



**2021 Maura Dowdall Competition
Final
Saturday, March 6th, 2021
7.00 pm**

The **Maura Dowdall Competition** will see six exceptional musicians compete for the **Maura Dowdall Award** of €600 and a coveted performance opportunity with the **RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra**. The **Colin Staveley Memorial Award for Strings**, kindly supported by the Staveley Family, will be awarded to the highest-placed string player.

***Presented by David Collins
Head of Woodwind, Brass and Percussion***

**Ben Gannon, oboe
Dearbhla Brosnan, piano**

**R Vaughan Williams
Oboe Concerto**

I Rondo Pastorale (Allegro moderato)

II Minuet and Musette (Allegro moderato)

III Finale (Scherzo): Presto – Doppio più lento – Lento – Presto

Irish oboist Ben Gannon made his solo début with the New York Concerti Sinfonietta in Carnegie Hall in May 2017. He has received many awards, including the 2018 Birr Lions Club Bursary and the 2020 Trench Award at the Birr Festival of Music. Ben was also a finalist in the 2019 Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2019, winning the Conrad O'Sullivan Award for the Highest Placed Woodwind Player in the Competition and Third Prize. Ben has performed throughout Northern Ireland with the Ulster Orchestra conducted by Rafael Payare. He has also performed with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra in their summer concert series. Ben has performed with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra in their mentor scheme for 2019-2020. Performances include Elgar's *Enigma Variations* conducted by Leonard Slatkin.

**Megan O'Neill, soprano
Andrew Synnott, piano**

**GF Handel
Gloria in Excelsis Deo**

Megan O'Neill is from Killarney, County Kerry. She is currently studying with Professor Mary Brennan and Dr Andrew Synnott. She completed the BMus Degree in Maynooth University in 2018 and graduated with a First Class Honours Degree. In August 2020, she completed the Masters in Music Performance Degree at the RIAM, where she received First Class Honours. She is currently pursuing the Doctor in Music Performance Degree at the RIAM. In 2019, Megan played the role of Mary Braud in the Irish première of the opera *Banished* by composer Stephen McNeff. Later in 2019, she played the role of Sirena in Francesca Caccini's opera *Alcina* at the Abbey Theatre on the Peacock stage. In November 2020, she was awarded second prize in the Irené Sandford Award for Singers. Megan is

also part of the Camerata Ireland Academy for the year 2020/2021. She will be performing the role of Jane in the world première of the film/opera *DreamCatcher* by Kevin O'Connell, in 2021.

Inana Garis, violin

Dearbhla Brosnan, piano

I Stravinsky

Violin Concerto in D Major

I Toccata

II Aria I

III Aria II

IV Capriccio

Inana Garis is a dedicated and enthusiastic student of classical music. She is always looking for the next opportunity to play and share music with others and especially enjoys performing within an orchestra and contemporary classical music. A student of Sarah Sew, Inana is currently in her final year of her bachelor's degree in violin performance and is applying for a master's degree to further her studies. In the future, she is looking forward to pursue her dream job of playing in a professional symphony orchestra and exploring any new projects or ideas that may present themselves throughout the journey.

Kieran Sharkey, bassoon

Máire Carroll, piano

H Tomasi

Trombone Concerto

I Andante et scherzo

II Nocturne

III Final: Tambourin

Kieran Sharkey is a Dublin-based Trombonist from Donegal. He began taking trombone lessons with his local brass band in Glenties, Co. Donegal at the age of 12. Kieran is a recent graduate of TU Dublin Conservatory of Music studying a Bachelor of Music in Trombone Performance under the tutelage of Mr Jonathan Clifford. He is currently studying with Christopher Nery in the Royal Irish Academy of Music on the Professional Mentorship course. Growing up Kieran has taken part and been Principal trombone in many of the orchestral/ensemble courses in Ireland including SinFoNua, Ulster Youth Orchestra, Irish Youth Wind Ensemble, Esker Festival Orchestra and Irish Youth Brass Band. In 2019, he was appointed Principal Trombone with the European Union Youth Wind Orchestra for a residential course in Luxemburg. Previously Kieran has taken part in the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra Mentoring Scheme. He has recently taken part in the Ulster Orchestra Professional Experience Scheme. Kieran has also engaged professionally with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra with performances for RTÉ Radio and Television. Solo and chamber engagements include a lunchtime recital in the Boyle Arts Festival, a solo performance with Dublin Concert Band in the National Concert Hall. In 2018, Kieran performed with TU Dublin Trombone Quartet as they won the Feis Ceoil Anchor Cup.

Eunsuh Park, bassoon

Dearbhla Brosnan, piano

CM von Weber

Bassoon Concerto in F Major Op 75

I Allegro ma non troppo

II Adagio

III Rondo: Allegro

Eunsuh Park was born in Seoul. He studied at the Yon-Sei University in South Korea and continued his studies at the University of Music and Performing Arts Stuttgart, the Hfm University of Music Saarbrücken and the University of Music Freiburg in Germany with Marc Engelhardt, Guillaume Santana and Diego Chenna. As a devoted player of orchestral music, Eunsuh was Principal Bassoon with Seoul Youth Philharmonic Orchestra and the Yong-In National Police Orchestra in South Korea. He has also performed as Guest Principal Bassoon with the Homburger Symphony Orchestra, KT Chamber Orchestra and the Freiburg Philharmonic Orchestra in Germany and South Korea. Eunsuh has joined as a member of the HFM Chamber Music with partners Guillaume Santana, Johannes Gmeinder, Ludwig Rast, Mario Blaumer and Wolfgang Harrer in Saarbrücken. Currently Eunsuh is studying for a Recital Artist Diploma at the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM) with Michael Jones.

Jisun Min, violin
Dearbhla Brosnan, piano

S Prokofiev
Violin Concerto No 1 in D major Op 19

I Andantino: Andante assai
II Scherzo: Vivacissimo
III Moderato - Allegro moderato - Moderato - Più tranquillo

Jisun Min was born and brought up in South Korea. She studied violin at KNUA (The Korea National University of Arts) in Seoul where she graduated Preliminary Conservatory, Bachelor and Master of Art. She studied with Professor Nam Yun Kim and Sun Hee Kim classes at KNUA. Jisun Min has performed as concert master of Western Symphony Orchestra, Korea Youth Symphony Orchestra, Crossover Orchestra and the Seoul Symphony Orchestra in South Korea. She was awarded the Colin Staveley Memorial Award for Strings in the 2020 Maura Dowdall Competition. She has also been interested in chamber music as a member of Piano TrioMi, SoOne Ensemble and classical Tango team with Bandoneón. She was a finalist at the 2017 International Beethoven Chamber Music Competition (Poland Luslawice, Penderecki Center), and was awarded first prizes at The Strad Competition in Seoul, and the Seoul Philharmonic Competition, and was a prizewinner of MBC Busan Music Competition. Recently, she first performed Sally Beamish's Praeludium and Allegro for Solo Violin in the presence of the composer at RIAM ChamberFest Dublin. She is currently concert master of the RIAM Philharmonia and studying for a Recital Artist Diploma of the RIAM with Professor Fionnuala Hunt.

RESULTS

Members of the Jury

Anthony Long, General Manager, RTÉ NSO
Kathleen Tynan, Head of Vocal and Opera, RIAM

The Royal Irish Academy of Music gratefully acknowledges the important support of the:

RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra
Dowdall Family
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