

Press Release: October 20, 2008

Four world premieres of Irish and British music feature in Crash Ensemble's upcoming concerts of new music

Free State | New music from Ireland | 27 November, 2008 | 8pm

World View:UK | New music from the UK | 28 November, 2008 | 8pm

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

The New York Times

At the end of another exciting and internationally-focused year, Crash Ensemble furthers its energetic commitment to showcasing original compositions by staging two concerts of the newest and freshest music from Irish and British composers.

The concerts, over two nights, will feature **4 world premieres** by composers as diverse as Ireland's **Andrew Hamilton** and **Jonathan Nangle**, and the UK's premier exponent of driving, rhythmic music, **Andrew Poppy**. All composers will be present for the premieres.

Enhancing its solid reputation for international collaborations, Crash Ensemble will be joined by the acclaimed, London-based violinist **Darragh Morgan**, and will once again be working with New York-based **Alan Pierson** (principal conductor and Artistic Director of New York's Alarm Will Sound) who will conduct both the concerts.

FREE STATE | New Music from Ireland

The **FREE STATE** concert is the third annual showcase of new music from Ireland. This concert is always an adventure of the unexpected, having previously premiered exciting new works by Gerald Barry, Julie Feeney and other unique voices of the new generation. This year features many vibrant new works, including 3 world premieres (by **Andrew Hamilton**, **John Godfrey** and **Jonathan Nangle**); an Irish premiere of a beautiful new piece by **John McLachlan** (premiered at the Musica Viva Lisbon festival in September 08) and the winners of our open call for works from young Irish Composers - **Sean Clancy** and **Peter Moran**.

World View : UK | New Music from the UK

This, the first of a new concert series focusing on specific countries, will highlight a vibrant set of pieces from some of the most exciting composers in the UK, including the whimsical magic of the iconoclastic **Richard Ayres**, the 'rebel of the English musical world' **Christopher Fox**, the uniquely sonorous voice of the shamefully underrated **Frank Denyer** and the luxuriant beauty of **Gavin Bryars**. A feature of the concert is the world premiere of a new work commissioned by Crash Ensemble and **Darragh Morgan** - **Andrew Poppy's** Darwin's Sin Draw is a new violin concerto and we are very excited to be working with the extremely talented violinist Darragh Morgan for the concert. Andrew Poppy will also be present at the concert.

FULL PROGRAMME FOR CONCERTS

FREE STATE (27 November)

8pm

Sean Clancy | Whisper, Whisper, Whisper (***IP**)

Peter Moran | A Casual Analysis of Prose Rhythms (***IP**)

John Godfrey | The Abstract Despotisms of Calculus (***WP/CC**)

John McLachlan | Wonder (***IP/WC**)

Johnathan Nangle | our headlights blew softly into the black, illuminating very little (***WP**)

Andrew Hamilton | Yes Variations (***WP/CC**)

World View : UK (28 November)

8pm

Tansy Davies | Grind Show Electric (***IP**)

Joe Cutler | Five Mobiles after Calder (***IP**)

Gavin Bryars | Sub Rosa

Andrew Poppy | Darwin's Sin Draw (***WP/CC**)

Christopher Fox | Straight Lines in Broken Times (***IP**)

Frank Denyer | Prison Song (***IP**)

Richard Ayres | Noncerto for Alto Trombone and Ensemble

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WP – World Premiere

IP – Irish Premiere

CC – Commissioned by Crash Ensemble

WC – Written especially for Crash Ensemble

BOOKING INFORMATION

Ticket prices for each concert are €20/18 including booking fee. Tickets are on sale now from www.tickets.ie <<http://www.tickets.ie>> /crashensemble.

Tickets will also be sold on the door.

MORE INFORMATION

CRASH ENSEMBLE

Crash Ensemble holds 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, its repertoire features the works of major composers of the 20th and 21st century, including Reich, Stockhausen, Andriessen, Glass, and Cage. The ensemble has 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 regular concerts in Ireland, Crash has also performed in the UK, Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Canada and the USA, and has featured in radio broadcasts in all of those countries. In 2008 Crash featured at the Canberra International Music Festival (where they were broadcast on ABC Radio) and the infamous Bang on a Can Marathon in New York City. Crash has made an indelible mark on the Irish music scene and beyond. The ensemble believes in a joyous yet absolutely rigorous engagement with the most adventurous

music today and the (extremely) recent past. Crash feature in recordings by labels such as NMC (London) and Cantaloupe (New York) released in 2008. Crash Ensemble is supported by the Arts Council.

ALAN PIERSON, conductor

Alan Pierson has been praised as "a young conductor of monstrous skill" by Newsday, "commanding" by the New York Times, and "gifted and electrifying" 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.

DARRAGH MORGAN, Soloist

"Gorgeous lyrical playing from violinist Darragh Morgan set the seal on a magnificent reading of a sincere, eloquent and emotionally involving score" The Independent
Violinist Darragh Morgan enjoys a hugely diverse and rewarding career. He has led world class international ensembles, such as the Ensemble Modern, London Sinfonietta, Musik Fabrik and Birmingham Contemporary Music Group. As a concerto soloist, highlights include invitations from the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland (performing Elastic Harmonic by Donnacha Dennehy, recorded on NMC D133), the Ulster Orchestra (in the world premiere of Hymn of Dawn by Sir John Tavener), and the KZN Philharmonic (giving the South African premiere of Samuel Barber's violin concerto). His many CD recordings include Opera NMC D108, the complete violin & piano music of Michael Finnissy for Mode Records (both with pianist Mary Dullea) and For John Cage by Morton Feldman with pianist John Tilbury on Matchless Recordings. A keen pedagogue, he is regularly invited to work with string and composition students at the Royal Academy of Music, Royal College of Music and the Britten Pears Young Artists Programme. He is a member of two award winning chamber ensembles The Smith Quartet and The Fidelio Trio. With these groups Darragh has performed at many prestigious international festivals including, Aldeburgh, Cheltenham, Huddersfield, FuseLeeds, BBC Proms Chamber Music, Festival D'Automne à Paris and the Luzern Festival.

For more details visit www.crashensemble.com

FOR MEDIA INFORMATION, TICKETS AND PICTURES CONTACT:

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