

# MUSIC IN KILKENNY

Press Release: 26 March 2018

## Dutch soprano Lenneke Ruiten returns to Kilkenny

In a Music in Kilkenny recital on Saturday 7th April at 8.30 pm in St. Canice's Roman Catholic Church Kilkenny the acclaimed Dutch soprano **Lenneke Ruiten** and pianist **Finghin Collins** will perform music by Reynaldo Hahn, Benjamin Britten, Debussy, Chausson and Richard Strauss (including his Four Last Songs). This will be Lenneke's fifth concert in Kilkenny. On the previous occasions she has performed with Finghin Collins, Camerata Kilkenny and the Irish Baroque Orchestra.

In huge demand as an opera singer Lenneke Ruiten has appeared in leading rôles at all of Europe's major opera houses including La Scala Milan, Le Monnaie Brussels, Lausanne, Salzburg, Drottningholm, Stuttgart Opera and the National Opera House in Amsterdam. She is a frequent guest performer at festivals such as the Salzburg Festival, the BBC Proms, Leipzig Bach Festival, Prague Spring Festival, Aldeburgh Festival, Lucerne Festival and Holland Festival.

Following her Kilkenny performance she will travel to Stuttgart to perform the rôle of Pamina in Mozart's 'The Magic Flute', sing Schönberg & Weill in Strasbourg, Colmar, Leipzig, Mulhouse and Potsdam while in the summer of 2018 she travels to Tel Aviv to sing the rôle of Sophie in one of Richard Strauss' finest operas 'Rosenkavalier' with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by maestro Zubin Mehta.

One of Ireland's most successful musicians Finghin Collins has achieved major international success by taking first prize at the Clara Haskil International Piano Competition in Switzerland in 1999. Since then he has developed a flourishing international career that takes him all over Europe, the United States and the Far East. He made his Australian début in July 2016. With Lenneke Ruiten he has performed throughout Ireland and Holland including at the Concertgebouw Concert Hall in Amsterdam.

[www.lennekeruiten.com](http://www.lennekeruiten.com)

[www.finghincollins.com](http://www.finghincollins.com)

**Tickets for the concert are: €15.00 (€10.00 concession)**  
**To book please phone: 086 1777017 or email: [mikilkenny@gmail.com](mailto:mikilkenny@gmail.com)**  
**Website: [www.musicinkilkenny](http://www.musicinkilkenny)**

## MUSIC IN KILKENNY

Saturday 8.30 pm 7 April 2018 - St. Canice's Church, Kilkenny

Lenneke Ruiten soprano - Finghin Collins piano

### PROGRAMME

Le Printemps

Quand la nuit n'est pas étoilée Reynaldo Hahn (1875-1947)

Le Rossignol des lilas

Chanson Perpetuelle Op. 37 Ernest Chausson (1855-1899)

Regret

Musique Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Pantomine

#### **Cabaret Songs**

Tell me the truth about love

Funeral Blues Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Johnny

Calypso

### INTERVAL

Freundliche Vision

Schlechtes Wetter Richard Strauss (1864-1949)

Zueignung

#### **Four Last Songs**

Frühling

September

Beim Schlafengehen

Im Abendrot

### LENNEKE RUITEN – SOPRANO

The outstanding young Dutch soprano Lenneke Ruiten is in demand at all the world's leading opera houses from La Scala Milan to Vienna to Strasbourg performing in rôles such as Konstanze in Mozart's 'Die Entführung aus den Serail' at De Nationale Opera, Amsterdam and La Scala Milan, Janacek's 'The Cunning Little Vixen' in La Monnaie, Bruxelles, Giunia in Lucio Silla in La Monnaie, Bruxelles, The Magic Flute at the Stuttgart Opera, Das Floss der Medusa at De Nationale Opera, Amsterdam and Weills' Seven Deadly Sins and Schoenberg's Pierrot Lunaire at the Opéra du Rhin, Strasbourg and Lucia in Lucia Di Lammermoor at the Opéra de Lausanne. Recently she appeared as Fiordiligi in Cosi fan Tutte at the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, at the Mostly Mozart Festival, New York and at the Edinburgh Festival

She regularly performs in Cantatas, Oratorios Masses and Bach Passions including Bach Cantatas in Lausanne, Bach Christmas Oratorio on a tour of Europe and Mozart's C-Minor Mass in Utrecht and Amsterdam.

She has worked with important conductors and orchestras including Christoph Eschenbach, John Eliot Gardiner, Marc Minkowski, Christian Thielemann, Ivan Fischer, Andres Orozco-Estrada, Frans Brüggen, Alessandro de Marchi, Ton Koopman, Ottavio Dantone, Jérémie Rhorer and Martin Haselböck and with orchestras such as the Vienna Philharmonic, The English Baroque Soloists, The Monteverdi Choir, the Mozarteum Orchester, Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin, Tonhalle Orchester Zürich, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra Dublin, Staatskapelle Dresden, the Concertgebouw Chamber Orchestra, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Wiener Akademie. She is a frequent guest performer at festivals such as the Salzburg Festival, the BBC Proms, Leipzig Bach Festival, Prague Spring Festival, Aldeburgh Festival, Lucerne Festival and Holland Festival.

Lenneke Ruiten has a special passion for Lieder and has given recitals in venues including the Amsterdam Concertgebouw (with Finghin Collins), Wigmore Hall, London and the Kaisersaal, Frankfurt.

Her discography includes Mozart Concert Arias (Ed Spanjaard, Concertgebouw Chamber Orchestra – Pentatone), Bruckner's Mass in F minor (Marek Janowski, Suisse Romande – Pentatone), Bach Cantatas (Gardiner, English Baroque Soloists – SDG), works by J.C. Bach (Rademann, Akademie für Alte Musik – Harmonia Mundi), Carmina Burana (SWR Vokal Ensemble), Mélo­dies Françaises and Brahms Lieder.

Lenneke Ruiten studied at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague and the Bavarian Theatre Academy in Munich with Maria Rondel and Meinard Kraak. She also completed her studies as a flautist and won several prizes at the International Vocal Competition in 's-Hertogenbosch.

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## FINGHIN COLLINS – PIANO

One of Ireland's most successful musicians, Finghin Collins was born in Dublin in 1977 and, following initial lessons with his sister Mary, studied piano at the Royal Irish Academy of Music with John O'Connor and at the Geneva Conservatoire with Dominique Merlet. Winner of the RTÉ Musician of the Future Competition in 1994 and the Classical Category at the National Entertainment Awards in Ireland in 1998, he went on to take first prize at the Clara Haskil International Piano Competition in Switzerland in 1999. Since then he has continued to enjoy a flourishing international career that takes him all over Europe and the United States, as well to the Far East and Australia. In October 2017, the National University of Ireland conferred on him an honorary Degree of Doctor of Music, in recognition of his outstanding achievements.

Collins has performed with such orchestras as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Houston Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Budapest Festival Orchestra, Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Gulbenkian Orchestra, Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, garnering consistent praise from critics and public alike. Conductors with whom he has collaborated include Frans Brüggen, Myung-Whun Chung, Christoph Eschenbach, Hans Graf, Emmanuel Krivine, Nicholas McGegan, Gianandrea Noseda, Sakari Oramo, Tadaaki Otaka, Heinrich Schiff, Vassily Sinaisky, Leonard Slatkin and Gábor Tá­kacs-Nagy.

Performances across Europe have included such prestigious venues as Symphony Hall Birmingham, Royal Albert Hall, Wigmore Hall, The Barbican and Cadogan Hall, London, the Concertgebouw Amsterdam (both halls), De Doelen Rotterdam (both halls), Théâtre du Châtelet and Salle Cortot

Paris, Salle Molière Lyon, Liederhalle Stuttgart, Auditorio Nacional Madrid, Palao de la Musica Valencia, Gulbenkian Hall Lisbon, Sala Verdi Milan, Teatro Manzoni Bologna, Konzerthaus Berlin, Konzerthaus Vienna, Franz Liszt Academy Budapest, Philharmonic Hall Warsaw and the Auditorium Stravinski Montreux. He has also performed at Carnegie Hall, New York and the Kennedy Center, Washington DC, as well as at both Ravinia and Gilmore Festivals in the USA. Further festival appearances include the Piano Festival at La Roque d'Anthéron (France), Klavier-Festival Ruhr and Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival (Germany), Lockenhaus Festival (Austria), Delft International Chamber Music Festival and Storioni Festival (The Netherlands), Chopin Festival (Poland), Musical Olympus Festival (Russia), Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad (Switzerland), the Wuhan International Piano Festival (China) as well as the Mostly Mozart Festival and Ryedale Festival (UK).

Chamber music plays a significant role in his musical life and he has collaborated with London Winds and the Aviv, Callino, Chilingirian, ConTempo, Cremona, Ebène, Goldner, Navarra, Shanghai, Skampa, St Petersburg, Vanbrugh, Vertavo and Vogler String Quartets. Chamber music partners have included violinists Tasmin Little, Kristóf Bárati and Ilya Gringolts, cellists Han-Na Chang, Marc Coppey, István Várdai, clarinetists Emma Johnson, Michael Collins, Sharon Kam and Romain Guyot, sopranos Ailish Tynan and Lenneke Ruiten, tenor James Gilchrist and baritone Maarten Koningsberger, as well as his sister pianist Dearbhla Collins and many others.

In 2010 Finghin Collins gave his second critically-acclaimed performance at the BBC Proms in London. In 2013 he completed his three-year tenure as Associate Artist of the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra in Dublin, completing a cycle of the complete Mozart and Beethoven piano concertos and commissioning a new work for piano and orchestra by Deirdre Gribbin.

In 2016 Finghin made his debuts in Turkey, China and Australia as well as performing throughout Europe. In 2017 he celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday with a solo recital at the National Concert Hall in Dublin as part of the Hall's International Concert Season; other highlights included his debuts at the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Zermatt Festival and return engagements with the RPO and in China. In 2018 Finghin will make two appearances at the Wigmore Hall in London, participate in the Jury of the Dublin International Piano Competition, and perform in Ireland, the UK, Switzerland, Spain, Cuba and Greece. He will also give three world premiere performances: of Greg Caffrey's "Environments I" with the Ulster Orchestra in January, of Deirdre Gribbin's extended "The Binding of the Years" with the RTE National Symphony Orchestra in February and of John Buckley's "Three Preludes for Piano" at the New Ross Piano Festival in September.

Over the past decade Collins has developed a close relationship with Claves Records in Switzerland, recording two double CDs of Schumann's piano music (which won numerous awards including *Gramophone's* Editor's Choice in 2006), followed by a recording of works for piano and orchestra by Charles V. Stanford with the RTÉ NSO / Kenneth Montgomery (Editor's Choice, May 2011). In May 2013 RTÉ lyric fm launched his latest recording of four Mozart piano concertos directed from the keyboard with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra. A new Chopin recital CD was released in 2017, a co-production between RTÉ lyric fm and Claves Records.

Finghin Collins is very active as a programmer, commissioner and concert presenter in Ireland, having been Artistic Director of the New Ross Piano Festival since its inception in 2006, and Artistic Director of Music for Galway since 2013. He also curates the annual Dublin Song Series together with Dearbhla Collins, and during the 2017/18, curates a six-concert series at the Kevin Barry Recital Room at Dublin's National Concert Hall together with violinist Gwendolyn Masin. In addition, he has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Dublin International Piano Competition (2006 - 2015), a member of the Board of Directors of the National Concert Hall (2001 - 2006), Musician-in-Residence in South Dublin County Council (2005 - 2008) and Artist-in-Residence in Waterford Institute of Technology (2005 - 2009).