

Press Release – May 12 ,2010

A cutting edge contemporary music ensemble **Check** ✓
A chamber choir of exquisite voices. **Check** ✓
Two of Ireland's finest actors. **Check** ✓
One of Ireland's most beautiful venues. **Check** ✓

Sometimes you just *know* an evening is going to be very special indeed....

Rothko Chapel / Words and Music

May 30, 2010 | 8pm | The Great Hall, IMMA | Feldman Festival

A concert of music by Morton Feldman

Part of the exhibition *Vertical Thoughts: Morton Feldman and the Visual Arts*

Presented by Crash Ensemble

and the

National Chamber Choir of Ireland

In association with IMMA and RTE Lyric FM

"Rothko's imagery goes right to the edge of his canvas, and I wanted the same effect with the music... the sound is closer, more physically with you than in a concert hall." **Morton Feldman**

Liam Cagney of www.musicalcriticism.com wrote of Crash Ensemble:

"Crash [is] undoubtedly Ireland's foremost contemporary music outfit, [its] concerts always ones to look forward to on the musical calendar...they consistently attract a large audience for contemporary classical concerts... Crash's outlook is exemplary and to be commended."

David McKenna, Executive Producer Cross-Media & Arts, RTE said of the NCC:

"I think the National Chamber Choir is one of the very best things in the country (including seafood, rugby teams and Paula Meehan)"

In their first ever collaboration, Ireland's cutting edge new music ensemble **Crash Ensemble**, and the acclaimed **National Chamber Choir of Ireland**, will perform '*Rothko Chapel*' by the world-renowned composer, Morton Feldman.

Crash Ensemble will also present the rarely performed '*Words and Music by Samuel Beckett*' in a collaboration with renowned Beckett Actors, **Barry McGovern** and **Owen Roe**. The piece was written for radio by Samuel Beckett, with music composed by Feldman.

Part of [Vertical Thoughts: Morton Feldman and the Visual Arts](#), the current exhibition at IMMA, this concert is the final performance in the Morton Feldman Concert Series.

Feldman is one of the most influential American composers of the second half of the 20th Century and his inspiration was largely drawn from modern abstract visual art. Feldman was a close friend of Mark Rothko and he composed the choral masterwork 'Rothko Chapel' as a tribute, taking the name from the Chapel decorated with Rothko's works - a place for contemplation where men and women of all faiths, or of none, may meditate in silence, in solitude or celebration together.

In relation to '*Words and Music by Samuel Beckett*' Feldman said that it was a collaboration between the 'words man and the notes man.' Like many Beckett works, there is heated debate as to the meaning of the piece and it centres round the themes of Love, The Face, Age and Music. Two characters, Words and Music work together and against each other producing songs, musical interludes, and lyric poetry. They are joined by Croak, who exists somewhere in between sound and sense.

Just back from their US Tour and a collaboration with the Dublin Dance Festival, Crash Ensemble's upcoming events include a recording for Nonesuch Records and the world premiere of a new work by Donnacha Dennehy commissioned by Grammy award-winning soprano Dawn Upshaw, to be performed in October 2010.

LISTINGS INFORMATION

Crash Ensemble & NCC Present 'Rothko Chapel ' followed by 'Words and Music by Samuel Beckett': Sunday 30 May, 2010 | The Great Hall, IMMA | 8pm | Tickets €20.00 from <http://www.tickets.ie/>

PROGRAMME

Rothko Chapel | Morton Feldman. Performed by Crash Ensemble and the National Chamber Choir

Words and Music | Words by Samuel Beckett, Music by Morton Feldman. Performed by Crash Ensemble, with Barry McGovern and Owen Roe
Conducted by Alan Pierson

FOR MEDIA INFORMATION, TICKETS AND PICTURES CONTACT:

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The Morton Feldman Festival

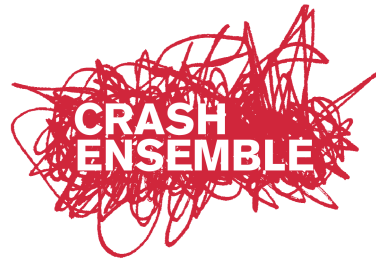
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Online link to the Morton Feldman Concert Series

http://www.imma.ie/en/page_212222.htm

Online link to Vertical Thoughts: Morton Feldman and the Visual Arts

http://www.imma.ie/en/page_212189.htm



RTÉ lyric fm