

Performing Groups

RTÉ

## RTÉ Performing Groups

In 2006, RTÉ Performing Groups presented 250 live events throughout the country.

**RTÉ Performing Groups** is one of the six Integrated Business Divisions of RTÉ, responsible for three professional music ensembles: the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, and the RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet; and two amateur choirs: the RTÉ Philharmonic Choir and RTÉ Cór na nÓg. Its principal activity is in live performance events, broadcast and recordings for a variety of target audiences. The majority of performances take place in Dublin although increasingly the groups are undertaking more concerts in regional centres throughout Ireland. In 2006, for example, of the 250 live events presented by RTÉ Performing Groups, 24% occurred outside the capital.

The **RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra** is made up of 89 classical musicians and plays a central role in classical music in Ireland, through live performance, broadcast and regional touring. The orchestra reaches a great number of listeners through its weekly broadcasts

on RTÉ lyric fm and through its association with the European Broadcasting Union (EBU). In addition to its annual subscription season, *Horizons*, contemporary music series, national tours, education concerts, community residencies and summer concerts series, the orchestra continues to have a presence internationally through its recordings with Naxos, Marco Polo and on the RTÉ label.

The **RTÉ Concert Orchestra** is a smaller orchestra of 45 musicians. While it also performs 18th, 19th and 20th century classical music, increasingly it is building a niche in the field of light entertainment: Big-Band and jazz concerts, music from Broadway and West-End musicals, orchestrated pop concerts, family concerts and film music. The orchestra performs for two Opera Ireland seasons every year, is very active in the field of commercial hire, makes some commercial recordings and has an active education programme through the RTÉ / The

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Irish Times *Music in the Classroom* series. The orchestra performs throughout Ireland. Artists with whom the orchestra has performed in recent years include Plácido Domingo, José Carreras, Luciano Pavarotti and Kiri Te Kanawa.

Appointed Resident Quartet to RTÉ in 1986, the **RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet** performs to audiences throughout the country. The quartet members are also Artists in Residence at University College Cork and co-founders of the internationally acclaimed West Cork Chamber Music Festival. The quartet also has an international career throughout Europe and the USA.

The **RTÉ Philharmonic Choir** is made up of approximately 150 voluntary amateur singers who are trained to perform with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra in the main.



RTÉ **Cór na nÓg** is an amateur children's choir of approximately 65 children between the ages of 9 and 14. The choir provides expert musical training and a demanding performance schedule for its members, with both live events and regular broadcasts on television and radio.

RTÉ Performing Groups plays a vital part in new music in the country, through the commissioning, performance and commercial recording of work by both Irish and international composers. The division also promotes two successful festivals. Since its establishment in 2002, the *RTÉ Living Music Festival*, taking place over a weekend in February, has established itself as a key event in the new music calendar in Ireland. The *RTÉ Summer Proms* - held for a number of years - provided a week of free concerts and captured the public imagination, with huge demand for the 10,000 tickets on offer.

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