

**PRESS RELEASE – February 25, 2007**

# **Irish and Scandinavian music to premiere at Kaufman Center as part of acclaimed New Sounds Live**

*Kaufman Center Presents*

**NEW SOUNDS® LIVE**

**TRIO MEDIEVAL / DONNACHA DENNEHY WITH CRASH ENSEMBLE**

**Hosted by WNYC's John Schaefer***\*Presented in association with WNYC radio*

**Merkin Concert Hall | Wednesday, March 28, 2007 | 8pm**

Lovers of Early and Contemporary European Music are in for a treat when **New Sounds Live** returns to Merkin Hall with Scandinavia's **Trio Medieval** and Ireland's **Crash Ensemble** premiering works exploring the interface between old and new music.

For one night only WNYC's John Schaefer brings his incredibly popular show to Merkin Hall and showcases two acclaimed European ensembles that mine the rich history of early European music with a contemporary twist.

**Trio Medieval** is a trio of female singers who specialize in medieval ballads from England, France and Norway, entrancing audiences with voices rapturous and heavenly.

They share a double bill with Ireland's foremost contemporary classical ensemble **Crash Ensemble**, often referred to as 'Ireland's Bang on A Can'.

Crash Ensemble will be performing the North American premiere of *Grá agus Bás* with renowned Sean Nós singer (and former Afro-Celt Sound System lead vocalist) **Iarla Ó Lionáird**. Following this, **Lisa Moore** (from Bang on a Can All-Stars) will be performing the world premiere of Donnacha's new piece for piano and electronics called *Stainless Staining*.

## **TRIO MEDIEVAL**

"Breathtaking, arresting, ready to surprise" (The Wall Street Journal), the young Scandinavian vocalists of Trio Mediaeval specialize in medieval ballads from England, France and Norway, entrancing audiences with voices rapturous and heavenly.

## CRASH ENSEMBLE

Known as Ireland's 'Bang on A Can', Crash Ensemble have, for the past 10 year had one ear on the past with eyes open toward the future, Irish contemporary composer and artistic director of Crash Ensemble, Donnacha Dennehy's innovative use of technology creates sophisticated, fresh compositions all his own.

## LISTINGS INFORMATION

Kaufman Center presents

**NEW SOUNDS® LIVE: TRIO MEDIAEVAL / DONNACHA DENNEHY WITH CRASH ENSEMBLE**

129 W. 67th St. (between Broadway and Amsterdam)

Wednesday, March 28 at 8 PM

Single tickets are \$20

Call the Box Office at 212 501 3330 or order online at [www.kaufman-center.org](http://www.kaufman-center.org)

EDITORS: Please refer to the series by its name, *New Sounds® Live*, and its location, Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center.

Press Only: Hi-res photos for download at <http://www.kaufman-center.org/pr.html>

## BIOGRAPHIES

### DONNACHA DENNEHY

Born in 1970, **DONNACHA DENNEHY** is a composer living in Dublin. He has received commissions from the BBC, WNYC (Public Radio New York), RTE, Amsterdam Fonds Voor der Kunst, the Arts Councils of both England and Ireland, and from many individual ensembles. Noted performers of his work include Bang On A Can All-Stars, Crash Ensemble, Electra, Ensemble Integrales, Jenny Lin, and San Francisco Contemporary Music Players among many others. He now lectures in music technology and composition at Trinity College Dublin. He founded the Crash Ensemble in 1997 to concentrate on the newest music exploiting multimedia. Recent premieres include 'HIVE' (2005) commissioned by BBC Radio3 for the Ulster Orchestra and the National Chamber Choir of Ireland. 'The Weathering', which was premiered at Lincoln Center in May 2004 by the Dutch group Electra, was described as being 'viscerally thrilling' by the New York Times.

### CRASH ENSEMBLE

Crash Ensemble was 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.

## **TRIO MEDIEVAL**

ANNA MARIA FRIMAN, LINN ANDREA FUGLSETH, TORUNN ØSTREM OSSUM, the brilliant young Scandinavian sopranos of **TRIO MEDIAEVAL** specialize in a diverse repertoire that features polyphonic medieval music from England and France, contemporary works written for the ensemble, and traditional Norwegian ballads and songs. Founded in Oslo in 1997, Trio Mediaeval developed its unique repertory during intense periods of work at the Hilliard Summer Festivals in England and Germany between 1998 and 2000. At the outset of the 2005-06 season, Trio Mediaeval's highly anticipated third release, *Stella Maris*, was released on ECM records. The trio performs new music and collaborates with a multitude of contemporary composers, including Gavin Bryars, Piers Hellawell, Roger Marsh, Ivan Moody, Paul Robinson, Gonzalo Macías, Markus Ludwig, Thoma Simaku, Oleh Harkavyy, Bjørn Kruse and Andrew Smith. In March 2005, the trio premiered *Shelter* in Cologne Germany. This joint production of Bang on a Can composers Michael Gordon, Julia Wolf & David Lang, German new music ensemble musikFabrik, and Ridge Theater, received its U.S. premiere in November 2005 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM). Trio Mediaeval's first CD on ECM Records, *Words of the Angel*, immediately charted on Billboard's Top 10 Bestsellers list and was the April 2002 Stereophile "Recording of the Month." The second recording, *Soir, dit-elle* (2004), features Leonel Power's *Missa Alma Redemptoris Mater* along side works by Gavin Bryars, Andrew Smith and Ivan Moody, and met with similar critical and commercial success.

### **ANNA MARIA FRIMAN**

Born in Gothenburg, Sweden, Anna Maria Friman studied with Thorbjørn Lindhjem at the Barratt Due Institute of Music in Oslo and with Linda Hirst at Trinity College of Music in London; she is currently doing a PhD at the University of York, where she is researching the modern performance of medieval music. She also teaches singing and coaches vocal ensembles at the University. In Europe Anna has given workshops in the UK, Sweden, Latvia and Finland. Her work in the USA has included coaching and recording with the Girl Choristers of Washington National

Cathedral. Anna's solo engagements include performances with Gavin Bryars Ensemble, Red Byrd, The Norwegian Soloists' Choir, NYDD Ensemble, Latvian Radio Choir, Collegium Vocale Gent and Ricercar Consort. Anna has been a jury member at the vocal ensemble competition at the Tampere International Choral Festival, Finland, since 2001.

### **LINN ANDREA FUGLSETH**

Linn Andrea Fuglseth was born in Sandefjord, Norway. She completed her Higher Diploma in singing at the Norwegian Academy of Music in 1997, specializing in baroque interpretation, and writing a dissertation on Restoration Mad Songs. In 1994-95 she studied at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London, receiving a diploma in Advanced Solo Studies in Early Music. She has studied singing with Marit Isene, Barbro Marklund, Emma Kirkby and Mary Nichols. Linn Andrea has been soloist with, amongst others, the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra, The Norwegian Baroque Orchestra and The Norwegian Soloists' Choir. Linn Andrea founded Trio Medicæval in October 1997. In addition to singing, she conducts a children's choir in Oslo and writes arrangements of Norwegian folksongs for the Trio.

### **TORUNN ØSTREM OSSUM**

Torunn Østrem Ossum was born in Namsos, Norway. She was educated at the College of Early Childhood Education in Oslo, specializing in music and drama. Torunn studied singing with Svein Bjørkøy at Rønningen County College in Oslo. She has wide experience as an ensemble singer and has performed with groups such as The Norwegian Soloists' Choir, Nordic Voices, Con Spirito and Grex Vocalis conducted by Carl Høgset, where she also sings as a soloist. Torunn has been working as a vocal coach for the junior theatre group 'Bærmuda mini'. Her experience working with children has been a great advantage for the trio's work touring throughout Norway giving school concerts, engaged by the Norwegian Concert Institute.

## **THE KAUFMAN CENTER**

The Kaufman Center's presentations are made possible in part with support from the Amphion Foundation, Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, Edward T. Cone Foundation, Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Barbara Bell Cumming Foundation, Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, Greenwall Foundation, Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Inc., Starr Foundation, Phyllis Fox and George Sternlieb Foundation and with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency.

Merkin Concert Hall receives support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation.

Merkin Concert Hall is one of the premiere destinations for new and adventurous programming. This gig forms the cornerstone of the 2006/07 season which showcases performances by classical artists, jazz artists, turntablists and a host of artists whose music defies boundaries.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Merkin Hall**

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**Crash Ensemble / Donnacha Dennehy**

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**Trio Medieval**

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