

Musici Ireland: Earthrise

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Musici Ireland, led by violist Beth McNinch, has established itself as a pioneering force in Irish chamber music since its formation in 2012. Known for commissioning and premiering contemporary works, the ensemble is distinguished by its commitment to Irish and female composers, pushing the boundaries of modern chamber music with an interdisciplinary and socially engaged approach.

"Earthrise," recorded at Grouse Lodge Studios, captures the ensemble at the height of its artistic prowess. Produced by Jonathan Allen (Abbey Road Studios) and engineered by Alex Borwick, this album presents a collection of striking new works by leading Irish composers. Each piece offers a distinct perspective, contributing to the evolving landscape of Irish music.

Deirdre Gribbin's *Before the Moon Shattered and Shone Again* explores cyclical time, inspired by Celtic mythology and the constant presence of the moon. The string quartet echoes nature's cycles, symbolizing life's waxing, waning, and renewal, a fitting response to the stillness and disruption brought on by the pandemic.

Deirdre McKay's *Mr Shah* draws inspiration from the quietude of space, contemplating the stark contrast between the near silence of the cosmos and the richness of sound on Earth. It reflects on the solitude of an astrophotographer's nightly exploration of the universe, staring into the vast, soundless expanse.

Ian Wilson's *Her Charms Invited* (String Quartet No. 12) reimagines the intricate ornamentation of traditional Irish sean-nós singing within a contemporary musical framework. The work offers a modern interpretation of ancient melodies, weaving fragments of Irish song into a contemporary context.

Linda Buckley's *Fiol* (for String Trio) treats the ensemble as a twelve-stringed "meta-instrument," evoking the resonances of the Norwegian Hardanger fiddle. The interplay of sympathetic vibrations between instruments creates a rich, layered texture reminiscent of Baroque traditions.

The title track, **Liam Bates' *Earthrise***, commissioned by Musici Ireland, draws inspiration from the imagery of our planet in its natural ascent. Featuring Beth McNinch on viola, the piece captures the viola's soulful resonance, evoking a wandering observer participating in the Earth's evolving rhythms and harmonies.

With a strong focus on artistic excellence and cultural storytelling, Earthrise represents Musici Ireland's commitment to new music, offering a thoughtful contribution to Ireland's contemporary chamber music scene.

WORKS LISTING

Deirdre Gribbin

Before the Moon Shattered and Shone Again

Deirdre McKay

Mr. Shah (2015)

Ian Wilson

Her Charms Invited String Quartet No.12 (2010)

Linda Bucklev

Fior

Liam Bates

Earthrise



Earthrise Album Preview
https://youtu.be/mXdN7_V6LvE



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Marketing Points

- World premiere recording of Liam Bates' Earthrise
- Celebrating Irish composers
- Produced by Jonathan Allen (Abbey Road)
- Recorded at Grouse Lodge Studios, Westmeath, Ireland 2023
- Available on CD and in HD Digital
- Album duration 62:12



Marketing support: ads in Fanfare, Gramophone, BBC Music, MusicWeb and Musical Opinion; extensive promo/review copy mailing; Regular posts on Facebook, instagram, twitter and artist social media accounts. YouTube sample track. Sharing of DSP links.



Order #: MEX 77133
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Artists: Beth McNinch, viola
 Musici Ireland, ensemble

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UK dealer price: £7.95

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Genre: Classical/Chamber
Format: CD; digital download & streaming



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