

# Caitríona O'Leary and Dúlra

DÚLRA was founded in 1998 in New York City by singer Caitríona O'Leary. Dúlra is the Irish word for "elements" and the name expresses the band's mission of returning to the roots and performance practices of early Irish song, and innovating within this tradition in order to bring contemporary audiences a new musical experience.

Dúlra has recorded four internationally critically acclaimed albums; *Sleepsongs*, a recording of Irish lullabies and songs of sleep (Heresy Records), *Ecstasy*, an album of Irish music on the theme of joy and rapture (Heresy Records), *I am Stretched on your Grave* a recording of rare laments (Deutsche Harmonia Mundi) and *Dúil, Songs of Love and Nature* (Virgin Classics).

Dúlra has performed at concerts and festivals throughout Europe including SRO programmes at Beethovenfest Bonn, St John's Smith Square (London), Zagreb Summer Evenings, Split Summer Festival, Tage Alter Musik Regensburg, Musical Evenings in St. Donat's (Zadar) and numerous tours throughout Ireland.

## Caitríona O'Leary – Voice

Caitríona O'Leary is known internationally for her intense and passionate performances of Early Music and Traditional Irish song.

In 2014 she starred on *The Wexford Carols*, an album of traditional folk Christmas carols from the 17th and 18th centuries that featured guest singers Sir Tom Jones, Rosanne Cash and Rhiannon Giddens. The album reached #1 on both the Billboard and Amazon World Music charts.

She has recorded seventeen critically acclaimed albums with the early music ensembles *Sequentia*, *The Harp Consort*, *Joglaresa*, *eX* and with her traditional Irish band, *Dúlra*. These have been for *Virgin Classics*, *Deutsche Harmonia Mundi*, *Heresy Records*, *Vox* and *Avie*.

She has toured and performed around the world, including venues such as the Royal Albert Hall, Lincoln Center, Radio City Music Hall and Cité de la Musique and has appeared at numerous festivals including *Beethovenfest Bonn*, *Utrecht Early Music Festival*, *Tage Alter Musik Regensburg*, *Montalbâne Festival*, *Festival Cervantino Guanajuato*, *Festival Interceltique de Lorient*, *Concerts Spirituels Geneva*, *Zagreb Summer Evenings Festival*, *the Split Summer Festival*, *Dublin Theatre Festival*, *Kilkenny Arts Festival* and *Belfast Festival at Queen's*.

Caitríona is co-artistic director of *eX*, the Irish-based early music performance company she founded in 2006. With *eX* she has conceived and starred in many acclaimed productions and concerts including *The Rape of the Lock*, a baroque spectacle, a staging of Alexander Pope's poem featuring Handel duets with music director Christopher Hogwood; *Songs from a Gothic Room*, music of the *Ars Nova* and *Ars Subtilior* with music direction by the medievalist Pedro Memelsdorff; *BAROCK*, a staged concert of early German baroque cantatas with Konrad Junghänel; *Motion of the Heart*, a post-modernist Carolingian masque that celebrated the virtues of the human heart with music director Erin Headley; *Shipwrecked*, a production based on the adventures of a shipwrecked captain from the Spanish Armada which she co-directed with lutenist Lee Santana; *Possessed*, a work exploring the diverse cultural and psychological manifestations of trance and possession; *Christ Lag in Todes Banden*, a hallucinatory theatricalization of Bach's first cantata and the sources that inspired it co-directed with violinist Ariadne Daskilakis, *Ex Tenebris*, a dance theatre dream work set to Christmas music of the middle ages and the renaissance and *Hiberia*, a concert of rare Irish and Spanish music of the 16th and 17th centuries.

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## Adrian Hart – Fiddle

Adrian Hart studied violin with Eta Cohen, Maureen Rivlin-Smith of the Royal College of Music London, and Eyal Kless of the Royal Irish Academy of Music Dublin. Adrian is a graduate of the Purcell School of Music, the Royal Irish Academy of Music and Trinity College Dublin.

Adrian has performed classical music throughout Europe and the US in orchestras, string ensembles and quartets. With the Purcell School of Music Orchestra he recorded Bartok's *Concerto for Orchestra* on the Decca label in 1998, and in 2001 toured the US with the renowned Irish pianist John O'Connor with the Royal Irish Academy of Music String Orchestra. In 2003 Adrian made his solo debut in the National Concert Hall, Dublin, performing Bruch's *Violin Concerto in G minor* with the RIAM symphony orchestra.

Since childhood, Adrian has studied and performed Irish traditional fiddle music. Over the past decade his repertoire has increasingly focused on other styles of fiddle playing, in particular klezmer, Balkan, and old-time American traditional. He is a founding member of Irish bands I Draw Slow, Yurodny and the Clare Memory Orchestra. In 2012 Adrian was nominated for an IBMA award for his fiddle playing on the I Draw Slow album Redhills.

Adrian has performed extensively throughout Ireland, the UK, Europe and the US, recording and appearing on stage with many leading artists, including Martin Hayes, Donal Lunny, Lis Carroll, Dirk Powell, Riannon Giddens, The Foghorn String Band and Chris Thile. In August 2014 Adrian's solo album Cuisle was released on the Irish Label Diatribe. Featuring original electro-acoustic compositions and arrangements of traditional fiddle repertoire, it has been distributed and broadcast throughout Ireland, UK, Europe and the US.

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## ANDREA PICCIONI – FRAME DRUMS

Andrea Piccioni is considered one of the greatest exponents of the art of frame drumming and has developed an extraordinary capacity to move through various musical genres and styles. He has re-elaborated the language of the Tamburello and various frame drums in a truly personal, virtuosic and expressive manner.

His musical collaborations include:

World Music: Nidi D'arac, Unavantaluna, Indaco, Lucilla Galeazzi, Tamburo Mundi (Ge), Glen Velez & Lori Cotler (Usa), Caitríona O'Leary and Dúlra (Irl)

Jazz: Antonio Calogero, Ensemble Fisfuz (Ge/Turk), Paul McCandless (Usa), Giovanni Palombo, Gabriele, Coen, Luciano Biondini, Mosè Chiavoni

Early Music: Ensemble Enchiriadis, Freiburger Spielleyt (Ge), Orlando Di Lasso Ensemble (Ge), Les Haulz Et Les Bas (Ge), eX (Early Music Ensemble Irl)

Andrea holds regular workshops and masterclasses at prestigious festivals worldwide, including: Nafda (USA), Big Bang Festival (Dublin, Ireland), Internationales Percussionfestival Freistadt (Freistadt, Austria), Tamburi Iran (Isfahan, Iran), Percpan 2009 (Brasile), WOMAD Abu Dhabi (Arab Emirates), WOMAD Charlton Park (UK), Royal Albert Hall (London, UK), Festival Internacional De Percussio' (Barcelona, SP) and is a resident teacher at Tamburi Mundi (Freiburg, Germany).

Andrea is the founder of the FRAME DRUMS ITALIA association, and has been its President for 4 Years, actually is the artistic director of their annual festival (FRAMEDRUMSITALIA international festival of frame drums art and culture).

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## Dónal Lunny – Bouzouki

Considered to be one of the more influential people in the renaissance of Irish music since the '70's, Donal Lunny has been involved in Irish music all of his life. Born in Tullamore, he grew up in Newbridge, Co. Kildare, and studied graphic design in the National College of Art and Design.

He was a founding member of several of Ireland's most important bands - Planxty, Bothy Band, Moving Hearts, Coolfin, and more recently, Mozaik. He has produced some of the most significant albums of the traditional music revival since the '70s.

He has also produced tracks for, and collaborated on albums with international stars such as Kate Bush, Elvis Costello, Mark Knopfler, Clannad, and Baaba Maal and has written music for many films and theatre productions.

Donal received an Honorary Doctorate in Music from Trinity College in 2008, and was made a member of Aosdána the same year. He continues to divide his activities between composition, performance, production and teaching.

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## Éamonn de Barra – Flute and Whistles

Éamonn de Barra was born in Dublin where he now lives, and began to play music at a young age under the instruction of his uncle Seán Ó Tuama. He comes from one of the most musical homes in Dublin, where his family has a long tradition of music par excellence. Éamonn won the Young Traditional Musician of The Year Award in 2000 and is a member of the critically acclaimed traditional band Slide who have received a number of awards for their work.

Singer and songwriter Damien Dempsey, uilleann-piping master Paddy Keenan, and Moya Brennan, the 'voice of Clannad, are among the artists with whom Éamonn currently performs.

As a producer he has worked in the Irish media, writing and producing Compass Ceoil, a radio documentary series on the history of Irish traditional music for RTÉ Lyric FM, and he has consulted on television productions including Fosc, and Imeach, TG4's flagship arts program.

Éamonn hosts traditional instrumental workshops both in Ireland and abroad and is flute tutor at the Dundalk Institute of Technology.

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## Éamonn Galldubh – Uilleann Pipes, Flute and Whistles

Musician and composer Éamonn Galldubh has toured and recorded with artists including Clannad, Riverdance, Moya Brennan, Cara Dillon, Caitríona O'Leary and Dúlra, Damien Dempsey, Ragus, Niamh ní Charra, Celtic Woman, Hazel O Connor, Tarab, Druid Theatre and the RTE Concert Orchestra. He has performed in over forty countries across five continents in venues ranging from the Kremlin Palace Theatre to a stage set up in front of the pyramids at Giza.

Éamonn began playing traditional Irish music on the tin whistle at age eight, moving on to the uilleann pipes and later flute. While traditional music is his first love, he has pursued an interest in other music forms, playing saxophone while studying jazz performance at Newpark College of Music in Dublin. Éamonn has also completed a Master's Degree in music performance in DIT, graduating with first class honours. He enjoys working both as a session player and performing as a solo artist. As a composer his work has been performed and recorded by artists including Moya Brennan and Zoe Conway. Éamonn has currently started work on his first solo album.

## Kate Ellis – Cello

Cellist Kate Ellis is a versatile musician dedicated to the performance and exploration of all new music. With an interest in the use of electronics, Kate has commissioned and premiered works by numerous Irish and International composers and has toured and broadcast in Australia, the USA, Europe and China. Kate has performed with Bobby

McFerrin, Iarla O Lionaird, Gavin Friday and Karan Casey and plays regularly with Tarab, Yurodny and the Ergodos Musicians.

Kate is artistic director of Crash Ensemble, Ireland's leading new music group, with whom she has been Cellist since 2002. As a member of Crash, Kate has collaborated with Steve Reich, Gavin Bryars, Terry Riley, Dawn Upshaw, Iarla O Lionaird and Gavin Friday, and has premiered works by Terry Riley, David Lang, Michael Gordon, Nico Muhly, Valgeir Sigursson and Donnacha Dennehy. She has performed at the Canberra International Music Festival, Bang on a Can Marathon (NYC), Electric Picnic, with residencies at the 2012 Huddersfield International Contemporary Music Festival and Princeton University and performances at the Barbican Centre, Kings Place, Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Centre.

Driven by the need to present music outside of the concert hall, Kate co-founded the highly successful monthly 'Kaleidoscope Night' in Dublin, showcasing the amazing array of talented musicians and composers that Ireland has to offer. As musician in residence at the Cork Opera House, Kate co-curated a festival marking the 75th birthday year of Steve Reich, in the presence of the composer, who said of Kate's playing 'she has my unbounded admiration'. Kate has joined forces with 6 diverse musicians, a visual artist and a poet for RESOUND, a new project specifically curating shows for festivals, special events and locations including Dublin Contemporary, the National Gallery of Ireland, St. Patricks Festival and Culture Night.

Future projects include performances of newly commissioned works from Donnacha Dennehy and Double Bass player Barry Guy, performances with Gavin Bryars, solo shows with visual artist Rory Tangney and a collaboration with Jazz Musician Francesco Turrisi and singer Savina Yannatou. In August 2014 Kate released her first solo CD of new works for cello and electronics on the Diatribe label.

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## Matthias Loibner: Hurdy-Gurdy

Born 1969 in Austria Matthias Loibner started to play music with the piano, guitar and trombone. After partial studies of composition, jazz-composition and conducting in Graz (A) he dedicated his work to the hurdy-gurdy. Starting on his own, he later followed lessons by Barbara Grimm, Valentin Clastrier, Riccardo Delfino and Gilles Chabenat. He won the 1st price at the "Concours des vieilles et cornemuses" in St. Chartier (F) 1994. Matthias Loibner teaches hurdy-gurdy and improvisation since 1994 and is also co-author of a hurdy-gurdy-method together with Riccardo Delfino.

His occupation with different musical traditions led him to Austria, France, South-East Europe, Uganda, Mozambique and Australia.

He played live and recorded with deishovida (A), Sandy Lopicic Orkestar (BIH/A/etc), Natasa Mirkovic - De Ro (BIH), Tunji Beier (AUS), Linsey Pollak (AUS), dididumdum (AUS), Wild Marmalade (AUS), The Big Five (UG), Ross Daly, Riccardo Delfino, Alex Deutsch, DJ Shantel. In baroque music he works and worked with Christophe Coin & Ensemble Baroque de Limoges (F), Le Concert Spirituel (F), Les Eclairs de Musique (I), Les Musiciens de Saint Julien (F), Riccardo Delfino (D) and others. He wrote and participated in film and theatre music with Ernst M. Binder, Hubert v. Goisern, Manuela Soeiro, Henning Mankell and Dimiter Gotscheff.