

Sunday 28th January 2024
4 pm,
Thomastown Concert Hall, Co. Kilkenny

Finghin Collins piano
with **Ficino Ensemble**

Elaine Clark - violin
Nathan Sherman - viola
Ailbhe McDonagh - cello
Macdara Ó Seireadán - clarinet
Hannah Miller - french horn

W.A. Mozart (1756-1791) - Divertimento K. 563 for String Trio
Deirdre McKay (b. 1972) - 'Between' for Bass clarinet and cello
Krzysztof Penderecki (1933-2020) - Sextet

The acclaimed chamber group **Ficino Ensemble** presents a musical odyssey, performing rarely heard music by Mozart, McKay and Penderecki. Mozart's noble and epic Divertimento for String Trio and Irish composer Deirdre McKay's atmospheric 'Between' will set the stage for the dynamic and evocative Sextet by the late Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki for which the ensemble will be joined by pianist **Finghin Collins**. Formed in 2013, the Ficino Ensemble has been committed to exploring the vast chamber music repertoire and presenting thoughtfully programmed concerts. The group regularly perform as a string quartet, and the addition of winds and percussion gives the possibility of playing large-scale chamber works. The members share a dedicated approach to contemporary music and have premiered many works. The group have recorded two acclaimed albums, Winter and Folk Songs which are regularly broadcast on WNYC, BBC3, Radio France and RTE lyric fm. The individual members of Ficino Ensemble are curious and fearless performers, and are at the forefront of the contemporary music scene and members of the National Symphony Orchestra and RTE Concert Orchestra. Ficino Ensemble takes the name from Marsilio Ficino, the Renaissance philosopher who regarded music as a "contemplation of the divine". ficinoensemble.com

This concert will be recorded by the Ergodos label for a future CD release.



Sunday 11th February 2024
4 pm
Thomastown Concert Hall, Co. Kilkenny

Far Flung Trio

Katherine Hunka - violin
Malachy Robinson - bass
Dermot Dunne - accordion

Under Paris Skies

A very special concert infused with Parisian charm. In characteristic fashion, the Trio's repertoire will be drawn from many idioms including Romantic Opera, the Moulin Rouge and Hot Club Jazz, with music by Bizet, Satie and Michel Legrand among many others. Celebrating their 10th anniversary with a national tour in 2024, the Far Flung Trio promises you a musical saunter to touch the heart and lift the spirits. The Far Flung Trio's name reflects their sense of fun and the eclecticism in their programming and performances. All leading Irish players, this trio is fuelled by the sheer joy generated in playing together. This evident rapport is one of the elements that particularly delights audiences; their aim has always been to deliver the highest calibre of musicianship, with lots of flair, in a way that is appealing and accessible to all.



Saturday 24th February 2024
5 pm
St. Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny

Resurgam

Mark Duley - music director
in association with members of the choir of
St. Canice's Cathedral

Tudor Connections

Christopher Tye (c.1505-1573) - Missa Euge bone
Robert Whyte (1538-1574) - Motets and Anthems

Resurgam presents English choral music by two lesser-known but influential figures of the sixteenth century, Robert Whyte and Christopher Tye. The two composers were related through marriage and both served as Magister choristarum at Ely Cathedral. The programme includes Tye's sonorous six-part Mass Euge bone, interspersed with motets and anthems by Whyte. Performing with Resurgam for some of the programme will be the choir of St Canice's Cathedral.



Sunday 10th March 2024
4 pm
Thomastown Concert Hall, Co. Kilkenny

Conor Biggs - baritone
Michel Stas - piano

Schubertreise

Songs of Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Der Strom, D 565. Abschied, D 578.
Der Knabe in der Wiege, D 579. Vollendung, D 579A.
Die Erde, D 579B. Elysium, D 584. Atys, D 585.
An den Frühling, D 283. An den Frühling, D 587.
Grenzen der Menschheit, D 716. Der Kampf, D 594.
Auf der Riesenkoppe, D 611.
An den Mond in einer Herbst Nacht, D614.
Grablied für die Mutter, D616.

If 1815 and 1816 were Schubert's most productive years when it came to Lied composition (142 and 112 songs respectively), the remaining years of his life see a sharp downturn in quantity, though certainly not in quality. Only in 1823 and 1827, with the composition of the two great song cycles, do we see a return to the momentum of the earlier years. Songwriting for Schubert tended to be concentrated in the spring and autumn months, while the rest of the year was devoted to chamber music, symphonies and opera.

Dubliner **Conor Biggs** has spent most of his professional career interpreting art song. In 2013, together with Belgian pianist Michel Stas he launched his complete songs of Schubert, or Schubertreise, in the National Concert Hall, Dublin. Based in Belgium, he studied singing with Anne Marie Ó Sullivan and Evelyn Dowling (Dublin) and John Cameron (RNCM, Manchester).

Michel Stas is active as soloist and as pianist in many chamber and vocal ensembles in his native Belgium. He is currently Head of Overijse Music Academy (Belgium). He has collaborated with Conor Biggs on numerous occasions, notably as accompanist for all twenty nine recitals to date of the Dublin series of Schubertreise.



Friday 5th April 2024
8 pm
Thomastown Concert Hall, Co. Kilkenny

Sestina Music and **Baroque Ensemble**
Mark Chambers - musical director

In Praise of St Cecilia

Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704) -
Ouverture pour le sacre d'un eveque, H. 536 (1690)

Marc-Antoine Charpentier -
Litanies de la vierge H. 83 (1684)

Henry Purcell (1659-1695) -
Welcome to all the pleasures, Z339

Marc-Antoine Charpentier -
Caecilia Virgo et Martyr H. 413 (1684)

Sestina Music directed by **Mark Chambers** presents In Praise of St. Cecilia, a powerful programme celebrating the patron saint of music. Purcell's celebratory ode, Welcome to all the Pleasures is a vibrant celebration of solo and choral harmonies blending poetry and music. Commissioned by The Musical Society, London, for St Cecilia's Day 1683, it is a lively piece that exudes youthfulness and artistic camaraderie. A chamber oratorio, Caecilia Virgo et Martyr showcases Charpentier's ability to exquisitely convey drama and emotion through music. In contrast, Charpentier's profound spiritual sensitivity is evident in the solemn Litanies de la vierge, which employs intricate polyphony to evoke reverence and reflection. Brought to life by Sestina Music's talented singers and their band of authentic period instrumentalists, each piece reveals a distinct facet of Baroque music demonstrating the era's richness and the depth of the composer's creativity in captivating and enthralling ways.



Sunday 14th April 2024
4 pm
Thomastown Concert Hall, Co. Kilkenny

Carl Henning Fredriksson - cello
Donal McHugh - piano

Franz Liszt (1811-1886) - Le Lugubre Gondola
Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849) -
Cello Sonata in G minor, Op. 65
Edvard Grieg (1843-1907) - Cello Sonata Op. 36

Carl Henning Fredriksson is from Gotland, Sweden. His studies took place in the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, the Carl Nielsen Academy of Music, in Odense (Denmark), as well as Academy of Music in Malmö (Sweden). Carl Henning has been a soloist with the Joseph Haydn Symphony Orchestra, Vienna and Gotland Sinfonietta as well as performing regularly with orchestras including the Malmö Symphony Orchestra, Helsingborgs Symphony Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of Dalecarlia, Musica Vitae, Sønderjyllands Symphony Orchestra, Webrn Symphony Orchestra, Wermland Opera Orchestra and Malmö Opera Orchestra.

Pianist **Donal McHugh**, from Co. Clare, graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in 2014 (BMus Hons in performance) with tutors Norman Beedie and Graeme McNaught. He then spent four years freelancing as a musician in Glasgow – performing, teaching and accompanying. As well as regular classical recitals (both solo and chamber music) he also gained a reputation playing with the many jazz big bands in the city. Donal has taken part in seminars on Grieg's music a number of times in Bergen, Norway (most recently Autumn 2017). In 2020 he completed an MA in Music (piano performance) at the at the CIT Cork School of Music with tutors Michael McHale and Michael Joyce.



Friday 3rd May 2024
8 pm
St. Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny

State Choir Latvia
Māris Sirmāis - director

Arvo Pärt (b. 1935) – The Deer's Cry
Michael Holohan (b. 1956)– Quis est Deus
Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-19240) - Beati Quorum Via
Rhona Clarke (b. 1958) – Lux Aeterna from Requiem
Rhona Clarke – Pie Jesu from Requiem
Rihards Dubra (b. 1964)– To Skaisto Dīva Rozi
Pēteris Plakidis (1947-2017) – Izkal Pakavu Akmens
Zirgam Raimonds Tiguls (b. 1972) – Griezes Dziesma
Vaclovas Augustinas (b. 1959) – Tykus Tykus Ēriks
Ešensvalds (b. 1977) – Rivers of Light
Pēteris Vasks (b. 1946) – Māte Saule

The **State Choir Latvia** is one of the world's most important professional choirs. They have a distinctive sound – the glorious sound of the Latvian choral tradition, characterised by warmth, balance and precision. Along with their Artistic Director and Chief Conductor, **Māris Sirmāis**, they will present a rich programme of Latvian/Baltic music alongside that of Irish composers. This includes Arvo Pärt's 'The Deer's Cry', a setting of the well-known 'St Patrick's Breastplate' commissioned by Louth Contemporary Music Society in 2007.



Sunday 12th May 2024
4 pm
Parade Tower, Kilkenny Castle

The Geminiani Ensemble
Alison Bury - baroque violin
John Dornenburg - viola da gamba
Malcolm Proud - harpsichord

J.S. Bach (1684-1750) - Sonata in E minor BWV 1023
Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707) - Trio in A minor, opus 1 No. 3 BuxWV254
J.S. Bach - Sonata in G Major BWV 1021
D. Buxtehude - Trio in Bb Major, op. 1 No. 4, BuxWV255
J.S. Bach - Capriccio sopra la lontananza del suo fratello dilettissimo (Capriccio on the departure of his most beloved brother) BWV 992
J.S. Bach - Trio Sonata in G Major BWV 1039

Since meeting in the Netherlands during their student days the three members of the **Geminiani Ensemble** have each had successful international careers performing with some of the world's leading Early Music ensembles and in recital. As leader of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment **Alison Bury** has performed over many seasons at Glyndebourne and has toured the world as leader of the English Baroque Soloists under Sir John Eliot Gardiner. Following his studies with Wieland Kuijken in the Conservatory in the Hague **John Dornenburg** settled in the San Francisco Bay Area where he worked as a performer, teacher and recording artist. He has recorded over thirty CDs of both solo and chamber music. **Malcolm Proud** studied harpsichord with Gustav Leonhardt in Amsterdam. Throughout his career he has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in some of the world's leading concert halls including London's Wigmore Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Barbican Centre, the Frick Museum in New York and the Schönbrunn Palace Vienna. He has toured to Japan with the Purcell Quartet, throughout Europe with the English Baroque Soloists and given organ recitals and chamber music recitals (with Swiss violinist Maya Homburger) in the U.S. He has recorded over forty CDs as both soloist and continuo player with various international ensembles.



Saturday 25th May
8 pm
Parade Tower, Kilkenny Castle

Pelléas Ensemble
Henry Roberts - flute
Luba Tunnicliffe - viola
Oliver Wass - harp

Béla Bartók (1881-1945) - Romanian Folk Dances
John Dowland (1563-1626) - In Darkness Let Me Dwell
Ethel Smyth (1858-1944) - Variations on Bonny Sweet Robin
H. Birtwistle (1934-2022) - Entr'actes (selections)
Trad. (arr Henry Roberts) - She Moved Through The Fair
Arnold Bax (1883-1953) - Elegaic Trio
André Jolivet (1905-1974) - Petite Suite

The **Pelléas Ensemble** are proud advocates for the flute, viola and harp trio, and have spent the last twelve years exploring and expanding the repertoire for the ensemble. They create rich, diverse programmes featuring core works alongside their own arrangements and commissions. This programme spans the centuries, presenting a greatly contrasting combination of ancient song, traditional melodies from different countries, and boundary-breaking works from both the romantic and contemporary periods. Through programming of this kind, the Pelléas Ensemble celebrate the many possibilities of this unusual ensemble.



Saturday 8th June
8 pm
Thomastown Concert Hall, Co. Kilkenny

Evlana Ensemble
Sylvia O'Brien - soprano
Keith Pascoe - violin
Lynda O'Connor - violin
Nathan Sherman - viola
Yseult Cooper Stockdale - cello
Bill Dowdall - flute
Paul Roe - clarinet
Isabelle O'Connell - piano

Arnold Schoenberg (1874-1951) - Chamber Symphony (arr. Webern)
Jonathan Nangle (b. 1981) - Granular Dust
Jessie Montgomery (b. 1981) - Strum
Sean Doherty (b. 1987) - The Song of Iron (newly commissioned)
John Corigliano (b. 1938) - Mr. Tambourine Man: Poems of Bob Dylan
Cassandra Miller (1976) - Perfect Offering

Delve into a compelling musical journey from Webern's arrangement of Schoenberg's Chamber Symphony composed in 1923 to Sean Doherty's newly commissioned work, 'The Song of Iron'. Also featuring Jessie Montgomery's lively 'Strum', Corigliano's intriguing interpretation of Bob Dylan's poetry and Cassandra Miller's poignant 'Perfect Offering' which takes its title from Leonard Cohen in a concert spanning over a century of artistic expression.



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www.musicinkilkenny.org

Music in Kilkenny is supported by The Arts Council of Ireland, OPW, Thomastown Community Hall, Music Network, National String Quartet Foundation.



Music in Kilkenny committee:
Fergal Brady, John Clark, Brian Fennelly, Beatrice Kelly, Laoise O'Brien, Susan Proud, Maria Ryan



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