



Department of Music Sample biographies of instrumental/vocal instructors

Sébastien Petiet, Violin

Sébastien Petiet was born in France but grew up in West Kerry, where he learned traditional Irish music from local musicians. He studied violin in Cork School of Music with Cornelia Zanidache, and at the Conservatoire of Lyon with Moses Sequerra, graduating in 1986. Sébastien has toured extensively with a number of ensembles, in styles ranging from classical to bluegrass, rock and jazz. He has been based in Dublin since 1993 and is currently a violinist with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra and director of the Chamber Orchestra at NUI Maynooth.

Eoin Flood, Guitar

Eoin began his studies with John Feeley at the Dublin Conservatory of Music and Drama before going on to study with Marian Hyland (Royal Irish Academy of Music), Graham Anthony Devine (Trinity College London) and renowned jazz guitarist Tommy Halferty. He is currently completing his Professional Studies Degree, under scholarship, with Mark Delpriora at the Manhattan School of Music.

Eoin has performed solo and collaborative recitals in several venues in New York, Ireland (including St. Patricks Cathedral, the World Music Festival in Dun Laoghaire and The National Concert Hall) and Brompton Oratory in London. He has taken part, both as soloist and accompanist, in several performances with guitar orchestra, guitar quartet, guitar and flute duo and soprano and guitar duo.

Niamh Murray, Voice

Niamh Murray studied at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and with Dr. Veronica Dunne before winning a scholarship to study at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester. Further international studies were facilitated by the Italian Government, allowing Niamh to study with tenor Carlo Bergonzi.

A graduate of Carysfort College with a Bachelor of Education degree, Niamh has a Licentiate in Speech and Drama and is an Associate of the London College of Music. She has appeared with every major musical and choral society in Ireland, along with appearances with the RTÉ Concert and Symphony Orchestras and Opera Ireland and Wexford Festival of Opera.

Regina Nathan, Voice

Regina Nathan's career in opera, concert and recital has taken her from her native Ireland across Europe, and as far as Kuala Lumpur and New York's Carnegie Hall. She has appeared in opera at Madrid's Teatro Real, Brussels' La Monnaie, the Hamburg Staatsoper, Opéra de Genève, Luzern Stadttheater, Israeli Opera, Scottish Opera, Opera de Nice, Opéra de Nantes, Glyndebourne Touring Opera, Opera Zuid, Stadttheater Giessen, as well as Opera Ireland. She has sung major lyric soprano roles throughout her career. Her repertoire ranges from the title role in Cavalli's *La Calisto* to the world-premiere of Mark Anthony Turnage's *The Country of the Blind* for the Aldeburgh Festival/English National Opera. Regina has appeared as Carlisle Floyd's Susannah, Moore's Baby Doe, Gluck's Euridice, Verdi's Violetta, Bizet's Lélia, Offenbach's Antonia and Amelia in Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera*. Her portrayal of the role of Puccini's Cio Cio San in *Madama Butterfly* for Opera Ireland and at the Stadttheater Giessen was hailed with critical acclaim as was her role of Cleopatra in Handel's *Julius Caesar* and Norma in Bellini's *Norma*. Regina has worked with conductors such as Antonio Pappano, Edo De Waart, Kent Nagano, and Frans Bruggen.

Barbara Murray, Piano

Barbara Murray holds a Masters of Music in Performance and Related Studies from the University of London. She has studied with Irish pianists Florence Ryan and Philip Martin and with Israeli pianist David Dolan at the Guildhall School of Music in London. As a student she was the recipient of various prizes and bursary awards. To date Barbara has had a very versatile music career. She has performed as a soloist and as a member of a chamber group in many leading venues both here in Ireland, in Europe and the U.S. In addition, she has lectured on music history, analysis and theoretical subjects at a number of third level institutions and universities. She has also worked in the area of examining, has given masterclasses and been an official accompanist at competitions, festivals and auditions, including Dublin Feis Ceoil.

Virginia Kerr, Voice

Virginia Kerr is one of the most distinguished Irish sopranos of her generation, equally well-known on the operatic stage, concert and oratorio platform and as a recitalist. She has sung with many of the world's leading orchestras including the London Philharmonic, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Hallé and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Her operatic and concert performances have taken her as far afield as the Far East, Russia and North and South America. Nearer home she has sung with the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Scottish Opera, Opera North, Opera Ireland, Opera Theatre Company, Leipzig Opera, Opéra de Nantes and Glyndebourne Festival Opera.

Virginia appears regularly on the concert platform as featured soloist with both the RTÉ National Symphony and RTÉ Concert Orchestras and has been a guest presenter for RTÉ lyric fm. She is a trustee of Christchurch Cathedral Choir and was appointed chairperson of the Board of Opera Theatre Company in 2004.

Fionnuala Moynihan, Piano

Dr. Fionnuala Moynihan completed her doctorate in Music Performance at the Royal Irish Academy of Music where she studied with Dr. John O'Connor and Professor Reamonn Keary. Fionnuala is widely acknowledged as one of Ireland's leading pianists. Fionnuala performed the Complete Piano Sonatas of Mozart in the Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin, in a series of five recitals which ran from February to June 2010. She is the only pianist to have undertaken the formidable challenge of performing this cycle in its entirety in Ireland.

Fionnuala has been awarded many prizes both at home and abroad including a Bank of Ireland Millennium Scholarship, the prestigious Maura Teissier Bursary and the Rena Menasche Award from the Tel-Hai Piano Masterclass series held in Israel. She was awarded the John Field Prize at the 2009 AXA Dublin International Piano Competition. Fionnuala has given solo recitals and concerto performances throughout England, France, Holland, Italy, Israel, U.S.A, Slovenia, Serbia, Russia, Poland and Hungary.

Kieran Moynihan, flute

Kieran Moynihan studied flute and piccolo at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He enjoys a varied career incorporating opera, ballet, symphonic repertoire and musicals. In demand as a musical theatre player, he has performed in the London productions of *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Lord of the Rings* as well as touring with major West End productions such as the recent version of *Les Misérables*. He has recorded with Plácido Domingo, Altan, Sharon Shannon and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

Ruby Ashley, oboe (Royal Irish Academy of Music)

Ruby studied at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester and the Nordwestdeutsche Musik-Akademie. In 1981 Ruby was awarded a Rotary Club Scholarship to study with Ray Still in Chicago, USA. In 1982 Ruby attended Goldsmiths College, London University to undertake orchestral studies at the National Centre for Orchestral Studies, gaining the Diploma in Orchestral Studies in 1983. Her first appointment was as Principal Oboe with the Deutsche Bachsoloisten Orchester. Ruby came to Ireland in 1983. She worked as Principal Cor Anglais with the R.T.E. National Symphony Orchestra and Principal oboe with the Irish Chamber Orchestra. Now recognized as the foremost teacher of oboe in Ireland, Ruby's pupils excel in national competitions. Many past pupils are now working as professional players. Ruby also enjoys a solo career which has seen broadcasts and performances of concertos by Richard Strauss, Donizetti (cor anglais), J.S. Bach (oboe and oboe d'amore concertos), Hummel and Goossens.

As a founder member of the Degani Ensemble, Ruby has recorded and performed

most of the major chamber music repertoire for oboe and strings. In the mid eighties the Degani Ensemble undertook a recording project for R.T.E. recording oboe quartets. Ruby plays oboe/cor anglais with the Wexford Festival Opera Orchestra and the Irish Film Orchestra'. Ruby is a lecturer in oboe and member of the wind faculty of the Royal Irish Academy of Music.

Fintan Sutton, clarinet and saxophone (Royal Irish Academy of Music)

Fintan studied at the Royal Academy of Music London before returning to Ireland to take up the position of clarinet/bass clarinet with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra in 1987. Fintan is also a regular player with the Orchestra of St Cecilia and works with the Irish Film Orchestra. In addition to numerous performances throughout Ireland, he has appeared as soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland and the Dublin Baroque Players. He began teaching at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in 1997. His students have won numerous national awards and prizes. Fintan has a very keen interest in contemporary music and works extensively with the final year composition students at Maynooth University.

John Hearne, bassoon (DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama),

John completed his studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London, and at the Scuola Musicale di Milano. Since returning to Dublin in 2001, John has worked with the RTE National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, the RTE Concert Orchestra, the Irish Chamber Orchestra, the Orchestra of St. Cecilia, Opera Theatre Company, the Castleward Opera orchestra and various other ensembles. He has performed and recorded with a number of artists including singer/songwriter Julie Feeney, featuring on her album *Pages*. A keen chamber musician, John also teaches the bassoon at the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama.

James Cavanagh, trumpet (Royal Irish Academy of Music)

James was born in Dublin and began his career as a trumpet player. He was a member of the No.1 Army band before becoming a trumpet player with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland. He was Head of Wind Brass and Percussion at the Royal Academy of Music for nine years, where he is also Professor of Trumpet, lectures in conducting and conducts the RIAM Symphony and Intermediate Orchestras. James has regularly worked and conducted on RTE Radio, Lyric FM and Television and has acted as Musical Director for many radio shows and musical productions. He was Musical Director of the Irish Youth Wind Ensemble, which he founded, from 1985 to 2007.

Francis Magee, tuba (Royal Irish Academy of Music)

A graduate of Glasgow University, Francis studied tuba at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama where he won the Governors' Recital Prize for Brass. For 10 years Francis was one of the busiest freelance tuba players in Britain. Working mostly with Scottish Opera and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra he also played with many of Britain's symphony orchestras, most notably the Royal Philharmonic and BBC Symphony in London, the BBC Philharmonic in Manchester, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, the BBC Scottish and Royal Scottish National Orchestras. He was appointed Principal Tuba of the RTE National Symphony Orchestra in 1997 and occasionally records with the Irish Film Orchestra.

An enthusiast of brass chamber music, Francis was a member of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra Brass Quintet giving regular recitals throughout Scotland, presenting numerous educational workshops, and recording for CD and radio. Francis has been musical director of Drogheda Brass Band and previously held teaching positions at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and the CIT Cork School of Music.

Stephen Mathieson, trombone (Royal Irish Academy of Music),

Born in Fife, Scotland, Stephen started playing the trombone at the age of 13. At 18 he went to study at the Royal College of Music in London before embarking on a freelance career, working with many UK Orchestras such as the London Philharmonic and The Philharmonia. In 2000 Stephen became the Principal trombone of the RTE Concert Orchestra, with whom he has played as a soloist on several occasions. Stephen continues to work as a guest performer with various Orchestras in the UK, has given several recitals and masterclasses for the British Trombone Society and also teaches trombone at the Royal Irish Academy of Music.

Lorcan Daly, French horn

Lorcan studied the French Horn with Victor Malerish in the Royal Irish Academy of Music. He was principal horn player in the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland and won many several prizes including gold medal in the Feis Ceol, and the John O'Connor Chamber Music Cup. He is Principal Horn of the Army No.1 Band and has served as musical director of a number of ensembles, including the Lucan Concert Band and the Drogheda Brass Band.