

# BIOS



**Nine Inch Nials** - Nine Inch Nials are a Belfast based duo, consisting of Niall McBride on violin and Niall Catney on guitar.

They first approached the idea of forming the band whilst in the CBYO together in 2011 and have been gigging regularly since 2013. They have a style that is nearly impossible to define as there is no other group currently doing what they do. With a violin style that is a mixture of classical, traditional and jazz, along with a guitar style that incorporates fingerstyle and percussive elements amongst others, the overall effect is completely unique. Violin Niall is currently working as a Doctor in Altmagelvin Hospital and Guitar Niall is at Queens studying medicine - as they don't do this full time they appreciate every chance they get to play, and are delighted to be back to share a stage with the very orchestra from which they formed, and to make their own distinctive contribution to this evenings concert for The Flax Trust.



**Boys' Model & Mercy College** - Boys' Model paired with Mercy College in 2013 to take part in the FISCA competition. The choirs were so proud that year to win the category for the Most Accomplished Senior Choir with the songs 'Why We Sing' and 'Viva La Vida'. The boys and girls have bonded well together both in preparation for FISCA competition performances and in reward trips where they have enjoyed getting spoilt as a result of their commitment and dedication to choral events. The choir has also performed both at Mercy College and Belfast Boys' Model School at special musical events.



**Andrew Masterson** - My name is Andrew Masterson, Music Graduate from Queen's University Belfast. I was recently accepted into the Royal Northern College of Music to study a Master's in Performance (Voice), and studied with English lyric-tenor Paul Nilon on several occasions throughout this year after being awarded the Hamilton Harty Scholarship from QUB to pursue further vocal study. I have performed in the choruses of three NI Opera Productions, Verdi's Macbeth, Mozart's Die Zauberflöte and Puccini's Turandot. I have appeared as a soloist in Ulster Youth Choir's rendition of Britten's War Requiem Lacrimosa, as well performing the roles of both Aeneas and The Sorcerer in Queen's University's production of Purcell's Dido and Aeneas.



### **Niamh Bloomer and Gráinne White - Harps**

In addition to playing the Violin in CBYO, both Niamh and Gráinne are accomplished Harpists. We are therefore delighted to give them the opportunity to showcase these talents tonight. Niamh studied traditional harp with Cathy Porter for several years and although currently without a teacher, she travels around Ireland attending music festivals and workshops when the opportunity arises. Niamh is currently in Lower Sixth at Methodist College, studying for AS level.

Gráinne White studies Harp with Coleen McCabe at the City of Belfast School of Music. Gráinne is currently in Fifth Form at Carrickfergus Grammar School, studying for GCSE's



**Megan Mooney** - Megan Jane Mooney has been working as the Artistic Director of The Flax Trust since September 2015. She has studied with teachers such as Dr. Angela Feeney and Jenny Bourke at Queen's University Belfast and is currently studying with the world renowned Dr. Veronica Dunne at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Megan was awarded a BMus (hons) from Queen's University Belfast in 2014 and a DipMus (hons) in Performance and Teaching from the Royal Irish Academy of Music in 2015. Megan has given critically acclaimed performances in both the musical theatre and operatic worlds, playing roles such as Maria from Bernstein's West Side Story and The Sorceress in Purcell's Dido & Aeneas. Megan has given performances in Belfast's Grand Opera House, The Waterfront Hall, The Riverside Theatre, Theatre at the Mill and the Market Place Theatre. Megan is a multiple prize winner in all the major Northern Irish singing competitions and is a bursary recipient of the Flax Trust. Megan is delighted to join the Celtic Tenors as special guest in April 2016.



**The Flax Trust**

Flax Trust 333 Crumlin Road, Belfast BT14 7EA

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

A Gala Concert - In aid of the Refugees

City of Belfast

# Youth Orchestra

*In concert with*

Mercy College, Boys' Model, Nine Inch Nials,  
Tenor Andrew Masterson and Soprano Megan Mooney

Friday 29th January 2016

at 7.30pm

Concert Venue: Holy Cross Church, Belfast



Master of Ceremonies: *Noel Thompson* BBC



# FIRST HALF

Welcome & Introduction: Noel Thompson

CBYO

*Satchmo – A Tribute to Louis Armstrong*  
*arr. T. Ricketts*

Boys' Model & Mercy College

*Circle of Life – E. John*  
*Viva La Vida – C. Martin*

Niamh Bloomer and Gráinne White – Harps

*An Seanduintrad.*  
*Land's End – M. Rooney*  
*Boithrin Doire – M. Rooney*

Andrew Masterson

*Ave Maria – Schubert*  
*Accompanist : Rowena Eames*

Megan Mooney, Sarah Patton & Elise Brammer

*In Love – Viva Mexico*

Violinist: Colma Ni Bhriain

*Accompanist : Rowena Eames*

CBYO

*Karelia Suite – J. Sibelius*  
*ii. Ballade – soloist Sam Jordan*  
*iii. Alla Marcia*

# INTERVAL

Drinks at the Houben Centre

# SECOND HALF

Nine Inch Nials

*A Medley of Chart Hits from the last four decades!*

CBYO

Selections from The Phantom of the Opera

*A. Lloyd Weber arr. C. Custer*

Music from Chicago

*Kander and Ebb arr. T. Ricketts*

CBYO, Boys' Model, Mercy College,  
Andrew Masterson and Megan Mooney

Can you feel the Love Tonight

*E John and T Rice arr. L. Conley*

# BIOS

## The City of Belfast Youth Orchestra

Conductor: Paul McBride Manager: Robert Briscoe Leader: Susanna Griffin



The City of Belfast Youth Orchestra (known as CBYO) is the most senior of the many ensembles in the City of Belfast School of Music, which is administered by the Education Authority's Belfast Region. Currently in its 61st season, the CBYO is the oldest Youth Orchestra in Ireland. Every Saturday morning, the young people come together to rehearse under the direction of conductor Paul McBride at the City of Belfast School of Music's base on Fortwilliam Park, North Belfast.

Members of the orchestra are drawn from all sections of the community and on stage tonight, 24 Schools from the Greater Belfast area are represented. Musical ability being the only pre-requisite for membership, most of the members will have progressed through the various levels of the School of Music before gaining a place in the CBYO.

For over 60 years, the CBYO has been part of the cultural life of Belfast. Distinguished CBYO alumni include international flautist Sir James Galway and concert pianist Barry Douglas. Each year the orchestra presents a season of concerts throughout the City, bringing live performances right into the heart of communities. Every two years, the CBYO embarks on an international concert tour with our young people acting as excellent ambassadors, promoting a positive image of Belfast and Northern Ireland abroad. In July 2015, eighty members of the orchestra embarked on a Concert Tour of Boston and New York, kindly supported by the Flax Trust. In November, the CBYO brought its 60th Anniversary celebrations to a close performing the final programme of the MFY Proms Concert Series in the Royal Albert Hall, London. The invitations to perform in the USA and London are testimony to the formidable reputation the CBYO has gained, establishing itself as one of the foremost youth orchestras in the United Kingdom. The members of CBYO are delighted to be performing in the beautiful surroundings of Holy Cross this evening and would like to thank the Flax Trust for the invitation. For more information on the orchestra please visit [www.cbyo.co.uk](http://www.cbyo.co.uk)



**Conductor: Paul McBride** - Paul McBride has been associated with music and music making in and around Belfast and throughout Ireland for all his adult life. First he studied at St. Malachy's College and then Queen's University, Belfast, before entering the teaching profession.

Paul's association with St. Malachy's College was renewed in 1995 when he was appointed Head of Music. As its director he continued to build upon the fine tradition of music making which he inherited and endeavoured to increase the popularity, level of participation and quality of performance throughout the College Music Department. Performances at the Waterfront Hall, Ulster Hall and the Royal Albert Hall, countless successes at local festivals and membership of local and national youth orchestras testify to his singular achievements there.

In 2000, Paul was appointed Vice Principal of Assumption Grammar School, Ballynahinch. Paul was subsequently appointed as Principal in April 2008. In September 2014, Paul's career turned full circle when he returned back home to St. Malachy's College, Belfast as Principal. Although most of his responsibilities are in curricular administration, Paul enjoys the opportunity of sharing his musical experiences with the students in one of Northern Ireland's leading grammar schools.

An experienced teacher of violin and chamber music, he has worked for the City of Belfast School of Music on a part time basis for nearly thirty years and has conducted the String and Training Orchestras. In 1999 he was appointed as an executive member of the Irish Association of Youth Orchestras. Having taken a year away from the School of Music in 2004-05, Paul returned as conductor of the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra in September 2005 joining forces again with Robert Briscoe who was appointed as orchestra manager at the same time. Since his appointment he has worked to further develop the CBYO building upon its previous success at home and abroad. He has taken the orchestra to the Royal Albert Hall 4 times, conducting the CBYO to great acclaim on the last night of the Schools Proms in 2006, 2009, 2012 and most recently in 2015. Further afield, he has conducted the orchestra on concert tours of Spain, Slovenia, France, Italy and the USA.

Paul is a firm believer in the strength of music as a vehicle for developing real leadership and excellence in young people, and he has presented extensively on this subject. He is delighted to have returned to North Belfast, and in particular, to Holy Cross to renew and build on his deep and strong friendships there. Paul frequently recalls his first inspirational meeting with Fr Myles when the former was Music Co-ordinator/Teacher in Holy Cross Boys' PS (1990-95). What was said during this meeting has shaped much of what Paul has done and continues to do in the world of education, and often using the great universal language of music to transcend all barriers and improve performance in so many areas of life.