

Louth Contemporary Music Society presents

The Book of Hours

Dundalk — 22-23 June 2018

It's about time.

The original Book of Hours was a collection of prayers and private devotions, the lay person's way of following the Divine Office of the monasteries. Most often associated with wealthy Roman Catholics in the Middle Ages, Books of Hours were remarkably varied. Kings and queens owned personally commissioned sets, illuminated in gold leaf, while paper versions were sold to merchants, and gifted to housewives, and children. Collections would be annotated, amended, handed down to generation after generation.

No two Books of Hours were alike, but the function remained the same: to illuminate the day with moments of the divine.

Over two days in June, Louth Contemporary Music Society aims to do just that with its own Book of Hours, a music festival devoted to beautiful, profound music by contemporary composers from across the globe.

As well as new works from Salvatore Sciarrino (Italy) Gérard Pesson (France), and Michael Pisaro (USA), the festival will also spotlight contemporary female composers, including new works from Karen Tanaka (Japan), Galina Grigorjeva (Estonia/Ukraine), Linda Buckley (Ireland) and Rebecca Saunders (UK/Germany), with Pesson and Pisaro travelling to Ireland for the first time to hear their music performed.

A truly international music festival, it will feature five concerts over the two days including Arvo Pärt's sublime Stabat Mater, Gavin Bryars' iconic and deeply moving Jesus blood never failed me yet, plus Linda Buckley's hauntingly beautiful works, Fiol and Revelavit, Wolfgang Von Schweinitz's KLANG... and selections from the works of Hildegard Von Bingen.

The festival opens on Friday with the presentation of the prestigious Belmont Prize for Contemporary Music by Gabriele Forberg-Schneider of the Forberg-Schneider-Stiftung to Eamonn Quinn, Artistic Director of Louth Contemporary Music Society. The Belmont Prize honours 'innovation, daring, and courage' in music and is awarded every two years. It is one of Europe's largest artistic awards, with a prize of €20,000. Previous winners include composer and clarinetist Jörg Widmann, pianist Marino Formenti, New Yorker music critic

Alex Ross, and violinist Carolin Widmann.

Details

Friday 22 June 2018

Belmont Prize Ceremony

7.30pm, The Oriel Centre at Dundalk Gaol

Presentation of the prestigious Belmont Prize for Contemporary Music by Gabriele Forberg-Schneider of the Forberg-Schneider-Stiftung to Eamonn Quinn, Artistic Director of Louth Contemporary Music Society.

Night Prayer

8pm, The Oriel Centre at Dundalk Gaol

Gothic Voices will perform a programme of mediaeval and contemporary works in the intimate setting of Dundalk Gaol. Karen Tanaka, Linda Buckley and Michael Pisaro have all written new works to mark the occasion. The programme will open with the numinous beauty of Linda Buckley's *Revelavit*. Tickets €10 available from www.eventbrite.ie

Saturday 23 June

Morning Prayer

1pm, The Chapel, St. Vincent's School, Jocelyn St Dundalk

The Flemish string trio Goeyvaerts Trio will play a beautiful programme of Wolfgang Von Schweinitz's hallucinatory work for string trio and ring modulator, *KLANG auf Schön Berg* La Monte Young, plus Linda Buckley's *Fiol*, in Just Intonation tuning. This promises to be a magical transportive concert in a beautiful resonant setting.

Tickets Free but attendees are asked to register www.eventbrite.ie

Daytime prayer

3pm in Dundalk Gaol

The incredibly talented and internationally lauded composer Rebecca Saunders comes to Louth for the first time for a specially curated performance of her music including the world premiere of her James Joyce inspired work, *O, Yes &*

I. The performers include Carol Robinson, Juliet Fraser, Helen Bledsoe and Séverine Ballon

Tickets Free but attendees are asked to register www.eventbrite.ie

Evening Prayer

5pm in St.Nicholas Church of Ireland, Dundalk

This concert features the world premiere of a new work by Salvatore Sciarrino for solo flute, performed by the incredible Matteo Cesari, one of Sciarrino's closest collaborators. Additionally the programme will feature the piano music of Gérard Pesson, performed by Pascale Berthelot including the world premiere of a new work for piano, in the presence of the composer himself, on his first visit to Ireland.

Tickets Free but attendees are asked to register www.eventbrite.ie

Night Prayer II

8pm in St.Nicholas Church of Ireland Dundalk

Saturday's evening concert ends the festival with Arvo Pärt's 1985 work, Stabat Mater, performed here in Just Intonation tuning by the Goeyvaerts Ensemble, adding new shining depths to this spare, devotional masterpiece. Additionally the Ensemble will also perform a new LCMS commission, Chant, from Galina Grigorjeva. The concert ends with a version of Gavin Bryars' haunting, ethereal Jesus Blood, the UK composer leading a festival ensemble — including young musicians from Music Generation Louth — in a perfect end to the festival.

Tickets €10 available from www.eventbrite.ie

Additionally there will be an interview with the composers at 6.30pm in the side chapel of St. Nicholas Church of Ireland.

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