

# RIAM Events Programme 2025/2026



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# Director's Welcome

## At RIAM, we live in music.

It is the language through which our passionate learning community expresses itself, grows and flourishes. This year's programme is a vibrant reflection of that spirit - an invitation to witness the artistry, ambition and imagination that define our Academy.

Our students take centre stage in a rich tapestry of Competitions, Concerts, Masterclasses and Festivals, showcasing their exceptional talent and dedication. We are delighted to continue our cherished Wigmore Series Dublin, now in its third season, bringing world-class artists to Irish audiences through our valued partnership with Wigmore Hall, supported by Clinch Wealth Management. Our Dublin Piano Series highlights the brilliance of RIAM's Keyboard Faculty, whose artistry and mentorship shape the next generation of performers.

We also celebrate the achievements of our many thousands of RIAM Exams candidates across Ireland, whose musical journeys are honoured through the Spotlight Awards, sponsored by ACE Autobody. We eagerly anticipate our series of regional and Gala concerts that bring their accomplishments to local communities. These events are a joyful affirmation of RIAM's national reach and its commitment to nurturing musical excellence at every level.

The classical canon remains a cornerstone of our programming. This year, we draw inspiration from the world of fairy tales in our opera productions - stories that will enchant and challenge in equal measure. Our RIAM Philharmonia continues to thrive, welcoming new conductors and presenting premieres that push the boundaries of symphonic performance.

ChamberFest Dublin has become a beloved fixture in the city's cultural calendar, and this year promises another unforgettable celebration of intimate, expressive music-making.

We also enjoy challenging the canon, and this year's bold non-verbal opera, *When Forests Sing*, will certainly do that. A co-created work featuring RIAM students and those living with a disability, this opera is a natural boundary-pusher and is made possible with the support of Rethink Ireland.

We are proud to deepen our international collaborations, with performance projects and exchanges throughout the year involving The Juilliard School in New York, Conservatorio Claudio Monteverdi in Bolzano, Conservatorio di Milano, and HMT Leipzig. These partnerships enrich our community and broaden the artistic networks of our students, with new friendships formed that we hope will last for their lifetimes.

A huge thank you to Head of Artistic Programming Ciara Higgins and the team for the creation of the 2025/2026 Programme.

Whether you are a long-time supporter or a first-time visitor, we invite you to join us in this season of musical discovery. Come and experience the joy, the excellence, and the flourishing that defines RIAM.

**Deborah Kelleher**, Director  
**Royal Irish Academy of Music**



# Wigmore Series Dublin

An exciting performance partnership with London's Wigmore Hall, one of the world's great concert halls specialising in chamber and instrumental music, early music and song.

The 2025/2026 Wigmore Series Dublin features a celebrated roster of artists including cellist **Steven Isserlis** with pianist **Connie Shih**, violinist **Isabelle Faust** and soprano **Anna Prohaska**, the **Belcea Quartet**, the **Wigmore Soloists**, guitarist **Sean Shibe** and pianist **Jeneba Kanneh-Mason**. Over six concerts this season, audiences will enjoy a rich and engaging array of music performed by these distinguished artists in the intimate setting of the RIAM's Whyte Recital Hall.

In addition to their performances, these highly acclaimed visiting artists will engage with RIAM students in a series of masterclasses, talks and open rehearsals.

Wigmore Series Dublin is devised by John Gilhooly CBE, Artistic and Executive Director of this iconic hall.

**Presented in partnership with Clinch Wealth Management**

Supported by **The Merrion Hotel**, Accommodation Partner for the 2025/2026 Series

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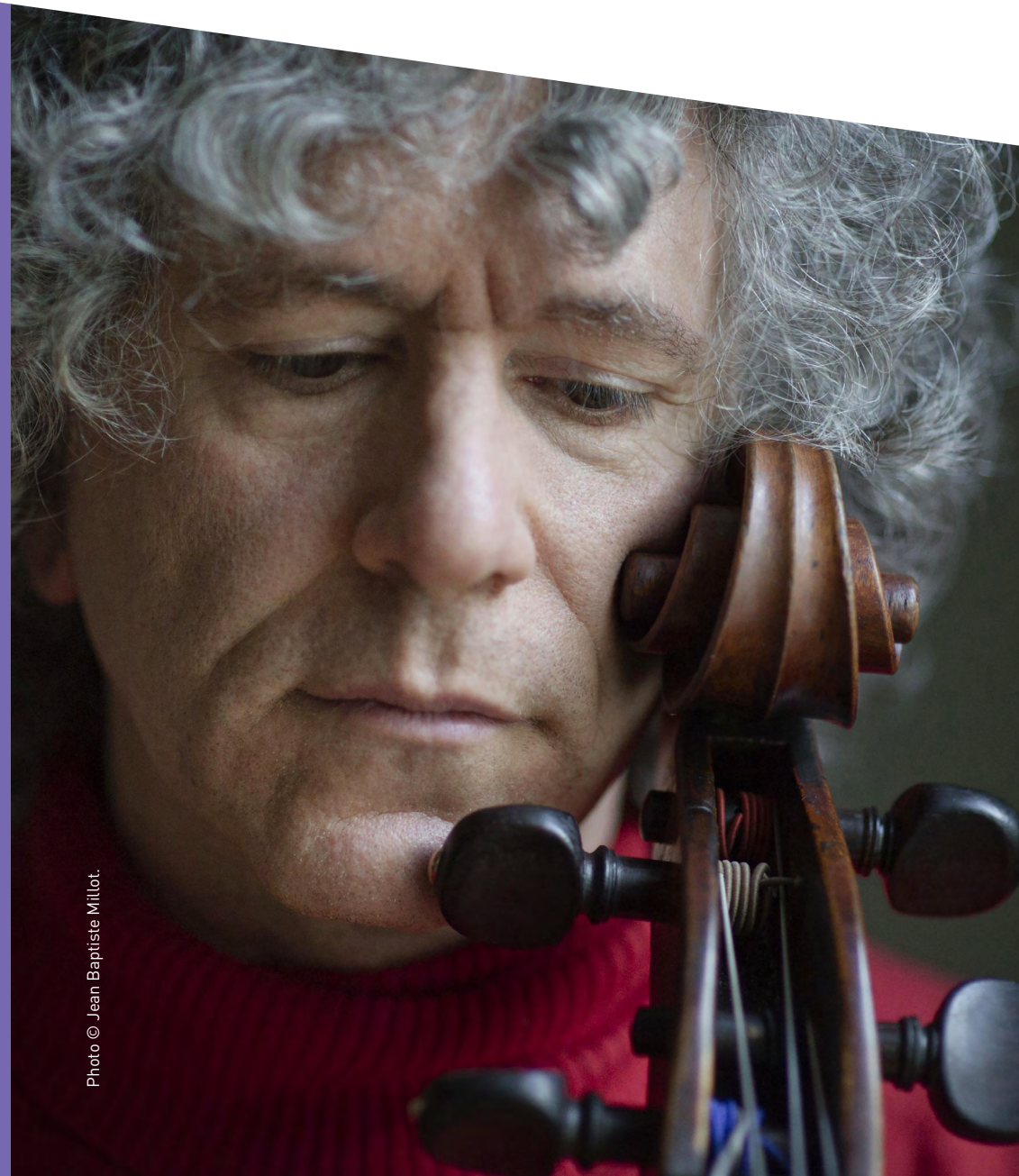


Photo © Jean Baptiste Millot.



## Jeneba Kanneh-Mason, piano

**JS Bach:** Partita No. 5 in G major, BWV 829

**Ludwig van Beethoven:** Piano Sonata in D minor, Op. 31 No. 2 'Tempest'

**Fryderyk Chopin:** Ballade No. 3 in A-flat major, Op. 47

**Fryderyk Chopin:** Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52

**William Grant Still:** 'Summerland' from Three Visions

**Claude Debussy:** La fille aux cheveux de lin (Préludes Book I) and Bruyères (Préludes Book II)

**Florence Price:** Fantasia nègre No. 1 in E minor

Pianist Jeneba Kanneh-Mason, the third youngest of the prodigiously musical and celebrated Kanneh-Mason family, makes her Irish recital début with a programme that spans the depth and colour of the piano repertoire. Born in 2002, she is a musician deeply committed to her craft, relishing the challenges of performance and recording and passionately dedicated to her audience, whether in the concert hall or via her recordings.

Jeneba enjoys a successful and increasingly busy concert career as a solo artist, with concerto appearances, solo recitals and chamber concerts throughout the UK and beyond. She also continues to perform with her siblings, including a family residency at Wigmore Hall this season, culminating in a recital in June 2026 with pianist Isata, violinist Braimah, and cellist Sheku.

**Date:** Sunday, 2nd November

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Admission:** €35/€30

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## Belcea Quartet

**Anton Webern:** Fünf Sätze, Op. 5

**Benjamin Britten:** String Quartet No. 2 in C major, Op. 36

**Ludwig van Beethoven:** String Quartet No. 16 in F major, Op. 135

Passion, coupled with precision, unheard-of expressivity and pure emotion characterise the concerts of the Belcea Quartet. With the Romanian violinist Corina Belcea, the Korean-Australian Suyeon Kang on second violin, the Polish violist Krzysztof Chorzelski and the French cellist Antoine Lederlin, four different artistic provenances meet and unite to create unique excellence.

The 1909 Five Movements for String Quartet, exquisite miniatures by Anton Webern, are performed alongside Britten's Second String Quartet, written to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the death of a composer he greatly revered - Henry Purcell, and premiered at the Wigmore Hall in November 1945. With their recordings of Beethoven's string quartets having been described by Gramophone as "single-mindedly fathoming the emotional recesses of the composer's psyche", audiences can look forward to a rousing conclusion to this concert with a truly special performance of Beethoven's magnificent last quartet.

**Date:** Sunday, 23rd November

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Admission:** €45/€40

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## Sean Shibe, lute & guitar

**Anonymous:** A selection of Scottish Lute Manuscripts

**Pierre Attaignant:** La Magdalena, L'Espoir, La Roque, Le corps s'en va and  
Cœur angoisseux

**John Dowland:** Queen Elizabeth Galliard and Frog Galliard

**JS Bach:** Cello Suite No. 1 in G major, BWV 1007

**Sofia Gubaidulina:** Serenade

**James Dillon:** 12 Caprices (Irish première)

**Thomas Adès:** Forgotten Dances

Described by Gramophone as “the most interesting voice on the guitar for a generation”, Sean Shibe continues to prove himself a truly original mind at the frontier of contemporary classical music. In the past season alone, highlights have included a residency at Wigmore Hall with four concerts across the season, a début tour with the Australian Chamber Orchestra performing Cassandra Miller’s new guitar concerto *Chanter*, and two performances at the BBC Proms, including the much-lauded world première of Mark Simpson’s *Zebra (or, 2-3-74: The Divine Invasion of Philip K Dick)*.

Often praised for his original programming, with a refreshing approach to the classical guitar canon that avoids clichés and challenges misconceptions, his Wigmore Series Dublin début sees him performing works spanning multiple centuries. Juxtaposing music for lute and guitar, he presents music sourced from the Scottish Lute Manuscripts, a selection of works compiled by Paris-based 16th-century publisher Pierre Attaignant and two elegant dances by John Dowland on lute, before moving to perform works by JS Bach, Gubaidulina and Adès on guitar.

**Date:** Wednesday, 7th January

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Admission:** €35/€30

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Photo © Iga Gozdowska.







## Isabelle Faust, violin & Anna Prohaska, soprano

**György Kurtág:** Kafka-Fragmente

Two of the world's finest artists, violinist Isabelle Faust and soprano Anna Prohaska, come together to perform György Kurtág's *Kafka-Fragmente* in the days leading up to this profoundly significant composer's 100th birthday on 19 February 2026.

Completed in 1986 and dedicated to art psychologist Marianne Stein, who helped Kurtág recover from a creative block, 'Kafka-Fragmente' sets extracts from Kafka's diaries, letters and a posthumous text. Taking the form of an intimate confession with no fixed narrative, the work explores a kaleidoscope of emotional states, humour, sensuality, desire and tenderness, expressed through the striking pairing of soprano and solo violin.

This special performance offers a rare opportunity to experience the compelling musical partnership of Faust and Prohaska, both at the height of their powers.

**Date:** Sunday, 15th February

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Admission:** €45/€40

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## Wigmore Soloists

**Carl Maria von Weber:** Introduction, Theme and Variations for Clarinet Quintet

**WA Mozart:** Clarinet Quintet in A major, K581

**Johannes Brahms:** Clarinet Quintet in B minor, Op. 115

### Wigmore Soloists

Michael Collins, clarinet

Alexander Sitkovetsky and Sini Simonen, violins

Rachel Roberts, viola

Steffan Morris, cello

To celebrate Wigmore Hall's 125th Anniversary, we are delighted to welcome Wigmore Soloists, a chamber ensemble comprising a roster of outstanding musicians, led by artistic director Michael Collins and created with Wigmore Hall's Director, John Gilhooly. Taking the name of one of the world's most iconic concert halls, the first time an ensemble has been given this honour, the group gives regular concerts at Wigmore Hall and in other major venues around the world. A long and indisputable favourite of Irish audiences, clarinettist Michael Collins' dazzling virtuosity and sensitive musicianship have earned him recognition as one of today's most distinguished soloists and leading exponent of his instrument. Together with his inspiring musical partners, he presents a programme of chamber music greats, the magnificent clarinet quintets of Mozart and Brahms, alongside Weber's charming Introduction, Theme and Variations for Clarinet Quintet.

**Date:** Thursday, 5th March

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Admission:** €45/€40

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Photo © Monika S. Jakubowska.





## Steven Isserlis, cello & Connie Shih, piano

**Ludwig van Beethoven:** 12 Variations in F major on 'Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen' from Mozart's Die Zauberflöte, Op. 66

**Robert Schumann:** Fantasiestücke, Op. 73

**Dmitri Kabalevsky:** Cello Sonata in B-flat major, Op. 71

**Vítězslava Kaprálová:** Ritournelle, Op. 25

**Ludwig van Beethoven:** Cello Sonata in A major, Op. 69 No. 3

Acclaimed worldwide for his technique and musicianship, cellist Steven Isserlis enjoys a uniquely varied career as a soloist, chamber musician, recording artist, educator, author and broadcaster. He appears with the world's leading orchestras and conductors, and gives recitals in major musical centres.

Together with Canadian pianist Connie Shih, his regular recital partner, he brings the 2025/2026 Wigmore Series Dublin to a glorious close with a truly appetising feast of musical works by Beethoven, Kabalevsky, Robert Schumann and the extremely gifted young Czech composer and conductor, Vítězslava Kaprálová.

**Date:** Sunday, 12th April

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Admission:** €65/€60

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# RIAM Opera

**Maurice Ravel: *L'enfant et les sortilèges*** (The Child and the Spells)  
**Xavier Montsalvatge: *El gato con botas*** (Puss in Boots)

**Sinéad O'Neill**, director

**David Adams and Andrew Synnott**, conductors

**Kathleen Tynan**, artistic producer

Three cats, two princesses, one china cup (broken); an owl, a bat, a nightingale and a frog; trickery, ambition, tantrums, spells – RIAM Opera's offering this year has it all. With a total of 26 roles, demanding some very starry singing, this charming double-bill is the perfect musical vehicle to display the wonderful pool of talented singers at the Academy.

Montsalvatge's *El gato con botas* is a twinkling gem, a mischievous fairy tale full of luscious, vivid music and frisky characters, whilst Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges* offers a touching glimpse of the drama and magic of everyday life for its young protagonist.

Two captivating operas bound to awaken forgotten enchantment and allowing us to dream and play and laugh like a child again.

Sung in French and Spanish with English surtitles

Presented in collaboration with IADT Dún Laoghaire

**Date:** 13th, 14th, 16th and 17th January

**Location:** Samuel Beckett Theatre, TCD

**Times:** 7.30pm (13th, 14th, 16th) and 3.00pm (17th)

**Admission:** €24/€20 conc/€12.50 RIAM Students/€8 child

**Institute of  
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# RIAM

## Philharmonia

Having welcomed distinguished maestri such as Kerem Hasan, Chloé van Soeterstède, Christian Curnyn, and Peter Whelan in recent years, this season the RIAM Philharmonia looks forward to working with Spanish conductor Daniel Perpiñán Sanchis, Grammy-nominated Irish conductor Elaine Kelly, and Irish composer/conductor and Golden Globe nominee Brian Byrne. These vibrant artists share the podium with Peter Moore, whose sensitivity, command of technique and versatility has made him one of the most exciting exponents of the trombone today.

Brahms' magnificent Second Symphony, the Irish première of works by Fazil Say and Dani Howard written during the global pandemic, the first Irish performance of María Huld Markan Sigfúsdóttir's evocative *Oceans*, and an evening of original compositions by Brian Byrne and big band arrangements from the Great American Songbook all feature on the musical menu this season.

### RIAM Philharmonia

**Peter Moore**, trombone  
**Daniel Perpiñán Sanchis**, conductor

**Dani Howard:** Trombone Concerto

*(Irish première)*

**Brahms:** Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 73

**Date:** Friday, 31st October

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Admission:** €12/€10

(€5 for Third Level Music Students)

### RIAM International Visiting Artist

We are thrilled to welcome Peter Moore as a newly appointed International Visiting Artist for a three year term, working regularly with undergraduate and postgraduate students. Moore became the youngest ever winner of BBC Young Musician in 2008 at age 12, went on to serve as Principal Trombone of the London Symphony Orchestra, and has built an acclaimed solo career marked by expressive tone, technical mastery, and advocacy for new trombone repertoire.

### RIAM Philharmonia

**Elaine Kelly**, conductor

**María Huld Markan Sigfúsdóttir:** *Oceans*

*(Irish première)*

**Fazil Say:** Symphony No. 5 *(Irish première)*

**Date:** Friday, 12th December

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Admission:** €12/€10

(€5 for Third Level Music Students)

### RIAM Philharmonia

**Brian Byrne**, director

**Brian Byrne, Big Band and RIAM Philharmonia**

**Date:** Friday, 27th February

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Admission:** €12/€10

(€5 for Third Level Music Students)

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# RIAM

## Chamber Orchestra

Led and directed by the RIAM's dynamic Head of Strings, Diane Daly, the RIAMCO brings a freshness and vibrancy to the repertoire, incorporating elements of memorisation, movement, improvisation, lighting and creative expression to enhance audience and performer experiences alike, making their performances "must see" events.

In November, the charming String Symphony No 6 in E flat Major written by the 12-year-old Mendelssohn features alongside another youthful work, and one of Elgar's personal favourites, his Serenade for Strings. Having been performed at the funerals of Franklin D Roosevelt, John F Kennedy and Albert Einstein, and the music of mourning fittingly used worldwide in the wake of 9/11, Samuel Barber's stirring Adagio for Strings is performed on this occasion with lighting and movement by the RIAM Chamber Orchestra. For their concert in January, these fun-loving and spirited musicians invite audiences to join them in a musical adventure of pure "creative chaos" where anything can happen!

### RIAM Chamber Orchestra

#### Diane Daly, director

**Mendelssohn:** String Symphony No. 6 in E-Flat Major

**Elgar:** Serenade for Strings, Op. 20

**Barber:** Adagio for Strings, Op. 11

**Date:** Friday, 28th November

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 1.05pm

**Admission:** €12/€10

(€5 for Third Level Music Students)

### RIAM Chamber Orchestra

#### Diane Daly, director

#### Creative Chaos

**Date:** Thursday, 15th January

**Location:** Vernon Studio

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Admission:** €12/€10

(€5 for Third Level Music Students)

Members of RIAM Chamber Orchestra in rehearsal 2025.  
Photo by Chris Dowdall.

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# RIAM Partnerships: International Peers

**International opportunities are vital to the development of emerging artists, offering them a chance to experience diverse musical cultures, connect with global audiences and build relationships with fellow performers and conservatoires. Performing and collaborating abroad helps young musicians refine their artistry and broaden their perspective, supporting sustainable and outward-looking careers.**

Ensembles from the Academy have proudly represented Irish classical music across the United Kingdom, Europe, North America, China, Korea and Japan, performing in some of the world's leading concert halls, such as Symphony Hall in Birmingham, Carnegie Hall in New York, the Shanghai Oriental Arts Center and the Seoul Arts Center.

This season, the Academy will deepen its international presence with further performances in the United States and a series of collaborations with leading peer conservatoires, including The Juilliard School, the "Claudio Monteverdi" Conservatory of Bolzano, the Conservatorio di Milano and the Hochschule für Musik und Theater »Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy« in Leipzig.

## THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS

**Devised by Iain Burnside and featuring singers and pianists from the Royal Irish Academy of Music and The Juilliard School**

*Do you suffer from an excess of Pride? Or is Gluttony your downfall?*

An outstanding array of young singers and pianists, under the expert stewardship of pianist Iain Burnside, take a look at the seven deadly sins in song and poetry. In a programme ranging from Wrathful Benjamin Britten to Envious Johannes Brahms, from Lustful Jake Heggie to Greedy Judith Weir, no-one can accuse these artful artists of Sloth!

Interweaving roles as pianist and award-winning broadcaster with equal aplomb, Iain Burnside is also a master programmer with an instinct for the telling juxtaposition. His previous work for the Academy, *Ten Thousand Miles Away*, *Drums and Guns*, and *Open Your Eyes and Tell Me What You See* has been described as "a triumph of ambition" (The Sunday Business Post) and "a stirring program outside of the usual" (Voce di meche).

A preview concert with Academy students in October 2025 will give audiences a chance to see this new work develop in real time, before students from The Juilliard School join us at the Academy ahead of performances in Dublin and New York in spring 2026.

**Date:** Friday, 24th October 2025 and Friday, 6th March 2026

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 1.05pm (October) and 7.30pm (March)

**Admission:** €12/€10 (October Preview) & €15/€12 (March Performance)

Juilliard

## VIVA PIANO!

**Marco Bronzi, Giorgia Alessandra Brustia, Anthony Byrne & Peter Tuite**, directors

A special collaboration between the Royal Irish Academy of Music and the “Claudio Monteverdi” Conservatory of Bolzano will see high performance students from around the world work with distinguished pedagogues from both music institutions over a two-week period in Ireland and Italy.

Concerti by JS Bach and Fryderyk Chopin will be in the spotlight, and concerts both at home in Dublin and abroad in Bolzano will afford audiences the opportunity to hear the musical fruits of these exceptional young pianists following this period of intensive and inspiring work.

Presented in partnership with the “Claudio Monteverdi” Conservatory of Bolzano

**Date:** Friday, 24th October

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Admission:** €12/€10



## REVEALING THE MESSIAH

**RIAM Chorale**

**Blánaid Murphy**, director

**Singers from the Conservatorio di Milano, Hochschule für Musik und Theater »Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy« and the Royal Irish Academy of Music**

Award-winning tenor Robin Tritschler, returning to his alma mater, joins distinguished teacher and soprano Lynda Lee to lead singers from the Conservatorio di Milano, HMT Leipzig and RIAM in a musical and textual exploration of one of the most-loved oratorios of all time, Handel's *Messiah*; first performed in Dublin's Fishamble Street on 13th April 1742.

St Ann's Church, Dawson St, a jewel in the crown of Georgian Dublin, is the elegant backdrop for this showcase concert, the culmination of a week-long musical odyssey, when the outstanding singers of the three partner music conservatoires, alongside RIAM Chorale, will perform a selection of the virtuosic arias and thrilling choruses from *Messiah*.

**Date:** Saturday, 28th February

**Location:** St Ann's Church, Dawson Street

**Time:** 7.00pm

**Admission:** €15/€12

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FÜR MUSIK UND THEATER  
»FELIX MENDELSSOHN  
BARTHOLDY«  
LEIPZIG



# Dublin Piano Series

Following the success of its inaugural season last year, the **Dublin Piano Series** returns to shine a spotlight on the Academy's renowned **Keyboard Faculty**.

Season highlights include a programme dedicated to Fryderyk Chopin, a rare performance of Bartók's exhilarating Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion, a new two-piano arrangement of Conor Linehan's Piano Concerto, and a celebration of women composers on International Women's Day 2026.

This series offers piano enthusiasts and newcomers alike the chance to experience the richness of the piano repertoire - from solo works to duets and two-piano performances - delivered by exceptional pianists who are as celebrated on the concert stage as they are in music education in Ireland.

## Sonatas

Alexander Bernstein and Lance Coburn

**Ludwig van Beethoven:** Piano Sonata in B-flat major, Op. 106 "Hammerklavier"

**Franz Liszt:** Piano Sonata in B Minor, S178/R21

**Date:** Sunday, 25th January

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 4.00pm

**Admission:** €20/€15/€8

**Early Bird:** €15/€12 Tickets available until 30th November 2025

## Bach/Bartók

David Adams, Dearbhla Brosnan, Márta Erdei, Réamonn Keary and Peter Tuite with percussionists Brian Dungan and Richard O'Donnell

**Béla Bartók:** Sonata for 2 Pianos and Percussion, BB 115/SZ 110

and a selection of JS Bach transcriptions by Ferruccio Busoni, Myra Hess, György Kurtág and Peter Tuite

**Date:** Sunday, 8th February

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 4.00pm

**Admission:** €20/€15/€8

**Early Bird:** €15/€12 Tickets available until 30th November 2025

## 2 Pianos, 4 Hands And A Little Known Tune

Alexander Bernstein, Dearbhla Brosnan, Lance Coburn, Dearbhla Collins, Márta Erdei, Réamonn Keary and Conor Linehan

**Claude Debussy:** Petite Suite

**Francis Poulenc:** Sonata for Piano 4-Hands, FP 8

**Claude Debussy:** En blanc et noir

**Francis Poulenc:** Capriccio d'après Le Bal masqué FP 155

**Errollyn Wallen:** The Girl in My Alphabet (*Irish première*)

**Conor Linehan:** Piano Concerto No. 1 arranged for Two Pianos (*world première*)

**Date:** Sunday, 22nd February

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 4.00pm

**Admission:** €20/€15/€8

**Early Bird:** €15/€12 Tickets available until 30th November 2025



# Dublin Piano Series

## International Women's Day

Dearbhla Brosnan, Dearbhla Collins, Thérèse Fahy, Réamonn Keary, and Peter Tuite

**Mel Bonis:** Femmes de légende

**Amy Beach:** A Hermit Thrush at Morn and A Hermit Thrush at Eve

**Fanny Robinson:** Four Pieces

**Joan Trimble:** Sonatina for Two Pianos

**Date:** Sunday, 8th March

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 4.00pm

**Admission:** €20/€15/€8

**Early Bird:** €15/€12 Tickets available until 30th November 2025

## Chopin Encore

Conor Linehan, Maria McGarry, Tamara Niekudow and Hugh Tinney

**Fryderyk Chopin:**

Ballade No. 1 in G minor, Op. 23

Ballade No. 2 in F major, Op. 38

Scherzo No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 31

Piano Sonata No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 35

"Marche funèbre"

and a selection of nocturnes and mazurkas from the "poet of the piano"

**Date:** Sunday, 22nd March

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 4.00pm

**Admission:** €20/€15/€8

**Early Bird:** €15/€12 Tickets available until 30th November 2025

# RIAM Masterclasses

Access to masterclasses and visiting artists is a core element of nurturing emerging artists, inspiring students with fresh perspectives, professional role models, and direct insight into the standards of international performance. Throughout the season, a selection of our International Masterclass Programme sessions will be open to the public.

Alongside each performance in the Wigmore Series Dublin, visiting artists share their expertise with Academy students through masterclasses and Q&A sessions, bringing them closer to the highest levels of artistic practice and leaving a lasting legacy within the Academy.

We also look forward to visits from, amongst others, violinists **Henning Kraggerud** and **Donald Grant**, violists **Ruth Gibson** and **Tatjana Masurenko**, mezzo-soprano **Ann Murray**, tenor **Robin Tritschler**, vocal coaches **Iain Burnside** and **Carmen Santoro**, pianists **Tiffany Poon**, **Andrew Zolinsky**, **Vanessa Latache**, and **Inna Faliksi**, flautist **Joshua Batty**, clarinettist **Michael Collins**, oboist **Emmet Byrne**, hornist **José Sogorb Jover**, trumpeter **Omar Tomasoni**, trombonist **Peter Moore**, and composers **Karen Power** and **Sam Perkin**.

Free public masterclasses will be listed on [riam.ie/whats-on](http://riam.ie/whats-on)



# RIAM

## Living (in) Music

### Improvisation with Live Electronics

Improvisation is a cornerstone of immediate musical composition, and since the 1960s, improvisation with live electronics has been an important practice. With modern computing technology capable of generating and manipulating audio like never before, musicians now have access to a sonic wonderland at their fingertips. Following an immersive week working with leading composer Jonathan Nangle, composition students will unleash their improvisatory skills making for a thrilling concert for musicians and audiences alike.

**Date:** Thursday, 23rd October

**Location:** Vernon Studio

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Admission:** Free

### All About The Bass!

Brilliant Brazilian double bassist and composer Luis Fonseca joins the Academy's bass community for a high-energy concert celebrating this magnificent instrument. Spanning multiple genres, the eclectic programme ranges from solo works to a full double bass orchestra — a performance not to be missed.

**Date:** Tuesday, 11th November

**Location:** Vernon Studio

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Admission:** €8/€5

### When Forests Sing (world première)

**Karen Power, composer**

**When Forests Sing, an inclusive, co-created opera led by the Royal Irish Academy of Music and composer Karen Power.**

Bringing together disabled and non-disabled musicians from across Ireland, this groundbreaking project centres on collaboration, with participants including members of the Open Youth Orchestra of Ireland (OYOI), Ireland's first inclusive ensemble for young musicians with disabilities, and students from the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Together they will form a large-scale ensemble of singers and technological instrumentalists and choirs, accompanied by immersive soundscapes drawn from forest environments. Integrating these natural soundscapes with environmental themes, the project seeks to redefine opera through accessibility, technology, and artistic excellence.

Receiving its world première in December 2025, this pioneering co-creative opera will become the second RIAM co-created composition added to the National Library of Ireland's National Collection.

Funded by Rethink Ireland Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 3.0.

**Date:** Saturday, 13th December

**Location:** Samuel Beckett Theatre, TCD

**Time:** 6.00pm

**Admission:** €15/€12

**RETHINK  
IRELAND**



## New Music for String Quartet

Following a period of work with one of Ireland's foremost contemporary composers, Kevin O'Connell, and the Ora Quartet, RIAM composition students are proud to present the first performances of new works for string quartet in the Royal Irish Academy of Music.

**Date:** Tuesday, 13th January

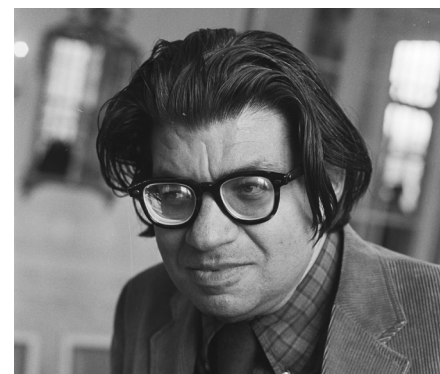
**Location:** Royal Irish Academy of Music

**Time:** 6.00pm

**Admission:** Free



Violinist Hannah O'Shea performing at ChamberFest Dublin  
Photo by Chris Dowdall



## Morton Feldman 100!

To mark the centenary of pioneering American composer Morton Feldman, Andrew Zolinsky, Professor of Piano at London's Royal College of Music, will lead piano and composition students in an immersive week at the Academy exploring Feldman's creative legacy.

The week will be book-ended with two recitals in which music by Feldman, a number of other composers, and RIAM composition students will feature.

## Andrew Zolinsky Piano Recital

**Feldman:** Extensions 3 (1952)

**Scriabin:** Deux Morceaux Op. 57

**Debussy:** Cloches à travers les feuilles (Images, Book II)

**Karen Tanaka:** Crystalline (1988)

**Linda Caitlin Smith:** Chorale II and Nocturne II from Nocturnes and Chorales (2014)

**Feldman:** Palais de Mari (1986)

**Date:** Monday, 23rd February

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Times:** 7.30pm

**Admission:** €20/€15/€8

## Piano and Composition Recital by RIAM Students

**Date:** Friday, 27th February

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Times:** 1.05pm

**Admission:** Free

# ChamberFest Dublin

**One of the Royal Irish Academy of Music's flagship events, ChamberFest Dublin returns for another jam-packed season of performances across the Academy's state-of-the-art campus on Westland Row from Monday, 27th April to Friday, 9th May.**

Founded in 2019 by RIAM Head of Chamber Music, Sarah Sew, ChamberFest Dublin is rooted in the Academy's ambition to provide high quality and meaningful performance experiences for students. In today's constantly evolving music world, collaboration and inventive exploration are vital skills for the next generation of musicians, and in the programming of ChamberFest Dublin 2026, students play a key role in forming their own chamber groups, researching and choosing repertoire.

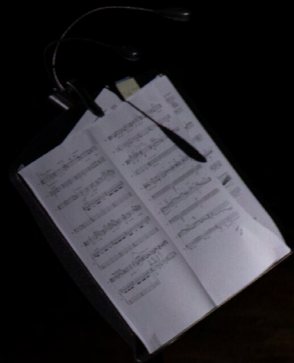
An ambitious and stimulating festival affording chamber music lovers a myriad of opportunities to feast on a rich musical menu and experience the RIAM's vibrant pool of talented artists.

**Date:** Monday, 27th April to Friday, 9th May

**Location:** Check [riam.ie](http://riam.ie) for details

**Times:** Check [riam.ie](http://riam.ie) for details

**Admission:** €5/Students go free



Tuba player Adam Buttiner performing with ChamberFest visiting artist, violinist/composer Garth Knox  
Photo by Chris Dowdall.



# RIAM Exams Spotlight Awards

The RIAM Spotlight Awards, in partnership with Ace Autobody, celebrate the remarkable achievements of the many thousands of music and drama students who take part in RIAM Exams each year. From budding artists to seasoned performers, the Awards honour not only exceptional talent but also the personal growth and creativity shown in overcoming challenges.

Through annual provincial concerts, culminating in a Gala Concert in the Whyte Recital Hall at RIAM, the Spotlight Awards shine a light on the artistry and innovation of students nationwide while supporting creativity and cultural expression across the RIAM community. In the company of family, friends, peers, and special musical guests, these inspiring performers are given a platform to share their gifts.

Presented in partnership with

**ACE AUTOBODY**  
The Collision Repair Specialists

## Connacht/Ulster Concert

**Date:** Saturday, 1st November

**Location:** Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon

**Time:** 3.00pm

**Admission:** Free

## Munster Concert

**Date:** Sunday, 2nd November

**Location:** Glór, Ennis

**Time:** 3.00pm

**Admission:** Free

## Dublin Concert

**Date:** Sunday, 16th November

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall, Dublin

**Time:** 3.00pm

**Admission:** Free

## Leinster Concert

**Date:** Sunday, 30th November

**Location:** VISUAL, Carlow

**Time:** 3.00pm

**Admission:** Free

## Gala Concert

**Date:** Monday, 15th December

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall, Dublin

**Time:** 7.00pm

**Admission:** Free

RIAM Spotlight Award winner Alice O'Leary. Photo by Barry Cronin-





# RIAM Competitions

Throughout the year, a large body of our talented student population will compete for a number of coveted bursaries, awards, competitions and scholarship opportunities generously supported by a number of individuals and organisations.

A wonderful bird's-eye view of the wealth of emerging talent at the Academy.

## Irené Sandford Award for Singers

Boasting a roster of distinguished laureates including Claudia Boyle, Naomi O'Connell, and Sarah Brady, the Irené Sandford Award for Singers is an exciting opportunity to hear some of Ireland's finest emerging singers compete for this coveted title. Commemorating this much-loved singer and former Head of Vocal Studies at the RIAM, the award of €3,000 is generously donated by her husband, Billy Reid.

**Date:** Monday, 10th November

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 7.00pm

**Admission:** Free

## RIAM Junior Solo Competition

Supported by the Dublin Philharmonic Society, a circle of music-loving friends dedicated to giving outstanding young musicians the chance to perform for a live audience and develop their presentation skills, the Dublin Philharmonic Prize honours the Society's visionary founder, the late Vincent O'Neill, and showcases the artistry of RIAM's Junior Academy students.

**Date:** Friday, 28th November

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 7.00pm

**Admission:** Free

## Dr Marie McCormack Bursary for Wind, Brass and Percussion

The Dr Marie McCormack Competition for Wind, Brass and Percussion provides a platform to identify, assist, and further develop aspiring artists who demonstrate exceptional performance potential and innate musicality. Two prizes of €1,000 are generously sponsored by Helen and Christopher McCormack in their mother's name.

**Date:** Wednesday, 10th December

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 7.00pm

**Admission:** Free





Mezzo-Soprano Emma Power performing at the NSO | Maura Dowdall Award Concert. Photo by Chris Dowdall.

# RIAM Competitions

## Ursula Uí Chuinneagáin Bursary for Young Pianists

Sponsored by her son, Luke Ó Cuinneagáin, this exciting bursary for aspiring young pianists celebrates Ursula Uí Chuinneagáin's contribution to the music landscape in Ireland and her family's long-standing association with the Academy.

**Date:** Tuesday, 16th December

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 7.00pm

**Admission:** Free

## PianoFest

A week-long feast of piano playing at RIAM as students of the Academy compete in numerous competitions across all ages and repertoire.

**Date:** 16th to 21st February

**Location:** Various Venues

**Time:** Various Times

**Admission:** Free

## Maura Dowdall Award

Tertiary students of RIAM compete for a coveted concerto performance opportunity with the National Symphony Orchestra Ireland and the Maura Dowdall Award of €1,000 presented by the Dowdall family, in addition to the Colin Staveley Memorial Prize for Strings donated by the Staveley family.

**Date:** Wednesday, 18th February

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 7.00pm

**Admission:** Free

## John Pollard Competition for Young String Players

The John Pollard Competition for Young String Players identifies, financially assists and develops the potential of exceptional young string players with two valuable prizes – the John Pollard Award of €2,000 for an outstanding violinist or violist and the Stephen Vernon Award of €2,000 for an outstanding cellist or double bass player.

**Date:** Wednesday, 4th March

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 7.00pm

**Admission:** Free





Sulamita Pyovon winner of the 2025 Teissier Scholarship.  
Photo © Leo Byrne.

# RIAM Competitions

## Lucien and Maura Teissier Scholarship

The prestigious Lucien and Maura Teissier Scholarship, donated by Maura Teissier FRIAM, sees exceptional pianists from RIAM's Keyboard Faculty compete for one of Ireland's most substantial music awards before a distinguished jury.

**Date:** Thursday, 19th March  
**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall  
**Time:** 7.00pm  
**Admission:** Free

## Maeve Broderick Prize for Strings

An exciting competition offering for RIAM string students honours one of the Academy's most beloved and esteemed teachers, violinist Maeve Broderick.

In addition to the title prize, a number of special prizes celebrating audience engagement, creative programming, virtuosic repertoire, the solo works of JS Bach and music by underrepresented composers are also awarded.

**Date:** Wednesday, 25th March  
**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall  
**Time:** 7.00pm  
**Admission:** Free



Banshee Brass - Photo © Leo Byrne

# RIAM Undergraduate & Postgraduate Open Day

Sunday, 9th November, 2.00pm

## Live in Music at Ireland's National Conservatoire

Home to many of the country's finest musicians, teachers, and industry leaders, The Royal Irish Academy of Music also welcomes hundreds of ambitious Irish and international students each year, each on their own pathway to becoming professional performers and educators.

At RIAM, we take pride in knowing our students as individuals and nurturing them to flourish in the music career they aspire to.

Join us for our Undergraduate & Postgraduate Open Day to explore our state-of-the-art campus on Westland Row, meet our exceptional faculty and students, and discover what life at 'the Academy' could mean for you.

Register at [www.riam.ie/openday](http://www.riam.ie/openday)



# RIAM

## Young Artists

Students on the Young Artist Programme are high-potential musicians who are nurtured through additional performance opportunities, high-performance coaching, and lessons with expert faculty in a shared commitment to living in music.

The Young Artist concert series affords audiences a wonderful opportunity to delve into the storehouse of talent that lodges in the Royal Irish Academy of Music. As part of our ongoing collaboration with the Office of Public Works, we return once again to the spectacular Farmleigh House on St. Cecilia's Day in November. Meanwhile, at home on Westland Row we are delighted to present a veritable banquet of music by a selection of students on this immersive music education programme.

### Young Artists at Farmleigh

**Date:** Saturday, 22nd November

**Location:** Farmleigh House

**Time:** 8.00pm

**Admission:** €20

### Young Artists at RIAM

**Date:** Fridays 12th December,  
6th, 13th and 20th February

**Location:** Vernon Studio

**Time:** 6.00pm

**Admission:** Free

RIAM Young Artist Louise Byrne. Photo by Barry Cronin.



# RIAM

## Junior Academy

### Junior RIAM Platform Concerts

A series of Sunday concerts featuring a host of musicians from Junior RIAM performing a tasty menu of musical treats.

**Date:** Sundays 23rd November, 15th

February, 1st March, 12th April & 10th May

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** Various times

**Admission:** Free

### Junior RIAM Performing Groups Christmas Concert

**Date:** Sunday, 21st December

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 12.00 noon and 3.30pm

**Admission:** €12.50/€7.50

### Open Day for Individual Lessons and Choirs

Experience a bird's-eye view of life at Ireland's oldest music conservatoire at this open day for students aged 8–17.

Visitors can tour the campus, meet our teaching faculty, discover ensembles and choirs, and gain practical advice on starting their musical journey at the Academy.

**Date:** Sunday, 18th January

**Location:** Royal Irish Academy of Music

**Time:** 1.00pm to 4.00pm

**Admission:** Free

### Open Day for Early Years Training

Enjoy a lively afternoon exploring our Early Years Training Programmes, designed for children aged 4–8.

Families can experience group classes first-hand through instrument try-outs, pop-up performances, and demonstration lessons led by our talented students and teachers, discovering the joy of living in music from the earliest years.

**Date:** Sunday, 1st March

**Location:** Royal Irish Academy of Music

**Time:** 1.00pm to 4.00pm

**Admission:** Free

### Junior RIAM Performing Groups Spring Concert

**Date:** Sunday, 29th March

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 12.00 noon and 3.30pm

**Admission:** €12.50/€7.50

### Junior RIAM Performing Groups Summer Concert

**Date:** Sunday, 24th May

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 12.00 noon & 3.30pm

**Admission:** €12.50/€7.50



# RIAM

## Partnerships

### Tiffany Poon: Nature

Following her sensational Irish début at the Whyte Recital Hall in 2024, we are delighted to welcome pianist Tiffany Poon back to the Academy for a programme rooted in nature.

Having enjoyed international acclaim with her first recording, *Diaries*, Tiffany returns with *Nature*, an album that explores the evocative power of French music in capturing the beauty of the natural world from the delicate shimmer of water to the quiet mysteries of the forest and the animals found within. The international release of this stunning new recording takes place on 7th November, making this performance at the Academy an extra special occasion.

**Date:** Friday, 7th November  
**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall  
**Time:** 7.30pm  
**Admission:** €20/€15/€8

### An Evening with Brian Byrne

Brian Byrne Jazz Quintet with special guest Ryan Quigley and guest singer William Byrne

In addition to his exciting collaboration with the RIAM Philharmonia, Brian Byrne partners with the Academy in the presentation of an intimate evening of standards and new original songs from the pen of this most prolific of Irish composers, now based in LA.

Having collaborated with such musical luminaries as Katy Perry, Bono and Pink and composed and conducted original songs for Barbra Streisand, Josh Groban, Alanis Morissette, Kelly Clarkson and Sinead O' Connor, this special evening at the Academy features songs from his James Joyce inspired *Goldenhair* and his latest album project *Silence to Song*.

**Date:** Wednesday, 25th February  
**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall  
**Time:** 7.30pm  
**Admission:** €20/€15/€8

### EMPOWER at RIAM marking International Women's Day

EMPOWER: Women Changing Music, an initiative founded in 2021 by musicians Sinéad Walsh and Hannah Seymour, showcases female composers and musicians with a programme comprising short cross-genre musical performances, a wide variety of music solely by female composers, and panel discussions featuring distinguished women who share their experiences of being a woman in music.

International Women's Day at RIAM also includes a relaxed family concert in the afternoon.

Presented in partnership with EMPOWER

**Date:** Sunday, 8th March  
**Location:** Royal Irish Academy of Music  
**Time:** 2.00pm & 7.30pm  
**Admission:** Pay what you can

### RIAM Prizewinners at Farmleigh

The official Irish State guest house provides the picturesque backdrop for an outstanding concert featuring prizewinners from our annual performance competitions. Performers will include laureates of the Maura Dowdall Competition, Lucien and Maura Teissier Scholarship, Irené Sandford Award for Singers, Maeve Broderick Prize for String Players, and the Ursula Uí Chuinneagáin, Junior Solo, Dr Marie McCormack, and John Pollard Awards.

Presented in partnership with Farmleigh & the Office of Public Works

**Date:** Saturday, 25th April  
**Location:** Farmleigh House  
**Time:** 7.30pm  
**Admission:** €20



**OPW**

# RIAM

## Lifelong Learning

### Adult Division

Adult Lessons at RIAM cater to a wide range of experience levels, from those taking their first steps in music to seasoned performers looking to deepen their artistry. Beginners are nurtured in a supportive environment where foundational skills and musical confidence are built, while more advanced players can engage in focused study of technique, musicianship, and artistic expression. All lessons are taught in small groups by experienced teachers, offering both personal guidance and the benefits of collaborative learning.

### Professional Academy

RIAM Professional Academy courses offer focused learning opportunities for music professionals, covering contemporary pedagogical topics and practical teaching and performance skills, helping participants stay up-to-date with the latest developments in music education and performance.

### Discovery & Learning

Discovery & Learning at RIAM invites curious minds to explore music and the arts through short, accessible courses designed for adult learners. Led by expert tutors, these engaging sessions offer fresh perspectives on a wide range of topics, from music history and cultural traditions to contemporary artistic practices. Whether a newcomer or a lifelong music lover, each course encourages active listening, reflection, and discussion in a welcoming environment that values curiosity, conversation, and community.

### Wellness

Wellness programmes and courses harness the power of music to uplift and transform, offering enriching experiences that nourish the mind, body, and soul. Whether through mindful listening, group music-making, or therapeutic sessions, participants find connection, creativity, and calm in a musical environment designed for personal wellbeing and joy.

Current courses and lessons are listed on [riam.ie/short-courses](http://riam.ie/short-courses)

### An Evening with Adult Division

RIAM Lifelong Learning presents two end-of-term concerts in the Whyte Recital Hall, showcasing participants from Group Classes and the Well Sing Choirs. These concerts mark the close of the Autumn and Spring Terms with a celebration of music and song by members of the RIAM Adult Division.

**Date:** Thursday 27 November and  
Wednesday 8th April

**Location:** Whyte Recital Hall

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Admission:** Free



RIAM Well Sing Choir.  
Photo by Gary Collins.



# How to book

## Box Office

### Telephone

1800 77 2222 or +353 1 6325 350

Monday–Friday: 10.00am–5.00pm

### Online

[riam.ie/whats-on](https://riam.ie/whats-on)

### Email (enquiries only)

[boxoffice@riam.ie](mailto:boxoffice@riam.ie)

**There is a non-refundable €1.50 administration charge for each ticket.**

### Tickets for Concessions

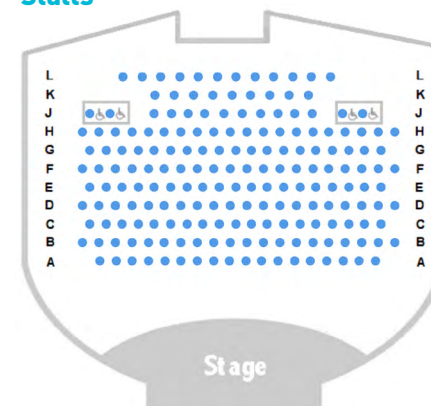
Where concession prices are listed, these are available to students, senior citizens and the unemployed.

### Disabled Access and Booking

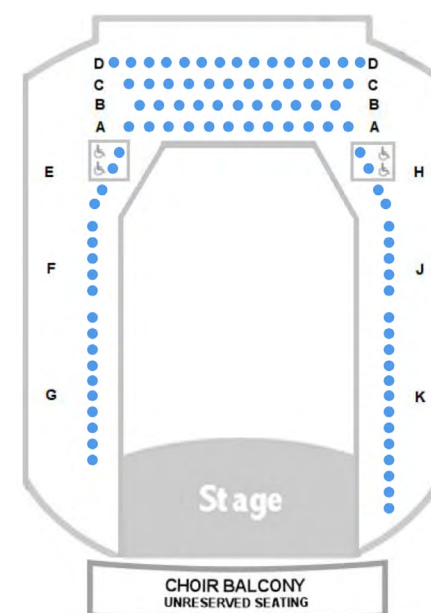
The Whyte Recital Hall at RIAM is fully accessible. For accessibility bookings, including wheelchair spaces, email [boxoffice@riam.ie](mailto:boxoffice@riam.ie) or call +353 1 6325 350.

## Whyte Recital Hall Seating

### Stalls



### Balcony



# NAME A SEAT Become part of our history

**What better way to honour a family member, a loved one with a passion for music, or indeed your own love of music, than by sponsoring a seat in the Whyte Recital Hall?**

Become part of RIAM's history with a personalised seat inscription that will last the lifetime of the hall. For a one-off gift of €1,250 you can name one of the few remaining seats and join the 200+ *Inspiring Futures Seat Holders* who have made a personal contribution to become part of the 'jewel-in-the-crown' of the new RIAM campus.

Scan the QR code to view the few remaining seats or contact:  
Adam Kendellen, Development Executive  
[adamkendellen@riam.ie](mailto:adamkendellen@riam.ie)





**RIAM**  
Royal Irish  
Academy of Music

# BECOME A FRIEND OR TRANSFORMATIONAL PATRON

## BE PART OF OUR MUSICAL JOURNEY

By coming on board as a RIAM Friend or Transformational Patron, you can help our dedicated students realise their true potential and improve access to music education in Ireland. The support of Friends and Transformational Patrons goes directly to RIAM's Student Scholarship Fund.

### RIAM Friends

Dolce Friend €125 p.a.  
Cantabile Friend €300 p.a.  
Vivace Friend €500 p.a.  
Brilliant Friend €1,000 p.a.

### RIAM Transformational Patron

Adagio Patron €2,500 p.a.  
Andante Patron €5,000 p.a.  
Allegro Patron €10,000 p.a.  
Allegretto Patron €25,000 p.a.

To learn more about becoming a RIAM Friend please contact:  
**Adam Kendellen | adamkendellen@riam.ie | 01 632 5390**

For more info on Transformational Patron and how your support can have a transformative impact on the lives of some of our students, please contact:

**John Mc Evoy | Head of Development | johnmcevoy@riam.ie | 086 2488663**

## Supporting Us

### FUNDERS

The Royal Irish Academy of Music acknowledges the significant financial support of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science



An Roinn Breisoidreachais agus Ardoidreachais,  
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