

Sunday 19th November 2017
4 pm St. Mary's Cathedral Chapter House, Kilkenny

Quatuor Voce

Sarah Dayan violin
Cécile Roubin violin
Guillaume Becker viola
Lydia Shelley cello



Rhona Clarke



Béla Bartók (1881 -1945) String Quartet No.1 in A minor, Sz.40

Franz Schubert (1797 -1828)String Quartet No.12 in C minor
Quartettsatz, D.703

Rhona Clarke (b. 1958) New Music Network Commission

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 -1827)
String Quartet No.9
Op 59, No.3 in C major (Razumovsky)

Beyond the lyricism, the technical brilliance, and the obvious joy in playing together, what strikes audiences most about Quatuor Voce is their spirit of adventure. Here is an ensemble that knows the music from the inside, knows where it can be allowed to breathe a bit more and has the finesse and elegance to carry it off. No wonder then that the ensemble has shared a stage with such diverse personalities as choreographer Thomas Lebrun and Canadian neo-folk singer Kyrie Kristmanson, as well as regularly performing live music for silent movies.

Formed in 2004, the quartet quickly established itself as an ensemble of note, winning international competitions in Geneva, Vienna, Bordeaux, Graz, and London and performing in such prestigious venues as the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, the Konzerthaus, Vienna and Barbican in London as part of a 'Rising Stars' tour in 2013. In addition to championing the great repertoire for string quartet, Quatuor Voce regularly performs new commissions from composers such as Bruno Mantovani, Gianvencenzo Cresta and Graziane.

Quatuor Voce has every quality that goes to make a good quartet: refinement, beautiful tone, excellent ensemble, precise chording, fine rhythm and loads of character

The Strad
...amongst the best ensembles in the world.
Süddeutsche Zeitung



Sunday 3rd December 2017
4 pm St. Mary's Cathedral, Chapter House, Kilkenny

RTÉ Contempo Quartet

Complete Beethoven Quartet Cycle: Programme 4



Ludwig van Beethoven Quartet No. 4 in C minor Op. 18 No. 4
Deirdre McKay New Work (RTÉ commission)
Beethoven Quartet No. 10 in E-flat major Op. 74 (Harp)

Friday 8th December 2017
7.30pm St. Canice's Church, Kilkenny

Chamber Choir Ireland

Paul Hillier Conductor



From Marshall Photography

An Irish Carol, Christmas Trees, and a Rose
Gerald Barry (b.1952) O Tannenbaum
Eric Sweeney (b.1947) Three Carols
Rhona Clark (b.1958) Make we Merry: Three Carols on Medieval Texts
Frank Corcoran (b.1944) An Irish Carol

Hugo Distler (1908-1942) The Christmas Story

For Christmas we present the wonderful Christmas Story by the German composer Hugo Distler, and a group of carols by contemporary Irish composers. Distler (1908-1942) is one of Germany's finest 20th-century composers outside the modernist tradition, and his music is still much performed there. The fact that it remains less well known elsewhere is puzzling, as it is beautiful, tonal, subtle, and very well written by a composer with a clear voice of his own. The Christmas Story is one of his best pieces, closely modelled on the music of Schütz at the time when that composer's music was in full revival. The Christmas narrative is told in chant-like solos with choral interventions (as in Bach's Passions), while threaded through the whole work are a series of choral variations on the lovely Christmas hymn 'Es ist ein Ros entsprungen'.

Chamber Choir Ireland receives principal funding from the Arts Council / an Chomhairle Ealaíon, is a resident ensemble at the National Concert Hall and Associate Artist to Dublin City University

Tickets for all concerts €5 (€0 concession)
Season Ticket €80 (€70 concession)

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AUTUMN 2017

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AUTUMN 2017



Complete Beethoven Cycle

RTÉ Contempo Quartet

Bogdan Sofei violin
Ingrid Nicola violin
Andreea Banciu viola
Adrian Mantu cello



Beethoven's sixteen quartets and the Grosse Fugue still stand today as some of the most extraordinary and innovative music ever composed.

Written over a span of thirty years in roughly three blocks, Beethoven took the form perfected by 'Papa Haydn' and developed further by Mozart, completely revising and transforming it. Nos. 1-6 written when he was in his late twenties, were early explorations into the form and although lighter than many of the later works there is always a dark side too.

The Middle Quartets have at their core the three Razumovskys, commissioned by Count (later Prince) Razumovsky, which include Russian themes. Already aware of his deafness, he wrote on one of the sketches 'Make no secret of your deafness, not even in art!'

The five Late Quartets and Grosse Fugue undoubtedly represent the ultimate in quartet writing, the very best of Beethoven's genius, described by him to his musicians as 'music not for you, but for a later age'.

Ten Irish works complement each of the nine programmes, with works dating from 1934 to the present day including three new RTÉ commissions.

The final five programmes in the series will take place in Kilkenny on 7 January, 4 February, 11 March, 15 April and 6 May.

The RTÉ Contempo Quartet is one of the most exciting and vibrant chamber ensembles performing today. The member studied together in Bucharest, formed a quartet together in 1995 and were appointed as Galway Music Residency's Quartet in Residence in 2003 and RTÉ's Quartet in Residence in May 2014. They have given over 120 performances for RTÉ so far with another 40+ planned for the 2017-18 season. 'Full of telling details... this was a performance undertaken out of love for the music' - Irish Times 2016

At the heart of every performance is the desire to communicate to its audience both the love of, and delight in the music, and the Quartet has gained many new fans with its fresh and enthusiastic approach to a wide variety of repertoire.

Sunday 17th September 2017
4 pm St. Mary's Cathedral Chapter House, Kilkenny

RTÉ Contempo Quartet

Complete Beethoven Quartet Cycle: Programme 1 (of 9)



Ludwig van Beethoven Quartet No. 1 in F major Op. 18 No. 1
Brian Boydell Quartet No. 1 (1949)
Beethoven Quartet No. 7 in F major Op. 59 No. 1 (Razumovsky)

Sunday 15th October 2017
4 pm St. Mary's Cathedral Chapter House, Kilkenny

RTÉ Contempo Quartet

Complete Beethoven Quartet Cycle: Programme 2



Ludwig van Beethoven Quartet No. 2 in G major Op. 18 No. 2
Raymond Deane Quartet VI (RTÉ commission)
Beethoven Quartet No. 8 in E minor Op. 59. No. 2 (Razumovsky)



RTÉ CONTEMPO QUARTET

Sunday 22nd October 2017
4 pm St. Mary's Cathedral Chapter House, Kilkenny

L'entretien des Muses

Teddie Hwang baroque flute
Sarah Groser viola da gamba
Yonit Kosovske harpsichord

Music repertoire of the Baroque period is bountiful with works honouring the muses, goddesses from ancient mythology who presided over music, dance, literature, and science. In ancient traditions, muses were considered the fountain of knowledge that inspired the oral stories, songs, and poetry passed down from generation to generation for centuries. Mortals would call upon the assistance of the various Muses, viewing them as the guiding force for their creative output. L'Entretien des Muses (The Conversation of the Muses) features instrumental chamber sonatas and pieces for solo harpsichord from the 17th and 18th centuries. The programme celebrates more well-known French composers such as François Couperin, Rameau, and Hotteterre alongside other composers that are perhaps lesser known: French composers Chambonnières, de la Barre, Blavet, and Dandrieu, in addition to German composers Fischer and Abel.



Sunday 5th November 2017
4 pm St. Mary's Cathedral Chapter House, Kilkenny

Rachel Factor Harpsichord

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750) Partita No. 3 in a minor
Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre (1665 - 1729) excerpts from Piece de Clavecin - 2 Suites in d minor
Jacques Duphly (1715 - 1789) La Forqueray
Pierre Claude Foucquet (1694 - 1772) Le Carillon de Cythere
Claude Balbastre (1724 - 1799) La Lugeac
Domenico Scarlatti (1685 - 1757) Sonata

Rachel Factor presents a varied and exciting programme of Baroque harpsichord repertoire. The recital features the Baroque Suite in two contrasting guises and also provides fine examples of French programmatic music. Featured composers include J.S Bach, E. Jacquet De La Guerre, J. Duphly, D. Scarlatti and more.

Rachel Factor is the recipient of a 2016 Arts Council Artist Bursary Award



Sunday 12th November 2017
4 pm St. Mary's Cathedral Chapter House, Kilkenny

RTÉ Contempo Quartet

Complete Beethoven Quartet Cycle: Programme 3



Ludwig van Beethoven Quartet No. 3 in D major Op 18 No. 3
Kevin Volans White Man Sleeps
Beethoven Quartet No. 9 in C major Op. 59 No. 3 (Razumovsky)