



Grey Area

Crash Ensemble

Flute - Susan Doyle
Clarinet - Deirdre O'Leary
Trombone - Roddy O'Keefe
Percussion - Owen Gunnell
Percussion - Alex Petcu
Electric Guitar - Barry O'Halpin
Piano - Maire Carroll
Violin - Larissa O'Grady
Viola - Lisa Dowdall
Cello - Kate Ellis
Bass - Caimin Gilmore

Thursday 22nd October 2020, 1600

Programme

Sam Perkin

Grey Area (Date)

Programme notes

Sam Perkin Grey Area

Sam Perkin is one of the most exciting young composers at work in Ireland today. He also happens to be a skateboarder, *Grey Area* fuses these two passions into a mesmerising film. Shot and edited by skate photographer and videographers Niall O'Byrne and Sam Curtin, *Grey Area* skateboarding film with original score by Sam Perkin performed by Crash Ensemble, Ireland's leading new music group.

Grey Area follows a skateboarder's nocturnal journey through an urban landscape. *Blending the essence of street skateboarding with contemporary music, Grey Area is a hypnotic journey through the streets, leading us to secrets that we find only if we are open to them.*

As a composer and skateboarder, it has taken me many years to find a way of blending the two together in a meaningful artistic way. *Grey Area* is the fruit of a collaboration between friends, an exploration at the crossroads between contemporary music and street skateboarding. I wanted to convey the unique feeling of liberation that street skateboarding brings. I also wished to transport the listener/viewer into the mind of a skateboarder. I did this to reveal how skateboarders look differently at architecture - how they perceive their landscape and the excitement that it brings to them.

In the film, two different worlds are shown in relief, each one complementing the other. The first layer is in slow motion and follows a skateboarder from the centre to the outskirts of a city. The second layer intersperses energetic, glitchy shots of a skateboarder interacting with their landscape. All sound was removed from the film and we hear this second layer played by Crash Ensemble. In other words, I orchestrated the sounds, rhythms and colours of skateboarding and *The City*.

We are hypnotically drawn into the skateboarder's nocturnal journey to see what secrets are to be found, if we are open to them.

Sam Perkin

Biographies

Sam Perkin

Sam Perkin (b.1985) is composer-in-residence with Crash Ensemble, Ireland's leading new music ensemble; a group of world-class musicians who play the most adventurous music of today.

'Grey Area', his first major work for Crash Ensemble, blends the worlds of Street Skateboarding with Contemporary Music and was commissioned by Engage Arts Festival for Crash Ensemble with its first three performances taking place at Music Town in Dublin, Sounds From A Safe Harbour in Cork, and Musica Nova Festival Helsinki. 'Waves' is an attempted self-cure for tinnitus and is the fruit of a bountiful collaboration between The Irish Chamber Orchestra and the composer over the last few years, supported by The Arts Council of Ireland. 'Language', a substantial work for Solo Violin, was commissioned by West Cork Chamber Music Festival for contemporary violin specialist Miranda Cuckson. 'Twitter', for Flute Choir, Audience, Smartphones and Video was commissioned last year for La Côte Flûte Festival, Switzerland. As part of his Crash residency, he will also compose a set of pieces inspired by his love of linguistics. In his recent artistic work, Sam has been working with blending Sine Tones with Acoustic Instruments to make them *glow*, as in his 'Orchestra In The Digital Age' for Orchestra and Sine Tones, composed as part of Composer Lab 2019 for the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra and organised by The Contemporary Music Centre Ireland.

He has enjoyed fruitful collaborations with musicians/groups such as Finghin Collins, Crash Ensemble, The Irish Chamber Orchestra, Miranda Cuckson, Alex Petcu, Kilkenny Arts Festival, Nathalia Milstein, Music For Galway, ConTempo Quartet, ConCorda Chamber Music, The Irish Association of Youth Orchestras, RTÉ NSO, Spotlight Chamber Music Series, Co-Orch Dublin, Fidelio Trio; and festivals such as Ortús Chamber Music Festival, Engage Arts Festival, Killaloe Chamber Music Festival, The New Ross Piano Festival, West Wicklow Festival, West Cork Chamber Music Festival, Gregynog Festival - Wales, La Côte Festival - Switzerland, and Musica Nova Festival - Finland. Sam Perkin holds degrees in Composition from CIT Cork School of Music, Ireland, and an Artist Diploma from Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Lyon, France. In 2016 he was awarded the prestigious Prix Salabert for Composition from Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Lyon, France, and in 2017 he was awarded The Next Generation Bursary from The Arts Council of Ireland.

samperkincomposer.com

Crash Ensemble is Ireland's leading new music ensemble; a group of world-class musicians who play the most adventurous, ground-breaking music of today.

Crash Ensemble, an Irish new-music collective with international cachet and considerable chops. - The Washington Post

crashensemble.com

Forthcoming events

La Sirenuse | Thu 22 October | 1730

Filmed performance piece featuring glass percussion and electroacoustic sounds

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New commission by sound from composer Ben Lunn

Organ Recital | Fri 23 October | 1030

Compilation of recent sound commissions performed by Roger Williams

Digital Horn | Fri 23 October | 1200

Music for horn and electronics performed by BBC Young Musician of the Year 2016 finalist Ben Goldscheider

Lonesingness | Fri 23 October | 1600

EXAUDI vocal group refinding connections and bridging distances in a time of isolation

COVID-19 Sound Map | Fri 23 October | 1730

Pete Stollery provides a walk-thru of the changing soundscapes of lockdown

Ben Goldscheider/Huw Watkins | Fri 23 October | 2000

Music for horn and piano by Widmann, Kirchner, Watkins, Roxanna Panufnik and Bissill

Any Enemy | Sat 24 October | 1200

Performance including the premiere of two movements from John de Simone's *Ups and Downs*

The Big Picture | Sat 24 October | 1400

Film of last year's performance of Judith Weir's work which celebrated the re-opening of Aberdeen Art Gallery

Guild of Horn Players | Sat 24 October | 1600
Works by Tim Jackson, Thomas Hewitt Jones and Tippett

Ten Wee Drams | Sat 24 October | 2000
Ten specially commissioned pieces for bass and contrabass clarinet played by Sarah Watts

Gaia | Sun 25 October | 1200
New music for flute and voice by Laura Bowler and Ruth Morley

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