



ALEX PETCU

percussionist

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EDUCATION

Master of Arts, CIT Cork School of Music (2013)

Master of Science (physics), University College Cork (2011)

Bachelor of Science (physics), University College Cork (2011)

Lucerne Festival Academy Orchestra (2011)

International Summer Academy in Salzburg (2010)

- Prof. Peter Sadlo, Bogdan Bacanu

Other Master Classes (2008 - 2012)

- Evelyn Glennie, Colin Currie, Nebojsa Jovan Zivkovic

AWARDS / ACHIEVEMENTS

National Concert Hall Rising Star (2015)

- Chosen from all emerging Irish musicians. Gave a recital in the main auditorium.

Grants and bursaries

- Arts Council Project award (2015, 2016, 2020)

- Arts Council Bursary award (2020)

- Arts Council Commissions award (2021, 2022)

- Music Network Capital Scheme (2012)

- Yamaha Music Foundation of Europe Bursary (2013)

C.I.T. Cork School of Music Artist in Residence (2015, 2016)

Winner of Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year 2013

Tromp International Percussion Competition

- Semi-finalist in 2012, 2010. Top 6 out of 30 contestants / 90 applicants (approx)

MAIN PERFORMANCE WORK

Crash Ensemble: Core member. 10 to 20 projects a year average

Hard Rain Ensemble: Regular guest player. 3 - 5 concerts a year average

Bangers and Crash Percussion Group

- Founder of Ireland's new percussion group. 8 to 10 projects a year

Orchestral Work: RTE, Ulster, Irish Chamber, Irish Baroque and Cork Opera House Orchestras - 30 to 50 concerts a year

Solo projects: Around 10 a year, including premieres of new pieces, solos with orchestras, unusual gigs such as gong baths, etc.

Theatre / Dance / Opera collaborations (various companies): 5 to 10 per year

Other Chamber music projects: Around 10 projects a year

COMPOSITION

Cork Midsummer Festival (2021)

- New large-scale work for percussion sextet (Bangers and Crash Percussion Group)

Music Network commission (2019)

- Commissioned to compose a new work for percussion trio for the Bangers and Crash Percussion national tour.

Common Ground (2019)

- New piece for brass band and percussion co-written with trombonist Colm O'Hara.

Sounds from a Safe Harbour (2015)

- New piece for quintet playing water percussion, premiered at this festival.

EDUCATION

Outreach Projects: >30 workshops a year. Various community organisations.

Teaching: Part-time lecturer at the CIT Cork School of Music.

RECENT WORK - *highlights from 2020, 2021 and 2022*

- Crash Ensemble** – (Dec 2022) – Crash 25, 25th anniversary celebration of foundation of the ensemble. Featuring Liza Lim's "Extinction Extinction Events and Dawn Chorus", Donnacha Dennehy's Grá agau Bás, Barry O'Halpin's Winform and a new work by Diamanda Dramm Le Berge with text by Neva Elliot.
- Crash Ensemble** – (Nov 2022) – Wingform by Barry O'Halpin at Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival
- Evlana Ensemble** – (Oct 2022) – Tour to 4 venues in Ireland. Featuring Ondine by Siobhan Cleary
- Bangers and Crash Percussion** - (Oct 2022) – Sextet project, featuring Sextet No. 1 by Alex Petcu, among others
Part of PIMA! Fest, 2022
- Nathan Sherman and Alex Petcu duo** – (Oct 2022) – Sound Festival, Aberdeen, Scotland
- The First Child Tour** – (September 2022) – Tour to 4 venues across Ireland with Crash Ensemble
- Galway International Arts Festival** – (July 2022) – The First Child, new opera by Donnacha Dennehy
- West Cork Chamber Music Festival** - (June 2022) – 3 concerts with Crash Ensemble
- Art Gifts: Cork Midsummer Festival** - (June 2022) – Several short performances delivered to people's houses
- New Music Dublin** - (April 2022) - Duos with Nathan Sherman and Sarah Watts, and Crash Ensemble
- Paperboat** – (April 2022) - New opera by Elaine Agnew featuring a mix of professionals and amateurs
- Hard Rain Ensemble** - (April 2022) – Sonorities Festival
- Chamber Choir Ireland** – (March 2022) - Street Songs by Steve Martland
- West Cork Music Tuning Up** - (Jan 2022) - Bangers and Crash Percussion. 10 workshops for schools around Co. Cork.
Featuring arrangements by Alex Petcu.
- Treaty Songs** - (Dec 2021) - Crash Ensemble, featuring a new commission from Jonathan Nangle
- Dēmos** – (Nov 2021) – Collaboration David Coonan, Liz Roche Dance company and Crash Ensemble.
- The First Child** - (Oct 2021) – Opera by Donnacha Dennehy. Crash Ensemble. Irish National Opera.
- Bangers and Crash Percussion** - (Aug 2021) – Duo concert as part of Birr Festival of Music
- Bangers and Crash Percussion** - (June 2021) – Percussion sextet project as part of Cork Midsummer Festival. Three new works by Tom Lane, Amanda Feery and Alex Petcu, large setup of over 100 instruments, outdoors, in surround sound.
- West Cork Chamber Music Festival** - (June 2021) – Concert video created.
- New Music Dublin** - (April 2021) – 4 concerts with Crash Ensemble. Highlights include the world premiere of the epic piece Wingform by Barry O'Halpin and Metamold by Beccah Simms.
- Irish National Opera** - (March 2021) – Recording of La Boheme.
- Hard Rain Ensemble** - (Dec 2020) – Recording of pieces for "A Terrible Beauty", HRSE's debut album
- Crash Ensemble** - (Nov 2020) – Various recording projects
- National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland** - (Oct 2020) – Guest timpanist
- West Wicklow Festival** - (Sept 2020) – Solo concert
- Triskel Arts Centre** - (August 2020) – Duo concert with Ioana Petcu-Colan. One of the first live events after lockdown
- Between the Beats** – (July 2020) – Premiere of two new songs by Marian Ingoldsby with Kelley Lonergan (online)
Clonmel Junction Festival
- New Music Dublin** - (March 2020) - Crash Ensemble and Chamber Choir Ireland: Three concerts
- Right Here Right Now** – (Feb 2020) – Festival at the Cork Opera House
- Deirdre and the Sons of Usna** - (Jan 2020) – New opera in development by John O'Brien, at the Everyman, Cork.
- How Aria?** - (Jan 2020) - Bangers and Crash Percussion. New piece for soprano and 4 percussionists by Amanda Feery.
Written for First Fortnight festival.