



EUROPE DAY CONCERT 2024

Presented by the European Parliament Liaison Office,
the European Commission Representation and
the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU,
in partnership with the Royal Irish Academy of Music

Thursday 9th May 2024
Whyte Recital Hall

RIAM
Royal Irish
Academy of Music



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RTÉ lyric fm

Foreword

Welcome to our Europe Day concert and a celebration of our shared values and vision for Europe.

On 9 May 1950, the foundation of the European Union, as we now know it, was set out in the Schuman Declaration. The French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman presented his plan for economic and political cooperation among European countries, designed to prevent future war and secure lasting peace. We now stand together as a strong and united union of 27 and look forward to welcoming new member states in the years ahead.

This year is the 20th anniversary of the fifth and largest enlargement of the European Union. On 1 May 2004, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia joined the European Union. That year, Ireland held the Presidency of the Council of the EU and had the privilege of hosting a Day of Welcomes to mark these ten countries joining the European family. Now, after 20 years together, we celebrate the rich cultures and traditions that they have brought to Ireland and the wider EU.

As Europeans, we are bound by the common values of democracy, freedom, and social justice. Our commitment to these values is demonstrated through participation in European elections.

On 6-9 June this year, people across the EU will have the opportunity once again to elect representatives to be their voice in Europe. The right to vote in free and democratic elections is a privilege, and the more who vote, the stronger our democracy.

This evening, we welcome the Royal Irish Academy of Music's finest students, who will perform works by European composers, including Bach, Bellini, Chopin and Sibelius. As Belgium currently holds the Presidency of the Council, we are particularly delighted to welcome students from Le Conservatoire royal de Liège and the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp.

Music knows no borders and tonight's concert offers the opportunity to celebrate our shared cultural heritage and our continued commitment to peace and solidarity in Europe.

We hope you enjoy this very special evening.

Fionnuala Croker
Acting Head of Office
European Parliament Liaison
Office in Ireland

Barbara Nolan
Head of the European
Commission Representation
in Ireland

H.E. Karen Van Vlierberge
Ambassador of the Kingdom of
Belgium to Ireland

RTÉ Lyric Live with Paul Herriott

We are delighted to have Paul Herriott broadcasting on RTÉ Lyric Live from the Whyte Recital Hall at the Royal Irish Academy of Music tonight. This special concert celebrates Europe Day and is proudly presented in partnership with the European Parliament Liaison Office, the European Commission Representation, and the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU. Tonight's performance features a collaboration between students from the Academy and their peers from Belgium, the current holder of the rotating Council Presidency.

For the duration of the live broadcast, ensure all mobile devices are switched off and please remain seated to maintain the quality of the experience for all attendees and listeners. If you must exit the hall for any reason, we kindly ask that you do so quietly. Please be aware that once you leave, re-entry will not be possible.

Programme of Speakers

Deborah Kelleher, Director of the Royal Irish Academy of Music

Mairead McGuinness, European Commissioner for Financial Services, Financial Stability and Capital Markets Union

H.E. Karen Van Vlierberge, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium

Fionnuala Croker, Acting Head, European Parliament Liaison Office

Presented by Paul Herriott, RTÉ lyric fm

Programme of Music

JS Bach

Prelude from English Suite No 2 in A
Minor, BWV 807

Sulamita Pyvovar, piano

Mel Bonis

Presto from Violin Sonata Op 112
transcribed for flute by Martina Rosaria
O'Connell

Martina Rosaria O'Connell, flute

David Vesey, piano

Schubert

Liebesbotschaft
Gretchen am Spinnrade

David Kennedy, baritone

Eva Kavanagh, soprano

Dearbhla Collins, piano

Sibelius

Romance, Op 78 No 2

Jisun Min, violin

Adam Collins, piano

Robert Schumann

Zart und mit Ausdruck from
Fantasiestücke, Op 73

Adam Buttimer, tuba

Dearbhla Brosnan, piano

Enescu

Andante from Piano Trio No 1 in G minor

Ava Trio

Zoé Masset, piano

Nathan Seys, violin

Victor Combe, cello

Lekeu

Nocturne from 3 Poèmes

Aimee Banks, soprano; Zoé Masset, piano;

Nathan Seys, violin; Isabel Dhallé, violin;

*Bruna Sousa, viola and Victor Combe,
cello*

Chopin

Étude in C sharp minor, Op 10 No 4

Defne Gultoprak, piano

Ina Boyle

The Stolen Child

Herbert Hughes

Oh men from the fields

Bellini

Vaga luna che inargenti

Aimee Banks, soprano

David Kennedy, baritone

Seán Tester, tenor

Dearbhla Collins, piano

Popper

Hungarian Rhapsody

Andrés Vaccaro, cello

Dearbhla Brosnan, piano

Beethoven

European Anthem

*Musicians from the Royal Irish Academy
of Music, Le Conservatoire royal de Liège
and the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp*

Biographies

[Ava Trio](#) came into being in September 2022 when three musicians from different backgrounds met at the Conservatoire Royal de Liège, keen to play music through their budding friendship. It comprises Zoé Masset (piano), Nathan Seys (violin) and Victor Combe (cello). Coached by their teachers Vincent Royer and Jean-Gabriel Raellet, Trio Ava explores the piano trio repertoire to deepen its knowledge and share the pleasure of playing together. The trio has had the opportunity to play at venues and festivals in Belgium and in France, including the Festival de Musique de Chambre du Carré d'Art des Jeudis de Nîmes, the Abbaye musicale de Malonne, and the Salle académique de Liège. Curious to discover and share lesser-known works, its players also like to explore other ways of playing, including improvising.

[Aimee Banks, soprano](#), from Galway currently studies with Kathleen Tynan and répétiteur Dearbhla Collins at RIAM. She has performed in such venues as Carnegie Hall and the National Concert Hall, most recently for Ann Murray's Lifetime Achievement Award at the NCH. Aimee debuted as the young Giordano Bruno in Roger Doyle's Opera, 'Heresy', where she received commendation from Opera World, The Irish Times and Opera Today. In 2024 she was delighted to perform the titular role of Cendrillon by Pauline Viardot with RIAM Opera and was also one of the UCH Limerick Rising Stars for 2024, performing in concert in April.

[Dearbhla Brosnan, piano](#), has performed extensively throughout Ireland, Europe, the United States and Asia as a recitalist and chamber musician, in venues from St Martin-in-the-Fields, London to Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall. She has frequently broadcast on both television and radio and has worked as official accompanist for music festivals and competitions including the Galway Flute Festival, the Freemasons' Young Musician of the Year and the Dublin International Chamber Music Festival. Dearbhla is passionately committed to teaching and in addition to her own studio at RIAM, has given classes in the UK, Italy, China and New Zealand.

[Adam Buttimer, tuba](#), is studying with Francis Magee and Steve Irvine at RIAM. He was a finalist in the Dublin Brass Week Yamaha Concerto Competition in 2023 and was recently awarded the 2024 winner of the RDS Music Bursary. The €15,000 RDS Music Bursary is one of the largest annual classical music awards in Ireland and Europe, and includes a performance opportunity with the National Symphony Orchestra, and a recital at the Centre Culturel Irlandais.

[Adam Collins, piano](#), studied piano with Hugh Tinney and harpsichord and organ with David Adams. He was organ scholar at St Mary's Pro Cathedral, Dublin from 2013-2014, where he worked intensively with the Palestrina Choir and studied organ with Gerard Gillen. He went on to be organist at Cathedral of Christ the King in Mullingar, a role he served for three years. In 2019, Adam took lessons in fortepiano in the Hague with Bart van Oort, Petra Somlai and Richard Egarr, before completing his performance degree at RIAM with Peter Tuite. Adam performs regularly as an accompanist and collaborative pianist in Ireland.

[Dearbhla Collins, piano](#), is one of Ireland's finest musicians. The prize-winning pianist is a regular recital partner to many international renowned singers including Tara Erraught, Fatma Said and Benjamin Appl. She is passionate about mentoring young talent and as Assistant Head of Music at the National Opera Studio, London she helps the best of this talent to launch their careers. She regularly collaborates in lessons with singers such as Dame Ann Murray, Sir Thomas Allen, Marie McLaughlin and Brigitte Fassbaender. In October 2017,

Dearbhla was awarded an honorary doctorate for her services to music in Ireland from the National University of Ireland. She is Artistic Director of the Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition.

Isabel Dhallé, violin, started playing the violin at the age of 4 following the Suzuki Method. She subsequently studied at the Royal Conservatory of Antwerp and at the Haute École de Musique in Lausanne, Switzerland. With a passion for baroque music and chamber music, Isabel has performed around the world. She has also performed as a concerto soloist and plays in ensembles, including Bryggen Strings and Young Belgian Strings. Isabel is also a regular player with professional orchestras such as the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra.

Defne Gultoprak, piano, a student of Thérèse Fahy, has performed in venues such as the National Concert Hall, Tullynally Castle and Farmleigh House. In April this year, she was awarded the prestigious Lucien and Maura Teissier Scholarship of €10,000 and in 2021, was awarded first prize in the Concorso Pianistico Europeo Premio Speciale in Italy. In 2016, she was one of 10 pianists selected for Lang Lang's Allianz Junior Music Camp Programme in Warsaw. Defne is currently part of the Dublin International Piano Competition's Young Pianists Programme.

Eva Kavanagh, soprano, is currently studying under the tutelage of Kathleen Tynan and Dearbhla Collins at RIAM. She has graced stages across Ireland, from performing as a special guest with The Celtic Tenors in April of 2023 to appearing as a soloist at the St Columbanus Festival in Bangor Abbey. Most recently, Eva was awarded first prize in the Plunkett Greene, Thomas Moore, Young and Marchant Cups at the 2024 Feis Ceoil and Most Promising Singer at the 2023 Irené Sandford Award for Singers.

David Kennedy, baritone, is in his final year of his Bachelor's Degree at RIAM, studying with Owen Gilhooly-Miles and Dearbhla Collins. David is the first Irish scholar of the LiedAkademie a lieder programme under the artistic direction of international baritone Thomas Hampson. He has performed in notable venues such as the Pierre Boulez-Saal, National Concert Hall, Hugh Lane Gallery and Áras an Uachtaráin. He has participated in masterclasses with distinguished artists Simon Keenlyside, Ann Murray, Hartmut Höll, Graham Johnson and Tara Erraught. Future plans include his participation in LIEDBasel, where he will work in masterclasses with Ian Bostridge and Julius Drake and perform in concert.

Jisun Min, violin, is from South Korea, studying on the RIAM's Professional Mentorship course after completing awarded with Distinction her Recital Artist Diploma. She previously studied at the Korea National University of Art. She has won a number of national awards and competitions, including the Colin Staveley Memorial Prize at the Maura Dowdall Competition. She has also appeared as leader of many orchestras in Korea and in Ireland has worked with the National Symphony Orchestra, Wexford Festival Opera, and Ulster Orchestra. In Ireland, she has studied with Fionnuala Hunt, Mia Cooper, Sarah Sew and Claire Duff.

Martina Rosaria O'Connell, flute, is an Irish-Italian flautist currently in the final year of the Master in Music Performance at RIAM. Martina made her concerto début in 2023 playing Mozart's Concerto for Flute and Harp with the Trinity College Orchestra and recently travelled to Paris, where she gave the world première of her flute transcription of Mel Bonis's Violin Sonata at the Centre Culturel Irlandais. She has participated in the Saline Royale Academy,

Scottish International Flute Summer School, and Grolloo Flute Sessions in the Netherlands, and has received scholarships to attend the Galway Flute Academy with Sir James and Lady Jeanne Galway in Switzerland.

Sulamita Pyvovar, piano, started playing the piano at the age of five in Donetsk, Ukraine. Following her secondary education at Lviv State Musical Lyceum, she continued her piano studies at Lviv National Music Academy. She now studies at RIAM with Lance Coburn. Sulamita has won awards in competitions across Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia, Netherlands, France. She has performed with orchestras in her home country, and in Ireland, has performed on the Main Stage of the National Concert Hall.

Bruna Alves Sousa, viola, studies at the Royal Conservatory of Antwerp with Mathis Rochat. She began her musical studies at the age of 9 at the Centro de Cultura Musical in Portugal, before entering the "Escola Profissional Artística do Vale do Ave (ARTAVE)". As an orchestral player she has performed with the ARTAVE Orchestra, the APROARTE Orchestra the Jovem Orquestra Portuguesa, the Jovem Orquestra de Famalicão and the Royal Concertgebouworkest Young with the distinguished conductor Daniel Harding and pianist Paul Lewis.

Seán Tester, tenor, from Drogheda, has been engaged as a member of the Irish National Opera Chorus for productions of Rossini's 'Guillaume Tell', Gounod's 'Faust' and Puccini's 'La bohème'. December 2022 saw Seán make his tenor soloist début in Handel's 'Messiah' and more recently, he has made his tenor soloist debut in Orff's Carmina Burana, Beethoven's Choral Fantasia, d'Astorga's Stabat Mater and Seven Last Words of Christ of the Cross (Haydn). At short notice, Seán made his international role début in the role of Rodolphe in Rossini's 'Guillaume Tell' at Nouvel Opéra Fribourg/Neue Oper Freiburg, Switzerland. He studies with Owen Gilhooly-Miles at RIAM.

Andrés Vaccaro, cello, is an 18-year-old Venezuelan student at RIAM where his teachers are Christopher Marwood and William Butt. He has participated in masterclasses with cellists such as Aleksander Osokin, Santiago Cañón-Valencia, and Tsuyoshi Tsusumi at the Saline Royale Academy in France. Recently Andrés won the prestigious 2024 Maura Dowdall Competition at RIAM which will see him perform as a distinguished soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra in the near future. Andrés' studies at RIAM are generously supported by Northern Trust.

David Vesey, piano, is an award-winning Irish pianist with a passion for music. He graduated from MTU Cork School of Music as the highest placed student with First Class Honours. He then studied with Hugh Tinney at RIAM as an 1848 Scholar, completing the Master's in Music Performance in June 2023 with Distinction. David has won national prizes for his performances including the prestigious Lucien and Maura Teissier Bursary in 2023. He has performed internationally at venues such as the National Concert Hall, International Sommerakademie at the Universität Mozarteum (Salzburg), and Saline Royale Academy (France).



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