

## **Crash Ensemble bring a unique blend of Irish and American new music to Kings Place.**

7.30pm | April 24<sup>th</sup> 2010 | King's Place London

***“The Irish new-music band that plays with the energy and spirit of a rock group” New York Times, March 07***

In advance of its tour to the US, Ireland's leading new music ensemble Crash Ensemble are bringing an exciting program of Irish and American new music to Kings Place as part of the week long celebration “The Irish American” (curated by violinist Darragh Morgan). The program, comprising entirely of UK premieres, features works written exclusively for the ensemble by US compositional greats Terry Riley and David Lang alongside works by young and upcoming Irish composers, Linda Buckley and Jonathan Nangle. The centrepiece work, ‘Grá agus Bás’ (*love and death*) was written by the Ensemble's artistic director, Donnacha Dennehy, in 2007 for Crash Ensemble and Iarla Ó Lionáird. Ó'Lionáird is Ireland's foremost exponent of the sean nós singing tradition and is a member of the twice Grammy nominated Afro-Celt Sound System. “Grá agus Bás” will feature on a Nonesuch Album next year that will also include a new work by Dennehy for Dawn Upshaw and Crash Ensemble (to be premiered in Dublin this October).

Hailed by the New York Times as ‘*magnificently energetic and wildly cacophonous*’, Donnacha Dennehy's ‘**Grá agus Bás**’ explores the themes of love and death through moments of ecstasy, luscious and dark, drawing inspiration from a selection of old Irish songs. Since its premiere in early 2007 it has since travelled around Ireland, to the US and Australia.

Considered by many to be the finest Irish traditional singer of his generation, Iarla Ó'Lionáird's work fuses old style ‘sean-nós’ with modern electronic music and soundscapes. He has also commanded a great following of devoted fans as the ethereal voice of the Afro-Celt Soundsystem.

The evocatively titled '**Loops for Ancient Giant Nude Hairy Warriors Racing Down the Slope of Battle**' was written for Crash Ensemble by the renowned 'father of minimalism' Terry Riley in 2007. "Executed with cheeky enjoyment and technical flair", to quote The Irish Times, Riley's musical invocation of ancient Celtic Ireland will propel you on a riotous rollercoaster ride back in time.

'**Forced March**', by Pulitzer prize-winning composer David Lang, was commissioned by and written for Crash Ensemble in 2008. It explores the interaction of an irregular melody against explosive, drum-machine-like percussion. To quote Lang "Crash Ensemble should be a national treasure. They are powerful, skilled, committed players, dedicated to the presentation of a wide range of adventurous music... and I must say, they play my music great too. "

Linda Buckley is an Irish composer currently based in Dublin who writes for both electronic and acoustic forces. Her work has been described as '*strange and beautiful*' (Richard Dyer, *The Boston Globe*) and a '*fascinating interaction between live sound and electronics*' (Martin Adams, *The Irish Times*). Crash Ensemble is delighted to be presenting Buckley's extraordinary '**Do you remember the planets?**' to a new audience.

Jonathan Nangle's '**our headlights blew softly into the black, illuminating very little**' for bass clarinet and electronics received the 2007 IMRO MUSIC 21 Young Irish Composers' Prize. It was also selected recently as a recommended work in the under-30 category at the 56<sup>th</sup> International Rostrum of Composers in Paris in 2009. This is a unique opportunity to hear this outstanding work firsthand.

Having sold-out every concert of 2009, Crash looks forward to an exciting 2010, with a US tour, a recording for Nonesuch Records and the world premiere of a new work by Donnacha Dennehy commissioned by Grammy

award-winning soprano Dawn Upshaw. They are particularly delighted to be participating in the week long '**Irish American**' celebration at King's Place.

## **FULL PROGRAMME**

**David Lang** | *Forced March*

**Linda Buckley** | *Do you remember the planets?*

**Terry Riley** | *Loops for Ancient Giant Nude Hairy Warriors Racing Down the Slopes of Battle*

**Jonathan Nangle** | *'our headlights blew softly into the black, illuminating very little'*

**Donnacha Dennehy** | *Grá agus Bás* (Love and Death, featuring Iarla Ó Lionáird

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Online link to the Crash Ensemble concert  
<http://www.kingsplace.co.uk/music/weekly-themes/crash-ensemble-with-iarla-o-lionaird>

Online link to The Irish American festival  
<http://www.kingsplace.co.uk/music/weekly-themes?theme=116>