

Galway Music Residency Six Month Activity Report



July-December 2020

Happy New Year!

"So long as the human spirit thrives on this planet, music in some living form will accompany and sustain it." - Aaron Copland

I think it can be safely said that we are all glad to see the back of 2020. It was a year of challenges, separation, isolation and frustration. We have all struggled. And yet, from these difficult times, have sprouted some magical moments. It was a year of creativity, overcoming, and a determination to find joy; that spark.

We take a look back here at the second half of 2020, a time when we experienced some easing of restrictions, only to see further restrictions implemented. We at Galway Music Residency adapted at each announcement of restrictions, determined to continue to serve the people of Galway.

We are proud of what we achieved last year, despite everything. We dedicated ourselves to presenting music and musical insight of the highest quality and ensuring some light could be found in challenging times. We hope you have enjoyed our musical offerings.

We thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to welcoming you to live and online performances in 2021.

*Stay safe and keep listening,
Maeve, Julie and all at GMR*

Performance

JazzTempo

JazzTempo was the culmination of an intensive socially distanced residency shared by ConTempo Quartet and four Galway-based

Jazz musicians: Matthew Berrill (clarinet/sax/ Musical Director), Aengus Hackett (guitar), Roisín Mulliez (voice) and Barry Donohue (double bass). During a time of experimentation, the musicians challenged one another and learnt from each other's experiences in their respective music genres. Based on new compositions by Matthew Berrill and a number of Jazz standards, this collective of musicians developed a new work of music taking inspiration from both the 'Jazz' and 'Classical' idioms. The 40-minute performance was live-streamed on Facebook from the beautiful surrounds of the Oughterard Courthouse on 28 August.



JazzTempo musicians on break

Culture Night

On 18 September, we celebrated Culture Night twice! We started off nice and early with a special lunchtime concert from ConTempo Quartet featuring music from Swan Hennessy and Beethoven.

Later, we were delighted to collaborate with UachtarARTS for their art trail through Oughterard, culminating in an exhibition and a viewing of the two film installations we created with the collective as part of our *Creative Responses* project (see more on page 3) in Oughterard Court House. You can watch these back on our YouTube Channel



Culture Night exhibition in Oughterard Courthouse

Beethoven 250

In a year of remote working and live-streaming, we were delighted to have the opportunity to present a series of in-person concerts as part of the Galway International Arts Festival's Autumn Edition. From 22-25 September in St Nicholas' Collegiate Church, ConTempo Quartet celebrated Beethoven's 250th birthday with an exploration of some of his most celebrated works for string quartet - the middle quartets. Over the course of four concerts, ConTempo Quartet performed the Razumovsky Quartets (Op. 59) Nos. 1, 2, and 3, the 'Harp' Quartet (Op. 74) and the 'Serioso' Quartet (Op 95).



ConTempo Quartet at Beethoven 250

We were delighted to partner with Galway International Arts Festival once again, working together to present a ray of light, in the form of ConTempo Quartet, in such difficult times. We look forward to future col-

laborations with the festival, exploring exciting projects and reaching new audiences.

From Europe with Love...

From Europe with Love was back in September with an exploration of music from Austria, Croatia, Hungary and Romania over the autumn months.

Through ConTempo's virtuosic performances, we celebrated many great European composers this autumn including Mozart, Schubert, Bartók and George Enescu along with some lesser known gems including Croatian composer, Dora Pejačević.

The concerts were introduced by individuals native to the featured countries, but living in Galway or Ireland. We were delighted to welcome Austrian native and Galway citizen, Ursula Shields-Huemer; Galway-based Hungarian pianist, piano teacher and accompanist David Szabo; Galway-based Croatian potter Jed Gjerek and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Romania to Ireland, Mrs. Manuela Breazu.

From Europe with Love is back this spring when we will visit Estonia, Cyprus, Slovenia and Greece.

3 Kinds of Music Pop-up!

On the weekend of 11 December, we presented a digital festival version of our much loved series, 3 Kinds of Music from the Mick Lally Theatre. Curated by music mastermind Matthew Berrill, the festival featured some of Ireland's best emerging and established musicians and was broadcast on Facebook and YouTube. This digital version saw performances from ConTempo Quartet, featuring John Caulfield (classical), Dave Clancy



Behind the scenes filming of 3 Kinds of Music

with Eoin Wynne and Matthew Berrill (folk), Back West (trad) and Róisín Mulliez with Jimmy Fitzgerald (jazz).

We look forward to further installments of this series in 2021.

ConTempo Countywide: Oughterard

Though we couldn't travel and perform widely in Galway County due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are dedicated to building lasting and meaningful relationships with local groups, festivals and schools. During Lockdown, the Oughterard Courthouse became a home of sorts for us, providing a beautiful space for us to record content for *Connecting with ConTempo*, our online series, in a safe way. For this reason, we dedicated a *ConTempo Countywide* concert to the Oughterard community and all the communities we couldn't visit over the autumn months, on Tuesday 10 November. ConTempo Quartet performed a varied and humorous lunchtime concert full of light and a little bit of laughter, which was live streamed on Facebook.

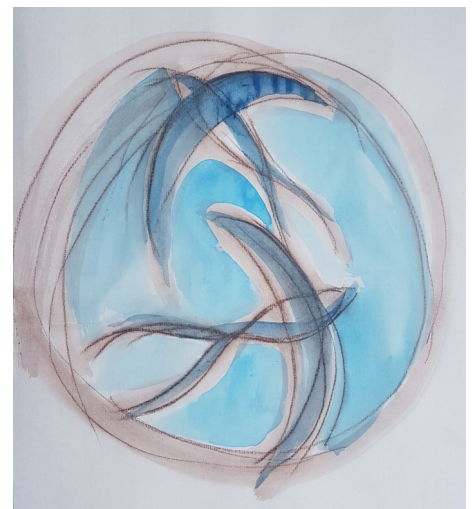
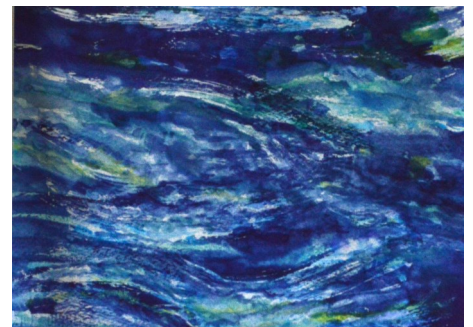
Friends Christmas Event



ConTempo Quartet looking festive for our Friends Christmas Event!

To wrap up the year we held a special virtual event for all our Friends and Funders. This informal evening was held live over Zoom involving an interactive music quiz (with McCambridge's Christmas Hamper up for grabs), chat and some festive tunes from ConTempo Quartet. Great fun was had by all!

If you would like to become our Friend and enjoy exclusive events such as this one, please contact Julie Seagrave by email at julie@thegalwaymusicresidency.ie.



Creative Responses above (in order): Joe Hogan, *Antler Pouch* in response to Jane O'Leary; Patricia McQuinn, *Beat of the Waves* in response to Beethoven; Maureen Mooney, *Sparing Swallows* in response to Philip Glass; Maeve Curtis *Notes Towards a Conversation II*, in response to Debussy. See more about this project on page 3.

Connecting with ConTempo

Connecting with ConTempo is our 'at-home' series aimed at keeping in touch with our audiences by delivering beautiful music and musical insight. During the second half of 2020 we chatted to the members of ConTempo Quartet about everything from their favourite composers, to what life is like for a string quartet of 25 years.



Filming *Connecting with ConTempo*

In the October edition of the series, the members of ConTempo Quartet discussed the work of Johannes Brahms; his musical style, how he compared with his contemporaries and what his music means to them. This was followed by a rendition of the second movement of his String Quartet Op. 51 No.2.

In November, we heard the quartet members' thoughts on Mozart as a composer, the search for perfection in performing his music and some very interesting facts about the musical genius. We were then treated to a beautiful performance of the Allegro from his second Prussian String Quartet, No. 22 in B-flat major, K. 589.

In our final *Connecting with ConTempo* film of the year, we celebrated the festive season. ConTempo Quartet shared some of their Christmas traditions as well as a stunning performance of Corelli's Christmas Concerto.

Creative Responses

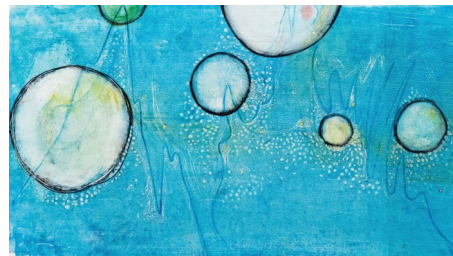
Creative Responses is the community outreach branch of our *Connecting with ConTempo* initiative, which invites local artists and writers to explore a deep connection to music and ConTempo String Quartet

within their own art form. The results so far have been exquisite with contributions from artists and writers throughout Galway.

In July, members of UachtarARTS and students of the MA in Writing at NUI Galway Hannah Kiely and Alison Meehan responded to Philip Glass' String Quartet no. 2 *Company* and Beethoven's String Quartet Op.18, no.5 *Andante Cantabile*.

In October, a collective of artists based in the West of Ireland and Galway writer Aidín McInerney responded to *ConTempo ConVersations* by our own Jane O'Leary. Poet Emily Cullen joined the collective later in the month to respond to ConTempo's performance of Debussy String Quartet No. 1, *Animé et très décidé*.

We look forward to continuing the project over the next year and are excited to present a primary school edition next May. If you are part of a group that would like to participate, please contact us on: info@thegalwaymusicresidency.ie



Ursula Murry, *Rock Pool Rhythms* in response to Debussy's String Quartet No. 1. See more art work from *Creative Responses* on page 2

Connecting Kids with ConTempo

Connecting Kids with ConTempo was a 4-week initiative designed to help children engage with classical music in a fun and creative way. Beginning on 31 July we released educational videos featuring short performances by ConTempo Quartet with an educational introduction from our General Manager Maeve. Different aspects of classical music were explored and each week the children were asked to respond creatively to ConTempo Quartet's performance. We adored producing this fun series and look forward to engaging with children and young people again in 2021.

Education

As well as our *Connecting Kids with ConTempo* series, we found some other ways to provide education opportunities during this difficult period. Though we couldn't continue with the programmes that involve face-to-face contact including our Apprentice Ensemble programme, our work with the NUI Galway Concert Orchestra and *Symphonic Waves*, and our schools workshops, we were able to work remotely in some cases.

By pre-recording the music being studied on the BA in Music programme and joining online workshops, we were able to have some really interesting and fruitful interactions with the students and head of the programme, Dr Aidan Thomson. Sessions in a similar format will continue in 2021.

Our Apprentice Programme is currently being reimagined so that it can take place remotely in summer 2021. This is a big change for us at GMR. But we look forward to the challenge and are excited to work with young ensembles once again.



Bogdan of ConTempo Quartet demonstrates for *Connecting Kids with ConTempo*

You can catch up on *Connecting with ConTempo* on our Facebook page or YouTube channel. Better yet, why not sign up to our mailing list to receive musical treats straight to your mailbox. You can do this on our website: galwaymusicresidency.ie

News

The Mighty Ocean!

Galway Music Residency, in association with TG4, is delighted to announce **The Mighty Ocean** as part of Galway 2020's Capital of Culture Programme. Composed by Máirtín O'Connor, this musical suite reflecting on climate change and the environment will premiere on TG4 on Sunday 25 April at 9:30pm, to coincide with the final week of Galway 2020's programme.

The *Mighty Ocean* opens a musical dialogue between mankind and the environment, touching on the entrancing power of the sea, while questioning the destructive influence of mankind on our endangered oceans. The piece is scored and arranged for 12 musicians including Irish traditional legends Máirtín O'Connor, Garry O Briain, Cathal Hayden and Seamie O'Dowd, and Galway Music Residency's ensemble in residence, ConTempo Quartet.

As well as exploring the themes of climate change, environment and landscape, the 30 minute programme marks a decades-long musical dialogue between Galway Mu-

sic Residency, its permanent ensemble in residence ConTempo Quartet, Máirtín O'Connor, Garry O' Briain and Cathal Hayden. Over more than 15 years, these partners have pushed the boundaries of musical and cultural fusion to present unique listening experiences to the people of Galway and beyond. The *Mighty Ocean* sees the culmination of this creative friendship in a spectacular celebration of music and the sea.

Speaking about *The Mighty Ocean*, Maeve Bryan, General Manager of Galway Music Residency, added, "The *Mighty Ocean* epitomises Galway Music Residency's commitment to collaboration across genres and other art forms, artists and organisations. We are proud to share this moment of reflection, connection and celebration in respect to our beautiful, but threatened, oceans."

The Mighty Ocean is commissioned by Galway 2020, European Capital of Culture, Produced by Galway Music Residency, with HeavyMan Films, for TG4 and Galway2020, and co-funded by Creative Ireland, Galway County Council and Galway City Council.

A warm welcome...

The Board of Galway Music Residency extends a warm welcome to its newest member, John Caulfield. John has been a member of the organisation's Artistic Committee since 2014, acting as Chair of the committee since 2017. He has a keen interest in bringing music to new audiences and locations, and enjoys working with Galway Music Residency to develop new and engaging programmes, commissions and collaborations with performers, cultural organisations and community groups across Galway.



John Caulfield

Galway Music Residency

Listen, Learn, Love Music...

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Keith Warnock (Chair) | Peter Allen | John Caulfield | Sally Coyle | Michael Cuddy | Sinéad Hayes | Marie Kerrigan | Jane O'Leary | Linda O'Shea Farren | Sara Stewart

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Maeve Bryan, General Manager | **Julie Seagrave**, Administration Assistant

ConTempo Quartet

Bogdan Sofei, violin I | **Ingrid Nicola**, violin II | **Andreea Banciu**, viola | **Adrian Mantu**, cello

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Our Media Partner is:

Help us make music...

Everyone should have the right to **listen to, learn about and love music**. This simple belief is the driving force of the **Galway Music Residency**. We provide opportunities for people of Galway City and County to experience music in new and unexpected ways, to learn from inspiring musicians and spark joy in their lives.

We can't do this alone.

Our family of Friends play a key role in making our work possible. Becoming a Friend of GMR empowers us to give the gift of music to more children, adults and communities in and around Galway.

To learn about our Friends programme
visit our website

www.galwaymusicresidency.ie/support

Or contact Julie Seagrave on:

julie@thegalwaymusicresidency.ie