

September 2025

# Irish Chamber Orchestra

Richard Egarr Conductor

## Water Music



Dublin, Clifden and Limerick.



IRISH  
CHAMBER  
ORCHESTRA

[irishchamberorchestra.com](http://irishchamberorchestra.com)

arts  
council  
í chomhairle  
ealaíon



# The Arts Council

## More People, More Places, More Spaces

The Arts Council is the national agency for funding, developing and promoting the arts in Ireland. It was established by statute in 1951. The Arts Act 2003 provides that the Arts Council stimulates public interest, promotes knowledge, appreciation and practice and assists in improving standards in the arts. The Arts Council is an autonomous expert body for funding and promoting the arts, steering its development, and offering advice on arts and cultural matters.

The Arts Council's objective over the next three years is to nurture, support and fund More People, More Place and More Spaces across the country. We want to work alongside artists, arts organisations and partners to develop practices, strengthen capacity and audience engagement. This supports professional development, innovation and adaptability.

We are also implementing and monitoring our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy. This will make sure that the arts sector and the Arts Council support a greater diversity of audiences, participants and artists.

The Arts Council proudly funds Irish Chamber Orchestra.

September 2025



**Richard Egarr** Conductor

# Water Music

**Deirdre McKay** Meltwater

**Handel** Water Music

**Thursday 18 September**

Whyte Recital Hall, RIAM, Dublin

**Friday 19 September**

St. Joseph's Church, Clifden, Galway

**Saturday 20 September**

University Concert Hall, Limerick



# Irish Chamber Orchestra

We're the orchestra that invites you in. That saves you a seat. That wants you to feel the same heart-stirring, hair-raising, on-the-edge-of-your-seat feelings that we feel. We do so by pouring heart, soul, and no small measure of skill into our art. By playing old, by playing new, by playing everything with guts and fire.

You'll find us each season in **Limerick and Dublin**, touring regularly in the far corners of Ireland, as well as at some of the most prestigious halls in the world. From playing the classics, to performing with theatres, operas, DJs, or dance companies, we forge new pathways to bring you unforgettable experiences, whoever you are, wherever you are.

We are not afraid to push the boundaries of classical music. Since joining us as Principal Conductor and Artistic Partner in August 2025, **Henning Krägerud** has brought a fresh warmth and an adventurous spirit to our work, championing artistic diversity and placing emotional connection at the heart of every performance. His inclusive vision is reshaping our repertoire, inspiring bold new commissions from some of Ireland's finest composers and offering vibrant, human-centred interpretations of the classics.

Most importantly, we believe that music is for everyone. That's why we're also a charity, with a series of successful community engagement programmes. After 16 years, our **ICO Schools** initiative continues to provide valuable free music lessons to children and young people in Limerick City while our **ICO Youth** provides an orchestral platform for teenagers. **ICO Teach**, our online tutorial website gives tutors and children access to free, outstanding music education, worldwide. We are also deeply immersed in the **MA Classical Strings Programme** at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at the University of Limerick, where we are proud to be orchestra-in-residence.

It's our rich creative musical heritage that inspires us. It's our unstoppable enthusiasm for what we do, and the people we do it with. As Ireland's national chamber orchestra, we are lucky to call the **University of Limerick** home and are funded by The **Arts Council of Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon**.

Whether it's your first time or your hundredth time, we are the Irish Chamber Orchestra, and you are in for a treat.

## See upcoming events — we've saved you a seat!

[irishchamberorchestra.com](http://irishchamberorchestra.com)



## Violin

Joel Bardolet Guest Leader  
Nicola Sweeney  
Diane Daly  
Anna Cashell  
Oonagh Keogh

André Swanepoel Principal 2<sup>nd</sup> Violin  
Louis Roden  
Emily Nenniger  
Kenneth Rice  
Maria Ryan

## Viola

Joachim Roewer Principal  
Christine Anderson  
Robin Panter  
Mark Coates-Smith

## Cello

Aoife NicAthlaoich Principal  
Peggy Nolan  
Richard Angell

## Double Bass

Malachy Robinson Principal

## Flute

Fiona Kelly

## Oboe

James Hulme  
Matthew Draper

## Bassoon

Ide Ní Chonail

## Horn

Hannah Miller  
Louise Sullivan

## Trumpet

Colm Byrne  
David Collins

## Board of Directors/Executive

Aibhlín McCrann Chair  
Gareth Byrne  
Tom Gallagher  
Caroline Grant  
Evelyn Grant  
Ger Holliday  
Sara Moorhead  
Gearóid Stanley

## Chief Executive

Gerard Keenan

## Deputy CEO/Operations

Cathriona Murphy

## Artistic Adviser

Ronan Tighe

## Communications

Charlotte Eglington

## Education

Simon Thompson

## Finance/Governance

Margaret Kelly

## Marketing

Michelle Buckley



## Richard Egarr Conductor

Since 2019 Richard has been Principal Guest of the Residentie Orkest and Artistic Partner of the St Paul Chamber. He was Music Director (now Laureate) of the Philharmonia Baroque 2020-2024, Music Director of the Academy of Ancient Music 2005-2020, and Associate Artist with the Scottish Chamber 2011-2017. He straddles the worlds of historically-informed and modern symphonic performance and has conducted many leading symphony orchestras, notably the London Symphony, Royal Concertgebouw and Philadelphia orchestras. He made his Glyndebourne debut in 2007 and conducted opera cycles of Monteverdi, Purcell and Mozart with AAM at the Barbican; Handel oratorios lie at the heart of his repertoire.

In **2025/26**, he conducts the Sao Paulo Symphony, Belgian National and NDR Radiophilharmonie, the latter in Bach's St John's Passion with the NDR Vokalensemble. He also leads the Chicago Baroque, Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century and tours the Netherlands with Netherlands Bach Society in Bach's B minor Mass. Highlights this season with the Residentie Orkest include the Brahms Violin concerto with Bomsori Kim, and with the St Paul Chamber a programme of John Adams and George Butterworth sung by Roderick Williams.

As half of Duo Pleyel, Egarr regularly plays four-hands repertoire with his wife Alexandra Nepomnyashchaya; they have released 4 acclaimed albums on Linn – Mozart/JC Bach, Dussek, Schubert and a compilation of Yuletide favourites – with a project to record all Beethoven Symphonies in arrangements by Czerny for the composer's anniversary year in 2027. Egarr is noted for his many solo harpsichord recitals over the years, notably at the Wigmore Hall and Carnegie Hall.

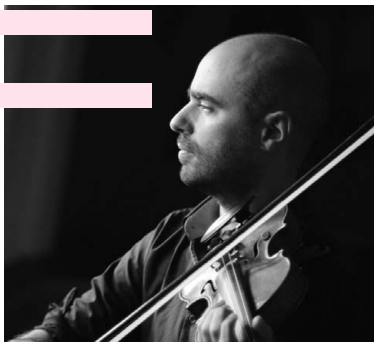
Egarr's extensive discography includes solo keyboard works by Byrd and Sweelinck on Linn, and by Bach, Handel, Mozart and Couperin on Harmonia Mundi. His long list of recordings with the Academy of Ancient Music includes several award-winning Handel discs (2007 Gramophone Award, 2009 MIDEM and Edison awards) and both JS Bach's Passions. His world premiere recording on AAM Records of Dussek's Messe Solennelle won the Gramophone Best Choral Recording 2021.

Egarr trained as a choirboy at York Minster; at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester, and as organ scholar at Clare College Cambridge. His studies with Gustav and Marie Leonhardt further inspired his work in the field of historical performance. He taught for many years at the Amsterdam Conservatoire and was Visiting Professor at the Juilliard School for over 10 years.





Joel Bardolet



## Joel Bardolet

### Guest Leader

Joel Bardolet, a distinguished violinist from Vigo, has earned recognition across Europe for his innovative interpretations, emotional depth, and refined technique. A sought-after concertmaster and soloist, he is admired for creating immersive performances shaped by rhythmic precision, intention, and openness.

His early passion for the violin led to studies in Catalonia, Germany, and Switzerland with renowned mentors, giving him a rich understanding of varied musical traditions. This diversity informs his work, from classical repertoire to contemporary premieres. He has appeared as soloist with the Vienna Chamber Orchestra, Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, and Basel Chamber Orchestra, receiving acclaim for interpretations of Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms.

Bardolet is equally dedicated to modern music, collaborating with living composers to expand the violin's expressive possibilities. His performances of new works display the same rigor and passion as his classical interpretations.

Committed to education, he regularly offers masterclasses and workshops, encouraging young musicians to develop their own artistic voices. His influence thus extends beyond the concert stage, shaping the next generation.

A highlight of his career is his presence at Denmark's Klassisk Sommer Festival, where his technically brilliant and emotionally charged performances are highly anticipated. He is also a founding member of the Fortuny Trio, alongside cellist Pau Codina and pianist Marc Heredia. The ensemble is praised for its unity and breadth of repertoire, spanning masterworks to contemporary compositions.

Through performance, collaboration, and teaching, Joel Bardolet continues to make a significant impact on the classical music world, bringing passion, versatility, and a distinctive artistic voice to audiences and fellow musicians alike.

Deirdre McKay



## Deirdre McKay

### Composer

Originally from rural County Down, Deirdre McKay's music has been widely performed at leading venues including London's Southbank Centre and Wigmore Hall, The Phillips Collection in Washington, Amsterdam's Muziekgebouw, Orléans Concours International, Gothenburg International Chamber Music Festival, National Sawdust in Brooklyn, Dublin's National Concert Hall, and New York's Symphony Space and Carnegie Hall.

Her distinctive voice has earned numerous accolades, including a Director's Choice Award from Boston Metro Opera's International Composers' Competition, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's Major Individual Artist Award, and the prestigious Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award for Composers in 2018. In 2023, her work represented Ireland at the ISCM World New Music Days in Cape Town.

Recent performances include *Ash*, commissioned by the Dublin International Piano Competition and performed by Danny Driver at Oxford's Smorgaschord Festival; *Litany to the Magdalene Dead*, commissioned and premiered by Deirdre Brenner with Lotte Betts-Dean at the West Cork Chamber Music Festival; and *The Owl*, a setting of Seamus Heaney for The Fidelio Trio and Daire Halpin, commissioned by GlasDrum.

Deirdre's music has been commissioned and performed by Northern Ireland Opera, State Choir Latvia, BBC Singers, Chamber Choir Ireland, Irish Chamber Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra, and the Crash Ensemble, among many others. Her collaborators include internationally renowned soloists and ensembles across Europe and North America.

She studied at Queen's University Belfast and the University of Manchester, supported by a British Academy Award, completing her doctorate with Piers Hellawell, and later studying privately with Kevin Volans. Her music has featured in films by Des Bell, and is available on the Métier, Loreit, Diatribe, and RTE Lyric FM labels, with broadcasts by BBC Radio Deutschlandradio Kultur, WNYC, and WQXR.

# Irish Chamber Orchestra

Celebrating 30 Years in Limerick (1995–2025)  
Three decades, one orchestra and world of music...

In October 2025, the Irish **Chamber Orchestra (ICO)** proudly celebrates **30 years in Limerick**, a city that has been and is our creative home, our stage, and our inspiration.

Since arriving at the **University of Limerick** in 1995, we have become one of the world's most dynamic and daring chamber orchestras. From Castlebar to Carnegie Hall, from Kilkenny to Korea, we've shared our music with the world, while remaining deeply imbedded in our local community.

We perform everything with heart, soul, and fire, playing the old, the new, and everything in between. With world-class artists and visionary programming, we bring you unforgettable performances, right here in Limerick.

Our award-winning education programmes reach over **500 young people** each year. **ICO Schools** provide free music lessons in local schools while our **ICO Youth Orchestra** continue to make waves at home and finally, our innovative online **ICO Teach** platform, ensures that our music is accessible to all, everywhere.

Supported by the **Arts Council of Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon**, we proudly call the University of Limerick home. In 2008, we opened our own purpose-built studio on campus, a state-of-the-art creative hub for rehearsal, recording, and community.

As we celebrate 30 years in Limerick, we invite you to be part of our next chapter. Experience the thrill of live music, the joy of learning, and the power of creativity.

This is your orchestra.  
Welcome in.





Irish Chamber Orchestra and  
Irish Chamber Orchestra Youth Orchestra

# 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Concert

**Henning Kraggerud**

Director/Violin

**Micheál Ó Súilleabháin**  
Crispy (Must be more)

**Piazzolla**  
Oblivion

**Sam Perkin**  
Inspirit

**Atterberg**  
Suite No.3, Op.19, No.1 For Solo Violin and Viola

**Grieg**  
String Quartet G minor, Op.27

**Celebrate the past,  
ignite the future!**

Celebrate 30 years of music, magic, and memories with us here in Limerick. Led by the incredible **Henning Kraggerud** (Director/Violin) and joined by special guests **Niall Vallely** (concertina) and **Mel Mercier** (percussion), this show bursts with energy, rhythm, and heart.



Feel the joy in **Micheál Ó Súilleabháin's** (Must Be More) Crispy, the beauty of **Piazzolla's** Oblivion, and the thrill of the **ICO Youth Orchestra** sharing the stage for the first time. From **Atterberg's** lush Suite No. 3 to **Grieg's** fiery String Quartet, it's the perfect finale to a night of celebration.

**Saturday 18 October**

University Concert Hall, Limerick

Tickets €30, €25 conc. €10 students €5 children

[irishchamberorchestra.com](http://irishchamberorchestra.com)



# Programme Notes

## **Deirdre McKay (b.1972)**

### **Meltwater**

The desolate beauty of our planet's most extreme and inhospitable landscapes, like a winter freeze, took captivity of this piece. In turn, it answers to the invocation of the ice world, as pared and fragile as its pulsing meltwater edge: diaphanous shards, floating, in its cathedral spaces.

Meltwater was commissioned by the Irish Chamber Orchestra, with the support of the Arts Council of Ireland, An Chomhairle Ealaíon, and premiered by the orchestra in 2009, conducted by Jaime Martín.

Notes by Deirdre McKay © 2025

## **George Friedrich Handel (1685–1759)**

### **Water Music**

Handel's Water Music is a bristling, bright Baroque masterpiece filled with brilliant colours and extravagant sounds that never fails to evoke a sense of occasion. It was commissioned in 1717 by King George I to accompany a mid-summer pageant along the River Thames, for which Handel assembled some 50 musicians to accompany the royal barge and provide an opulent soundtrack for the occasion.

When finally published in 1741, Water Music comprised some 20 or so pieces, several of which had been written before and after the lavish event from which it takes its title. Traditionally, they are performed as

three Suites – each with its own contrasting character – although Handel didn't insist on a particular order so that individual movements can be played in any sequence.

Handel lit upon using popular lively dance forms for the festive occasion, interspersed with slower airs and interludes, no doubt to give his musicians an opportunity to catch their breath. With flutes, recorders, oboes, bassoons, trumpets, strings, and continuo to the fore, the rich orchestral forces combine moments of lavish grandeur, effusive joy and exquisite lyricism to conjure the majesty of the occasion even as the music's buoyant rhythms and flowing melodies evoke the river-borne setting.

Providing the grandest of curtain-raisers, Water Music begins with the Suite in F major, its nine movements making it the longest of the three. It is also the most diverse in its shifts of tempo and mood, perhaps to emulate the ebb-and-flow of the tidal river. Featuring the first use of horns in English orchestral music – they're not in every movement but you'll notice them when they do appear – it is suitably festive, stately and radiant. Listen out for moments of inventive variety, too, notably in the elegant song-like 'Air' at the Suite's mid-point and the double-time rhythmic vitality of the 'Bourrée' soon after.



High ceremony is the order of the day in the five-part Suite in D major, where horns return to share centerstage with trumpets to strike a distinctly majestic and martial tone. It also boasts the exuberant 'Alla Hornpipe' – a blaze of exultant strings and effervescent brass in animated dialogue. After which, the concluding 'Minuet' offers a much-needed moment of recovery and repose, its sedate poise laced with bird-like woodwinds, reedy horns and burnished brass.

Across its four movements, the Suite in G major is an artful exercise in what we might call "winding down". You can immediately hear that it is cast in a more intimate mood with the lighter textures of airy flutes and recorders and graceful strings setting the tone. The dance element is still prominent, but the style is now more genteel and French-sounding. One last burst of energy comes in the flourish of the concluding 'Gigue' with its striking echoes of the Irish jig.

So pleased was George I with what he heard, that he insisted on Water Music being repeated three times. Handel would go on to write the equally famous and spectacular Music for the Royal Fireworks for another royal jamboree for George II in 1749.

Notes by Michael Quinn © 2025

# Help Us Improve!

## Fill in our 4-minute survey

**You could win 2 free  
ticket vouchers.**

Scan the QR Code



or go to

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/SurveyICO](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SurveyICO)

# Give the Gift of Music 21 in 25

How it Works:

## Donate

Pledge €250

## Grow

Your €250 pledge grows to €362.33 under the Charitable Donation Scheme

## Impact

Provides 20 music lessons for up to 400 children

Find out more at

[irishchamberorchestra.com/21in25](http://irishchamberorchestra.com/21in25)

## Friends of the ICO

Here at the ICO we are lucky to have wonderful support from our Friends and Patrons. Each year we perform all around Ireland and abroad, while also delivering music education outreach to hundreds of school children in Limerick through our free music education initiatives. Our Patrons and Friends play a vital role in our story, and enjoy a range of exclusive benefits.

### Forever Friends

Michael Beary and Gary Gates  
P. Gerard Boland  
Gareth Byrne and Gabriel O'Brien  
Michael and Anne Buckley  
Paul J Carey  
Muriel Collins  
Dónall Curtin  
Maurice and Maire Foley  
Joan Garahy and Pat O'Connor  
Mary Geary  
Máirín Hagerty  
Maurice Healy  
Alison Hunka  
Sean and Margaret Jackson  
John Kelleher  
Nuala Kennedy  
Hilary and Mary Lawless

Beverley and Anthony Mackay  
Marie McCormick  
Aibhlín McCrann  
Bernard and Moira McNamara  
Hazel Minion  
Eve Molony  
Karen and Justin Morton  
Brian Patterson  
Tommy and Ann-Elizabeth Riggs-Miller  
Andrew and Jenny Robinson  
Mary Ryan  
Fionnuala Sherry and Bernard Doyle  
Norma Smurfit  
Gearóid and Phil Stanley

### Honorary Friends

Lindsay Armstrong

Tom Briggs  
Michael Buckley  
Brian Byrne  
Maureen Clune  
Marion Creely  
Matthew Draper  
Joseph Dundon  
Maurice Foley  
Ann Marie Gill  
Lisa Grosman  
Maurice Healy  
Daphne Henderson  
John Horgan  
Katherine Hunka  
Mark Hely Hutchinson  
Margaret Kelly  
Oonagh Keogh

Eamonn Lawlor  
 Ursula Leslie  
 Liam McElligott  
 Pauline McLaughlin  
 Kathy Moynes  
 Fergal O'Ceallachain  
 Cian Ó Dúill  
 Vicki O'Toole  
 Kenneth Rice  
 Malachy Robinson  
 Mary Robinson  
 Louis Roden  
 Joachim Roewer  
 Ben Rogerson  
 Brian Scanlon  
 Gillian Smith  
 Madeleine Staunton  
 Dr. Thérèse Timoney  
 Clodagh Vedres  
 Dr Edward Walsh  
 Mary Walsh  
 Gerard Watson  
 Éamonn Cregan  
 Joseph Dundon  
 Joan Garahy  
 Terry MacManus

#### Individual and Couple Friends

Olga Barry  
 Michael Bolger  
 Simon Boyle  
 Sean Brady  
 Maura Brann  
 Frances Britton  
 Michael and Sarah Brock  
 Rita Butler  
 Brian and Sheila Callanan  
 Joe and Dymphna Callanan  
 Olivia Callanan  
 Cathie Chappell  
 Breda Clarkin  
 Angela Coffey  
 Daire Coffey  
 Mary Collins  
 Jane Coman  
 Avril Condell  
 Kevin and Máirín Conroy  
 Ann Corcoran  
 Jackie Costello  
 Eamonn Cregan  
 Richard Cross  
 Mairéad De Barra and David Turner  
 Sarah Daniel  
 Margaret and James Dodd  
 John Doherty  
 Mary Helena Donohue  
 Andrea Doyle  
 Aisling Drury Byrne  
 Robert George Ellis  
 Michael and Irene Fenton  
 Dick Fleming

Bill and Maura Flood  
 Louise Frawley  
 Michael and Mary Galvin  
 Barbara Geraghty  
 Tessa Grealley and Kevin Kelleher  
 Dorene Groocock  
 Margaret Harper and  
 Richard Stoops  
 Sonja Heidrich  
 Declan Hickey  
 Geraldine Hickey  
 David Higgins  
 Gisela Holfter  
 Sabrina Jebb  
 Jean Alison Keating  
 Valerie Keegan  
 Gerard Keenan  
 Mary Keenan  
 Brian Kelly  
 Margaret Kelly  
 Geraldine Kennedy  
 Sheila Keogh  
 Gary Leahy  
 Jacque and Mary Lumbroso  
 Conor and Louisa Maguire  
 Dr. Hugh Maguire  
 Cormac Mac Crann  
 Patrick McCann  
 Oonagh McCrann and Noel MacMahon  
 Noreen McDonagh  
 Oonagh McElhinney  
 John McEntagart  
 Barry McGrath  
 Vivienne McKechnie  
 Simon Menin  
 Michael and Valerie Moloney  
 Phil Molony  
 Sara Moorhead  
 Cathriona Murphy  
 Maire Ni Dhomhnaill  
 Colin and Angela Nicholls  
 Luán Ó Braonáin and Caoimhe Daly  
 Donough O'Brien  
 Bernie O Callaghan and  
 Patrick Plunkett  
 Shelagh O'Connell

Seán and Siobhán O'Dúill  
 Dr Geraldine O'Grady  
 and Des Keogh  
 Dónal O'Hehir  
 Aida O Kennedy  
 Philip O Reilly and  
 Sally Jane Walker  
 Oonagh and Stephen O'Shea  
 Eugenie and Frank O Sullivan  
 Marion Palmer  
 Michael Petty  
 Gerard Quinn  
 James Quinn  
 Mary Rafferty  
 Anne Ryan  
 Mary Ryan  
 Michael Ryan  
 Peggy Ryan  
 Mary and John Scanlan  
 Dearbhail and John Sheanon  
 Paul and Lulu Sheahan  
 Gerry and Ann Siney  
 Gearoid and Phil Stanley  
 Vanessa Sweeney  
 Mary Thornbury  
 Joanne Tierney  
 Ronan Tighe  
 Harry and Helen Van Den Akker  
 Brian Walsh and Barry Doocey  
 Darina Warner  
 David and Brenda Wilkes  
 David R Wilkins  
 Ken Holmes

#### Family Friends

Limerick Chamber Choir  
 Dorothy Molony and Family  
 The O'Grady-Quin Family  
 Charlie and Mary Roche Family  
 Marian Real and Family

#### Corporate Partnerships

Dundon Callanan Solicitors  
 Paddy Hoare Bldg and Civil Eng.  
 Shannon Rugby Club

# Become a Friend

To learn more or to become a Friend visit

[irishchamberorchestra.com/support](http://irishchamberorchestra.com/support)

# Music that sets your heart racing

Find out more at

[irishchamberorchestra.com/programme](http://irishchamberorchestra.com/programme)

## Partnerships







RTE  
lyric fm

WHERE LIFE SOUNDS BETTER

96-99fm | On Mobile | [rte.ie/lyricfm](http://rte.ie/lyricfm)   

Henning Kraggerud Director/Violin

October

# Romantic Fire

Works by Bacewicz, Atterberg and Grieg

**Thurs 16 October**

Whyte Recital Hall, RIAM, Dublin

**Fri 17 October**

The Model, Sligo (Con Brio)



Henning Kraggerud Director/Violin

Niall Vallely Concertina Mel Mercier Percussion

October

# 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert

Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin, Piazzolla,  
Sam Perkin, Atterberg and Grieg

**Sat 18 October**

University Concert Hall, Limerick



Emily Davies

Leader

Matthew Jacobson

Percussion

November

# Three Worlds

Works by Purcell, Ronan Guilfoyle and Dvořák

**Thurs 13 November**

Whyte Recital Hall, RIAM, Dublin

**Sat 15 November**

MIT Cork Schook of Music, Cork

**Fri 14 November**

University Concert Hall, Limerick



Christian Curnyn Conductor

 Chamber  
Choir  
Ireland

December

# Messiah

Handel's majestic and sacred oratorio

**Thurs 11 December**

St. Mary's Church, Dingle, Co. Kerry

**Fri 12 December**

St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

