

AMUSIC RIGHT of WAY

ROUND TABLE FORUM

February 22nd 2020

Focussed on

LATE STARTER ORCHESTRAS

LATE STARTER ORCHESTRAS
"Connecting people through music"

HOSTED BY

St Agnes' Community Centre for Music & the Arts



9:00	WELCOME TEA & COFFEE	
9:20	FORUM WELCOME Sister Bernadette Sweeney	
	Director, St Agnes' Community Centre for Music & the Arts	
9:30	FORUM INTRODUCTION	
	<i>Seamus Doyle, Chairman of St Agnes' Community Centre for Music & the Arts</i>	
9:35	SESSION ONE -	ROUND TABLE FORUM – MUSIC RIGHTS 1,2,3
	Chaired by :	Allin Gray, Director, IAYO Irish Association of Youth
		Orchestras, Treasurer, EOFed European Federation of Orchestras, and member of the International Music Council
		<i>“Delivering MUSIC RIGHTS 1-3 in the community context”</i>
		Outcomes – musical, social and wider context, future goals in wide contexts
10:30	COFFEE BREAK	
10:45	SESSION TWO -	LEARNING TO LEARN AGAIN
	Chaired by :	Dr Marie-Louise Bowe, Assistant Professors, Music Education, Dublin City University Institute of Education, St Patrick's College Campus
		<i>“The particular challenges facing adult beginners – what are the challenges and rewards for adult beginners, and the organisations they join”</i>
		Learning supports, access to instruments, key benefits
11:45	COFFEE BREAK	
12:00	SESSION THREE -	WE DO IT OUR WAY chaired by Seamus Doyle,
	Chaired by :	Seamus Doyle, Principal Bass, RTE Concert Orchestra, Chair of St Agnes' Community Centre for Music & the Arts, Conductor of St Agnes' Parents String Orchestra and Scoil Úna Naofa Orchestra (primary)
		<i>“Representatives of the international orchestras outline their own structures, in terms of their beginning, model, goals and challenges.”</i>
1:00	LUNCH – soup and sandwiches provided for all conference attendees	
2:00	SESSION FOUR -	CREATING AN LSOEN - LATE STARTER ORCHESTRA EXCHANGE NETWORK
	Chaired by:	Dawn Davin, pharmacist, viola player
		<i>“Simple exchanges of 2 or 3 players between orchestras can provide a model which is workable and fruitful. A host orchestra offers accommodation/food, local transport, a guest orchestra / player funds travel.”.</i>
3:00	THE CONFERENCE IN ST AGNES' COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR MUSIC & THE ARTS WILL CONCLUDE at 3 pm. The focus will move to the school building where rehearsals will take place in the school hall. Refreshments and displays will be in the small hall.	
3:45	Seating and tuning REHEARSAL WELCOME Sister Bernadette Sweeney Director, St Agnes' Community Centre for Music & the Arts	
4 pm	REHEARSAL ONE	
5:30-6:30	Main course evening meal is served to everyone	
6:30-7:45	REHEARSAL TWO	
7:45-8:15	Dessert is served	
8:15-9:30	REHEARSAL THREE	
9:30	(Optional) Frehills Tavern for traditional music and chat	

GUEST

PLAYERS AND FORUM ATTENDEES

Allen, Armorel	cello	Glasgow Senior Citizens Orchestra
Barro , Juan	1st violin	Orquesta Crescendo, Tres Cantos, Madrid
Brett, Nynke	2nd Violin	Hackney Community Orchestra
Brierley, Jenny	double bass	Yorkshire Late Starter Strings
Corcoran, Darren	viola	Offbeat Ensemble, Dublin
Dick, John	viola	Glasgow Senior Citizens Orchestra
Dowlen, Holly	1st violin	Orquesta Crescendo, Tres Cantos, Madrid
Eddison, Eleanor	cello	Yorkshire Late Starter Strings
Halnan, Jane	1st violin	Cobweb Orchestra
Hilton, Maggie	1st violin	East London Late Starters Orchestra
Kam, Janelle	viola	Da Kapo Late Starters Orchestra, Singapore
Kane, Ros	cello	Hackney Community Orchestra
Lehner, Jana	2nd violin	Tomatenklang Musikschule Berlin
Lord, Angela	1st violin	East London Late Starters Orchestra
Maleska, Alexandra	cello	Tomatenklang Musikschule Berlin
Meitz, Penny	1st violin	Houston, Texas, USA
Mulligan Helen	cello	Offbest Ensemble
Rahona, Elena	1st violin	New York Late Starters Orchestra
Reineke, Melanie	1st violin	Tomatenklang Musikschule Berlin
Shurety, Chris	cello	CoMA, Contemporary Music for All
Steinel, Susanne	viola	Tomatenklang Musikschule Berlin
Van Hoevelaken, Hermke	2nd violin	Het Betuws Dagorkest
Watts, Sue	1st violin	Yorkshire Late Starter Strings
Weijgertze, Ida	2nd violin	Het Betuws Dagorkest
Yeo, Tisha	viola	Da Kapo Late Starters Orchestra, Singapore
Yoe, Jeanette	bassoon	Da Kapo Late Starters Orchestra, Singapore

SESSION

CHAIRPERSONS

Bowe, Dr Marie-Louise
Davin, Dawn
Doyle, Seamus
Gray, Allin

ST AGNES' CCMA

PERSONNEL

Sister Bernadette Sweeney, Director and CEO
Denise Ní Dhuibhir, Asst Director, St Agnes' CCMA
Jones, Carl, St Agnes' Chamber Orchestra
Lyons, Rose, Public Relations
Margaret McCabe, Finance Officer
Joanna Crooks, Project Director

INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL

FORUM ATTENDEES INCLUDE:

Barnecutt, Kathrine, UL Limerick
Bingham, James, Irish National Opera
Cavanagh, Ciara, Administrator, Offbeat Ensemble
Chilton, Yvonne (accordion)
County Kildare Orchestra
Daly, Clare, Chair, Irish Association of Youth Orchestras
Sarah Douglas
Early, Patrick, Mayo
Geusenbroek, Nelleke, FASO Fed of Amateur Symph Orch, Netherlands
Keehan, Liz
O'Gorman, Anne, NYCI, National Youth Council of Ireland
Rahlenbeck, Frauke, Berlin
Rehse, Emilia, Berlin
Smith, Dr Gillian
Tallon, Grace, Newpark Music School
Van den Goorbergh, Bart, conductor, Het Betuws Dagorkest, Netherlands
Van den Goorbergh, Margreet, Het Betuws Dagorkest, Netherlands
Yeo, Jeanette, bassoon, Secretary, Da Kapo Late Starters Orchestra, Singapore
Mason, Michael Houston, Texas
Seaward, Bob, Academy of Music, Cork
Halford, Sylvia, East London Late Starters Orchestra



In 1996, as part of his work as an outreach officer for Northern Sinfonia, Andy Jackson decided to run a 10 week evening class in orchestral music called "Blow the Cobwebs off your Music Stand". Meeting at a library in a small ex-pit village in County Durham, a full orchestra turned up on night one, and the Cobweb Orchestra began.

In conjunction with the weekly classes, weekend events were organised too - study days, concerts, residential weekends and eventually foreign trips.

After a few years, the Durham group was augmented by groups in Cumbria and Northumberland. Now, after 25 years of consistent development and innovation, there are 9 weekly groups meeting across the counties and urban areas of Northern England.

Various special interest and spin-off groups have grown out of Cobwebs (which is how most players refer to the orchestra): There is a Baroque Group, a Cabaret Ensemble and a Chamber Orchestra as well as several wind and string chamber music groups.

As Cobwebs enters its Silver Anniversary year, players are planning a weekend of celebrations in a large venue close to the library where the playing began, (the library itself is now far too small), and are looking forward to revisiting works from our huge backlist - many of which have been composed especially for us.

Where

Northern England

Website

<https://cobweborchestra.org.uk/>

Email

admin@cobweborchestra.org.uk

Organisation

2007 became an independent organisation and registered charity

Founded

1996 as an outreach project run by Northern Sinfonia an independent organisation and registered charity

Numbers

400 plus including beginners, intermediates, improvers, experienced players and professionals

Taking Part *Jane Halnan, violin*



Contemporary Music for All (CoMA) was one of several initiatives organised by the East London Late Starters Orchestra to celebrate its 10th anniversary. As such it adopted the inclusive approach to music making that underpins that organisation. Launched by means of a residential summer school, its objectives were (and remain) to create and perform artistically adventurous and uncompromisingly contemporary repertoire of high quality that is within the technical capabilities of amateur/non-professional players and singers.

As well as organising activities and concerts in their immediate areas, CoMA ensembles have performed at major international events including the Bath Music Festival, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival and ISCM World Music Days and premiered hundreds of CoMA commissions. Throughout CoMA has collaborated with leading professionals as well as commissioning and promoting young and 'emerging' composers. It has become a major force in contemporary music, its most recent initiative, a biennial Contemporary Music for All Festival serves to promote its ethos and its practice internationally.

Where

UK based, international

Website

www.coma.org

Email

info@coma.org

Founded

1993

Organisation

Non Profit

Numbers

Taking Part

Chris Shurety, double bass

CoMA Contemporary Music for All



ELLSO (**East London Late Starters Orchestra**) is a registered charity, started in 1982 by a group of parents, (led by Chris Shurety) who were inspired by a Tower Hamlets initiative to encourage children to learn a string instrument.

Over thirty-seven years later hundreds of adults have felt the same thrill at handling these wonderful instruments, many of them for the first time in their lives. Today, ELLSO has around 250 members, of which 140 attend our main teaching programme held on Saturday mornings. We take any adult, whether they can read music or not, and provide technique, musicianship and ensemble sessions.

Over the years further weekly activities have been added, a repertoire -focussed **Intermediate Performance Ensemble** for players who have been playing for a year or more, a **Performance Ensemble** for more experienced players who, together with a small wind and brass section, want to tackle more demanding repertoire, and **Tuesday ELLSO** for those for whom Saturday morning is not practical.

We also provide a way of keeping our members in the swing of things over the summer break with **Summer Mondays**, often leading to open-air concerts in local parks and fetes.

Annual events include our **Late Starters String Summer School**, founded in 1992 and **Mudlark**, an event that provides an opportunity for chamber ensembles formed by members outside the ELLSO's organised activities to perform to each other and friends and families. ELLSO has also established a number of related initiatives involving late starters and amateur players, including CoMA Contemporary Music for All in 1993, Yorkshire Late Starter Strings in 2000 and Strings in Greece in 2004

Where

East London

Website

www.ellso.org

Email

info@ellso.org

Founded

1982

Organisation

Registered Charity

Numbers

250

Taking Part

*Maggie Hilton, violin,
Angela Lord, violin*



The Hackney Community Orchestra has been established to help support the development and enjoyment of late starters, returners and enthusiasts who are looking for a relaxed and informal ensemble in which to learn and develop their confidence in playing on the basis that music making is good for us all at whatever level we may find ourselves at.



Yorkshire Late Starters Strings (YLSS) is an enthusiastic string orchestra based in **Leeds**, passionate about learning and playing music. We are a registered charity, run by our members and were set up in 2000, inspired by ELLSO. **All are welcome**, no auditions, from adult learners to those returning to playing after many years. We are tutored by top class professional musicians and love challenging ourselves in a supportive and friendly atmosphere.

As well as our weekly orchestral sessions we hold special play days with visiting musicians and an annual residential weekend at Cloughton on the East coast. We also wanted to add inspiring music to the repertoire for orchestras like ourselves and experience working directly with a composer so, 12 years ago, we launched our biennial **Orchestra Seeks Composer** competition inviting composers to create a 10-15 minute piece which works for all our members of varying instrumental skills. We invite a renowned composer to help us select the winning piece and, last year, were delighted that Judith Weir, Master of the Queen's Music, agreed to participate, and wrote afterwards in her blog about her enjoyment in taking part. Entries came from 36 composers from eight countries and YLSS members and friends had a day working through the 4 shortlisted pieces with Judith and the four finalists to choose the winner.

We premiered the piece in a summer concert with Judith in the audience. We have about 40+ members from all walks of life but we all have a love of music and playing in common.

Where

Leeds, Yorkshire, England

Website

www.ylss.org

Email

susan.watts197@btinternet.com

Founded

2000 (inspired by East London Late Starters Orchestra)

Organisation

Registered Charity

Numbers

40 +

Taking Part

Sue Watts, violin,

Eleanor Eddison, cello,

Jenny Brierley, double bass



The music school **tomatenklang** was founded in 2001 by Adrian Kroß. What started out as two rooms in Berlin-Prenzlauer Berg today takes place in 52 classrooms spread all over Prenzlauer Berg in Berlin-Pankow and in Berlin-Kreuzberg. About 150 teachers teach students ages 2 to 88 years. From symphony orchestra to the rock band festival, everything is included.

About two years ago, the idea of a string orchestra for adult beginners was born. Every week since then, a circle of enthusiastic string players meets to get to know new pieces and playing techniques and above all enjoy playing music together.

Where

Berlin – Prenzlauer Berg

Website

www.tomatenklang.de

Email

melanie.reineke@gmail.com

Founded

2017

Organisation

Tomatenklang Musikschule

Taking Part

*Melanie Reineke, violin,
Jana Lehner, violin,
Susanne Steinell, viola
Alexandra Maleska, cello*

Happy Strings, Tomatenklang Musikschule



The **Offbeat Ensemble** is an inclusive late-starter / community string orchestra based in Phibsboro. Our aim is to give everyone the chance to learn music in a fun, friendly and supportive environment.

The Offbeat Ensemble was founded in 2013 by string players / teachers Ciara Cavanagh and Nathan Sherman. The orchestra meets weekly in St. Peter's National School to rehearse and is open to all adult learners. In June 2013, The Offbeat Ensemble performed their first concert in King's Inn, Dublin 1. Since then the orchestra have performed as part of the Tradfest and Phizzfest, in All Hallows College D9, Halston Street Church D7, St. Peter's Church D7, The Pillar Room at the Rotunda in aid of the Rotunda Foundation, and as part of the Twilight Programme for the patients and staff of St. Patrick's Mental Health Services. The orchestra were delighted to be invited to play their first concert outside Dublin in August 2018, as part of the Birr Vintage Arts Week. In June 2019, the orchestra organised their first "Rockfest" - a sold out concert of rock music with orchestra, vocalist and full rock band, to great acclaim, in Halston Street Church.

Community spirit is very close to the orchestra's heart, and the group regularly invite the St. Peter's National School Phibsboro Junior Orchestra and Secondary School Orchestra to perform at their events. They have also regularly collaborated with local choirs.

Where

Drumcondra, Dublin, Ireland

Website

www.offbeat-ensemble.com

Email

offbeatensemble@gmail.com

Founded

2013

Organisation

Independent non-profit

Numbers

60 active participants

Taking Part

*Daniel Corcoran, viola,
Helen Mulligan, cello*



Sounds Ensemble is an amateur concert band, a very sociable group of musicians, and was formed with the sole intention of providing opportunities for adults who wished to learn to read and play music together. It also accepts those who played in their youth and wish to rekindle their interest by joining a band. Musicians of all abilities are welcome, with the only requirements being enthusiasm and commitment. These two ingredients create a joy in making music together.

Bands/orchestras, provide benefit to the community through performance, entertainment and social inclusion. The most enjoyable aspects of our journey are performing, while at the same time, raising funds for deserving causes, having raised thousands of euros over the years. We rehearse as a band, once a week, but also hold sectionals on different evenings.

We have joined with other bands in performance, which is always a treat, and with our hosts, St Agnes' Parents String Orchestra on numerous occasions. They provide the strings, we, the wind and brass. Playing with other musicians brings out the best in us, as we don't want to let ourselves down, and it also gives me the opportunity, as conductor, to blame others for the wrong notes, which is fun.—Why Should the Young Have All the Fun.

Where

*Rua Red, Tallaght, Dublin,
Ireland*

Website

www.soundsensemble.ie

Email

terryclancy1149@gmail.com

Founded

2004

Organisation

Independent

Numbers

46

Taking Part

names in programme



St. Agnes' Parents' String Orchestra was founded in 2010. The founding members were parents and grandparents of children participating in the music access programme which had been established four years earlier in St Agnes' Primary School, now known by its Irish name, **Scoil Úna Naofa**. Players can attend one or two rehearsals per week. These take place on Monday night and/or Tuesday morning. The Orchestra has grown rapidly. It partners a wind ensemble for two concerts per year, the SOUNDS ENSEMBLE. Its members can take part in the **intergenerational summer camp**, along with primary and secondary school students. The Orchestra gives several concerts with free admission during the season, and supports various local charities through raffles at concerts. The principal rehearsal space and performing space is in the primary school, **Scoil Úna Naofa**, with the permission of the Board of Management.

The players in the Parents Orchestra pay **€5 per week** as members, part of which supports the ongoing access programme in the school. This project continues to provide tuition and instruments for the fourteen years of education to the pupils and past-pupils of Scoil Úna Naofa. The Orchestra has had three main conductors, **Eimear O'Grady**, **Naoise Dack** and currently **Seamus Doyle**, who is Principal Bass of RTÉ Concert Orchestra, and Chair of **St Agnes' Community Centre for Music & the Arts**. The Orchestra has some outstanding professional string tutors, including **Nicole Hudson** and Pauline **Cavanagh**. The Orchestra is run by **Scoil Úna Naofa Violin and Orchestra** Project which also manages the programme of tuition for primary school and secondary school students, and their performing ensembles, Scoil Úna Naofa Orchestra (primary) and St Agnes' Chamber Orchestra (secondary).

Where

Crumlin, Dublin, Ireland

Website

www.stagnescma.ie

Email

stagnesmusiccrumlin@gmail.com

Founded

2010 – founding members were parents of school children in access project

Organisation

Reg Charity, an activity of St Agnes' Community Centre for Music & the Arts

Numbers

100 + including beginners, intermediates, improvers – names in programme



In the autumn of 2015 conductor and music organizer, Bart van den Goorbergh, thought that it would be a good time to start a different orchestra. Let's start an orchestra for players with little experience in playing together. Almost every village in De Betuwel, a beautiful area in the Netherlands, has its own wind band, but there was no symphonic ensemble for beginners and late starters. After some advertising, Bart started with fourteen players, some of whom had only played their instrument for one or two years.

Now, five years later, these members who had started at the beginning, form a very nice orchestra. They mostly play classical music, but they also like to play folk music, or even a nice pop song. The Orchestra has already reached its most important goal – having fun playing together every Friday afternoon. In the last five years the members of the Orchestra, with Bart as their conductor, notice a beautiful development of their sound and their awareness of each other as fellow musicians.

Making music by yourself is fun, but making music together in an orchestra is great, and give you a whole new energy in life.

Where

*Schuttersteeg 2 4156 AE Rumpt
The Netherlands*

Website

on Facebook

Email

bvdgoorbergh@gmail.com

Telephone

0031 06 55544418

Founded

2014

Chairman and Conductor

Bart van den Goorbergh

Rehearsal Venue

Rumpts Kerk (www.rumptskerkje.nl)

Numbers

18

Taking Part

Hermke van Hoevelaken, violin,



The Glasgow Senior Citizens Orchestra was founded in 1964 to provide an opportunity for retired people to enjoy music making and to share their enjoyment with others. Before long a routine was established which continues to this day: a rehearsal every week and about 10 concerts a year during the session from September until May, mainly for elderly people of Glasgow. Much of the inspiration in the early days came from the geriatrician Prof Sir William Ferguson Anderson OBE. He believed that music-making had a definite therapeutic value for elderly people.

The senior nature of the orchestra appears to be unique in the United Kingdom. It is an independent organisation funded by membership subscription and grants. There are close links with "Glasgow's Golden Generation", a charity devoted to support for the elderly in Glasgow and many of the orchestra's concerts entertain groups supported by the charity.

There are about 50 players in the orchestra and the repertoire is mainly light-classical, and includes music from shows and films, especially of the 50's and 60's, familiar classics, musical theatre, and arrangements of popular songs.

Where

Glasgow, Scotland

Website

www.gsco.org.uk

Email

gscosecretary@yahoo.co.uk

Founded

1964

Organisation

Independent

Numbers

50

Taking Part

John Dick, viola,

Armored Allen, cello



Where

Singapore

Website

www.dakapo.lso.wordpress.com

Email

da.kapo.lso@gmail.com

Founded

2016

Organisation

Independent non-profit

Numbers

*20-30 active participants,
about 150 alumni*

Taking Part

*Janelle Kam, viola,
Tisha Yeo, viola
(Jeanette Yeo, bassoon)*

da ka:po Late Starters Orchestra is a non-audition string orchestra based in Singapore.

da ka:po is a phoneticised extension of the Italian words *da capo* which, in music, mean return to the beginning or start from the beginning.

The orchestra accepts players regardless of ability, experience and age. Our aim is to provide a supportive and non-competitive environment for adults to learn string instruments and to foster a community of adult learners who enjoy making music and performing together. Ensemble practice takes place weekly, with many members taking private instrumental lessons on their own.

As a community-centric ensemble, we have regular mini-concerts for family and friends and also bring music to and create music making opportunities with the wider community.

Our musicians enjoy bringing local and festive tunes to elderly residents in nursing facilities and interacting with them over snacks and games. One of the most memorable moments of our inaugural public ticketed concert, *Giocosolo!*, in August 2019 was the joint performance of Canon in C (oh yes, that Canon) between the orchestra and children from the Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore school band who were playing mostly Orff instruments.

da ka:po hopes to rouse interest and garner support in and around Singapore for more adult music making initiatives and community based collaborations.

da ka:po Late Starter Orchestra



When the Municipal Music School of Tres Cantos was created in 1993, the teachers who formed it were clear that one of its pillars was the learning of music through string instruments. Thanks to that, the first orchestra was born, where all students, young and old, could enjoy orchestra rehearsals and perform live music in groups. Nowadays, the school has three different orchestras, with different instrumentalists, each one organized by age and level. The Crescendo Orchestra is an inter-generational orchestra of about 40 members made up of stringed instruments, wind (flute, oboe, clarinet and bassoon) and percussion.

The Crescendo Orchestra aims to create an atmosphere where young people and adults, can continue to develop with their instrument and share an intense and enriching musical experience. It is also a main objective to actively participate in multicultural collaborations with other orchestras as well as compete in music competitions. As a result, our music has allowed us to share experiences with people from other orchestras and music schools in Spain and also to enjoy performing with orchestras from other countries like Ireland, Germany or the United States

Where

Tres Cantos, Madrid

Website

<http://crescendo3c.blogspot.com.es>

Email

raulsanchezviolin@gmail.com

Founded

1993

Organisation

Municipal Music School of Tres Cantos

Numbers

30 – 40

Taking Part

Juan Barro, violin,

Holly Dowlen, violin



Where

New York, NY

Website

www.nylo.org

Email

nyloinfo@gmail.com

Founded 2007

Organisation

*LLC (Limited Liability Corporation)
with a Fiscal Sponsorship for tax-
deductible giving*

Numbers

*+/- 60 Per Session / +/- 80 Per Six-
Week Term*

Taking Part

Elena Rahona, violin

NYLSO (New York Late-Starters String Orchestra) is a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) with a Fiscal Sponsor for tax-deductible giving. The LLC was established simply for liability purposes given the American propensity for litigation. We are not a for-profit endeavor.

NYLSO, founded in 2007, was inspired 100% by ELLSO. In a city filled with music, New York was surprisingly devoid of options for less experienced players. We started at a relatively basic level and organically evolved along with our core group to where the "main orchestra group" falls squarely in the intermediate range.

Not wanting to stray from our mission of providing a safe and welcoming space for newer players, we created a second group for beginning members about 4 years ago. We also recently added an Advanced Chamber session to similarly ensure that the overall level of the orchestra not become unwelcoming or unreachable to those we ultimately seek to attract.

Our Beginning Ensemble does not currently take members with zero experience. We require a very rudimentary understanding of instrumental and musical notation fundamentals. We do hope to accommodate total beginning players at some point, but we are not there yet. All three of our groups meet on Sunday afternoons.

Over the past few years we have worked with a number of composers who have developed pieces expressly for the group and who work with the orchestra to give members a peek into the mechanics and creative process of composition. Members often remark how grateful they are for the experience and how appreciative they are to the composers for taking the time to expose them to something they never thought they would be able to do in their lifetimes. We have a wonderful group of dedicated, enthusiastic players and we hope to see the group continue to grow and branch out in ways that provide access to a wide range of musical activities and collaborations.

How can an exchange programme work ?

A WEBSITE TO MAKE CONTACTS AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE

- thanks to Denise Ní Dhuibhir, Assistant Director of St Agnes' CCMA, a website is ready to use. It can have a contact list of orchestras who want to be in a network
- It can also carry a calendar of exchanges coming up, and a record of those that take place.

WHAT DOES EXCHANGE MEAN?

- anything from a full ensemble exchange to and fro to a single visit or an exchange of one musician.
- an exchange can be based on a need, when a particular instrument is needed for balance.

A SIMPLE MODEL

- A receiving orchestra may provide accommodation, local transport and food.
- A sending orchestra pays travel to the arrivals point, airport/station/location.

HAS THIS KIND OF MODEL WORKED BEFORE?

Yes, it has, with great success.

EFNYO, European Federation of National Youth Orchestras saw the value of exchanging musicians on a small scale, possibly in ones, twos, threes, with cultural benefit to both hosting and sending orchestras. A simple model has been shown to work well.

A HOST ORCHESTRA or “ INVITING” ORCHESTRA

A host orchestra sends an invitation, which can be formulated to suit its own situation:

- the invitation makes the details clear
- it might be for a weekend visit with participation in one concert
- it might be to take part in a longer project such as a summer camp
- it might include hosting or it might not – this needs to be clear from the start.
- the invitation might be an open invitation to see if ANYONE is interested or directed to a specific orchestra, a specific instrument, a specific objective or a specific project.

A SENDING ORCHESTRA

- The sending orchestra, based on the details of the invitation, may decide who will accept an invitation in its own way.
- The sending orchestra, based on its own circumstances, may decide how travel costs will be paid.

St Agnes' Community Centre for Music and the Arts

(St Agnes' CCMA)

WHERE off Armagh Rd, Crumlin, Dublin, D12R726
 WEBSITE www.stagnescma.ie
 EMAIL ccmadenise@gmail.com
 FOUNDED 2012
 DIRECTOR (Hon) Sister Bernadette Sweeney
 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Denise Ní Dhuibhir



Following the establishment of the innovative access music project in (then) St Agnes' Primary School on Armagh Road, Crumlin, in 2006, an adult late starter orchestra (St Agnes' Parents String Orchestra) was founded in February 2010, and one year later a Musical Society (St Agnes' Musical Society) in May 2011, which gave its first performances (Rodgers & Hammerstein's OKLAHOMA!) in March 2012. The need to provide access to music at an affordable price for the wider community was clear, for adults of all ages and for children other than those lucky enough to be pupils in St Agnes' Primary School, which later changed its name to its Irish form and became Scoil Úna Naofa. (Agnes = Úna in Irish).

The building to the rear of St Agnes' Primary School was generously made available and refurbished by the Religious Sisters of Charity. Today St Agnes' CCMA is a thriving institution and a model for social change in a community. It is a Registered Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee, registered at the Companies' Office.

The CCMA as it is fondly known provides a wide range of activities. Tuition is available to children and adults, including accordion, baby music, bodhrán, brass, guitar, harp, keyboard/piano, music theory, set dancing, tin whistle, ukulele. *Large scale activities under the wing of St Agnes' CCMA are illustrated below:*



Sister Bernadette Sweeney, a Religious Sister of Charity, was born in Dublin. She trained in Carysfort National Teacher Training College where she specialised in music. She graduated with a B.A. from University College Dublin, in Music, Greek and Roman Civilization and English. She received a Masters in Religious Education in Mater Dei College in 2006. In 1995 she received a Fellowship and Licentiate of Trinity College of Music, London, following vocal studies with Dr Veronica Dunne.

A committed School Principal for over 30 years and it was as principal of St. Agnes' Primary School that she started the School Violin and Orchestra project with Dr. Joanna Crooks. Sister Bernadette is actively involved through various networks in supporting and advising other School Principals who have an interest in developing similar models in their schools to provide instrumental music tuition to their pupils and parents. She is committed to giving all children the opportunities for personal development through music, in the words of Mother Mary Aikenhead "To give to all what the rich can buy for money".

On behalf of the Religious Sisters of Charity, Sister Bernadette has overseen the refurbishment of St Agnes' Community Music Centre on Armagh Road, Crumlin. Her concept is to give access to instruments and the opportunity to learn and play to everyone in the community at a minimal cost.

Sister Bernadette is committed to providing a range of activities for people in all stages of the life cycle, valuing equally all forms of music, to providing late start opportunities for adults in the community, and to providing young people with access to a venue, instruments, practise and rehearsal facilities, and lessons within the local community. One of the latest developments is that of the St. Agnes' Memory Lane Choir for people diagnosed with dementia and Alzheimer's disease, their carers and their family members.



Dr Joanna Crooks BA Mod, H Dip Ed, D Mus honoris causa. Joanna Crooks (née Walmsley) is Irish. Born in India, she grew up in Dublin and studied English, Russian, German and French at Trinity College. She and her husband Tony married as students - they have two daughters, three sons, three daughters-in-law, two sons-in-law and fifteen grandchildren. She was a founder of Dublin Youth Orchestras and Hon Administrator 1982-1997. In 1994 she was a founder of IAYO, the Irish Association of Youth Orchestras, and in 1996 devised the IAYO Festival of Youth Orchestras, giving an annual platform to eight youth orchestras at the National Concert Hall. In 1995 the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland's Board invited Joanna to accept the position of Director. In February 1996 NYOI joined EFNYO (European Federation of National Youth Orchestras). Joanna served for six years on the Board of EFNYO. She also served on the Board of the Jeunesses Musicales World Orchestra. Joanna has taken youth orchestras on tour in Ireland, England, Wales, Scotland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Denmark, Finland, Canada and USA, visiting festivals and memorable concert venues, among them the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Konzerthaus in Berlin, and the Hatch Shell in Boston. The highlight of her work with the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland was the Wagner Ring Festival of 2002. The NYOI with international soloists conducted by Alexander Anissimov gave two complete concert performances of Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, in University Concert Hall, Limerick, followed by a second complete cycle in Symphony Hall, Birmingham. Joanna Crooks received an Honorary Doctorate *D. Mus honoris causa* from the National University of Ireland, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, on September 10th 2007, for her contribution to music in the youth sector in Ireland. She is Hon President of Dublin Youth Orchestras and Hon President of the Irish Association of Youth Orchestras. Joanna continues to volunteer as Project Director of SCOIL ÚNA NAOFA VIOLIN & ORCHESTRA PROJECT and as Production Manager of St Agnes' Musical Society on behalf of St Agnes' CCMA. She is a founder member of St Agnes' 19 Parents String Orchestra.



Denise Ní Dhuibhir graduated from the Crawford School of Art and Design, Cork after a four year Fine Art programme in 1986 and has since sustained an interest in all aspects of the Arts. She has worked since 1995 with disadvantaged communities, including in 1993 on an electoral education programme in Soweto before South Africa's first democratic election and as an APSO volunteer with UNICEF in Zambia, 1994 to 1998 .



Denise has worked with young people and adults as a teacher and educational programme coordinator with the Education Training Board. She completed a Masters in Equality Studies from NUI Dublin in 1998 and an MSc in Education from Trinity College Dublin in 2006.

Denise was hired as consultant in 2019 to assist in developing a strategic plan for St. Agnes' Community Centre for Music and the Arts and was appointed in August 2019 on a full-time basis as Assistant Administrator. Denise is a late starter violinist herself and has been a member of St Agnes Parents' String Orchestra for many years. She came to classical orchestral playing from a traditional start. She is a keen member of a chamber music group based in County Donegal. She was also a member of Mind Your Quavers Orchestra, Letterkenny, for a number of years.

Denise has a keen understanding of the particular problems of sustaining cultural and artistic projects in peripheral and disadvantaged areas of the country. Her administrative roles in the immediate future within St Agnes' Community Centre for Music & the Arts include overseeing the ongoing tuition programme within Scoil Úna Naofa for present and past pupils, as well as the range of activities within the CCMA, and the three performing ensembles attached to it, Scoil Úna Naofa Orchestra, St Agnes' Chamber Orchestra and St Agnes' Parents' String Orchestra.

She currently sits on the board of the Irish Association of Youth Orchestras and is a native Irish speaker

ORGANISATION	IAYO IRISH ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH ORCHESTRAS
WHERE	IAYO Ltd., Civic Trust House, 50 Pope's Quay, Cork, Ireland
WEBSITE	www.iayo.ie
EMAIL	info@iayo.ie
FOUNDED	1994
DIRECTOR	Allin Gray



The Irish Association of Youth Orchestras is the national support and resource organisation for youth orchestras in Ireland.

Membership of the Association is open to all Youth Orchestras in Ireland, whether linked to a school, a school of music, a college or university, or to an independent or community-based organisation.

IAYO represents over 5,000 young musicians in 108 youth orchestras in Ireland and assists in the development of youth orchestras in all parts of the country.

Allin Gray was born and educated in Cork, Allin held a variety of positions in London, including three years with the Metropolitan Police, before returning to Cork in 1995 to study at the Cork School of Music, where he graduated with an honours BMus in 2000.

On completion of his undergraduate studies, Allin took a position as administrator of IAYO. He left to pursue further studies at CIT Cork School of Music in 2003, but stayed in contact with IAYO until his return as Director in 2007.

A guitar player by trade, Allin is a musical pluralist, having performed classical, jazz, rock, folk and techno / drum and bass. He spent several years as guitar player with the Cork School of Music Jazz Big Band and has performed widely throughout Cork and Ireland.

Allin was a founding director of Opera Works Ltd which ran Cork Children's Chorus, a socially inclusive opera chorus for children in Cork city and County and also a founding director of ARTlifeCULTURE Ltd, which pursues international artistic and cultural opportunities for young people from Ireland.

In 2011, Allin received an MA in music editing at CIT Cork School of Music where he received a scholarship for editing works by Aloys Fleischmann.

Allin is Treasurer of the European Orchestra Federation (EOFed) and a recently retired board member of the International Music Council.





"I am the seed that grows the tree"

WINDSONG by Judith Nicholls , published 2018 which gave its first line as the name of a collection of 365 nature poems

*Scoil Úna Naofa Violin and Orchestra Project is a vibrant example of how local commitment, imagination, innovation and working together can create something so precious from small beginnings. Back in 2006 St. Agnes' Primary School won an **AIB Better Ireland Award** and I am delighted to learn that this kick-started what has ultimately developed into St. Agnes' Parents String Orchestra.*

Congratulations to you on your 10th anniversary and continued success in promoting your beautiful music both at home and abroad.

Colin Hunt

Chief Executive Officer

