



Improvised Music Company's

BAN BAM

WHAT IS BAN BAM?

About BAN BAM

A play on 'ban', the Irish word for 'women', BAN BAM is an initiative from IMC which began in 2017 with the aim of supporting and developing the work of women and gender minority artists in jazz and improvised music, with the hope of achieving a more gender balanced scene in the future. Through research activities, mentorships, a festival, commissioning new work, and a dedicated podcast, the BAN BAM programme has developed to be an important and impactful part of IMC's activity.

About Improvised Music Company

Improvised Music Company is one of Ireland's leading Event Specialists with 30 years experience curating, producing and promoting bespoke live music events and festivals. Founded in 1991, IMC's mission is to nurture and grow the scene for jazz and improvised music in Ireland, support the development of artistic achievement for Irish and Irish-based musicians by advocating for them both at home and abroad, and to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of jazz and related music in Ireland.



BAN BAM COMMISSION AWARD

- In 2020, IMC partnered with their peer organisation in Northern Ireland Moving On Music to launch a BAN BAM commission and development opportunity for female and gender-minority artists across Ireland.
- Applications are assessed by a panel of carefully selected music industry professionals. The 2020 Panel consists of composer/broadcaster and former director Galway Jazz Festival Ellen Cranitch, music programmer and talent development manager with Serious UK Rob Farhat, musician, composer, producer and Chairperson of Jazz Promotion Network Kim Macari, saxophonist, composer and educator Trish Clowes, award-winning composer and conductor Brian Irvine, as well as Director of IMC Kenneth Killeen, and Moving on Music Creative Producer Paula McColl.
- In 2023, the partnership launched a second round of the commissioning and career development opportunity for female and gender minority composers in jazz or improvised music, living on the island of Ireland (North and South).
- Each BAN BAM awardee is commissioned to create a brand new work, and receives 12 months of bespoke creative and career development support and consultation from IMC, MOM, and selected industry professionals.
- **The BAN BAM works will receive live performances in Dublin, Belfast, and further afield into 2023 and beyond.**



2020/21 COMMISSIONS



- The 2020/21 selected composers - Úna Monaghan, Sue Rynhart, & C.V. Lunny - wrote new works which, due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, took a different turn in their final presentation, and were developed into site-specific filmed experiences, premiered at the Irish Film Institute in April 2022.
- Úna Monaghan's work '**And the Goals will Come**', for harp, bassoon, percussion and hurler comes to life in Co. Kilkenny, where the love of hurling is a tangible presence.
- C.V. Lunny's work '**currents**' explores the push and pull of emotion, electricity, water, and their interaction - against the background of the former Pigeon House power plant, Poolbeg.
- From Smock Alley Theatre, the weight of history and literature saturates Sue Rynhart's piece, based on Charlotte Perkins-Gilman's '**The Yellow Wallpaper**'.



WATCH BAN BAM



You, Me or the Wallpaper by Sue Rynhart

Watch the trailer for the BAN BAM 2020/21 films at: bit.ly/ban-bam-trailer

BAN BAM PODCAST



In April 2020, IMC Creative Producer Aoife Concannon presented a **10-episode BAN BAM Podcast** exploring creative work from inspiration to execution, through conversations with a host of women working in jazz and creative improvised music.

The series offered insight into different musicians' approaches to the creative process and their work over the course of a career, along with deep-dives into some particular works, inspirations and areas that define them.

The series opened in conversations with the three awardees of the BAN BAM Commissioning & Development Award 2020/21 - Sue Rynhart, C.V. Lunny & Úna Monaghan - about their process in creating their new pieces. The composers explored how and when they create music, and how life and the pandemic played into their work over the year.

The BAN BAM Podcast looks at diverse perspectives on music and musicians' careers - the interplay between music-making and disability, music and parenthood, music and academic careers, and the many ways in which musicians make and perform music.

Listen at: bit.ly/imc-podcast or on any podcast platform

PARTNERSHIPS

We are always in pursuit of excellence at IMC, in our festivals and through our partnerships. We pride ourselves on developing successful, creative, mutually rewarding, and tailored collaborations. Some of our recent rewarding partnerships include those with Moving On Music, Edinburgh Jazz Festival, Jazz from Scotland, The Ark, the pan-European Jazz Connective programme, and many more.

A woman with glasses is playing a violin. She is wearing a light-colored, textured vest over a dark top. The background is a vibrant blue with some purple light patterns. The image is partially obscured by a white speech bubble containing text.

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

- All About Jazz

INTERESTED?

Let's talk.

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