

Application form

Name
Address
Phone/Mobile
Email
Present position/place of study
Musical qualifications: exams/diplomas/degrees etc.

Please enclose the following with your application:

1. A brief summary of your experience in composition and a list of any works composed
2. The name and contact details of one referee who may be contacted to report on your composition or experience

Completed applications should be sent to the address below by Monday, June 1st 2015. Applications can also be sent by email.

Dr John McLachlan, Irish Composition Summer School, Ballyargus, Redcastle, Lifford, Co. Donegal
email johnmclachlan@gmail.com , Ph 074 9383734

Course directors will assess applications, and applicants will be contacted within one week of closing date. 50% of fee will be due by June 19th 2015.

Course information and fees

COMPOSITION COURSE June 29th - July 8th €350

Observer: €30 per day

This entitles participants to attend lectures and workshops only. Observers should fill in the form on this brochure and write a cover note marked 'observer' indicating the number of days they wish to attend.

Background

The Irish Composition Summer School started as the Ennis Composition Summer School, founded in 1983 by John Buckley, and has been responsible for over thirty years of excellence in composition teaching by Irish and international composers. Previous directors have included Martin O'Leary, James Wilson, John Buckley, Grainne Mulvey and Michael Alcorn. A majority of the most successful Irish composers of the last three decades have attended the Summer School. It has provided them the opportunity to work with leading names in composition - including Bent Sorensen, Poul Ruders, Christopher Fox, Liza Lim, Kevin Volans, Simon Bainbridge, Nicola LeFanu, Michael Finnissy, Jo Kondo and Clarence Barlow - and in performance, including Dorothy Dorow, Collette McGahon, the Prey Trio, Jane Manning, the Fidelio Trio, the Clarion Horn Trio and the ConTempo Quartet.

The ICSS would like to thank the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama for the generous hosting of the Summer School in 2015.

ICSS is on Facebook.

Irish Composition Summer School 2015

(33rd edition)

June 29th - July 8th

Application deadline: Monday June 1st



Course directors

Nicola LeFanu
Kevin O'Connell

Guest director - Sadie Harrison

Performers in Residence

Sylvia O'Brien (soprano)
and the Clarion Horn Trio

Technology director

Ian Brabazon

Hosted by the DIT Conservatory
of Music, Rathmines

Administrator
John McLachlan

Sponsored by the Arts Council/
An Chomhairle Ealaíon and IMRO



Course Information

This year's school will offer a range of lectures, presentations and demonstrations on all aspects of contemporary composition, focusing on contemporary writing for any combination of the available forces (sopr, hn, vn, pf), with optional electronics.

At the end of the course, the students' works will be presented in workshop, rehearsed and digitally recorded by the performers in residence. Throughout the course, students will receive guidance from experienced course directors and nationally and internationally renowned composers. This year, the ICSS is delighted to welcome Sadie Harrison as Guest Director, who will present seminars on her own work, as well as giving individual tutorials to all students.

Due to the short duration of the course students are expected to come with some sketches/ideas prepared.

Please note the course does not provide accommodation.

Levels

The course involves a great deal of individual tuition and so is suitable for a range of students from postgraduate, to graduate, to Leaving Certificate students (aged 17+) taking contemporary composition as an elective.

The course involves a combination of one-to-one tutorials with the participating composers, and group seminars. These will cover the major aspects of contemporary composition such as harmony, rhythm, formal structure, the use of music technology and instrumental writing.

Composers and Performers

NICOLA LEFANU has composed over a hundred works which have been widely played, broadcast and recorded; her music is published by Novello and by Edition Peters. She has been commissioned by the BBC, by festivals in UK and beyond, and by leading orchestras, ensembles and soloists. Her catalogue includes a number of works for string ensemble, and chamber music for a wide variety of mediums, often including voice. She has a particular affinity for vocal music and has composed eight operas. She is active in many aspects of the musical profession, as composer, teacher, director etc. From 1994-2008 she was Professor of Music at the University of York. Recent premieres include works for chamber ensemble, for solo instrumentalists, and her opera *Dream Hunter*, libretto by John Fuller. She was born in England in 1947: her mother was the composer Elizabeth Maconchy. LeFanu studied at Oxford, RCM and, as a Harkness Fellow, at Harvard. She is married to the Australian composer David Lumsdaine and they have a son, Peter LeFanu Lumsdaine.



KEVIN O'CONNELL's output embraces most of the musical genres and has been performed around the world. Following his first BBC commission when he was 25 he has completed a continuous succession of commissions including three operas and much chamber and orchestral music. These works have been played by many of Europe's leading performers including Joanna McGregor and Rolf Hind, the Lotus Quartet of Stuttgart, The Hugo Wolf Quartet of Vienna, David Adams, Gerard McChrystal and the Vanburgh Quartet. In March 2014 his first opera *Sensation!* enjoyed a successful revival at the Project Arts Centre. Premieres planned for 2015 include *Early Music* for the RTE Concert Orchestra (an RTE commission), *Piano Trio no. 2* for the Kungsbacka Piano Trio, commissioned by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, and *Concerto for solo Cello* for Martin Johnson, commissioned by the Irish Arts Council. A CD of O'Connell's orchestral music from the RTE NSO appeared in 2014 as Vol. 8 of the Lyric FM label's *Composers of Ireland* series. Kevin O'Connell is Head of Composition at the RIAM, and in 1996 was elected a member of Aosdána, Ireland's academy of creative artists.



SADIE HARRISON was born in Adelaide, Australia, living in England since 1970. Her music has been heard in venues such as the Sydney Opera House, Carnegie Hall, South Bank Centre, Millennium Centre, Cardiff and Vilnius Philharmonic Hall and works have been released on Naxos, NMC, Cadenza, Sargasso, BML, *Divine Art/Metier*, and *Clarinet Classics* with international broadcasts on both radio and television. Many of her compositions have been inspired by the traditional musics of old and extant cultures with cycles of pieces based on the folk music of Afghanistan, Lithuania, the Isle of Skye, the Northern Caucasus and the UK. A highlight of 2014 was *Dast be Dast* for viola, rubab and tabla premiered in Kabul, Afghanistan by the pioneering American ensemble *Cuatro Puntos*. Reflecting her interest in the past, Sadie undertook an Archaeology degree, subsequently spending time in Hungary researching the prestige pottery of the Continental Bronze Age (also appearing on Channel 4's *Time Team!*) She will be celebrating her 50th birthday this year with the release of a portrait CD by *Toccata Classics* and performances in the International Mozart Festival in Johannesburg, in Pietermaritzburg and Stellenbosch, SA (Renée Reznik), Brighton Festival (Helen Burford), York (Chimera and the Albany Trio), Club Inégales (Dr. K Sextet), Bristol (SCAW), Seaton (Trittico), Huddersfield (Nancy Ruffer), National Portrait Gallery (Peter Sheppard, Eve Daniel, Roderick Chadwick) and Connecticut (*Cuatro Puntos*).



IAN BRABAZON is a graduate of NUI, Maynooth and Trinity College Dublin, where he completed his M. Phil in Music and Media Technologies in 1999. He lectured in the Music Technology department of NUI Maynooth, while undertaking post-graduate research there. He has studied with Todd Winkler, Michael Alcorn and Roger Doyle. He has taught on the summer school over many years, and currently runs Vita Studios, a sound recording and engineering company.

Irish soprano **SYLVIA O'BRIEN** made her operatic debut as the Governess in *The Turn of the Screw* with Opera Theatre Company in 2004. The same year she took part in the Buxton Festival with English Touring Opera in *The Turn of the Screw* as well as performing with Opera Ireland as Barena in Janacek's *Jenufa*.



Her vocal and musical skills make her an important singer of contemporary repertoire, having performed works by Gerald Barry, Raymond Deane, Seoirse Bodley, Ian Wilson, James Wilson, Halfidi Halgrimsson and Kevin O'Connell. She was a resident performer at the Malkovich International Composers Competition 2003 and has performed with all the leading contemporary ensembles in Ireland. Recent highlights include Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 14* with the Magogo Chamber Orchestra in Tilburg, The Netherlands, *St John Passion* on tour with the Irish Chamber Orchestra conducted by Stephen Layton, Morton Feldman's *Neither* with the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Dmitry Slobodenyuk, Nono's *Il Canto Sospeso* with the Orchestra Sinfonica e Coro Sinfonico di Milano Giuseppe Verdi conducted by Francesco Maria Colombo, and Herbert Howell's *Hymnus Paradisi* with the Guinness Choir and the Ulster Orchestra conducted by David Milne.

The **CLARION HORN TRIO** was formed in 2008 by Ian Dakin (horn), Elaine Clark (violin) and David Clark (piano). Since this time they have been bringing the best of the horn trio repertoire to audiences throughout Ireland, as well as working with young composers. The trio were the Ensemble in Residence of the Irish Composition Summer School in 2009. The members of the Clarion Trio are also all members of the RTE National Symphony Orchestra.

Elaine was appointed co-leader of the orchestra since 1997. With the RTENSO she has performed concertos by Berg, Prokofiev & Khachaturian. With Orchestra of St Cecilia she has performed all the violin concertos of Bach. Elaine has been guest leader with the Melbourne Symphony orchestra and the Ulster Orchestra. She was also co-leader with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra in their performances at this year's London Proms. Elaine is a member of the contemporary music group *Concorde* and is co leader of the Irish Film Orchestra.

David has been a member of the RTENSO 1st violin section since 1993. As well as playing in the orchestra David is active as a chamber musician on both violin & piano. He has performed many times with his sister Elaine as a violin & piano duo. Together they have performed recitals in Ireland, England, Scotland & Wales as well as recitals for broadcast by the BBC and by RTE. In 2012 they performed Beethoven's *Triple Concerto* with cellist Polly Ballard in the NCH.

Ian, as well as leading in the NSO, has performed in a freelance capacity with the Ulster Orchestra, RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Irish Chamber Orchestra, Camerata Ireland, Orchestra of St. Cecilia, Irish Film Orchestra and many different freelance orchestras including the Lyric Opera Orchestra and the Orchestra of the National Concert Hall.