano Alison Langer recently made her much anticipated Royal Ballet and Opera debut as Frasquita in *Carmen*. Other recent highlights include a return to the role of Violetta in *La Traviata* at Opera Holland Park and Mozart’s *C Minor Mass* with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Alison has a close relationship with Opera Holland Park and will return to the company for a role debut in 2026. Her role as Nedda in *I Pagliacci* for OHP was described as ‘sparkly and vulnerable in equal measure’. Other roles for the company include Oscar in *Un ballo in Maschera*, Micaëla in *Carmen* and Gilda in *Rigoletto*. For Opera North she has performed Violetta in *La Traviata* and Micaëla in *Carmen*. Elsewhere she has performed Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and Adina in *L’Elisir d’amore* (Waterperry Opera); Musetta in *La bohème* (Iford Arts) and Bridesmaid in *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Glyndebourne). She returned to Glyndebourne in Autumn 2025 to cover Mimi in their critically acclaimed production of *La bohème*.

She made her television debut on ITV’s popular series *Victoria*, performing as the opera singer Jenny Lind and also performed *Young Heidi* in *Follies* for the National Theatre, which was broadcast nationwide in cinemas.

On the concert platform highlights include Mozart’s *C Minor Mass* (Bergen) and Mozart’s *Requiem* at St Martin in the Fields. Other concert venues include Buxton Opera House, Barbican Centre, Birmingham Symphony Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Royal Albert Hall, The House of Lords and The Ritz. She also performs a Recital Programme based on the life of Jenny Lind. Alison is grateful to be the recipient of a Richard Angas Memorial Award.

Contrasts – Fews Ensemble

Season Finale

- **Sunday 3rd May 2026**
- **Warrenpoint Town Hall**
- **2pm**
- **£20 / £10 (under 18)**

For more information
and tickets visit
newrychambermusic.org
or scan QR code



Join the Fews Ensemble for a dazzling season finale featuring guest Northern Irish soprano and rising star Mary McCabe. This expansive programme takes us on a journey from the lyrical beauty of Schubert's Shepherd on the Rock and the sumptuous romanticism of some of Rachmaninov's most touching songs through to Bartók's vibrant and folk inspired Contrasts and the expressive lyricism of John Ireland's Piano Trio No. 3. A celebration of colour, emotion, folklore and musical brilliance to end our season.

Franz Schubert (1797 – 1828)
Der Hirt auf dem Felsen, D. 965
(Shepherd on the Rock)

Béla Bartók (1881 – 1945)
Contrasts, Sz. 111

Sergei Rachmaninov (1873 – 1943)
Selected Songs

INTERVAL

John Ireland (1879 – 1962)
Piano Trio No. 3 in E major

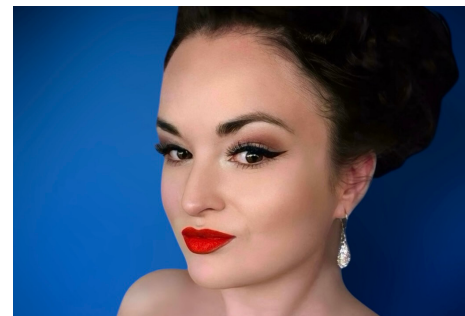
Soprano **Mary McCabe**

	The Fews Ensemble
Violin	Joanne Quigley McParland
Clarinet	Francesco Paolo Scola
Cello	Jonathan Aasgaard
Piano	David Quigley

With grateful thanks to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland for the use of the Steinway piano.

Mary McCabe

Soprano



Mary McCabe is a soprano hailing from Downpatrick, N.Ireland. With Northern Ireland Opera she has performed roles such as: 'Tatyana' in Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onégin (Grand Opera House), 'Mademoiselle Silberklang' in Mozart's The Impresario (Walled City Festival), 'First Maiden' in Puccini's Turandot (Grand Opera House), 'The Wife' in Moran/Glass' The Juniper Tree (GOH Studio), 'Belinda' in Purcell's Dido and Aeneas, 'Violetta' (cover) in La Traviata (Grand Opera House), 'Rapunzel' and 'Cinderella's Mother' in Into the Woods (Lyric Theatre) and 'Elle' in their production of Poulenc's La Voix Humaine (touring MAC theatre, Playhouse Theatre, Hillsborough Castle and the Everyman Theatre Cork). Mary featured in the award-winning short film Old Friends and Other Days directed by Cameron Menzies, NI Opera. She also performed in concert on Sky Arts in 'Live at the Waterfront' with NI Opera and as their soloist in collaboration with the Ulster Orchestra in Mendelssohn's Midsummer Night's Dream, Stanford's 'Requiem' and Haydn's 'Die sieben letzten Worte unseres Erlösers am Kreuze'.

Mary graduated First Class in Music and French from The Queen's University of Belfast and with Distinction in her Masters degree from The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Whilst studying in Scotland, Mary was awarded First Prize in the Norma Grieg French Song Competition. More recently, Mary was a winner of the New York International Opera Project Competition and awarded first place for singing Bellini in the Italian Concorso Internazionale Lions Canto Lirico.

Mary has been generously supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland throughout the years through grants and awards. This year she has toured England and France with Diva Opera as 'Contessa' in their production of Mozart's 'Le Nozze di Figaro' and has performed multiple times with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra in Dublin and Waterford. An award-winning performer on the operatic, oratorio and recital platforms, Mary has performed both nationally and internationally to critical acclaim.

THE FEWS ENSEMBLE



The Fews Ensemble



The Fews Ensemble was founded in 2016 by Violinist and Artistic Director of Newry Chamber Music Joanne Quigley McParland.

Since then they have performed throughout Ireland to critical acclaim enthralled audiences with innovative programmes, flexible ensembles and cross arts events.

They are the current Ensemble in Residence for Newry Mourne and Down and will take up an additional Residency at Carlingford Heritage Centre in Co. Louth starting in 2026.

The Fews Ensemble comprises leading instrumentalists and singers from across Ireland, the UK and further afield. Many of them are orchestral principals, soloists and leading professors at UK and Irish Conservatoires.

Principal artists are Joanne Quigley McParland, David Quigley, Jonathan Aasgaard, Rose Redgrave, Francesca Paolo Scola, Dominic Dudley, Máire Flavin and Aaron O'Hare.

They work regularly with actor Ciarán Hinds, most recently at Kilkenny International Arts Festival in August 2025 in a new work written for them by Cork composer Sam Perkin.

Joanne Quigley McParland

Violinist/Curator & Artistic Director



Joanne Quigley McParland enjoys a multi faceted career as performer, teacher and Artistic Director. As an orchestral player she has guest led the Ulster Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, RTE Concert Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and Royal Scottish National Orchestra. Joanne has also performed frequently as a principal player with Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique, The English Chamber Orchestra, The Philharmonia, The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and the BBC Philharmonic. She was the leader of the Orchestra of Opera Northern Ireland for their critically acclaimed production of Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin and more recently Sondheim's Follies. From 2009-2019 she was a member of the John Wilson Orchestra and now plays with his Sinfonia of London. Joanne has toured extensively performing on multiple occasions at the world's leading venues including The Royal Albert Hall, Carnegie Hall, Concertgebouw and Philharmonie Hall, Berlin. Away from the orchestra Joanne is in constant demand as a chamber musician. From 2015-2024 she

was the violinist with The Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble and has also performed with Crash Ensemble, Musici Ireland, London Sinfonietta and The Kings Consort. She is passionate about collaborating with artists from different disciplines working with leading actors, dancers and poets. Joanne works closely with actor Ciarán Hinds having collaborated with him on several projects including a critically acclaimed production of Stravinsky's The Soldier's Tale. at Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin, The Lyric Theatre in Belfast and at Kilkenny International Arts Festival. Joanne has been a member of the String faculty at the Royal Irish Academy of Music since 2007. She was a tutor for the Ulster Youth Orchestra from 2009-2019 and has coached for the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland and the National Youth Orchestra of Iraq.

David Quigley

Piano



Since his early successes in major competitions including BBC Young Musician of the Year, the Royal Over-Seas League music competition and his selection as the UK's representative for the ECHO Rising Stars concert series, pianist David Quigley has enjoyed a varied international career as a recitalist, concerto soloist, collaborative pianist and educator.

He has performed as a soloist throughout Europe, USA and Asia in many of the world's greatest concert halls including the Philharmonie Köln, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Symphony Hall Birmingham, Musikverein Vienna, Mozarteum Salzburg, Palais des Beaux-Arts Brussels, National Concert Hall Athens, Wigmore Hall London, Konserthaus Stockholm and Carnegie Hall New York.

As a concerto soloist he has appeared with many orchestras including the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, the Ulster Orchestra, Northern Sinfonia, RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Camerata Ireland, Southern Sinfonia and Cairo Symphony Orchestra.

David is a much sought after collaborative pianist and has performed with internationally renowned artists including oboist Nicholas Daniel, clarinetist Michael Collins, cellist Jonathan Aasgaard and sopranos Ailish Tynan and Mary McCabe.

David's discography includes Piano Music From Northern Ireland (Lontano), Rediscoveries: Old and New Music of Ireland with Joanne Quigley-McParland (Heritage), Piano music by Philip Hammond (Lontano), Piano Classics (El Greco) and Piano Nocturnes (Avie). His latest album The Fair Hills of Eire: Irish Airs and Dances (Heritage) was released in July 2022 to critical acclaim. He broadcasts regularly on both Irish and UK radio and television for the BBC, RTÉ, Classic FM and RTÉ Lyric FM.

Aside from performing, David is passionate about musical education. He is a member of the piano faculties at both Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and the University of Birmingham. David is frequently invited to give Masterclasses and to adjudicate piano competitions throughout Ireland and the UK. He has also served as a juror for the internationally renowned BBC Young Musician of the Year competition in both 2018 and 2020.

David is proud to be associated with Kawai Pianos UK, acting as an ambassador for the brand in his role as a Kawai Artist.

Jonathan Aasgaard

Cello



He has performed more than fifty works for cello and orchestra, his discography including recordings of the William Walton Cello Concerto with the Sinfonia of London, Richard Rodney-Bennett Cello Concerto with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Bloch's Schelomo with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, works for cello and orchestra by Carl Davis with the Philharmonia Orchestra, and, among a number of recital discs, Brahms's cello sonatas with Martin Roscoe, an 'Editors Choice' for chamber music in the magazine Gramophone. 2025 will see the release of Grieg's cello sonata and third violin sonata with pianist David Quigley.

A champion of new music, he has given the world première of Carl Davis's Ballade for cello and orchestra, the European première of Giovanni Sollima's Double Cello Concerto, the UK première of Weinberg's Cello Concerto, the US première of concertos by Franz Neruda and Emil Hartmann, and world premières of dozens of solo pieces, many written specially for him.

One of Europe's most versatile cellists, the Norwegian Jonathan Aasgaard is active as a soloist, chamber musician, studio musician, orchestral principal, teacher, and explorer of new music.

He is Principal Cello of both the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and the Sinfonia of London, a regular guest principal of leading British and continental European orchestras, and, as a dedicated teacher, Professor of Cello at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Chamber music performances have taken him across Europe, the Middle East, Japan, South Korea, and the USA: he has collaborated with artists such as the violinists Nigel Kennedy, Henning Kraggerud, and Julian Rachlin, violist Lawrence Power, cellists Yo-Yo Ma and Giovanni Sollima, pianists Simon Trpčeski, Boris Giltburg, and Joanna MacGregor, and clarinetist Martin Fröst in a range of prominent festivals and concert halls.

Rose Redgrave

Viola



Rose is a member of the Incus Trio, Fews Ensemble of the Milbrook Ensemble. As a member of the Coull Quartet (2010-2014) she undertook a busy schedule of concerts and recordings alongside a full time residency at Warwick University. A committed teacher, Rose teaches at Birmingham Conservatoire and Birmingham University and privately. She has also recently given classes, judged the viola prize and been external examiner at the Royal Academy of Music.

Francesco Paolo Scola

Clarinet



Francesco was the principal clarinet of the Ulster Orchestra from 2009-2022. He regularly performs as Guest Principal Clarinet with many other orchestras including the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra Helsinki, Orchestre Les Dissonances Paris, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, and The John Wilson Orchestra.

Alongside schedules, he is particularly keen in various chamber music project worldwide, member of the Soni Ventorum ensemble (Italy), Fews ensemble and regular guest with the Fidelio Trio (UK). Mia Cooper violin Mia was appointed leader of the RTÉ Concert Orchestra in 2006, and in the same

Dominic Dudley

Double Bass



As a chamber musician, Dominic has played with many leading international musicians, including Nicola Benedetti, Philip Cassard, John O'Connor, the Vanburgh Quartet, the Con Tempo Quartet, the Danish Quartet, and Jorg Widmann, as well as numerous chamber concerts with members of the NSOI. He also performs regularly at the West Cork Chamber Music Festival. Dominic also enjoys playing in a crossover group called meascan (meaning mixture in Irish), featuring the bluegrass music of Mark O'Connor.

Dominic continued his studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with Thomas Martin and Kevin Rundell. In 1994, Dominic was appointed Section Leader (Principal) Double Bass with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland at the age of 23. In recent seasons he has also been Guest Principal at the RPO, CBSO and the Ulster Orchestra. As a concerto soloist, he has worked with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, as well as the Hibernian Orchestra, Dublin City Chamber Orchestra and the Royal Irish Academy Symphony Orchestra.

In 1996, he was appointed Double Bass professor at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Since then, Dominic has become increasingly interested in Music Education. He was a Music Facilitator for the NSOI, involving school visits and workshops

Máire Flavin

Soprano



Máire Flavin is an Irish soprano working with leading companies across the UK and Europe. Operatic highlights include Violetta *La Traviata* Irish National Opera and Opera North; Mimì *La Bohème* Opera Theatre Company, Iford Arts and Cork International Concert Series; Countess *The Marriage of Figaro* Irish National Opera, Opera North and Salzburger Landestheatre; Elena *La Donna del Lago* Buxton Festival Opera; Mathilde *Guillaume Tell* Irish National Opera; Dido *Dido and Aeneas* Théâtre Champs Elysées as well as several roles for Opera North including title role Handel's Alcina, Hanna Glawari *The Merry Widow*, Fiordigli *Così fan Tutte* and the UK premiere as Anna Sørensen in Kevin Put's Pulitzer prize winning opera *Silent Night*. She has also created the roles of Hannah in Dennehy and Walsh's award winning *The Second Violinist* for Wide Open Opera and Bianca in Synott and Cucchi's *La Cucina* for Wexford Festival Opera.

On the concert platform Máire made her National Symphony Orchestra Ireland debut with Berlioz's *Les Nuits d'Été* and has been a regular guest since then, performing Mahler's Second Symphony, Mozart's Requiem, Handel's Messiah and several New Year's Day Galas. She has also been a soloist with other leading orchestras including RTE Concert Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Deutsche Philharmonie and Orchestra of Welsh National Opera.

Aaron O'Hare

Tenor



Northern Irish tenor Aaron O'Hare has performed with leading opera companies across the UK and Ireland. Recent highlights include Spoletta in *Tosca* (Northern Ireland Opera), the Fourth Jew in *Salome* (Irish National Opera), Monsieur Triquet in *Eugene Onegin* (NI Opera), Alfred in *Die Fledermaus* (INO), and Adam in Jonathan Dove's *The Walk from the Garden* for Opera Collective Ireland.

As an Associate Artist with Welsh National Opera (2020–2022), Aaron sang the title role in Don Giovanni on tour, Stárek in *Jenůfa*, and the March Hare/White Knight in Will Todd's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Other notable performances include Schaunard in *La bohème* (NI Opera), and *Elsewhere*, a new commission by Michael Gallen, produced in Ireland with support from the Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris.

Aaron studied at the University of Ulster (BMus Hons) and the Royal Northern College of Music (MMus) under Matthew Best. He won Northern Ireland Opera's *Festival of Voice* competition and is a recipient of the BBC NI and Arts Council NI Young Musician's Platform Award. He was also a Young Artist at Opera Holland Park in 2018. In 2020, he appeared as Mike in John Adams' *I Was Looking at the Ceiling and Then I Saw the Sky* with the studio of Opéra de Lyon.

THE FEWS ENSEMBLE GUEST ARTISTS

Sharon Carty Mezzo-soprano



Irish mezzo-soprano Sharon Carty has firmly established a reputation as a respected interpreter of both early and contemporary works, and she also has a busy schedule in mainstream opera and concert repertoire. She is an alumna of the RIAM, Dublin, University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna, and the Oper Frankfurt Opera Studio, and as of 2025 is the Artistic Director of Sligo Baroque Music Festival.

Her opera repertoire includes many of the important lyric and coloratura mezzo-soprano roles, working with conductors such as Nicholas McGegan, Joana Mallwitz, David Agler, Andrea Marcon, Kerri-Lynn Wilson, Henrik Nanasi, Julia Jones, and Jonathan Cohen. On the concert platform she has sung most of the major sacred concert works, including all the major works of Bach, as well as Handel's Messiah, Mozart's Mass in C minor, and numerous chamber-music works. She is also a dedicated song recitalist, most recently appearing in song recitals with pianists Finghin Collins and Jonathan Ware. A champion of new music, recent highlights include the world premieres of several new works Silvia Colasanti's opera, Proserpine at the Spoleto Festival, Deirdre Gribbin's "The stones of life" and Anne Marie O'Farrell's civil war cantata "Who'd ever think it would come to this", as well as Dorabella for Irish National Opera in their recent production of *Così fan tutte*.

2024 saw the release of two CDs of the music of C.V.Stanford, as well as recording Ina Boyle with the Piatti Quartet, while 2025 brings her role debuts as Orlofsky in Irish National Opera's *Die Fledermaus*, appearances at the Clondeboy Festival with pianist Barry Douglas, as well as a festival and role debut as Kate in Owen Wingrave at the Festival della valle d'Itria, Martina Franca.

Mia Cooper

Violin



Mia Cooper studied at the Royal Northern College of Music with Yossi Zivoni and Chamber Music at the Paris Conservatoire with Michel Strauss. On graduating, Mia was principal first violin of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra for five years, and played with many of London's chamber orchestras and ensembles, including the Fibonacci Sequence, Barbican Trio, Brodsky Quartet, Chamber Orchestra of Europe and Academy of St Martin in the Fields. Mia was appointed leader of the RTÉ Concert Orchestra in 2006, and in the same year took up a position as Professor of Violin at the Royal Irish Academy of Music.

She has given masterclasses in the UK, Spain and Lithuania through Erasmus exchanges. Mia is in demand as a guest leader and as such has worked with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Philharmonia and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Her love of chamber music grew at an early age, and as a founding member of the Esposito quartet has given many radio broadcast concert tours of Ireland. Mia has also recorded a wide variety of chamber music, including the violin sonatas of Michele Esposito, and recordings for Naxos and Chandos as a guest of the Gould Piano Trio.

Joel Hunter

Viola



Joel, a proud Yorkshireman, began playing the viola aged 7. After studying at Chethams School of Music and the Royal Academy of Music, he became co-principal viola with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and later principal viola with the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra. He has also held the position of principal viola with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra since 2005. He has appeared as a guest principal with most of the UK orchestras and internationally with the Symphonie Orchester des Bayerischen Rundfunk, Bamberg Symphony, Oslo Philharmonic, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Munich Philharmonic and the Amsterdam Sinfonietta.

As a chamber musician he has collaborated with many renowned artists and ensembles. Recent recordings include the Mozart Piano Quartets with Leif Ove Andsnes (Sony) and the Korngold Sextet (Chandos). Joel is a founding member of the Logos Chamber Group performing exclusively in Hong Kong and an ARAM recipient for his contributions to music in the UK.

Katherine Hunka

Violin



"A beguiling melt in the mouth sonority... a silver purity enhanced by a magical instinct for cantabile."
BBC Music Magazine

Violinist Katherine Hunka enjoys a diverse and colourful career as a violinist, chamber musician, composer and mentor. For twenty-six years Katherine led and directed the Irish Chamber Orchestra. She directed tours in Germany, China and Singapore as well as in festivals closer to home including the West Cork Chamber Music Festival and Kilkenny arts festival. In 2002 she released a solo album with the ICO of Piazzolla's The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires and Schubert that received glowing reviews including five stars in the BBC music magazine. Katherine was Artistic Director of the Killaloe Music Festival for many years and is a regular guest as soloist and chamber musician at festivals throughout Ireland and the UK. Highlights of Katherine's solo career have been performing a Mozart Concerto with the City of London Sinfonia, premiering Benjamin Britten's concerto for violin and viola at the Aldeburgh festival and most recently premiering David Fennessy's concerto "Blood" with the Irish Chamber Orchestra in Berlin. Her group the Far Flung Trio presents wildly eclectic programmes that delight audiences. Their new album

"Umbrellas" was released in August on the Orchid Classics label. Katherine has composed several works of her own. "Pass the Hat" written for the Solas string quartet, of which she is a founder member, was toured in 2023. "The Bassist" for the bass and cellos of the Irish Chamber Orchestra was toured in 2024 and pieces for violin and loop pedal have been premiered at the Killaloe Festival and Kaleidoscope Night. This November the Solas quartet will premiere "Into the Clear Air" on their national tour. Mentoring young musicians is an important part of Katherine's musical life. She has been a guest prof at Indiana University, is currently lecturer at MTU Cork School of Music and is Artistic Director of ConCorda chamber music course. In June she directed the inaugural concert of the National Youth Chamber Orchestra of Ireland.

Martin Johnson

Violoncello



Martin studied Cello at the Royal College of Music, London under the direction of legendary Pablo Casals student Anna Shuttleworth and Andrew Shulman, Principal Cello – Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra.

In 2000, he joined the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra and has been their Section Leader for more than two decades – broadcasting most of the orchestral cello solo repertoire to date. In 2006 Martin was invited to become a member of the World Philharmonic Orchestra and is also a regular Guest Principal with the major orchestras in Ireland and the UK. Martin made his Irish debut as a soloist with the RTÉ NSO in January 2008, performing Saint-Saëns Concerto No. 1 in A minor Op. 33 and has appeared as soloist with the Orchestra on more than twenty occasions since then - live solo broadcasts across Ireland and the UK have included concerti by Frank Corcoran (recorded for LyricFM CD154, 2017), Fauré (recorded for NAXOS Disc 8.574587), Grainne Mulvey (recorded for Métier Mex 77129), Anne-Marie O'Farrell, Bloch, Elgar, Schumann, Tavener, Tchaikovsky, Joseph Haydn, Lalo, Saint-Saëns, Tippett, Delius, Corelli, Ibert, Beethoven's Triple Concerto and notably Richard Strauss's finest tone poem 'Don Quixote' Op. 35 for 'Cello and Orchestra with the RTÉ NSO and Maestro Pascal Rophé at Ireland's National Concert Hall, Dublin.

A brand new Cello Concerto by the extraordinarily talented young Northern Irish Composer Anselm McDonnell (LSO Composer in Residence) has recently been commissioned by the NSO/NCH for Martin and will be premiered in spring 2026. Next year will also see three performances of Brahms' much loved Double Concerto with Soloist Mia Cooper.

Martin is a Professor at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, a University College Dublin *Creative Fellow*, a Countess of Munster Scholar; an IT President's Prize Winner and has been supported by the Musical Instruments Loan Fund as well as Music Network's Music Capital Scheme in Ireland. He plays a fine cello by Thomas Kennedy of London c.1810 and an exquisite bow by legendary archetier Eugene Sartory made for the World Exhibition in Paris 1908.

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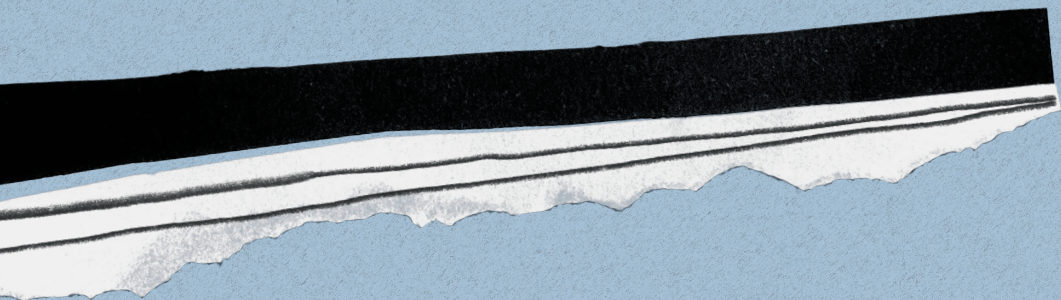
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