



**RTÉ Performing Groups**

First released: 21 November 2007

Last amended: 28 January 2008

[www.rte.ie/livingmusic](http://www.rte.ie/livingmusic)

## **Arvo Pärt to make first visit to Ireland as featured composer of RTÉ Living Music Festival 2008**

RTÉ will host a celebration of Arvo Pärt, one of the most famous living composers, at the RTÉ Living Music Festival 2008, taking place in Dublin in February. Pärt has accepted RTÉ's invitation to attend, on what will be his first visit to Ireland. The festival is sponsored by IMRO, the Irish Music Rights Organisation, and supported by *The Irish Times*. The artistic director is leading Scottish composer James MacMillan. The three-day festival features a wide selection of music representing the breadth of Pärt's distinguished musical career, a new education project led by animateur Paul Rissmann, and a composition seminar led by Ivan Moody, with Arvo Pärt and James MacMillan in attendance.

Arvo Pärt writes:

*'I am very honoured and grateful to be a guest at the RTÉ Living Music Festival and for the attention that is being given to my music. I am looking forward to my first visit to Ireland with much anticipation and excitement. I am eager to learn more about the country that has managed in an astonishing way to keep its historical, cultural and religious identities until today.'*

The festival takes place Friday 15 to Sunday 17 February, with events in Christ Church Cathedral, the National Concert Hall, the National Gallery of Ireland and the Samuel Beckett Theatre (Trinity College Dublin).

Artistic director James MacMillan comments:

*'I am delighted that the great Arvo Pärt will be the focus for the 2008 RTÉ Living Music Festival. It has been a joy planning this festival, especially knowing that he will be present with us in Dublin. His music – so spiritual, so religious – reaches out to touch the hearts of music-lovers, regardless of their own beliefs. He has found anew a beautiful simplicity in sound, which feels fresh and contemporary, but yet speaks to vast numbers of people outside the introverted circles of the new music aficionado. His music is deeply of our own time, but points to a timeless truth which captures traditions of the past as well as searching the depths and anxieties of the present.'*

*'This is a unique chance for Ireland to gain a probing insight into the mind and work of this iconic musical figure.'*

Pärt has attained exceptional public popularity within his own lifetime. He received five Grammy nominations between 1989 and 2003, winning the Grammy for Best Choral Recording in 2007 for *Da Pacem*, and was named 'Composer of the Year' by Musical

America in 2005. His music has been used in over 50 films, including Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 9/11*, Kevin Macdonald's *Touching the Void* and Léos Carax's *Les Amants du Pont-Neuf*. Closer to home, *Spiegel im Spiegel* is one of the most-requested tracks on RTÉ lyric fm.

The RTÉ Living Music Festival musical programme ranges from large-scale orchestral and choral pieces such as the *Berliner Messe*, *Tabula Rasa* and *Passio* to smaller but no less defining works such as *Spiegel im Spiegel*, *Für Alina* and *Fratres*. Performing will be an impressive line-up of international and Irish musicians, including two of the world's leading vocal ensembles – Polyphony and the Hilliard Ensemble, pianist Joanna MacGregor, key Pärt collaborator Tõnu Kaljuste, and Smith Quartet violinists Ian Humphries and Darragh Morgan.

Adding a new dimension to the 2008 festival is an education project overseen by the highly regarded Scottish animator Paul Rissmann. A small ensemble of music students will work together to create a piece of music inspired by Pärt's compositional styles and techniques, which will then be performed in the composer's presence in advance of the opening concert. Rissmann's communication skills and enthusiasm have led the *Neue Musikzeitung* to describe him as 'the Jamie Oliver of music animators'! Arvo Pärt and James MacMillan will also attend a composition seminar led by Ivan Moody on the final day of the festival.

Other festival highlights include one of Schnittke's finest chamber works, the Piano Quintet, Poulenc's luminous, impassioned *Quatre motets pour un temps de penitence*, and a specially commissioned work by David Fennessy.

All performances will be broadcast by RTÉ lyric fm and recorded for future transmission by the European Broadcasting Union.

## **RTÉ LIVING MUSIC FESTIVAL 2008 AT A GLANCE (FULL PROGRAMME DETAILS BELOW)**

### **FRIDAY 15 FEBRUARY**

Education Workshop/Performance	John Field Room, National Concert Hall, 4pm*
--------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------

\* **Please note revised start time – now 4pm instead of 6.30pm**

RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra with Joanna MacGregor	National Concert Hall, 8pm
----------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------

### **SATURDAY 16 FEBRUARY**

Polyphony	Christ Church Cathedral, 1pm
-----------	------------------------------

Hilliard Ensemble and National Chamber Choir	Christ Church Cathedral, 8pm
-------------------------------------------------	------------------------------

### **SUNDAY 17 FEBRUARY**

Composition Seminar	Lecture Theatre, National Gallery of Ireland, 11am
---------------------	-------------------------------------------------------

RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet with Joanna MacGregor	Shaw Room, National Gallery of Ireland, 2pm
-----------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------

Crash Ensemble	Samuel Beckett Theatre, TCD, 5pm
----------------	----------------------------------

RTÉ Concert Orchestra with Ian Humphries and Darragh Morgan	National Concert Hall, 8pm
----------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------

**RTÉ Living Music Festival 2008**  
**15–17 February**

**Christ Church Cathedral, National Concert Hall,  
National Gallery of Ireland and Samuel Beckett Theatre**

**FRIDAY 15 FEBRUARY**

4pm\* National Concert Hall, John Field Room  
**Education Workshop / Performance**  
**Animateur: Paul Rissmann**

Admission free

\* ***Please note revised start time – now 4pm instead of 6.30pm***

8pm National Concert Hall, Main Auditorium  
**RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra and  
RTÉ Philharmonic Choir**  
**Joanna MacGregor *piano***  
**Tõnu Kaljuste *conductor***

Pärt *Lamentate*  
Pärt *Berliner Messe*  
Pärt *Credo*

Tickets: €22 (concession €17.60)

Booking: 01 417 0000 or [www.nch.ie](http://www.nch.ie)

**SATURDAY 16 FEBRUARY**

1pm Christ Church Cathedral  
**Polyphony**  
**Stephen Layton *conductor***

Poulenc *Timor et Tremor*  
Pärt *...which was the son of...*  
Poulenc *Vinea Mea Electa*  
Pärt *Dopo la Vittoria*  
Pärt *Magnificat*  
Pärt *Nunc Dimittis*  
Poulenc *Tenebrae Factae Sunt*  
Pärt *I Am the True Vine*  
Poulenc *Tristis Est Anima Mea*  
Pärt *Morning Star*  
Pärt *Da Pacem Domine*

Tickets: €17.50 (concession: €12)

Booking: Central Ticket Bureau 0818 205 205 or [www.ctb.ie](http://www.ctb.ie)

8pm Christ Church Cathedral  
**Hilliard Ensemble**  
**National Chamber Choir**  
**Christopher Bowers-Broadbent organ**  
**Sarah Tenant-Flowers conductor**

Pärt *Passio*

Tickets: €22 (concession €17.60)

Booking: Central Ticket Bureau 0818 205 205 or [www.ctb.ie](http://www.ctb.ie)

## SUNDAY 17 FEBRUARY

11am Lecture Theatre, National Gallery of Ireland  
**Composition Seminar**  
**Led by Ivan Moody**

This year's RTÉ Living Music Festival composition seminar will be hosted by the composer Ivan Moody, with James MacMillan and Arvo Pärt in attendance. Ivan Moody will use a number of Pärt's works, both vocal and instrumental, to explore issues relating to the setting of texts and the concept of the 'spiritual' in music. The seminar will include an opportunity for questions and answers.

Limited number of free tickets available. Admission strictly by ticket only.

To apply please email [music@rte.ie](mailto:music@rte.ie)

2pm Shaw Room, National Gallery of Ireland  
**RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet**  
**Joanna MacGregor piano**

Pärt *Fratres*  
Moody *Lamentations of the Myrrhbearer*  
Pärt *Psalom*  
Schnittke Piano Quintet  
Pärt *Summa*

Tickets: €15 (concession €10)

Booking: Central Ticket Bureau 0818 205 205 or [www.ctb.ie](http://www.ctb.ie)

5pm Samuel Beckett Theatre, TCD  
**Crash Ensemble**

ter Veldhuis *Jesus is Coming* (musical director Kate Ellis)  
Padding *A Small Goodbye Song* (musical director John Godfrey)  
Adriaansz *Structure XIII*(musical director John Godfrey)  
Pärt *Für Alina*  
Pärt *Für Anna Maria*  
Pärt *Spiegel im Spiegel*  
Pärt *Stabat Mater* (musical director Fergus Sheil)

Tickets: €17.50 (concession €14)  
Booking: Central Ticket Bureau 0818 205 205 or [www.ctb.ie](http://www.ctb.ie)

8pm National Concert Hall, Main Auditorium  
**RTÉ Concert Orchestra**  
**Ian Humphries and Darragh Morgan violins**  
**David Brophy conductor**

Pärt *Collage über B-A-C-H*  
Pärt *Passacaglia*  
Pärt *Tabula Rasa*  
Fennessy *This Is How It Feels (Another Bolero)*  
(commissioned by RTÉ)  
Pärt *Wenn Bach Bienen gezuchtet hatte*  
Pärt *Cantus in Memoriam Benjamin Britten*

Tickets: €22 (concession €17.60)  
Booking: 01 417 0000 or [www.nch.ie](http://www.nch.ie)

Festival website: [www.rte.ie/livingmusic](http://www.rte.ie/livingmusic)

For further information please contact  
**Angela Rohan, PR Executive, RTÉ Performing Groups**  
**Tel: 01 208 3347**  
**Mobile: 087 617 2531**  
**Fax: 01 208 2511**  
**Email: [angela.rohan@rte.ie](mailto:angela.rohan@rte.ie)**

Please direct enquiries about the composition seminar on Sunday 17 February to  
[music@rte.ie](mailto:music@rte.ie) or 01 208 2617