



Dublin International  
Chamber Music Festival  
Great Music in Irish Houses



# Dublin International Chamber Music Festival

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## Message from Catherine Martin, TD

### Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media



The annual Great Music in Irish Houses Festival, newly renamed the Dublin International Chamber Music Festival, on its 51<sup>st</sup> year, will be streamed online through homes all over Ireland and around the world from Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup> to Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>.

This year, the Festival welcomes a host of Irish artists and international artists, as well as those with an Irish connection, and hosts a strong female representation in both the performing and composition fields. The Festival's two-tiered programme offers a splendid banquet of tantalising musical styles and melody across the five days. This will include a series of five concert performances featuring an outstanding array of artists, a rendition of WB Yeats' poem *The Cloths of Heaven* performed by the Carducci String Quartet and tenor, Robin Tritschler, and a world première of a work by Gráinne Mulvey, entitled *Great Women*, commissioned by the Festival with funds from The Arts Council.

Victor Hugo wrote "Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent". As this last year has been a globally challenging one, it is increasingly important to continue to communicate with this universal language and ensure that the importance of music is recognised and celebrated. I am, as always, delighted that my Department can continue to support this festival, and I would like to congratulate all those involved. I urge you to tune into some of these wonderful recitals and enjoy some of the outstanding Irish and international talent that will be available to you in your home.

*The Dublin International Chamber Music Festival (Great Music in Irish Houses) is funded by  
The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.  
and is supported by the Office of Public Works and Culture Ireland.*



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúr,  
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán  
Department of Tourism, Culture,  
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



OPW  
Ofisigh na  
nÓlbreacá Poiblí  
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Cultúr Éireann  
Culture Ireland



## **Elizabeth Hilliard, soprano**

Recorded at St Patrick's Hall, Dublin Castle

### **GRÁINNE MULVEY (1966- )**

**Great Women for voice and electronics  
(world première – Commissioned by the  
Dublin International Chamber Music Festival  
with funds from The Arts Council)**

Born in Dún Laoghaire, Gráinne Mulvey studied in Waterford's Regional Technical College, at TCD and QUB. She gained her D.Phil in composition from York University under Nicola LeFanu.

Her music has been performed and broadcast across the globe. The recipient of innumerable awards, commissions and honours, she has represented Ireland at the ISCM World Music Days in 2008 and 2009 and at the International Rostrum of Composers in 1994, 2006 and 2015.

Currently Head of Composition at the Dublin Conservatory of Music and Drama, Gráinne Mulvey has been a member of Aosdána since 2010. Writing about her compositional philosophy she tells us that, 'My music is increasingly concerned with a sense of place - with the natural world and mankind's relationship with that world'.

The composer has kindly supplied the following note on her *Great Women*: -

"The piece is a celebration of the strong, remarkable Irish women who have helped shape the social and political landscape through their striving for equality and liberation.

The words include those of pioneering patriots Countess Constance Markievicz and Rosie Hackett, alongside such equally inspiring contemporary figures as Ireland's former Presidents Mary Robinson and Mary McAleese, extracts from whose inaugural speeches are embedded in the textures of the live and tape parts. The tape part includes readings from Markievicz' letters and excerpts from Rosie Hackett's account of events leading up to the 1916 Rising.

The readings were recorded by renowned soprano, Elizabeth Hilliard, for whom this work was written and to whom it is gratefully dedicated. Almost all sounds on the tape derive from those recordings while the live part uses many extended vocal techniques such as overtone singing, fragmentation of text, vocalise, etc." – GM

**Presented in association with the Office of Public Works  
Supported by Culture Ireland and Avolon**

**We are happy to acknowledge the support of the  
Cowbridge Music Festival, Carducci Festival Higham,  
Hatfield House Chamber Music Festival and Syde Manor.**

### **Director**

Hélène Montague

### **Video Director**

John Comiskey

### **Camera**

Fionn Mac Giolla Chuda

### **Camera Assistant**

Donnchadh Mac Síomóin Mac Giolla Chuda

### **Editor**

Paul Heary

### **Live Audio Production**

One Louder Sound Ltd

### **Audio Post-Production**

Ergodos

### **Mix Engineer**

Simon Cullen

### **Mastering of Backing Track**

Ben Rawlins (final mastering)  
Kevin Mulvey (initial mastering)



## ELIZABETH HILLIARD, soprano

Irish soprano Elizabeth Hilliard is an exceptional singer based in Dublin and is widely regarded as an imaginative and dramatic interpreter of new music. She has worked in close collaboration with composers including Gráinne Mulvey, Jennifer Walshe, Christopher Fox and David Bremner and champions Irish art, music and composers, achieving recognition in the US and UK, as well as her native country.

She is thrilled to make her Dublin International Chamber Music Festival presenting the world première performance of Gráinne Mulvey's *Great Women* which is also being released this June on the Métier label.

"Elizabeth Hilliard delivers an astonishing performance of Gráinne Mulvey's intense and impassioned song of praise for Irish women" – Julian Cowley, The Wire, June 2021

Current projects include a collaboration with Louise Manifold for her Air Looms exhibition (The Dock, Carrick-on-Shannon, and Depo, Turkey), and an algorithmic screen-share text improv collaboration and an experimental opera, *Slow Recognition*, both with composer David Bremner. 2021 performances have included St. Brigid's Day 2021 celebration presented by CMC and the Irish Embassy, Hungary performing Gráinne Mulvey's *Carlow Song-Cycle* with guitarist Anselm McDonnell; a song recital with pianist David Bremner for the Finding A Voice Festival featuring songs by Nadia Boulanger and Rhona Clarke; and directing the vocal ensemble ensembÉal in music by Jennifer Walshe, as part of Carlow Arts Festival/Woman in the Machine exhibition (June 2021).

Highlights of her career to date include: an invitation to London with the Contemporary Music Centre, Ireland to perform in both the Irish Embassy in London and Cafe OTO for the 2018 launch of CMC's promotional album *new music:new Ireland three*, presentation of and musical director of Béal 2016, a 2-day festival of the unaccompanied vocal-ensemble music by Jennifer Walshe, including the Irish première of much of her music and a newly-commissioned work.



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