

Press Release: April 18, 2007

Crash Ensemble to premier work by American contemporary music master Terry Riley as part of his Irish debut

Sunday May 6 | 2007

St. Peter's Church of Ireland Drogheda

As part of Terry Riley: Spirals of Ragtime and Raga (Friday 4 May – Sunday 6 May 2007)

Just back from a rave New York debut, Ireland's foremost new music group **Crash Ensemble** will premier new work by one of the founding fathers of minimalism, American composer **Terry Riley**.

The concert features the world premiere of ***Loops for Ancient-Nude-Hairy-Warriors Racing Down the Slopes of Battle*** - a piece written by Riley for Crash Ensemble. This is the closing concert of a weekend of Riley's music, his Irish debut. The weekend of contemporary music is run in conjunction with the Louth Contemporary Music Society and the Drogheda Arts Festival.

The weekend, entitled **Terry Riley: Spirals of Ragtime and Raga** features the first Irish appearance by Terry Riley himself as a performer. As well as joining the Crash Ensemble in one of his most celebrated works, *In C* (which is recognised as the first great masterpiece of minimalism), he will also play improvisations on the piano

Also featured will be the Irish premiere of *Chanting the Light of Foresight*. This work was inspired by the eighth-century Ulster heroic tale "An Táin Bó Cuailnge" (the Cattle Raid of Cooley), and the performances will take place in County Louth where "An Táin Bó Cuailnge" is based. The festival programme will also include the Irish premiere of *Uncle Jard* and *Tread on the Trail* with the four saxophonists of the renowned Arte Quartett from Switzerland.

Accepting the invitation, **Terry Riley** said, "I am so looking forward to my first visit to my father's homeland origins".

All of the concerts will be broadcast on RTÉ lyric fm's Nova programme, (Sunday evenings, 8pm-10pm, on 96-99fm).

Crash Ensemble and Louth Contemporary Music Society acknowledges the financial support of the Arts Council in making this event possible.

ABOUT TERRY RILEY

Terry Riley was strongly influenced by jazz and tape loop experiments when he began composing repetitive music. In 1964, Riley composed *In C*, which is generally considered the benchmark work of American Minimal music. Its impact was to change the course of 20th Century music and its influence has been heard in the works of prominent composers such as Steve Reich, Philip Glass and John Adams and many prominent rock bands such as The Who, Brian Eno and Curved Air. Later works like *Cadenza on the Night Plain* was selected by both Time and Newsweek as one of the 10 Best Classical Albums Of The Year. The epic string quartet cycle, *Salome Dances for Peace*, was selected as the #1 Classical Album Of The Year by USA Today magazine and was nominated for a Grammy. Terry Riley was listed in the London Sunday Times as "one of the 1000 makers of the 20th Century."

FULL PROGRAMME

Terry Riley: Spirals of Ragtime and Raga at a Glance

Friday 4 May 2007, 8pm

Terry Riley and the ARTE Quartett
St. Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda

Saturday 5 May 2007, 10am

Workshops
Martello Tower, Millmount Drogheda.

Saturday 5 May 2007, 7pm

The Life of Riley: Terry Riley in Conversation with Helen Meany
Martello Tower, Millmount Drogheda.

Sunday 6 May 2007, 8pm

Terry Riley and the Crash Ensemble
St. Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda
Co-produced by Crash Ensemble

Tickets €20 available online from www.ticketmaster.ie and Ticketmaster outlets.
Alternatively contact the box office at Drogheda Arts Office 041 9876154

For details on Crash Ensemble please contact

Zoetrope

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

Crash Ensemble

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

For full details on all the events over the weekend please contact:

Eamonn Quinn T: 087 7601631 | exquinn@mac.com