

CREDO

Fabrica's musicians

NORTHERN IRELAND

Kevin McCullagh

Throughout his childhood, Kevin spent his family holidays in a village in County Donegal that boasts a long fiddling tradition, where he studied the violin at summer school. He later studied traditional music at Dublin's Ballyfermot Senior College, where he also became interested in computer science as a means of creating musical projects. He obtained a degree in musical technology at Belfast's Queen's University where he specialized in electroacoustic composition.

Laura Henderson

Her first instrument was the piano, but Laura will take part in CREDO on the Celtic harp. She has played the instrument for only six years but does so with a distinct sensibility and spontaneity. A member of Belfast's harp orchestra, Laura was strongly influenced by classical and traditional music, and in particular by Scottish and Irish culture. On a sabbatical break before resuming her studies in medicine, she is playing and recording with two other excellent musicians: her brother Jarlath, multi award-winning piper, and her sister Alana, cellist and flutist.

Jarlath Henderson

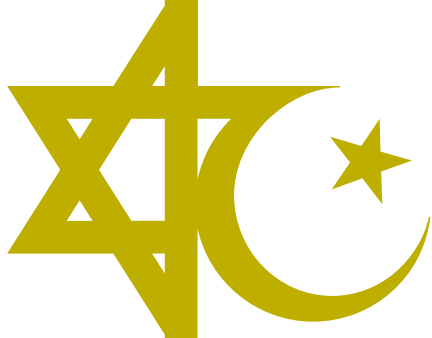
Jarlath Henderson, only 18 years from Tyrone, Northern Ireland, is a three times 'All-Ireland Champion' Uilleann Piper (the Irish bagpipe). Jarlath teaches music with the renowned Armagh Pipers Club. He has both taught and performed at a number of international piping festivals on television and radio. In December 2003 he won the BBC 'Young Folk Musician of the Year', a major UK award. In addition to playing uilleann pipes, Jarlath also plays flute, whistle and guitar and has a keen interest in traditional song.

Rohan Young

Despite being only 23, Rohan boasts a prestigious curriculum with a large number of international exhibitions, including participation in three editions of the Ethno festival in Sweden. An excellent percussionist, he refined his rhythmic talents on the traditional Irish "bodhran", maturing a wide, expressive range. He has been encouraged since childhood by his family of musicians. At the age of ten he participated regularly in weekly musical sessions at a club near his home. The fame of the club grew as did the size of the association's buildings, becoming what is today "The Andersonstown Contemporary and Traditional School of Music", the most avant-garde school for the teaching of traditional music in Northern Ireland. Today Rohan is also a teacher: he teaches the bodhran of which he has a unique understanding because, as well as being an excellent artist he is also a renown craftsman who makes and sells his own instruments.

Suzanne Savage

The sophisticated vocal technique of Suzanne – one of the most renown singers in Northern Ireland – her respect for the past and her capacity to give a new interpretation to all types of songs, have placed her in the forefront of the new Irish music scene. She earned her degree in music at Belfast's Queen's University. Her heterogeneous musical tastes blend rock, classical, dance, jazz and more recently, traditional Irish melodies,



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into a unique sound. Among her recent musical successes are her interpretation in the avant-garde opera of Simon Mawhinney "*Qalban Tahiran*" in 2001, an invitation from Van Morrison to participate at a concert in Killyleigh in May 2003 and her exhibition in the 2003 edition of the Cork Jazz Festival. Her performance there was acclaimed by critics: "the most talented, tireless and passionate vocalist that the Belfast scene can currently boast" (BBC Northern Ireland), "probably the best voice in Northern Ireland in the past thirty years" (Downtown Radio, Northern Ireland). The future includes an album project as soloist using original pieces, together with Canadian jazz pianist Gordon Webster.

ISRAEL

Itamar Shahar

Twenty-one year-old from a Jewish family, second generation Israeli, he has family roots from Poland and Iraq. He has played classical music since he was six but later became interested in percussion and was won over by Turkish music, dedicating his time to learning the Ney flute and experimenting with the instrument. Itamar studied classical oriental music at the Musical Academy of the Jewish University in Jerusalem. He has recently spent several months participating in Sufi ceremonies in Turkey.

Mark Eliyahu

Twenty-one year-old, he has played the Tar, Saz and Kamanche since he was four years old. He is from a Jewish family, originally from Azerbaijan (where he was born). His father, after a career as classical music professor, decided to return to traditional music and compose his own pieces accompanied by his son. In the last few years Mark has spent some time in Greece where he studied with the maestro Ross Daly, after spending time in Azerbaijan to study with the maestro Adelt Maazirov. Despite his tender age, Mark teaches Saz at the Center for Classical Oriental Music at the University of Bar Ilan.

Ranin Hanna

Born in Rame, Israel in 1978, Ranin Hanna, as well as being a renowned vocalist, has a degree in communication. From 1994 to 2001 she took part as a soloist vocalist in *YOA'D*, a group founded in 1983 in the village of Rame, that has a repertory of progressive Arab and Palestinian songs. During this period she participated in various events in Jerusalem, Haifa, Bethlehem, Gaza, Tel Aviv and Galilee. Internationally she has performed in Spain, Jordan and Tunisia. From 2002 to 2003 she worked with the Mizaj Studio as a jingle singer for various radio stations. On October 24 and 25, 2003, she gave solo performances, accompanied by an artist from the group *Sabreen*, for the Fifth International conference of the Christian Ecumenical Foundation of the Holy Land in Washington. She sings in Arabic, English, and Hebrew and is currently augmenting her understanding of music and singing, directing her attention towards opera and classical music.

Noam Aharon

Noam Aharon, 25 years old, percussionist, originally from Afula, in the north of Israel, started playing percussion at the age of 14. Today he plays the djembé, the darbooka, the tammorra, the bongos and various drums. In addition he can play small percussion instruments like the triangle, the egg shaker, the ancient cymbals (small cymbals) as well as all types of bells. Noam also practices "vocal percussion". He is considered a multipurpose musician, influenced by Yaman, Moroccan, Indian and Arabic cultures from which his family originates. In the past

he has played with various bands and groups, including an ensemble playing traditional Moroccan music. Last summer he spent time in Italy exploring various types of melody in the music festivals and experimenting with traditional tarantellas. He currently plays as a percussionist in the band *Green Light*, which performs ethnic music with funk influences.

TURKEY

Gonca Girgin

Musician with Greco-Turkish roots (Tessalonica), she is a Sunnite Muslim. Her main instrument is the kanun, but she is also a singer and plays the bendir. She has held various seminars on different periods of Ottoman music. Author of a book which is soon to be published, *The art of musical expression through writing*, which starts from the Sumerian civilization, and looks at Chinese, Arabic and Turkish systems of musical notation. She is reading for master of ethnomusicology at the MIYAM (the research institute which is part of Istanbul's polytechnic).

Neset Kirsehirli

Of Caucasian roots and a Sunnite Muslim. He mainly plays the mey, as well as singing and playing a variety of other instruments such as the asma davul, the bendir, flute, guitar and piano. Neset participated as chorus member in the production of the opera *Enea e Didone* by Henry Purcell and in the youth choir of Radio Istanbul (TRT). He has collaborated on various album recordings. Neset is currently working on composing and writing lyrics for his soon-to-be released album.

Hakan Kaya

Of Kurdo-Persian origin, he is an Alevi Muslim. His main instrument is the darbuka, but he plays other instruments: cifte nagara, cember, def, bendir, tabla. He studied tabla at the Varanasi University in India for four months. Hakan has collaborated on various albums. He is currently working on recording the album *Orient Expression*, with Richard Hammer, Dj Yakuza and Cem Yildiz for Doublemoon Records.

REST OF THE WORLD

For the performance in Karlsruhe

Gunnlaug Thorvaldsdottir (Iceland)

Gunnlaug Thorvaldsdottir was born in Reykjavik, Iceland in 1976. Early on she started to make strange sounds with her voice and at 3 years of age she was first heard talking to the birds.

As a child she was put to violin lessons but she preferred listening to punk and progressive rock. As a teenager she gained national attention for her bird sound imitations. She studied classical singing up to 3rd grade in FIH school of music in Reykjavik and she also sang in Langholtskirkja church choir for 4 years.

While in college she made vocal sounds for radio and in 1999 she acted the role of the seagull in a radio play *The Seagull* by Jon Gnarr. She sang on the soundtrack of the film *Gooseparty* in 2001. Her singing is also featured in the recent film *Hannes Revelation* (2003) by Hrafn Gunnlaugsson based on a story by the Icelandic prime minister. In June 2003 Gunnlaug attended The Institute for Living Voice workshops in Marseille where she met David Moss and Andrea Molino.

Joy Frempong (Switzerland)

Joy Frempong, daughter of a Swiss mother and Ghanaian father, was born in the north of Ghana in 1978 where she lived until her family moved to Switzerland when she was seven. Brought up in a musical family, she started to play the piano at age seven. During her teenage years this changed from a "must" to a passion when she discovered free improvisation. At 17 she was introduced to the world of jazz and experimental singing by her first vocal teacher. After attending a workshop with David Moss she was given a scholarship at Fabrica where she participated in several projects (with Koichi Makigami, Andrea Molino, Lucio Dalla) and created "because you are a girl" - a vocal performance on female genital mutilation. Joy is about to complete her studies in composition at the jazz school in Bern. She performs jazz and experimental music with various bands and teaches contemporary singing in Zurich.

Hugo Smit (New Zealand)

Hugo's passion for music began while singing in school and church choirs. He took up the piano and tuba before settling on the cello as his main instrument. A keen chamber and orchestral musician, he has been a member of the New Zealand National Youth Orchestra and a chamber music coach for youngsters. In 2003 he completed a music degree in New Zealand majoring in cello, having also studied digital music and philosophy. After his time at Fabrica, he hopes to further his studies abroad. He is now 21.

Raphael Camenisch (Switzerland)

Raphael Camenisch was born in Zürich in 1975 and began his musical studies at an early age. After winning the first prize in the Swiss Soloists Competition in 1992, he entered the saxophone class of Marcus Weiss at the conservatory of Zürich, where he received a teaching diploma. Since then he has received numerous awards at various national and international competitions. He has participated in masterclasses by Iwan Roth (Basel), Kyle Horch (London), Jean-Michel Goury and Serge Bertocchi (Paris). In the class of Jean-Georges Koerper, he completed his studies (a concert diploma) at the Musikhochschule Zürich. Raphael leads an active concert life as a soloist and chamber musician. He has a special interest in contemporary music and currently plays with various ensembles; Ensemble Phoenix (Basel), Ensemble für neue Musik

Zürich, Tonhalle Orchester Zürich, Duo CamenischBlum, saxophone quartet Saxemble, Zürcher Kammerorchester (at the Orpheum Sonderkonzerte 2003).

Holger Stenschke (Germany)

Holger grew up in Kaiserslautern, Germany. He later moved to Graz and Basel, where he attended artistic schools and was introduced to audio engineering, electronic music and audio design. Now 28, the manifold experience acquired during his studies has allowed him to cover a wide field of activities: composing experimental electronic music, working on sound design for film, developing audio and video software as well as complex interactive systems. He has a particular interest in performing electronic music on stage and, together with saxophonist Raphael Camenisch, he recently founded the electro-instrumental duo "Glattes Haar".

Marco Giovinazzo (Italy)

Marco Giovinazzo has collaborated with several orchestra and theatre groups. He has won awards in numerous national and international competitions and has also worked on CDs as well as various television and radio recordings. His interest in non-European culture motivated his study of African music. He is a consultant of Aosta Classica and artistic director of the Associazione Culturale Tamtando with which he does intensive research on ethnic music through seminars, workshops, recordings, concerts and collaborations with foreign musicians.

Mauro Gino (Italy)

Mauro Gino obtained a diploma in percussion instruments at the Turin conservatory, and later attended numerous specialization courses on percussion instruments and music teaching. In addition he has won awards in national and international competitions and has actualized video recordings for RAI Radiotelevisione Italiana and Bayerischer Runfunk of Monaco, Bavaria. For the last few years he has also been active in ethnic music, multimedia productions, and theatrical productions. He collaborates with the TAMTANDO project.

Giovanni Delfino (Italy)

Giovanni Delfino studied classical percussion at the Istituto Musicale di Aosta under maestro Marco Giovinazzo until 1998. In 1998 and 2000 he attended a specialization course at the Scuola Superiore di Musica where he met maestro Daniele Di Gregorio. At the same time Giovanni Delfino began an involvement with ethnic music from Africa to Brazil through Cuba and the East. As well as percussions he studied drums and attended seminars. In 1998 Giovanni Delfino became also bursary student at Fabrica. He currently organizes courses and entertainment at the elementary and junior high schools in Val d'Aosta.