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TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY DUBLIN

HARPS+ PLUS

A ONE-DAY SYMPOSIUM

SATURDAY
26 NOVEMBER

9.15 am - 4.30 pm

TU DUBLIN

Grangegorman
Dublin 7


Keynote Address **DR CLIONA DORIS**, TU Dublin Conservatoire

GUEST SPEAKERS & PERFORMERS:

JANET HARBISON, JEAN KELLY, CORMAC DE BARRA,

MARTIN TOURISH, HELEN LAWLOR,

TU DUBLIN HARP ENSEMBLE, NORTHERN STARS TRIO

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HARP SYMPOSIUM 2022

Join our panel of experts to discover all you ever wanted to know about the harp in ensemble playing, listen to some of our finest young harpers and find out about the compositional possibilities for harp ensemble in the traditional and contemporary music idioms.

PROGRAMME

- 9:15 Registration
- 9:45 Welcome and Introduction: **Aibhlín McCrann**
- 10:00 Keynote Address: **Dr Cliona Doris – *Setting the Scene***
- 10:20 Performance: **Kara Lord Bissett and Aoibheann Galvin**
- 10:30 **Jean Kelly: *The Harp in Chamber Music***
- 11:00 Refreshment Break
- 11:30 **Martin Tourish: ‘Hands on’ workshop – *Exploring Compositional Opportunities***
- 12:30 **Cormac de Barra: *Breaking New Ground: Máirín Ní Shé and the Sion Hill Harp Ensemble***
- 12:50 **Janet Harbison: *Moving North – The Belfast Harp Orchestra***
- 13:10 Lunch
- 14:00 **Launch: *The Belfast Harp Orchestra: Music for Harp Ensembles* by Janet Harbison, with Dr Helen Lawlor, Janet Harbison, and featuring a performance by Northern Stars Trio**
- 14:30 ***Bringing it all together: The Triad Trio* and the Northern Stars Trio in conversation with Aibhlín McCrann**
- 15:10 ***Where to now? Looking to the Future:***
Round Table Discussion, chaired by **Aibhlín McCrann** with **Rosa Flannery, Deirdre Ní Bhuachalla, Siobhán Buckley, Cormac de Barra, Janet Harbison, Denise Kelly** and **Helen Lawlor**
- 15:40 ***New Music for Harp Ensemble:*** Calling all third level students to extend the repertoire for harp ensemble
- 15:50 Performance: **TU Dublin Harp Ensemble**
- 16:10 Conclusion



Dr Cliona Doris

Professor Cliona Doris lectures in harp performance, performance studies, pedagogy and artistic research at TU Dublin Conservatoire, and also co-ordinates postgraduate music

performance programmes. She previously held the positions of Head of Orchestral Studies and Head of the Conservatoire. As a harpist, she has extensive performing and recording experience as a soloist and chamber musician, with a particular interest in contemporary music. She is a member of the Board and Corporation of the World Harp Congress, having served as Chair of the Ninth World Harp Congress Dublin 2005. She also served as a board member of Music Generation and Music Network, and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Contemporary Music Centre.



Dr Janet Harbison

Dublin-born Janet Harbison is a dynamic figure in Irish harping and has performed throughout the world. She is also an acclaimed composer. In 1984, Janet moved to Belfast with a Research Fellowship at the Institute of Irish Studies, Queens

University to study the Bunting manuscript collection. As Curator of Music at the Ulster Folk Museum (1986-1994), she directed festivals, conferences and exhibitions, including the Belfast Harpers' Bicentenary and the World Harp Festival Belfast (1992), while continuing to direct the Glencolmille and Belfast Harp Festivals and summer schools (1986-2002). Most notable was her cross-community Belfast Harp Orchestra (1992-2002) featuring more than 20 teenage harpers who also performed with James Galway, Alfie Boe and The Chieftains. Personal awards include The Flax Trust award (peace and reconciliation), BPW (Federation of Business and Professional Women) Woman of the Year award, and an honorary doctorate from Ulster University.

In 2002, Janet established the Irish Harp Centre in Limerick until in 2016, when she returned to Ulster University as Visiting Professor of Music. Janet is currently an Irish Research Council scholar at TU Dublin Conservatoire of Music, where she is undertaking doctoral research on the history of the Belfast Harp Orchestra.



Jean Kelly

Jean Kelly hails from an Irish family of several generations of professional musicians. In 1996 Jean won a scholarship to study harp at the Royal College of Music, London.

Since graduating she has based herself in London. She regularly tours with the Locrian Ensemble performing harp concertos and her own arrangements of Irish music. She has recorded three CD's with the group including Handel Harp Concerto and Mozart Flute and harp Concerto. A CD of Chamber Music by Richard Arnell was Editor's Choice in Gramophone magazine. She has also recorded for the Guild label.



Cormac de Barra

Cormac de Barra is a third generation harper in a family of traditional Irish musicians and singers. He first studied with his grandmother Róisín Ní Shé in Dublin and went on to study concert harp in the

USA. He has recorded and performed with his family group Barcó and with musicians such as Anne-Marie O'Farrell, Máire Breatnach, Moya Brennan, Julie Feeney and Hazel O'Connor. Cormac has also found time to work as a television presenter over the years having presented the award-winning traditional music series *Floisc* on TG4 and *IMEALL*. Cormac tours and records throughout Europe, the USA and the Far East.



Martin Tourish

Máirtín Tourish is an accordionist, composer, producer and musicologist from Co. Donegal and now based in Dublin. His ancestors were collectors of dance music whose manuscripts date from 1896.

Martin's debut album *Clan Ranald* with bouzouki player Luke Ward was released in 2005 and listed by music critic Earle Hitchner of the *Irish Echo* and *Wall Street Journal*, as being in the top 20 albums of 2005. In 2008, he became the first piano accordionist to win TG4's prestigious 'Young Musician of the Year' award which a subsequent article in *The Irish Times* regarded as "the Irish Music equivalent of an Oscar".

Dr Helen Lawlor

Dr Helen Lawlor (néé Lyons) specialises in research on music in Ireland with a focus on the musical practice, education and history of the harp. She lectures in Irish music, music education, musicology and junior musicianship at the TU Dublin Conservatoire. She is author of *Irish Harping 1900–2010* (2012) and co-editor with Sandra Joyce of *Harp Studies: Perspectives on the Irish harp* (2016). Her work is also published in *The Encyclopaedia of Music in Ireland*, *Ancestral Imprints*, *Sonus*, *American Harp Journal*, *JSMI* and *JMI*. Helen is Executive Editor of the *Journal of the Society for Musicology in Ireland* (JSMI) and Secretary of Performance Research Ireland. She is an advisory board member of Irish Musical Studies and previously served as Chair of the Irish national committee of the International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM Ireland).

Rosa Flannery

Rosa Flannery is the Music Development Officer with Music Generation Laois. Rosa has worked with various arts projects and festivals throughout Ireland, including Galway Arts Festival, Tulca Festival of Visual Arts, Droichead Arts Centre, Nomad Theatre Company and the Donegal Music Education Partnership. Under Rosa's leadership, Music Generation Laois has expanded rapidly, currently operating over 46 weekly music programmes in schools, youth facilities, Men's Sheds, community nursing units in 26 locations across county Laois with over 3500 participants each week. Over 750 young people and adults attend weekly music classes in Laois Music Centre, and take part in a range of ensemble/ orchestra/band opportunities. Irish harp and uilleann pipes are a key focus, including the annual Tionól for Harp and Pipes each November.

Deirdre Ní Bhuachalla

Deirdre Ní Bhuachalla is an experienced professional harpist and harp tutor based in Dundalk. While studying at DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama she was a member of the DIT Harp Ensemble in its inaugural year. Deirdre has performed across Europe including Festival Interceltique de Lorient and was harper in residence at Áras na Uachtarán as a representative of Feis Ceoil. She is currently teaching harp for Music Generation Louth (LMETB) where she is also a member of the resource team and project manager of Nós Nua – Louth Youth Folk Orchestra. Deirdre sits on the committee of Cairde na Cruite and is currently Vice Chairperson of her local CCÉ branch, Craobh Dhún Dealgan.

Siobhán Buckley

Siobhan Buckley is from an area steeped in traditional Irish music in North Cork. Siobhan is highly regarded in traditional music circles for her music arrangements and has arranged music for various groups and Trad Orchestras across the country, groups who have gone on to win medals at Fleadh Ceoil ná hÉireann, and for groups who were finalists and prize-winners in the Siansa Gael Linn music competition which was broadcast live on RTÉ Radió na Gaeltachta from the NCH (Lasair 2014, Lonrach 2017, 2018, 2019). In 2014, Siobhan joined Music Generation Laois, where she now leads 3 harp ensembles, a harp orchestra and the Music Generation Laois Trad Orchestra. In 2018 Siobhan composed a suite of music called 'Turas' for the MGL Harp Orchestra and under Siobhan's leadership, both the harp and traditional music programmes in Music Generation Laois have flourished.

Denise Kelly

Harpist, Denise Kelly began her musical studies in Dublin and following her graduation from Trinity College, Dublin, she moved to London where she studied harp with Russian harpist Maria Korchinska. She also studied composition and conducting at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. An Arts Council scholarship enabled her to finish her harp education at the Conservatoire Royale de Musique, Brussels. In 1999 she was appointed as lecturer in harp at the DIT Conservatory of Music & Drama. She has a great interest in contemporary music and is herself a composer and arranger. As a freelance orchestral harpist, she has worked with the N.S.O., RTECO, Orchestra of St. Cecilia, and the Ulster Orchestra. She has recorded solo and chamber music with BBC, RTE, UTV, radio and TV, and has made numerous CDs with the cellist Moya O'Grady and choral group 'Anuna'.

PERFORMERS:

TU Dublin Harp Ensemble

Fiona Gryson, Rachel Duffy, Síofra Ní Dhubhghaill, Emer McDonagh, Kara Lord Bissett, Meabh McKenna, Aoibheann Galvin

The Triad Trio:

Fiona Gryson, Rachel Duffy and Síofra Ní Dhubhghaill

Northern Stars Trio:

Gráinne Meyer, Adam O'Neill and Richard Allen