

Press Release: September 4, 2007

Crash Ensemble 'Shindig' celebrates 10th anniversary with 38 pieces of music in one marathon weekend

SHINDIG

12-13 October, 2007

SS Michael and John, Temple Bar

www.crashensemble.com

"Magnificently energetic... The Irish new-music band that plays with the energy and spirit of a rock group"

The New York Times

A new Sean Nós setting by Donnacha Dennehy, sung by Iarla Ó Lionáird; the Irish premiere of a Dennehy piano piece performed by Lisa Moore (*Bang on A Can*); new works by Gerald Barry and Julie Feeney as well as performances by Andrew Zolinsky and the Dublin Guitar Quartet along with 30 other pieces of music are among the many highlights of Crash Ensemble's 10th Anniversary celebrations.

Crash Ensemble's **SHINDIG**, running at SSMJ in Temple Bar on October 12th and 13th, is a mammoth weekend featuring two concerts; **Free State** – a look at some of the most interesting contemporary music in Ireland today including the premiere of a new *Crash Ensemble* commission by Gerald Barry, and **Marathon** – a whopping 11 hours of new music by the godfathers (and extended family) of contemporary classical music.

After a triumphant debut this March in New York and performances in Westport and Louth, *Crash Ensemble*, Ireland's contemporary classical ensemble, is back to Dublin to build on the success of its previous 2-day mini-festivals, Back2Back (2006) and Up North (2002) and the highly successful Steve Reich Marathon (produced as part of the RTÉ Living Music Festival 2006).

FREE STATE

12 October | 8pm – 10.30pm

Free State 2007 will be the 2nd dedicated Crash Ensemble event focused on performing new Irish work. Showcasing a diverse snapshot of some of the most exciting new music composed by emerging contemporary Irish artists, **Free State** illustrates that new electronic and contemporary composition is extremely fertile in Ireland today.

Anticipated highlights of Free State include:

- A new piece by **Gerald Barry** - *First Sorrow*. Barry describes in his score that First Sorrow refers to the story by Kafka about a trapeze artist who is happy only when aloft. At the end the quartet sings a hymn to 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star'.

- A new piece by **Julie Feeney** (2006 Choice Music Prize winner) for cello, viola, percussion, alto flute, clarinet, trombone and voice.
- World premiere performance by the winner of the Open Call for new Electronic music. (Details of submission at end of release).

The full programme also includes new works by a first-class role-call of Irish contemporary composers - **Jonathan Nangle, Derek Ball, Linda Buckley, Roger Doyle** and **Garrett Sholdice**.

MARATHON

13 October | 12 noon - 10.30pm

A mammoth day and a first-rate introduction to a veritable A-Z of international contemporary classical composers.

Highlights of the marathon day include:

- A new Sean Nós setting, composed by Dennehy and performed by Iarla Ó Lionáird
- A piece by father of minimalism Terry Riley, ***Ancient Giant Hairy Nude Warriors Racing Down the Slopes of Battle*** (recently premiered as part of the Louth Contemporary Music Festival) which evokes scenes of ancient Celtic Ireland and is heavily inspired by old Irish art.
- The 2nd Dublin performance of ***Grá Agus Bás*** with Iarla Ó Lionáird which Irish audiences first heard earlier this year in the Beckett Theatre, this time with live visuals. The New York Times described the performance as "*a magnificently energetic, wildly cacophonous vocal work*" given a "*powerful account*" by the Crash Ensemble.
- The European premier of Dennehy's ***Stainless Staining*** - a piece for piano and multitracked electronics written especially for, and performed by, Lisa Moore (Bang on a Can Allstars, NYC)

With works by Andriessen, Bresnick, Deane, Dennehy, Eno, Glass, Gorecki, Johnson, Lucier, Lund, Moody, Nancarrow, Reich, Rzewski, Saariaho, Scelsi, Tenney and Volans.

Alan Pierson, of New York-based ensemble Alarm Will Sound, will be conducting in all concerts as well as performing in Reich's ***Four Organs*** and Riley's ***Ancient Giant Hairy Warriors Racing Down the Slopes of Battle***.

TICKET INFORMATION

Ticket prices will range from €20-€40. Tickets available from the Central Ticket Bureau at (01) 8721122 and www.ctb.ie

MORE INFORMATION

CALL FOR ELECTRONIC MUSIC SUBMISSIONS

As part of SHINDIG *Crash Ensemble* will have a separate listening post for electronic music where people can pick up headphones and listen to new Irish Electronic music whenever they wish during the two day festival. The ensemble is looking for pieces of pure electronic music, no longer than 10 minutes in duration, to be played at the festival. The best piece will be performed during the **FREE STATE** concert.

Submissions must be in by Friday 21st September at 5pm. Submissions may be by CD (post to below address) or via a download link to admin@crashensemble.com.

GRÁ AGUS BÁS

Commissioned by Trinity College and written for Iarla Ó Lionáird and Crash Ensemble, *Grá agus Bás* is inspired by the moments of ecstasy (both luscious and dark) within a number of particular Sean Nós songs, but especially *Aisling Gheal*, and uses these as a collective point of departure for a journey exploring the themes of love and death in a non-narrative context.

ALAN PIERSON

Alan Pierson has been praised as "a young conductor of monstrous skill" by Newsday, "commanding" by the New York Times, and "gifted and electifying" by the Boston Globe. He is the artistic director and conductor of the acclaimed ensemble Alarm Will Sound which has been called "the future of classical music" by the New York Times and "a sensational force" with "powerful ideas about how to renovate the concert experience" by the New Yorker. In addition to his work with Alarm Will Sound, Mr. Pierson has appeared as a guest conductor with the London Sinfonietta, the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra, the New World Symphony, and The Silk Road Project, among other ensembles. He has collaborated with major composers and performers including Yo Yo Ma, Steve Reich, John Adams, Augusta Read Thomas, David Lang, Michael Gordon, La Monte Young, and Wu Man, and choreographers Akram Khan and Elliot Feld. Mr. Pierson has recorded for Nonesuch Records, Cantaloupe Music, Sony Classical, and Sweetspot DVD.

CRASH ENSEMBLE

Crash Ensemble is building an international reputation for its repertoire and interpretations of cutting-edge music. Founded in 1997 by composer Donnacha Dennehy; conductor and pianist Andrew Synott; and clarinetist Michael Seaver. Their repertoire features the works of major composers of the 20th and 21st century, including Reich, Stockhausen, Andriessen, Glass, and Cage among many others. They have worked directly with composers such as Steve Reich, Louis Andriessen, Gavin Bryars, Michael Gordon, Kevin Volans and Arnold Dreyblatt in preparing important premieres and performances. Apart from their regular concerts in Ireland, they have also performed in the UK, Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Canada and the USA, and have featured in radio broadcasts in all of those countries. The BBC broadcast their recent December 2005 London debut in full.

Crash has made an indelible mark on the Irish music scene and beyond. They believe in a joyous yet absolutely rigorous engagement with the most adventurous music today and the (extremely) recent past. Crash will feature in recordings by labels such as NMC (London) and Cantaloupe (New York) to be released in the coming year. Crash Ensemble is supported by the Arts Council.

For more details visit www.crashensemble.com

FULL PROGRAMME FOR SHINDIG

FREE STATE (12 October)

8pm – 10.30pm

Garrett Sholdice | *For Benedict Schlepper-Connolly*
Jonathan Nangle | *Multi-Channel Piece with visuals* | **(WP*)**
Derek Ball | *One Giovanni Too Many*
Gerald Barry | *String Quartet* | **(WP, CC*)**
Linda Buckley | *Do you remember the planets?*
Roger Doyle | *Passade No. 6*
TBA | *Open Call Electronics Winner* | **(WP*)**
Julie Feeney | *New Piece* | **(WP, WC*)**

MARATHON (13 October)

12pm–1.30pm

Andriessen | *Worker's Union*
Andriessen | *Trepidus* | **(IP*)**
Volans | *1000 Bars* | **(WC*)**
Volans | *Joining Up the Dots* | **(WC*)**
Volans | *White Man Sleeps*

2pm–3.30pm

Dennehy | *Paddy*
Nancarrow | *2 pieces*
Reich | *Cello Counterpoint*
Reich | *Four Organs*
Reich | *Clapping Music*
Gorecki | *Quasi Una Fantasia*
Deane | *Four Inscriptions*
Dennehy | *Streetwalker*

4pm–5.30pm

Tenney | *Glissade*
Saariaho | *Noa Noa*
Moody | *Songs* | **(IP*)**
Brian Eno | *Down by the River*
Bresnick | *Willie's Way* | **(IP*)**
Rzewski | *Piano Piece No.4*
Johnson | *Naryana's Cows*

7pm–8.30pm

Dennehy | *Junk Box Fraud* | **(WC*)**
Lucier | *Nothing is Real*
Dennehy | *Stainless Staining* | **(EP*)**
Lund | *Missing Intelligence* | **(WC*)**
Glass | *Music in Similar Motion*

9pm-10.30pm

Dennehy | *Aisling Gheal* **(WC*)**

Riley | *Ancient Giant Nude Hairy Warriors Racing Down the Slopes of Battle*
(WC*)

Scelsi | *Ixor*

Dennehy | *Grá Agus Bás* **(WC*)**

*

WP – World Premiere

EP – European Premiere

IP – Irish Premiere

CC – Commissioned by Crash Ensemble

WC – Written especially for Crash Ensemble

FOR MEDIA INFORMATION, TICKETS AND PICTURES CONTACT:

Zoetrope

Nik Quaife T: 087 799 7989 | nik@zoetrope.ie

Layla O'Mara T: 086 397 7832 | layla@zoetrope.ie

Crash Ensemble

Frances Mitchell T: 087 698 3763 | admin@crashensemble.com