

**Ilse de Ziah**

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

“Buachaill ón Eirne was beautiful and she sang her own love song Driftwood with contemporary folk touches. Her arrangements were ambitious and interesting and O’Carolan’s Fanny Power was a gem glistening with grace and sparkle”

**Present projects and recent musical involvements**

Cellist/actor and arranger in the Cork Opera House production of *Dido and Aeneas*

Cellist/actor in the award winning *Pagliacci* at the Everyman Theatre, Cork

Cellist in *Sound of Music* Cork Opera House 2012/13

Cellist and composer for film and recording projects around Ireland, U.K and Australia including

- soundtrack for award winning *Twinkle Toes* by Dan O’Connell
- soundtrack for three dance films by Tina Horan (New Moon Youth Dance Company, Cork) *Earthly Treasures*, *Heavenly Sent*, *Cara Mo Chroi* and *She Moves, He speaks*.
- Performed own composition for dance/cello film *The Rock of Carrigtwohill* for the official unveiling of the Carrigtwohill Rock. (Tina Horan)
- performance in the music video for Ozmosis *Wind on Waves* produced by Shaun O’Connor to be released 04/13

Principal cellist with the City of Cork Symphony Orchestra. Featuring in duo encores with Nigel Kennedy and performances with Tasmin Little, Julian Lloyd Webber and Keith Pasco.

Founded the ensemble Ozmosis, Australian contemporary classical music performed by Australians living in Ireland. With Nicole Panizza, piano and Katrina Emtage, flute

Member of the experimental Quiet Music Ensemble, a Cork/Dublin contemporary music group led by composer and performer John Godfrey. The QME is dedicated to music that invites deep attention and perceptive listening. Performances including National Concert Hall Dublin, Hilltown Music Festival, Sonic Vigil, DEAF festival Dublin and NOVA performances/interviews with Bernard Clarke on Lyric FM.

Founded the Scarlet String Quartet, a versatile classical/Palm Court style ensemble that performs in a wide variety of venues and performance situations, including session work for studios. Performed with Cara O’Sullivan, Mary Hegarty, Sonya Keogh, John Daly, Caroline Fraher. Concerts include *A Night at the Opera* in the Grain Store, Ballymaloe and private concerts in Lismore Castle, Dromoland Castle, and other stately homes and churches around Ireland.

## **Solo Cello Accomplishments**

Published the book *Irish Airs for Solo Cello* and released accompanying CD

Performed Solo Cello recitals in the following venues and festivals. These recitals include performing standing up to play, as well as singing and playing cello simultaneously, with all music composed/arranged by Ilse.

- St Barrahanes Festival, Castletownshend
- Music under the Mosaics, Timoleague
- The Grain Store, Ballymaloe
- The Green Gathering Festival
- Engage Festival, Bandon Town Hall
- Custom House, Cork
- Kevin Barry Room, National Concert Hall, Dublin
- Contemporary Music Centre, Dublin
- Christchurch Cathedral, Waterford
- St Matthews, Cork
- Women in Tune Festival, Wales 2005, 2006, 2007
- Aula Maxima, University College Cork.
- Glucksman Gallery UCC

## **Other Performances and musical involvements**

Performances with Celloquial, the cello ensemble of the City of Cork Symphony Orchestra. Included arranging recording and performing with Interference

Performed with Dulra and Caitriona O'Leary

Toured with Retorika, baroque string quartet (baroque cello) with Marja Gaynor, violin and Singer Camilla Vernacombe

Performed with Beyond the Pale, baroque ensemble (baroque cello) with Marja Gaynor violin, Conor O'Connell recorder, James Taylor harpsichord.

Performances including East Cork Early Music Festival, Music under Mosaics Timoleague, St Barrahanes Castletownshend, High Wycombe U.K, Honan Chapel, Glucksman Gallery and Aula Maxima, UCC, Fota House, The Grain Store at Ballymaloe, schools concerts.

Toured and performed with Milis, Irish traditional music duo with Niamh Varian-Barry. Performances and workshops in Nashville, Switzerland and France.

Opera 2005 under Kevin Mallon:

*Carmen* (2005), *The Barber of Seville* and *The Threepenny Opera* (one cello) (2006), *Don Giovanni* and *The Merry Widow* (one cello) (2007) and *Un Ballo in Maschera* (September 2008) under John O'Brien: *Candide* (2009) *West Side Story* (one cello) (2010)

London Handel Players, 2007 East Cork Early Music Festival

Cork Opera Works Orchestra

*Hansel and Gretel*, recording of works by Steven Parker, performances in Cork, Waterford and Limerick

CSM Masters concerts including Edel Sullivan and Conor O'Connell

Principal cellist and soloist for Carols from Cork with Gay Byrne, James Galway and Micheál Ó Súilleabhain (Televised)

Performances with Micheál Ó Súilleabhain (the O'Carolan quartet)  
World Fleadh Ballybunion, premiere performance of *Country Cycle* by Micheál Ó Súilleabhain in Westport, concerts in Heritage houses and castles around Ireland

Island Theatre Co. production of *Outlying Islands* Belltable, Limerick  
Solo cello music composed by Micheál Ó Súilleabhain

Cello duo recital with Lioba Petrie for Contemporary Music Centre, CMC, Dublin in the Kevin Barry Room, National Concert Hall

Popular music performances include performing with Declan O' Rourke, Josh Ritter, Efterklang, Interference and Tommy Fleming.

Played for many CD's in recording sessions including Dolores Keane, Glenn Cardier, Caroline Fraher and for TV and other advertising.

Toured America and Australia with Danielle Spencer and actor/singer Russell Crowe.

Known to concert and record buying audiences worldwide through tours and performances with her original music duo "Jan and Ilse" having recorded 6 CD's and performed hundreds of concerts and festivals.

### **Training and Theatre experience**

Trained in classical cello and piano at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, N.S.W. Australia

Accepted into the Adam Darius School of Mime in London which after completing the 2 year training was selected to be a member of the Adam Darius Mime Company, performing in theaters in the West End. This involved physical theatre including dance, mime, acting, cello and being the company's composer.

In London participated in many physical theatre and dance workshops led by the worlds leading physical theatre and contemporary dance exponents.

Established physical theatre company, Falling Ballgowns, which incorporated dance, music (cello and voice), mime and theatre.

### **Discography**

1991 Sunset in a box – Jan Allain and Ilse de Ziah

1994 Pearl in the Wreckage – Jan & Ilse

1996 Life is Pink – Jan & Ilse

1997 A Little Zugabe – Jan & Ilse

1998 Project - Ilse de Ziah Project

1998 Breakthrough – Deva (with Trevor Warren)

1999 Too Daze – Hand to Mouth (with Tim Watson)

2010 Irish Airs for Solo Cello by Ilse de Ziah book and CD