

Ilse de Ziah

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Ilse de Ziah is a composer, arranger and improviser, a classical, baroque and folk musician.

With accomplished musicianship and exquisite soul, Ilse de Ziah evokes music that is intimate and genuine, music she reveals in playing of striking purity and undeniable magic.

With a strong memory for learning whole musical works, the ability to play cello standing up, an ingenious improviser and having worked in many genres of music as cellist, singer, arranger and composer, Ilse makes for a versatile and compelling performer.

“The rich harmonics of Buachaill ó'n Éirne in Ilse's playing seem to make every word of this wordless performance speak a special music to us” (Tomás Ó Canainn)

For the past few years Ilse has performed solo cello recitals and her show *From Irish Airs to Australia Fair* is an expressive, 'out-of-the-ordinary' performance of Irish Airs and contemporary cello pieces composed and arranged by Ilse, performed on modern and Baroque cello. Taking inspiration from the Irish and Australian landscapes Ilse creates a fresh, lyrical and emotional style of cello music.

“Well known and lesser known Irish airs sing gloriously in their new raiment. Modern compositional techniques create ancient ethereal atmospheres and earthy moods. A magical musical journey to lose and find yourself. Ilse touches the cello and her soul reaches out to your heart, your future and an infinite past.”

Her solo debut *Irish Airs for Solo Cello* presented a calling card to audiences in Ireland.

Now with the imminent release of *Solace in Darkness* this extends Ilse's worldwide appeal as it speaks of her connection to the landscapes and experiences of her travels and heritage beyond Ireland.

Ilse de Ziah was born in Connecticut, USA, where she started music theory classes and sat for hours under the piano listening to her mother play Chopin and Bach. From seven she grew up in Sydney, Australia where over the years she had lessons in piano, cello, pipe organ, harpsichord, recorder and violin. With sisters and father all musicians too, there was rarely a moment where music was not being played.

She began formal cello lessons at age twelve and after years of musical studies at Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Ilse moved to London. There she was accepted into the Adam Darius School of Mime. After completing the 2 year training she became a permanent member of the Adam Darius Mime Company, performing in theaters in the West End.

During her time in London Ilse continued to train in musical and physical theatre and dance via workshops led by the worlds leading physical theatre and contemporary dance exponents.

She created her own physical theatre company, “Falling Ballgowns”, which incorporated dance, music (cello and voice), mime and theatre.

During this time she was known to concert and record buying audiences worldwide through tours and performances with her own duo “Jan and Ilse”. She also toured with notable musicians and performers including the actor/singer Russell Crowe.

In 2002 she settled in Ireland and now performs regularly around Ireland as actor/musician and arranger in shows including the Cork Opera House production of *Dido and Aeneas* and the award winning *Pagliacci* at the Everyman Theatre, Cork

She performs with her classical “Scarlet String Quartet”, contemporary Australian ensemble “Ozmosis” and experimental “Quiet Music Ensemble”.

She is principal cellist of the City of Cork Symphony Orchestra.

Ilse composes music for dance and film and arranges music for other musicians projects.