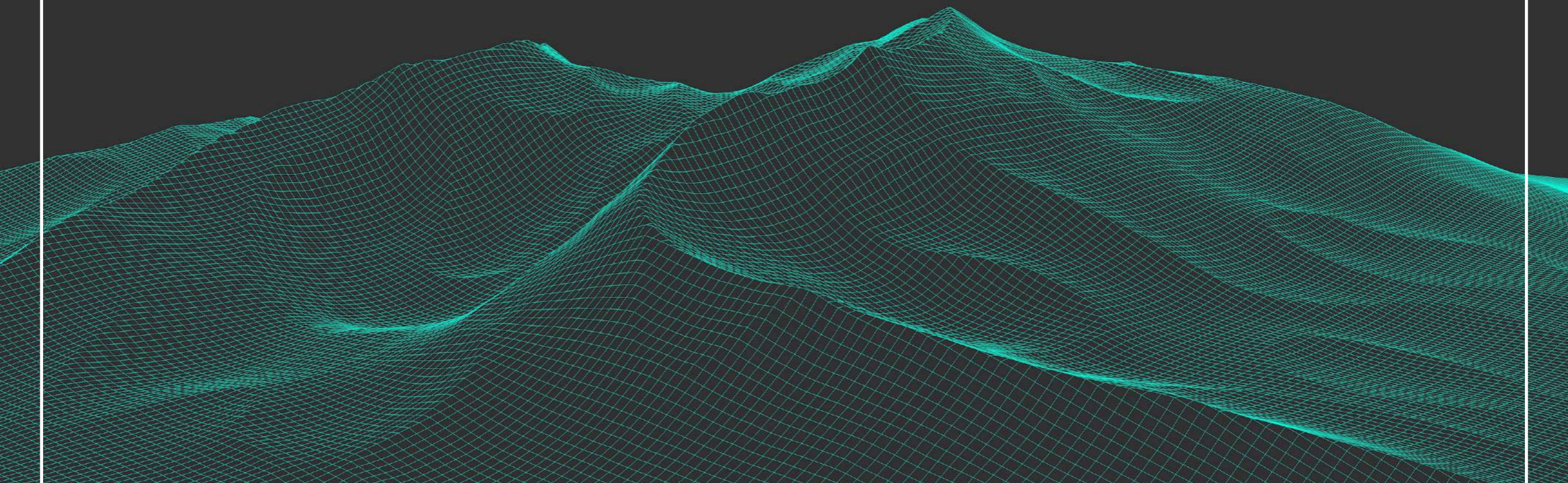


Introducing
Improvised Music Company



WWW.IMPROVISEDMUSIC.IE

WHAT WE DO

Improvised Music Company (IMC) is Ireland's principal promoter and resource for jazz and improvised music, growing and promoting Irish jazz talent at home through our live events and developmental programmes, and collaborating with international partners to export and exchange talent worldwide, including digital export under COVID conditions.

IMC has a 30-year history of dynamic, innovative programming and high-quality production, with an annual programme that includes our award-winning 12 Points Festival and several other key brands. We have a long list of successful international partnerships, and are active on the Board of the Europe Jazz Network. Dive in and discover what IMC and the Irish Jazz scene has to offer.



MEET THE TEAM



Kenneth Killeen

Director

Kenneth is the Director of Improvised Music Company. Kenneth has been professionally involved in the music industry since the mid 90's, as a musician, teacher, promoter and producer, and has enjoyed the opportunity to work with many great artists from Ireland and abroad. Kenneth joined the IMC team in 2005. He studied jazz guitar at Newpark and ran a successful jazz & contemporary improv venue in Dublin for 5 years before joining IMC as General Manager in 2005. His current role as Artistic Director includes curating the IMC's programming content, its four festivals, as well as implementing IMC's resource strategy and development.

ken@improvisedmusic.ie



Aoife Concannon

Marketing Director
Creative Producer

Aoife joined Improvised Music Company as Marketing Manager in 2011. She has many years experience working with Arts and Music festivals such as Edinburgh Fringe, Galway Arts Festival, Zanzibar International Film Festival, Dublin Fringe Festival, Bram Stoker festival as well as on a freelance basis for cultural organisations, venues, theatre and dance productions, independent film releases, book publications, exhibitions, music festivals and album releases.

aoife@improvisedmusic.ie



Adam Nolan

Production Manager

A graduate of the BIMM Institute, Adam has many years of experience in all areas of music production and event management, working with Dublin Institute of Technology, and KnockanStockan Music & Arts Festival amongst others. His diverse experience also includes his role as Managing Director of record label Minor Fall Records, and as founder, writer and concert curator/promoter for the music blog The Minor Fall, The Major Lift.

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Caitríona O'Mahony

Administrator

A graduate of Cork School of Music, the Royal Irish Academy of Music, and the Royal Conservatoire of the Hague, Caitríona has a wide range of experience in music management - programming, managing and promoting festivals and concert series through her work with the East Cork Early Music Festival, Ensemble Dagda, Nano Nagle Place Heritage Centre, and the Royal Irish Academy of Music.

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KEY OUTPUTS

FESTIVALS & SERIES



Spectrum Festival - [LINK](#)

Presenting Creative Music for Curious Ears, Spectrum Festival, over three years of programming has presented a diverse programme of music that flows through the prism of the jazz approach; its output a miscellany of sound, covering the full spectrum from jazz, progressive, rock, alt-folk to electronica. With outstanding international and Irish artists from Peter Brötzmann to Snowpoet in atmospheric Dublin venues, Spectrum has become a go-to for creative and engaging programming.

12 Points Festival & Jazz Futures Conference - [LINK](#)

Our multi-award winning 12 Points presents 12 young European jazz acts each year, rotating between Dublin and international venues, creating a unique opportunity for its participants, audiences and a valuable resource for festival bookers seeking a high quality pan-European showcase of emerging jazz talent. There is no better festival to experience the breadth, energy, ambition and diversity through which young European musicians are making the jazz of tomorrow.



Down With Jazz - [LINK](#)

From 2015-2017, Down With Jazz took a tongue-in-cheek look back to 1930s Ireland when jazz and 'foreign' music was seen by the Church as a filthy force of corruption, which culminated in a repressive 'anti-jazz' campaign to ban jazz music from the dance halls and airwaves of Ireland. An accessible open-air festival, it linked audiences with 21st century Ireland's vibrant and diverse music scene through the playful prism of this notorious period of our social history.

KEY OUTPUTS

FESTIVALS & SERIES



BAN BAM - [LINK](#)

Building on research and strategy into gender-equality initiatives for jazz and improvised music, BAN BAM was developed as a new one-day festival from Improvised Music Company with a focus on female artists in jazz and improvised music, packed full of new ideas, new sounds and new music. Following on from this, IMC has supported BAN BAM artists to develop collaborations and is commissioning new works within the BAN BAM brand for performance in 2021.

IMC's Signal Series - [LINK](#)

In 2019, Improvised Music Company committed to celebrating Irish jazz talent with the creation of a new monthly live event, The Signal Series, focused on showcasing the best emerging and established Irish jazz and improvised music acts. The first year of Signal Series saw 61 Irish musicians from 11 counties perform 16 sets in 2 venues, for 8 brilliant nights of music with styles ranging from classic jazz vocalists, to the Brazilian stylings of Tudo Bem! to contemporary soundworlds of ReDiviDeR.



Wood Quay Summer Sessions - [LINK](#)

Since 2017, IMC has programmed one week of Dublin City Council's summer lunchtime series in the Wood Quay Amphitheatre, bringing outstanding Irish jazz to hundreds of listeners in Dublin city. IMC has played a major role in producing the series along with First Music Contact, and collaborators Music Network and Contemporary Music Centre. Over the series, IMC co-ordinated media partnerships with NearFM and Dublin CityFM.

KEY OUTPUTS

ONLINE



Piece by Piece - [LINK](#)

During the COVID-19 lockdown of 2020 and 2021, Improvised Music Company (initially in collaboration with Triskel Arts Centre in Cork) commissioned a weekly sequence of online solo performances called Piece By Piece. Leading Irish-based improvising musicians created 16 new musical-visual works, unique to the digital space, in which each artist's input performance would influence or inspire the next performance in this musical chain.

Blind Date Jazz - [LINK](#)

IMC's series Blind Date Jazz brings listening and creative improvisation into focus, with some of Ireland's leading improvisers coming into the studio to create an exciting, new, musical conversation.

The twist? Neither musician has any idea who they are playing with.

Hidden from each other by a curtain until mid-way through the performance, Blind Date Jazz is an exploration in listening, intuition, skill and spontaneity.



ICONS of JAZZ

Icons of Jazz - [LINK](#)

Improvised Music Company's Icons of Jazz series presents some of Ireland's most renowned jazz musicians performing their take on the iconic musicians who have shaped jazz music in the last century. Beginning with bassist Ronan Guilfoyle's take on the music of Charlie Parker, the series has seen guitarist Tommy Halferty exploring music of John Scofield, saxophonist Richie Buckley taking on works inspired by John Coltrane, and the Hugh Buckley Organ Trio with a tribute to the music of Wes Montgomery.

KEY OUTPUTS

PARTNERSHIPS



Jazz Connective - [LINK](#)

In 2019-20, IMC became a partner in the European collaborative project Jazz Connective, with seven organizations sharing artists, resources, information and best practices towards a strong future for jazz across Europe. IMC hosted and programmed the December Jazz Connective with a 2-day programme of performances and panel discussions at Dublin's Project Arts Centre. Due to IMC's partnership, Irish artists also featured at Jazz Connective events in 5 European cities and online.

Criss Cross - [LINK](#)

Improvised Music Company is delighted to be a part of Criss Cross Europe, with Irish guitarist Chris Gulifoyle selected as a member of the band in 2021. Each year, Criss Cross Europe brings together 6 promising young jazz and improvising musicians from 6 European countries to form a pan-European band. During a residency period these musicians work together, guided by experts and an artistic coach – a flag-bearer of the European jazz scene, which culminates in a European tour.



Network organisations - [LINK](#)

Improvised Music Company is active on the Board of **Europe Jazz Network** (winning their inaugural award for Adventurous Programming for 12 Points). In 2019, the inaugural Europe Jazz Network collaborated with IMC to present the Zenith Award was presented to an outstanding emerging band selected from the 12 Points programme. We are also active members of **Jazz Promotion Network** UK and Ireland, as well as being the pivotal connector nationally for jazz and improvised music across the island of Ireland.

KEY OUTPUTS

OTHER ACTIVITIES



Fun Size Jazz - [LINK](#)

Fun Size Jazz was created by Improvised Music Company and The Ark in 2018 as a performance and artist developmental opportunity for established jazz and improvising musicians to support and encourage them to explore creating work for young audiences.

Fun Size Jazz projects were developed in sessions in 2018 and 2020, with a number of projects going on to performances in Cruinniú na nÓg, Spike Cello Festival and Jazz Connective.

Jazz Connector - [LINK](#)

Jazz Connector is a monthly online meet-up where IMC invites all the communities of people who make up the jazz world in Ireland - musicians, promoters, educators and venues - to come together to discuss ongoing issues in the scene. We invite guest speakers from different disciplines to share their expertise with attendees to help with their individual goals and continuing professional development. Recordings and notes are made available to musicians as a career resource.



IMC's Creative About Music Podcast - [LINK](#)

IMC's Creative About Music Podcast is a series of conversations with musicians about the act of creating, from inspiration to daily practices. We'll discuss musician's different approaches to creativity, where they take their ideas from and how they are developed, how they approach collaboration, and also take some deep dives into particular tracks to break down how a final musical work was created.



"...at the heart of much that is innovative, ground-breaking, genre-defying, and above all, inclusive."

All About Jazz





*“Innovation is the watchword for the festival,
the brainchild of the forward thinking
Improvised Music Company”*

JazzWise UK (on 12 Points)



“Diverse in sound and so much more [BAN BAM] is the fruit of Improvised Music Company's labour to promote, empower, and support women in jazz and improvised music.”

Totally Dublin

[IMC Website](#)

[IMC's YouTube channel](#)

[IMC's Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)

[IMC Podcast](#)

[IMC 2019 Activity Highlights](#)

