



ANSELM MCDONNELL - GUITARIST

Anselm McDonnell is a first year PhD composition student at QUB, having recently completed his MA in Cardiff. An accomplished performer and composer, part of his PhD is focused on expanding the repertoire of contemporary guitar music. Other interests include theatre, which lead to the composing of a 30 minute chamber opera, 'The Faith of Kings' as part of his MA project in 2016.

Anselm's music has been performed by ensembles such as the Polish Royal String Quartet, Lontano, Contemporary Voices, HRSE and Cardiff University CMG Choir. Competitively Anselm was privileged to be a finalist in the

first Peter Rosser Composition Award run by the HRSE. In February 2017 St. Salvatore's chapel choir premiered a choral piece, 'Hinnení' which will be recorded this summer for commercial release on a CD celebrating the music of Sir James MacMillan. Anselm has also been asked to contribute a chapter to a book (scheduled for 2018) detailing the collaborations involved in this project. Most recently the BBC Welsh National Orchestra premiered a movement from Anselm's first orchestral work, 'The Pearl', in March 2017.

CAVEHILL COMMUNITY CHOIR



Donal McCrisken is a Belfast-based pianist, accompanist, conductor, examiner and adjudicator. He holds a BMus degree from Queen's University and a Masters in Music Theory and Analysis from University of Ulster.

Donal was previously head of music in St Malachy's

College - Northern Ireland's first specialist music school. He leads classes in performance at Queens University and has given frequent workshops in the art of choral singing and direction. He works extensively with Northern Ireland Opera as accompanist, vocal coach and répétiteur as well as performing as a pianist in a variety of concerts and recitals.

Donal founded the Cavehill Community Choir in February 2013, a completely inclusive choir - no previous experience, no audition, no judgement. The 160 strong choir is in great demand locally to sing at concerts and has featured in the Belfast Festival at Queens and broadcast on Radio Ulster. As director, Donal is very passionate about the benefits of singing, how liberating it can be and how genuinely good for the health it is, physically, emotionally and socially.

The choir has been involved in many exciting projects including, Prime Cut Theatre's production 'The Conquest of Happiness', directed by international director Haris Pasovic and the **Belfast City of Song** project, devised by CCC. Their greatest challenge to date however has been forming the nucleus of the chorus for 'Long Story Short - A Belfast Opera', written by Glenn Patterson, composed by Neil Martin and performed in Carlisle Memorial Church in June last year. The project was nominated for awards at both the Classic FM Music Education Awards in London and The Irish Times Theatre Awards. Donal as the choral director and répétiteur for the project was awarded the Classic FM Musicians Union Inspiration Award.



MEGAN MOONEY - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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.

As the Artistic Director, her role has allowed her to experience the different aspects of putting on concerts to running a sold out Christmas Gala Competition in Belfast City Hall, a competition that will take place again this year.

In the last year, Megan has performed in an array of different concerts, some of her highlights are performing with Barry Douglas and Camarata Ireland, with members of the Ulster Orchestra, performing in New York and touring with the Celtic Tenors. She was honoured to have been asked to sing the American National Anthem for the American Consul Generals Independence day celebrations.

Megan Has been looking forward to this concert at St. Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. Megan will be performing in on Tuesday 11th April in St. Vincent de Paul Church, Ligoniel for a Sacred Song Concert.



FISCA

The Flax Trust Inter-Community School Choir's Award (FISCA) is a project aimed at using music and song to provide neutral means of communication between school children in North Belfast to change perceptions. The project's goal is to bridge the divide through inspirational musical learning and choral performance. Children from both sides of the divide engage in activities providing opportunities to communicate, improve confidence and self-esteem to integrate and work towards an end shared goal.

A Gala Concert in aid of



Megan Mooney

in concert with

DUBLIN YOUTH ORCHESTRA

100 Voices of FISCA



Cavehill Community Choir

Guitarist: Anselm McDonnell
MC: Gavin Boyd

FRIDAY 24TH MARCH 2017 @ 7.30pm

Concert Venue: **St Anne's Cathedral**



FIRST HALF

Dublin Youth Orchestra

Finale from Symphony No. 5 - *P.I.Tchaikovsky*
Highlights from "Pan" - *John Powell*
Trepak from "Nutcracker Suite" - *P.I. Tchaikovsky*
Prime Time Tuesday - *arr Victor Lopez*

Dominican College Fortwilliam and Ashfield Girls' School

"Clare Benediction" - *J.Rutter*
"The Cat Duet" - *G.Rossini*

St Vincent de Paul School and Ligoniel Primary School

"I'll Tell Me Ma/My Aunt Jane" - *Trad. Arr*

Anselm McDonnell

Prelude I: Andantino Expressivo' W419 -
Villa-Lobos (1940)
'Bartholomew the Scholar' from 'Eyewitness of
His Majesty' - *Anselm McDonnell (2016)*
'Tractor Pull' - *Preston Reed (2000)*

Cavehill Community Choir

"Down to the river to pray"
"Magpie"
"Shenandoah"
"Dance to your Daddy"

Arr. D.McCracken

INTERVAL - SECOND HALF

Dublin Youth Orchestra

Hungarian Dance No. 5 - *Brahms*
Mission Impossible Theme - *Lalo Schifrin*
Galileo's Vision - *Ralph Ford*
The Doors on Tour - *The Doors*

Holy Cross Girls

"Colours of The Wind"- *A.Menken*

Megan Mooney

"The Girl in 14G" - *J.Tesori*
"Song Bird" - *C.McVie*

Megan Mooney and Dominican College

"Laudate Dominum" - *Mozart*

DYO - 100 Voices of FISCA

"Adiemus" - *K. Jenkins*

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Tuesday 11th April
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Ligoniel

BIOS



DUBLIN YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Founded 35 years ago, Dublin Youth Orchestras (DYO) current membership is just under 400 with players ranging from 9-20 years playing in four orchestras.

Their first introduction to ensemble playing is the Junior Strings orchestra. They then move to the orchestra performing here tonight the Intermediate Orchestra. This orchestra incorporates wind, brass and percussion and currently has a membership of 115, 85 of whom are performing tonight.



CONDUCTOR: PHILIP THOMAS
LEADER: JULIEANNE FORREST

Philip was appointed conductor of the Intermediate Orchestra in September 2005. He studied violin with Loretto Nelson in Dublin, and later at Trinity College of Music, London, where he studied under Korshed and Eric Gruenberg. He graduated with an LTCL and DipTCL, and was awarded the Alfred Gibson Memorial Prize. He was a member of the VIAC String Quartet, which performed in both England and Ireland, and has given solo recitals at several music festivals throughout the country. Philip has been a permanent member of the Music Department at Clongowes Wood College since 1997. He teaches violin, and tutors ensembles and string quartets. He is conductor of the orchestra, which has performed twice at the National Concert Hall as part of the IAYO Festival. Philip has been manager of the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland, as well as working on the audition panels.