

Crash Ensemble play Kilkenny Arts Festival 2013

Friday, 16 August

St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny

Crash Ensemble plays the Kilkenny Arts Festival's 40th anniversary event in 2013. The highlights of the Kilkenny Arts Festival have been announced today including a concert by Ireland's foremost new music group Crash Ensemble.

Crash Ensemble perform with US **Grammy award winning Soprano Dawn Upshaw**, singing the Yeats inspired song-cycle *That The Night Come* from **Donnacha Dennehy** and world premiere a new work by US composer **Michael Gordon** written especially for the Kilkenny Arts Festival. Adding to the Irish - American blockbuster programme is THE young American composer of the moment, **Nico Muhly**, with his 2011 work for Crash Ensemble, *Drones Variations, Ornaments*.

The Kilkenny Arts Festival draws over 28,000 visitors to the city annually with its mix of poets and performers, sopranos and sculptors, Krautrock and craftwork, workshops and talks.

Rosemary Collier, Festival Director *"For 40 years, Kilkenny Arts Festival – or arts week as it was formerly known – has played such an important role in the cultural life of this country and is an integral part of Irish summers. To mark our 40th Festival we hope to celebrate the legacy of eclectic programming that has been presented at Kilkenny down through the years... We are equally excited to be presenting four times Grammy Award winning Dawn Upshaw who will perform her first solo recital in Ireland. New works are always a key part of the Festival and we delighted to announce Festival commissions for 2013 include a piece by leading American composer Michael Gordon to be performed by The Crash Ensemble, and a brand new dance show called Dusk Ahead from Junk Ensemble."*

The festival has built up an enviable reputation at home and abroad for the presentation of both familiar and more esoteric art programming, slicing up styles and genres and serving them up, side by side, to eager audiences.

Crash Ensemble are known for their 'massive'¹ music experiences. Not only presenting the most exciting contemporary music from Ireland and abroad but presenting it as a not-be-missed great night out

Crash Ensemble at the Kilkenny Arts Festival – a summer highlight in Irish Culture.

PROGRAMME

Michael Gordon - New work for the Kilkenny Arts Festival and Crash Ensemble [WORLD PREMIERE]

Nico Muhly – Drones, Variations, Ornaments (2011)

Donnacha Dennehy – That The Night Come (2010)

TICKETS on sale March 26th at 10am

Tickets: €25, concessions: €22

40% discount available for 2 weeks only until April 12th! PROMO CODE - FAB AT 40

BOOK: <http://www.kilkennyarts.ie/events/details/crash-ensemble/>

Dawn Upshaw

Dawn Upshaw has achieved worldwide celebrity as a singer of opera and concert repertoire ranging from the sacred works of Bach to the freshest sounds of today. Her ability to reach to the heart of music and text has earned her both the devotion of an exceptionally diverse audience, and the awards and distinctions accorded to only the most distinguished of artists. A four-time Grammy Award winner and the first vocal artist to be awarded the five-year "Genius" prize, Dawn Upshaw is featured on more than 50 recordings, including the million-selling Symphony No. 3 by Henryk Gorecki.
http://imgartists.com/artist/dawn_upshaw

Michael Gordon

Michael Gordon's music merges subtle rhythmic invention with incredible power embodying, in the words of *The New Yorker's* Alex Ross, "the fury of punk rock, the nervous brilliance of free jazz and the intransigence of classical modernism." Over the past 25 years, Gordon has produced a strikingly diverse body of work, ranging from large-scale pieces for high-energy ensembles to major orchestral commissions to works conceived specifically for the recording studio. Transcending categorization, this music represents the collision of mysterious introspection and brutal directness. He is co-founder and co-artistic director of New York's legendary music collective Bang on a Can.
www.michaelgordonmusic.com

Donnacha Dennehy

Crash Ensemble "co-founder Donnacha Dennehy, who is very much the life and soul of Ireland's buzzing new-music party. An unusually upbeat beginning to the festival, then, or at least it would have been were Dennehy's upbeats more easily distinguished from his down. Though his music is driven by explosive and irrepressibly pulsating patterns, its rhythmic profile is curiously elusive: you want to tap your feet, but two feet rarely seem enough..." *The Guardian* *That The Night Come* features on Crash's successful 2011 Nonesuch album *Grá agus Bás* by **Donnacha Dennehy** (5 stars, *The Guardian*)
www.donnachadennehy.com

Nico Muhly

Nico Muhly has composed a wide scope of work for ensembles, soloists and organizations including the American Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops, Carnegie Hall, Chicago Symphony, countertenor Iestyn Davies, violinist Hilary Hahn, choreographer Benjamin Millepied, New York City Ballet, New York Philharmonic, Paris Opéra Ballet, soprano Jessica Rivera, and designer/illustrator Maira Kalman. Among Muhly's most frequent collaborators are his colleagues at Bedroom Community, an artist-run label headed by Icelandic musician Valgeir Sigurðsson. Bedroom Community was inaugurated in 2007 with the release of Muhly's first album, *Speaks Volumes*. In spring 2012, Bedroom Community released Muhly's three-part *Drones & Music*, in collaboration with pianist Bruce Brubaker, violinist Pekka Kuusisto, and violist Nadia Sirota.
www.nicomuhly.com

Crash Ensemble

Crash Ensemble is Ireland's foremost contemporary music ensemble; a group of world-class musicians who play the most adventurous, ground-breaking new music of today. *Crash Ensemble, an Irish new-music collective with international cachet and considerable chops* *The Washington Post*
www.crashensemble.com

The Kilkenny Arts Festival

Ireland's Premiere arts festival, bringing you the very best of Music, Theatre, Literature, Visual Art, dance, Craft, Children's and Street Theatre. Celebrating 40 Years 1974-2013.

www.kilkennyarts.ie

1. *Massiveness and impact are characteristics that the Crash Ensemble rarely lack.* Michael Dervan, *THE IRISH TIMES*, 5 Mar 2013

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Michael Gordon's new work and Nico Muhly's *Drones, Variations, Ornaments* are funded by the Arts Council Commissions Award.