

Maria McGarry - Pianist

"...impeccable expressions of religious intensity and contemplation"
-- The Irish Times (on excerpts from Messaien's *Vingt Regards sur l'enfant Jesus*)

"...the spine-tingling sense of rapture she breathes in Messaien's 'le Baiser de l'Enfant Jesus'" -- The Irish Times

*"Maria McGarry's performance of Schumann's Papillons was enchanting .
...her interpretation was utterly compelling."* -- The Sunday Tribune



Performing regularly in major venues in Europe and North America, Maria McGarry has received consistent praise from critics for her intuitive musicianship, depth of interpretation and uniquely personal style. Debut recitals at London's Wigmore Hall and the National Concert Hall in Dublin received much acclaim. Awarded the coveted Artist Diploma in Performance from the Juilliard School in 2003, she is one of a select group of musicians to receive this accolade.

Maria McGarry was selected to represent Ireland at the 2008 Biennale for Young Artists in Puglia, Italy in May and recently performed at the Sligo New Music Festival, premiering a new work by Irish composer, Siobhan Cleary, in collaboration with 'The Amstel Quartet'. Her previous season included a successful London concerto debut with the London Irish Camerata, and recitals at the Belfast Festival at Queens', the New Ross Piano Festival, Boyle Arts Festival and the Aspen Music Festival in Colorado. Other recent performances include performances as principal guest in the recent West Cork Music Easter Festival "Callino & Friends", recitals at the Banff Centre in Canada, recordings for Lyric FM and numerous recitals throughout Ireland including a performance as soloist in the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland's 'Lunchtime Choice' series. Notable performances also include recitals at Geneva's 'Palais de Nations' to mark the closure of the Irish E.U. Presidency in 2004, recitals at the European Music Festival in Warsaw, the E.U. Cultural Week in New Delhi, London's Leighton House and Spain's New Millennium Piano Festival. North American performances include the American Irish Historical Society, the Fulbright Annual Awards Ceremony and Pianofest in the Hamptons. 'An Tuath Nua', the TG4 current affairs programme, recently featured a programme following her life and career to date as a musician.

Maria McGarry has performed as soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, Spain's New Millennium Orquesta, the RTE Concert Orchestra, the Dublin Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Irish Academy of Music Symphony Orchestra. She also enjoys chamber music and has collaborated with many noted musicians both at home and abroad including the RTE Vanbrugh String Quartet, the Callino Quartet and the Paul Klee Quartet amongst others. She has recorded for Polish National Radio, Lyric FM, RTE FM3 and has appeared live on R.T.E.'s 'The Late-Late Show'.

Ms. McGarry enjoys performing a vast and varied range of repertoire, from Bach to contemporary music. Possessing a particular affinity for the music of Olivier Messaien, she was awarded a performance bursary by the Arts Council of Ireland to facilitate specialisation in his piano repertoire, and gave several performances of the 'Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant Jesus' and other works to mark the 100th anniversary of the composer's birth during 2008. She has given several premiers of works by Irish composers including Siobhan Cleary, Ian Wilson, Rhona Clarke and the 'Sonic Postcards' composed by several Irish composers in celebration of the Tyrone Guthrie Centre's 25th anniversary in 2006. She recently undertook a study of French/Romanian composer, Horatiu Radulescu's piano sonatas in person with the composer.

Numerous prizes and accolades received by Ms. McGarry include the John Field and Brennan Prizes at the AXA Dublin International Piano Competition, the Lisney Young Pianist Award, the Sunday Independent/Ford Ireland Young Artists Bursary, the Ulster Bank Music Foundation Award, the Fulbright Talent Award at the 2002 International Seminar in Washington D.C. and the Isman Prize for the most outstanding performance at the Tel-Hai International Piano Festival 2001, leading to a gala performance at the Tel-Aviv Museum of Modern Art. She has received scholarship awards from the Fulbright Commission, the Juilliard School, Bank of Ireland Millennium Scholars Trust and the Arts Council of Ireland.

Following her concert debut at the age of six, Maria McGarry was awarded an entrance scholarship to the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Her teachers and mentors include Dr. Yoheved Kaplinsky, Dr. John O'Connor, Ms. Pnina Salzman and Ms. Therese Fahy. Recipient of the Briscoe Cup for the most outstanding student of the Royal Irish Academy of Music, she holds Master and Bachelor degrees in Music Performance from the Royal Irish Academy of Music/Dublin City University. Ms. McGarry has recently been appointed to the faculty of the Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin. [ENDS]