

SUMMER 2009

World Premiere

*Concerto for  
Piano & Orchestra*

Composer Cheryl Frances-Hoad

Commissioned under Wicklow County Council's  
Per Cent for Art Programme

*Featuring:*

Greystones Orchestra in concert

Pianist Bobby Chen

Conductor Ronan O'Reilly

Orchestra Leader Hazel Fortune

# Introduction

Wicklow County Arts Office is delighted to present the World Premiere performance of Concerto for Piano and Orchestra by Composer Cheryl Frances-Hoad. The concert programme for this celebration also features works by Mozart performed by the Greystones Orchestra and Liszt performed by pianist Bobby Chen in a solo capacity, under the baton of conductor Ronan O'Reilly.

The work was uniquely conceived by the composer for County Wicklow, in response to the Arts Offices' call for new music works through Wicklow County Council's Per Cent for Art Programme 2006 – 2008. The three movements of the Concerto are inspired by the scenery, geography, and history of the north east of the county. More significantly, the work is based on the composers' own experiences of the Bray and Greystones landscapes, as well as ideas from workshops conducted as part of the commission process with local schools and Bray Arts Club.

Cheryl carefully threaded together and nurtured the various strands of thinking and musical endeavour that are required to produce a successful, original and inspiring piece of new music work. Initially she formed a partnership with Greystones Orchestra establishing that the work would be written and rehearsed to be first performed by them. Cheryl then elected to write a piano concerto, inviting internationally accomplished pianist Bobby Chen to become a part of the project. Both Cheryl and Bobby then facilitated workshops in seven schools in the north Wicklow area. The participating students improvised with available music instruments and were then divided into groups to work on a three to five minute compositional task focusing on memories and sounds from their locality. Cheryl also met with Bray Arts Club and used in detail in her research, a book on railways, *Railway Encounters* by Wicklow based writer and artist Peter McNiff. Following all this research Cheryl spent an intensive period interpreting what she had heard and seen and translating this into musical notation and motifs.

SUMMER 2009

The result is a piece that will challenge the orchestra and complement their skills and technique, at the same time exposing the virtuosity and weight of experience of the soloist Bobby Chen.

This has been a wonderful collaboration between amateur and professional musicians, and a living composer aiming to solely derive her income from creating new music, while at the same time providing valuable opportunities for students in a music education context.

Wicklow County Council is pleased to be in a position to support the development of new work in all the arts disciplines. The Per Cent for Art Programme developed by the Arts Office for 2006 – 2008 has yielded many diverse and innovative projects to the forefront of current contemporary arts practice in Ireland.

We hope that you enjoy the performance. Further information on Wicklow County Council's Per Cent for Art Commissioning Programme 2006 – 2008 is available from [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie) or by contacting the Arts Office.

Please see the back page for participating schools, acknowledgements in relation to this composition, and the performances.

*Jenny Sherwin,*  
**Arts Officer**

Wicklow County Arts Office  
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## Greystones Orchestra

In 1989 a small group of musicians came together and founded the Greystones Orchestra. Originally our aim was simply to enjoy playing together and to “stimulate interest in music and encourage musicians of all standards” in the community. Fifteen years later this is a multi-cultural orchestra with players from many countries, all with one language in common, music.

Our repertoire has included professional soloists in violin, tuba, trombone, piano and voice and we have accompanied Church Choirs in Sacred Music. Our versatility has brought us through Beethoven’s Symphonies, Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No.2, excerpts from operas by Mozart, Catalini and Bellini,

Handel’s Water music, Haydn Symphonies, Rossini Overtures, Tchaikowsky Ballet Suites and arrangements from many popular musicals.

In recent years, thanks to the generous support of our members, friends and sponsors, we have equipped the orchestra with professional music stands and lights, a set of timpani and a state of the art conductor’s stand.

Greystones is a mixed ability Orchestra and we warmly welcome new members, we have been really pleased to participate in this project with Wicklow County Arts Office and congratulate Cheryl on the realisation of her new work, uniquely conceived for us.

*Tony Fleming Greystones Orchestra*



## Conductor **Ronan O'Reilly**

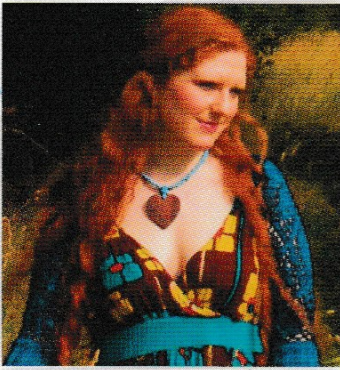
Ronan O'Reilly studied piano, oboe, organ and composition at the College of Music, Dublin. His musical career is now principally that of a conductor, but also includes teaching, arranging and performing as well as being a music copyist for the RTE orchestras.

Conducting engagements have brought him on tour to France, Hungary, Belgium, Italy and the UK with both wind ensembles and orchestras. As an oboist and keyboard player, he has performed with many ensembles including the RTE National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, RTE Concert Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra, Lyric Opera and the Irish Chamber Orchestra. Ronan has performed in the world-renowned Carnegie Hall, Boston Symphony Hall and Chicago Symphony Center.

He is the Musical Director of the Artane School of Music where he conducts the various ensembles incorporated within the school. The bands of the Artane School of Music perform regularly and participate in live radio and TV broadcasts, including the annual GAA football and hurling championships. More recently they have been invited to perform at the Six Nations rugby games and international soccer matches, all at Croke Park. The bands have

toured extensively across the USA and the UK and are returning to Boston to perform a series of concerts to include Hanover Theatre, Worcester, Faneuil Hall for the Mayor of Boston and at the famous Hatch-Shell on the Charles River in Boston this August/September.

He is also principal conductor of the Greystones Orchestra, and has been a regular wind, brass and percussion tutor to the National Youth Orchestras of Ireland. Since 2003 he has served as a faculty member to Summer Music on the Shannon (SMS), a series of international masterclasses in association with the University of Limerick. In August 2007 Ronan was very honoured to be appointed Principal Conductor of the Irish Youth Wind Ensemble and directed his first course culminating in a very successful performance at the National Concert Hall in August of last year.



## Composer **Cheryl Frances-Hoad**

*“At a time when it is harder and harder for young composers to establish a distinctive voice - too many styles, too much music easily available to them - Frances-Hoad’s approach is individual, quirky perhaps, but distinctly special.”*

Andrew Clements, *The Guardian*, 29th November, 2004

Cheryl Frances-Hoad (b.1980) received her musical education at the Yehudi Menuhin School, Cambridge University and Kings College London. Her works have won many prizes and awards and she is in ever increasing demand as a composer, with her music being described as “mercurial, impassioned, and always compelling in its authority” (*The Spectator*), and “highly wrought, yet piled high with emotional content” (*The Guardian*).

Recent awards include the Royal Philharmonic Society Composition Prize (2007), which resulted in the premiere of *My day in Hell* at the Cheltenham Music Festival 2008 by the Dante Quartet (later broadcast by BBC Radio 3), and a 2008 Leverhulme Trust Artists in Residence Fellowship which has enabled Cheryl to begin a ten month residency at the Cambridge University Psychiatry Department

in October 2008, investigating aspects of the mind that will inspire a major new work for ‘cello and orchestra.

Cheryl’s debut CD was recorded in September 2008, and is due for release late in 2009. Many of the UK’s most talented artists feature on the CD, including Nicholas Daniel (oboe), The London Mozart Trio, the Lendvai String Trio, Natalia Lomeiko (violin) and the Kreisler Ensemble, performing Cheryl’s recent solo and chamber works. The CD was funded by awards from the Arts Council, the Worshipful Company of Musicians, the Ralph Vaughan Williams Trust, the PRS/Bliss Trust, the Exuberant Trust, the Hildon Foundation and the Nicholas Boas Charitable Trust.

Cheryl began studying at the Yehudi Menuhin School in 1988 (at a time when the school

To Go,  
Thankyou so much for a fabulous performance!  
Cheryl ~~Manchester~~

accepted only five international pupils per year) after playing the 'cello for six months, and was soon praised by Lord Yehudi Menuhin for her "beautiful composition" after writing a piece for his 90th Birthday and winning the BBC Young Composer Competition in 1996 at the age of 15. During her ten years at the school she had the privilege of working with some of the greatest musical artists (Rostropovich, Menuhin, Shafran, Robert Tear, David Willcocks) and playing in many prestigious venues in the UK and abroad: experiences which have greatly influenced her compositions and given her an innate understanding of the perspective of the performer.

During her time at Gonville and Caius College Cambridge (where she achieved a Triple 1st in her BA(Hons) in Music (2001) and an MPhil with Distinction in Composition (2002)

she received several major commissions, including a work for the Almeida Festival (Tread Softly, performed by the Composers Ensemble), A Refusal to Mourn (for oboe and string orchestra) for Nicholas Daniel and CUCO (premiered in 2001 at the Cambridge Music Festival in West Road Concert Hall), a Chamber Opera for the New Cambridge Opera Group (commissioned by the N.C.O.G and the Britten@25 Festival in 2001), and Memoria for Nicholas Daniel and the Schubert Ensemble (commissioned and performed at the 2002 Spitalfields Festival).

Cheryl has received many other accolades, commissions and residencies too numerous to mention, and she is without doubt an excellent scholar and an accomplished composer who is attracting significant international attention.



## Leader **Hazel Fortune**

Hazel has been a member of the Greystones Orchestra since its foundation in 1989. She began violin studies aged 8 in London and, when 11, won a seven-year scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music in London, where she took piano as a second instrument. She has gained experience in orchestral playing in England and Ireland.

In 2000 Hazel was awarded the RIAM Diploma in violin teaching and during the last 13 years she has taught at the Bray Music Centre, the Wicklow School of Music and the DIT Conservatory of Music.

# Programme

**8.00pm**

**Mozart** Overture to Così fan tutte (K588)

**Mozart** Symphony No 31 Paris Symphony (K297)

**Lizst** Ballade No.2

**Interval**

**Cheryl Frances-Hoad** Concerto for Piano & Orchestra

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## Reminders

### *Mobile Phones/Pagers*

Please ensure that mobile phones/pagers are completely switched off and not left on silent for recording purposes

### *Camera, Video & Tape Recording*

Cameras, video equipment and tape recorders are not permitted

### *Interval*

Please note that late comers will not be admitted until the interval or a suitable pause in the programme  
Interval drinks can be pre-ordered at the bar

# Greystones Orchestra

## Violins 1

Hazel Fortune – *Leader*  
Valerie Kelly  
Serena Jebb  
Lisa Scanlan  
Aoife Broxson

## Violins 2

Jean Loy  
Winnie Daly  
Joan Marie Healy  
Jo Gallagher  
Gerry Hanley  
Joyce Jones  
Charlotte Murray  
Pippa O'connor

## Violas

Magsie Goor  
Feargal Dearnan\*  
Sheila Benny  
Charlotte Molloy  
Mary Mooney  
Julie Walshe

## Cello

Bairbre Nic Aongusa  
Mary Lou Keane  
Michael Cullen  
Mary Pyle  
Anne-marie Nolan  
Sheila Cleary

## Double Bass

Seamus Doyle \*  
Valerie Cullen  
Geraldine Fitzgerald  
Jim Mckay Snr.

## Flutes

Tony Fleming  
Liam Ryder  
Beatrice Lassere

## Oboes

John Flanagan  
Martina Jones

## Clarinets

Robert Clarke  
Gerry Hickey  
Dick Kerrigan

## Bassoons

Ates Kirkham\*  
Sean Jones\*

## French Horns

Lorcan Daly\*  
Liam Daly\*

## Trumpets

Jane Hilliard\*  
Rosario Missonelli\*

## Timpani

Roger Moffet\*

*\*all our guest players are accomplished professional freelance musicians some of whom play with the RTE Concert Orchestra among other professional ensembles*