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One Less Petal, One Less Flame



Sunday 16th September, 3.00pm and 7.30pm

St Peter's Church, Milford

foreword

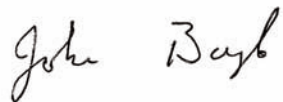
THE COMMISSIONING OF Public Art in Donegal, utilising the Per Cent for Art Scheme, gives the public the opportunity to experience a vast range of contemporary art in their everyday lives and provides the artist with the challenge and opportunity to create work for public engagement and response. The Per Cent for Art Scheme, used to fund Donegal County Council's Public Art Programme is a wonderful scheme available to all Government Departments in Ireland. This Per Cent for Art Scheme allows a small amount of our overall construction budget to be set aside for the commissioning of a public artwork. On this occasion, Donegal County Council were delighted to be able to fund the *One Less Petal, One Less Flame* project by pooling the Per Cent for Art Schemes arising from our housing construction programme on The Fanad Peninsula.

Donegal County Council's Public Art Programme has been active since 1990 and to date almost fifty commissions have been awarded and delivered. We believe that our Public Art Programme has always aspired to international standards of innovation, imagination, excellence, contemporary arts practice and value for money. The Donegal Public Art website details all commissions to date on www.donegalpublicart.ie. In 2004, Donegal County Council appointed a dedicated Public Art Manager to manage the Public Art Programme and in 2006 the Council adopted a comprehensive policy on Public Art Commissioning and published a five-year Public Art Strategy entitled *Making Shapes: Public Art in Donegal, 2006–2010*.

Public Art has usually been understood as outdoor public sculpture. However a broader and perhaps more imaginative range of possibilities has been championed by Donegal County Council. Both temporary and permanent works have been commissioned and are drawn from a range of arts disciplines including the visual arts, the performing arts, community arts, literature and music. New, original artwork, created specifically for the local context has been encouraged.

Donegal County Council's Public Art Programme represents an extremely important part of the cultural service provision as it allows artists and communities to work collaboratively to create innovative and ambitious public art projects like *One Less Petal, One Less Flame*.

On behalf of Donegal County Council we would like to acknowledge the creative vision of our Public Art Manager, Ms. Terre Duffy who devised this wonderful project which seeks to commemorate in a meaningful way The Flight of the Earls four hundred year anniversary. We also want to acknowledge our partners in the delivery of this project – Moving on Music and Project Manager Ms. Paula McHugh. We want to congratulate and thank all those involved and hope that you as audience and participants enjoy and are moved by *One Less Petal, One Less Flame*.



Cllr. John Boyle
Mayor Donegal County Council



Mr. Michael Mc Loone
Manager Donegal County Council

acknowledgements

Sincere thanks go to:

The principals, staff and pupils of Ayr Hill National School, Brownknowe National School, Caiseal National School, Drumfad National School, Kerrykeel National School, Scoil Mhuire, Ramelton, St Joseph's National School, Rathmullan, St Garvan's National School, Drumhalla, Mulroy College, and Loreto Community College, Milford for their commitment to the project, their support and their enthusiasm throughout.

Kate Newmann, Cathal Ó Searcaigh and Elaine Agnew for their inspiration and desire to share their creativity with the young participants and Tine Verbeke, Vocal Coach. J. B. Vallely for permission to use the cover images.

Paul Browne (formerly of Moving on Music) for initiating this project. Ms. Terre Duffy, Public Art Manager, Donegal County Council for her unwavering support. Paula Mc Hugh, Project Manager for her tremendous management ability and attention to detail.

Donegal County Council Flight of the Earls co-ordinating staff including Sally Murphy, Richard Gibson, Aidan Haughey and Angela McLaughlin.

Evonne Ferguson, Donegal VEC

Brian Carson at Moving on Music

Paola Chiapasco at Produzioni Fuorivia, Italy

Paul McGuckin, photographer

Staff at An Grianan Theatre, in particular Daithi Ramsey and Niall Cranney

Fr. James Gillespie for allowing this project to be premiered in St. Peter's Church, Milford, Co. Donegal

Cathal Hagan, Milford Parochial Hall

The caretaking staff in Donegal County Council PSC, Milford

Don Hawthorn and David Anderson, Nicholson & Bass, printers



project introduction

IN DECEMBER 2006, I started work with schools on the Fanad Peninsula in the creation of a new piece to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Flight of The Earls. Involving a high level of school input, I collaborated with teachers and pupils at Mulroy and Loreto Colleges, Milford and eight national schools – Ayr Hill, Brownknowe, Caiseal, Drumfad, Kerrykeel, Scoil Mhuire, Ramelton, St Garvan's, Drumhalla, and St Joseph's, Rathmullan. All the schools participated in writing workshops with poets Cathal Ó Searcaigh and Kate Newmann and the words generated have been used to create the text for songs and narrations.

The six schools that were involved in the creative music workshops explored colour and sound, texture and mood, working from initial themes through improvisation and graphic scores, to writing songs based on their own words. The national schools then put forward children to join the choir, specifically for today's performances.

The first *Big Sing* in June brought the choir together for the first time and soprano Tine Verbeke spent two intensive days working on voice projection and singing technique. The second *Big Sing* in August was directed by conductor Brian MacKay, who worked with the choir on the new songs.

In the interim, Tine and I directed extra rehearsals in the schools, closely working alongside teachers. A three-hour rehearsal yesterday brought the choir and orchestra together for the first time.

Elaine Agnew

Musical Director, *One Less Petal, One Less Flame*



biographies



Photographer: Eugene Langan. © Contemporary Music Centre, Ireland

Elaine Agnew

Born in County Antrim, Elaine Agnew studied music at Queen's University Belfast and at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

Her many works have been commissioned and performed throughout Ireland, the UK and Europe, as well as Eastern Australia, Asia, South Africa and the US by artists such as Vogler Quartet, Concorde, the European Union Chamber Orchestra, the Ulster Youth Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra, RTE National Symphony Orchestra and pianists Angela Hewitt and Romaine Descharme.

Elaine's orchestral works include *Sixth of January*, a double violin concerto for the Irish Chamber Orchestra and a BBC Radio 3 commission *Slasp* for the Ulster Orchestra. Her choral works include *Bread*, a RTÉ Lyric fm commission featured on a recent CD *Contemporary Music from Ireland* and *The Mdina Gilder*, commissioned by the National Chamber Choir. Many works have been recorded for commercial release.

Elaine has directed extensive education and community projects with many orchestras and arts organisations and is in constant demand for her innovative and creative work in schools, hospitals and prisons. Elaine was recently awarded a MacDowell Colony Residency in New Hampshire as part of the Colony's centenary celebrations and the Annaghmakerrig 25 Mary Fitzmaurice Finan Prize from the Tyrone Guthrie Centre.

Tommy Peoples

Tommy Peoples is internationally recognised as a huge influence on the Irish traditional music scene both as a player and composer. He was born in Donegal near St. Johnston, in 1948 and had his first lessons from his cousin Joe Cassidy, at 7 years of age. He moved to Dublin at a young age, and then to Co. Clare where he resided for over 30 years. His years in Dublin and Clare brought him into contact with all styles of music making, but he developed his own totally unique style. He features on the first Bothy Band recording and was a member of that band for two years. He has several solo recordings, mostly on the Shanachie label. His last recording, *The Quiet Glen* was home produced. In 1998 he was awarded the first National TG4 IMRO sponsored traditional musician award. Presently he resides in Donegal and performs both solo and accompanied.

For the performances of *One Less Petal*, *One Less Flame* Tommy is joined by Nessa Peoples (vocalist), Siobhán Peoples (fiddle), Francis McElduff (bodhrán), Seosaimh O'Neachtáin (accordion, song, dance).



Brian MacKay, conductor

Brian MacKay has wide ranging experience as a conductor, pianist, vocal coach, orchestral oboist, chamber musician and teacher. A graduate of the Royal College of Music and the Kodály Institute, he studied conducting under Lawrence Leonard, János Fürst, Katalin Kiss and Peter Erdei. In recent years he has conducted annually at Castle Ward Opera as well as performances with the National Symphony Orchestra, the National Chamber Choir, Opera Theatre Company, The Czech Virtuosi, Orchestra of St Cecilia, Fishamble Voices and the newly formed Oriel Ensemble. He is musical director of the St. George's Singers and Sinfonia in Belfast and until recently was joint musical director of Enchiriadis Treis in Malahide. Brian was recently appointed resident guest conductor of the National Chamber Choir for 2007.



Irish Chamber Orchestra

Anthony Marwood, *Artistic Director*

The Irish Chamber Orchestra has gained a remarkable reputation as a fresh and vibrant force on the Irish and international music scene. Under the dynamic and charismatic leadership of artistic director Anthony Marwood, the Orchestra is recognised as one of Ireland's world-class cultural assets. The Irish Chamber Orchestra excels in repertoire ranging from the baroque and classical, through the romanticism of Tchaikovsky and Elgar, to modern-day masterpieces by Philip Glass and commissions by Irish composers such as Elaine Agnew, Rachel Holstead, Raymond Deane, John Kinsella, Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin and Bill Whelan.

The ICO undertakes a busy programme of subscription series concerts in its hometown of Limerick and other major cities, regional tours to every corner of the country and international appearances in the world's distinguished concert halls such as Carnegie Hall in New York, London's Wigmore Hall and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. The Irish Chamber Orchestra, which is resident at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, is at the heart of the emerging College of Performing Arts at the University of Limerick, where an International String School offering a Master of Arts Degree in Classical String Performance has been established.

The Irish Chamber Orchestra is funded by the Arts Council of Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon.



biographies



Gabriele Mirabassi

Italian clarinetist Gabriele Mirabassi was born in Perugia and studied at the prestigious Morlacchi Conservatory. At first, he focused on performing modern compositions, but in 1992, the jazz-oriented recording *Coloriage* with accordionist Richard Galliano, helped make a name for him on the European jazz scene. Eventually, Mirabassi chose to focus solely on jazz and performed at numerous high-profile jazz events in Europe and beyond. *Fiabe* 1995 was a collaboration with pianist Stefano Battaglia, and helped him win an Italian award as the year's top new talent.

In recent years Mirabassi has extended his collaborations with artists in other fields including the writer Erri De Luca, singers Gianmaria Testa and Barbara Casini and actress Monica Demuru. Currently Mirabassi is working on his new work, the composition *Canto d'ebano*, a homage to the African wood and to the passionate Italian hands that transform it into a clarinet.

For the performances of *One Less Petal, One Less Flame* Gabriele performs with the Gabriele Mirabassi Trio featuring Paolo Alfonsi (guitar) and Salvatore Maiore (bass).

Kate Newmann

Kate Newmann is a graduate of King's College Cambridge and as junior fellow at the Institute of Irish Studies, Queen's University Belfast, she compiled the *Dictionary of Ulster Biography*. For many years she has taught creative writing with adult groups and with children. Her first collection of poetry, *The Blind Woman in the Blue House*, was published in 2001.

In 2006 she launched a CD, *How Well Did You Love?*, with poems set to music by Deirdre McKay, Elaine Agnew and Bill Campbell, and her new joint collection, *Belongings*, will be launched by Arlen Press in 2007. Her poems have been translated into Russian, Spanish and Italian. She lives in County Donegal.



Cathal Ó Searcaigh

Cathal Ó Searcaigh is a poet of international renown. His work has been published in ten languages and he has read at arts festivals and literary celebrations throughout the world. He is a member of Aosdána and has received many awards for his poetry. In 2000 the National University of Ireland conferred on him a Doctorate in Celtic Studies, and in 2007 he was awarded the prestigious Ireland Fund Literary Prize in recognition of the important contribution he has made to Irish language literature over the past thirty years. He lives in County Donegal.



programme note

Each composer has provided a short explanatory note for their contribution to *One Less Petal, One Less Flame*:

The work is a three part composition. A three part slow march titled *The March to Kinsale* signifies the nine years war culminating in defeat at the Battle of Kinsale. A three verse song, titled *Love's Legacy* or *They chose exile*, alternates Irish and English lyrics. It covers the themes of exile, loss, continued struggle rather than subjection and an exhortation to celebrate the Earl's living legacy by singing or playing Erin's songs and music. The lyrics are set to a slow air version of the first part of an old traditional reel *Farewell To Erin*, a device to connect old with new. Finally there is a joyful three part reel, *The Celebration*, danced Sean Nos style.

Tommy Peoples

The focus of the larger central movement on choir and orchestra draws on words and music created in the workshops.

In the harsh winter of 1592, Red Hugh O'Donnell, the older brother of Rory O'Donnell, escaped from Dublin Castle after four years of imprisonment. The choir enter immediately and each line of *Breathing* is separated by a brief orchestral interruption.

On the 14th September 1607, the Earls and their families sailed down Lough Swilly on their way to Europe. In *September Sea*, the Earl of Tyrone, Hugh O'Neill, says his farewells. Powerful and sweeping, the music rises and falls as O'Neill *looks out over the sea*. A constant moving bass line drives the energy forward as pillars of orchestral sound echo the ship's motion. An orchestral interlude creeps out of this base line as the slow moving strings portray a dark landscape.

Con O'Neill, the Earl's youngest child, had been fostered out to a family and when the time came to set sail to Europe, he couldn't be found. They had to sail without him. In *Song of Con*, a swaying accompaniment ebbs and flows as the choral line swells with emotion – *My fear is the blackness of being alone*.

Among those who set sail was a scholar, Tadgh Ó Canainn, who kept a detailed record of the journey. *Torn From Me* shows the excitement as his *enthusiasm spills with the ink*.

An energetic orchestral section *Journey* immediately follows, the string orchestra suddenly loud, then soft, as the ship runs into fierce storms and forces them to disembark in France.

As well as other children, young Hugh O'Neill, the Earl's son, died. In *Death of A Child*, an opening and closing Irish refrain surrounds a verse written by Rebecca Ward from Drumfad National School. This moment of quiet allows the music to breathe as the children sing *one less petal, one less flame*.

Elaine Agnew

Death in Rome is a purely instrumental piece, in which I have tried to depict the feeling of desperation and nostalgia of the Earls in Rome where they died. The chromatic harmonies establish a climate of emotional instability, while the melody is a heartbreaking love song, with the strong sensuality that pervades every corner of Rome, affecting the souls of the exiled.

Gabriele Mirabassi

A final refrain from *September Sea* follows Gabriele's piece.

song texts

Breathing

I believed in nothing but breathing.

I had forgotten it was cold.
My life felt like a crack in the wall.
As I escaped, the fear escaped me.

I believed in nothing but breathing.

He watches the ocean break
At his feet like history.
All that he has fought for
Has come to nought.

A cold breeze
Came off the sea
As the Great O'Neill
Boarded.

The winds of history
Made him shiver.

September Sea

O'Neill looks out over the sea.
Over a cloud-grey September sea.
A gull cries in the mast,
A wave sobs at his feet.
All that he has fought for
Has come to nought.

O'Neill looks out over the sea.
The hills of Donegal droop
To the shore; a heron swoops
Like the glint of a knife.
All that he has fought for
Has come to nought.

O'Neill looks out over the sea.
Alone on the dark shore

He saw stooks of corn
Arrayed like a waiting army.
He saluted and smiled.

Song of Con

My fear is the blackness of being alone.
My father saying *We may never return.*

My voice is strangled by greyness and tears.
My fear is blue as isolation.

My fear is a deathly sulphur yellow.
My voice turns squeaky and small.

The colour of my fear is red with anger
And blue with sorrow.

The taste in my mouth is black
Like the deepest well.

The music of sadness rings in my head.
The music is one of my mother's songs.

My fear is the ice-cold grey of a winter dawn.
It is as black as a never-ending hole.

My voice melts away because I am
speechless.
The memories of my family melt into
darkness.

My fear is clogging in my throat.
My fear is pale as death.

Torn From Me

My excitement spills on the page with the ink.
My braveness guides my hand.
My night thoughts are filled with fear.
My will power is torn from me.

My enthusiasm gets spilled with the ink.
I worry about what lies ahead.
My dreams of Spain fill my night hours.
My life in Ireland has been torn from me.

My head guides my hand.
When the ink spills, my thoughts go too.
All I see are dark gloomy clouds.
My heart has been torn from me.

Death of a Child

Uaigneach a bhfeicim
Uaigneach a gcluinnim
Uaigneach a mblaisim
Uaigneach a mothaím.

I feel like an empty cup nobody uses.
I feel like a mouse caught in a trap.
A storm has broken out inside me.
I feel like I have half a heart.

An empty family.
An empty bed.
One less petal.
One less flame.

photo gallery



contributors

Choir Members

Ayr Hill National School: Katie McLaughlin, Steven Stewart, Lauren Forrest, Niall McDaid, Ali O’Boyle, John Roulston, Aidan Curran, Gavin McPaul, Patrick McAteer, Ben Boyers, Joshua Smeaton, Connor McPaul, Ethan Keaney

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Mulroy College: Michael Friel, Lorcan Friel, Bernie Friel, Barry Greene, Collette Kelly, Shaun McBride, Mark McConigley, Claire McDermott, Kevin McElwaine, Neil McElwaine, Shaun McElwaine, Barry McGettigan, Darren McHugh, Gerard Marley, Linda Martin, Ciara Sweeney, Colm Sweeney, Shaun McGovern, Helen Murray, Eddie O’Donnell, Cormac Friel, Mark Harley, Ryan Brogan, Ciaran Carr, Nathaniel McHugh, Niall Dugera, Michael Heraghty, Neil Begley, Ciaran Sweeney, Denise Coll, Gemma McLaughlin, Dale Turnbull, Fergal Mahon, Aaron Turnbull, Sarah McConigley, Michelle Toye, Elizabeth McCorkell, Jenna Fahey, Shane Clinton, Michelle Gallagher, Erin Friel, Ciara Gibbons.

Creative Music Workshop Participants (06/07 School Year)

Mulroy College: Cormac Friel, Mary Friel, Jason Flynn, Michelle Gallagher, Siobhan Gallagher, Kevin Martin, Elizabeth McCorkell, Sarah McConigley, Nicole Rankin, Michelle Toye, Michael Lynch, Lisa Montgomery, Erin McGettigan, Jason Russell, Stephen Strain, Rosemarie Gibbons. **Loreto Community College:** Owen McDaid, Marguerite McGettigan, Rebecca Mahon, Claire Heraghty, Michelle McGee, Sarah Byrne, Grace Shields, Ashleigh Vago, Shirley Speer, Emily Alcorn, Hannah Feenstra, Ciara Brannigan, Martina Sweeney, Noeleen Sweeney, Lorcan Strain. **Ayr Hill N.S., Drumfad N.S., Kerrykeel N.S., St Joseph’s N.S.**

School Principals and Staff

Hillary McNutt, Sandra Moore, and Liz Paton, Ayr Hill N. S.; Christine Edwards, Brownknowe N. S.; Mairtin McDonnacha and Maria McElwaine, Caiseal N.S.; Jacqui Armstrong, Drumfad N.S.; Regina McGettigan, Kerrykeel N.S.; Catherine Morrison, St Garvan’s N.S.; Martin O’Baoill and John O’Doherty, Scoil Mhuire, Ramelton; Eugene Sharkey, Oonagh Russell and Sharon Graham, St Joseph’s N.S., Rathmullan; Rita Gleeson, Andrew Kelly, Margaret Corless, Liz McFadden, Gabriel Cole, Maureen Curran and Gerard Logue, Loreto Community College, Karen Patton, Ursula O’Connor, Mulroy College.

Irish Chamber Orchestra

Leader: Nicola Sweeney

Violin 1
Nicola Sweeney
Clíodhna Ryan
Oonagh Keogh
Louis Roden

Viola
Joachim Roewer
Mark Coates Smith
Lisa Grosman

Violin 2
Andre Swanepoel
Kenneth Rice
Mila Mustakova
Maria Ryan

Cello
Ben Rogerson
Sanghashura

Bass
Malachy Robinson

Chief Executive
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General Manager:
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Moving on Music



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The aim of the company is to provide a diverse range of music entertainment and education services to all the community, to develop opportunities for local artists in the music industry, and to increase and improve links with similar organisations, industries and companies on a national and international scale. **For further information log onto www.movingonmusic.co.uk or phone Moving on Music 0044 28 90248818.**

One Less Petal, One Less Flame Production

Staging and Lighting: Niall Cranney
Sound Engineer: Billy Robinson
Stage Manager: Paula McHugh