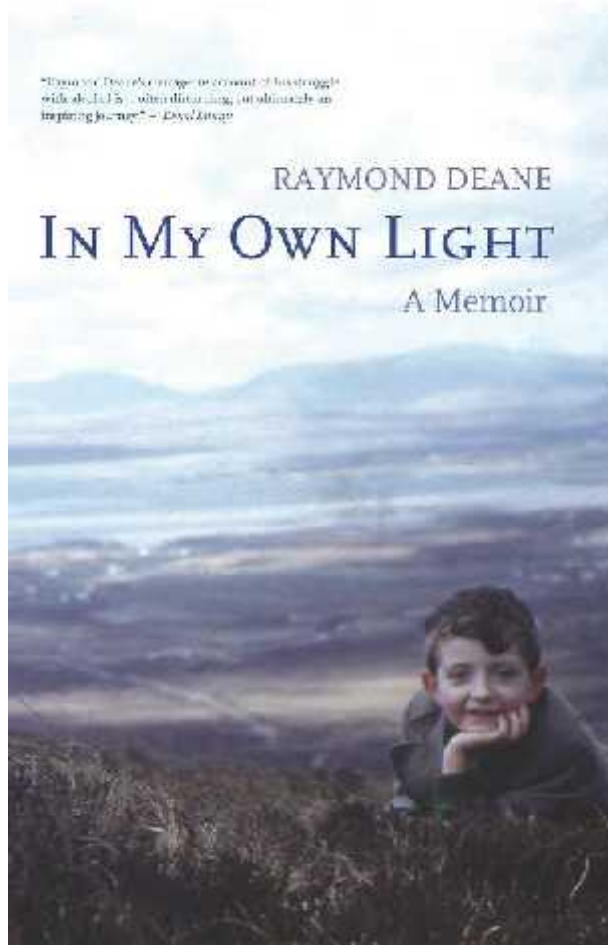


**20: Reading from; *In My Own Light*. Raymond Deane.**



In this compelling and lyrical memoir, renowned classical composer, author and political activist Raymond Deane evokes his near idyllic childhood on Achill Island, his adolescence in Dublin, and his rapid descent into alcoholism. In an alternately humorous and horrific narrative moving swiftly from Ireland to Italy, England, Switzerland, Germany and France, Deane shows us how a lovingly protected childhood is no bulwark against disaster. While this is no “misery memoir”, Deane does show how memory can seize upon and exaggerate painful experiences to provide a convenient but spurious explanation for irrational behaviour. Throughout his story creative achievements and self-destructive frenzies succeed one another and sometimes coincide. Love is found and lost, and found and lost again. At last his recovery begins at the age of thirty-five when even those closest to him have given up hope. In the end, his book is, in his own words, “a talisman against fatalism”.

Written in three parts which are as strongly contrasted in style and tone as the movements of a symphony, *In My Own Light* provides a harrowing and honest look at one man’s battle with self-destruction.

**DEANE      Embers (string quartet)**

10'

*Embers* for string quartet was composed in 1973, and subsequently arranged for string orchestra. The piece obsessively turns over musical fragments that seem to have some remote but unidentifiable origin, briefly rises to a climax (as if the embers were to catch flame), comes to rest in a modal violin tune, then takes its leave with a question mark. Throughout, silence is as important as sound.

**MOZART      String Quarter in C No. 19 K. 465**

30'

1. Adagio-Allegro
2. Andante cantabile
3. Menuetto. Allegro
4. Allegro molto

Written between 1782 and 1785 and nicknamed 'dissonance' on account of its unusually slow meandering introduction of the first movement, Raymond Deane specifically chose this piece to accompany the premiere of his string quartet No V, *Siberia*. He writes, "In 1974 I saw Pasolini's film *Oedipus* for the first time. I was deeply moved by its theme music and amazed when it turned out to be by Mozart - the slow introduction to his String Quartet No. 19 in C Major, K. 465 (1785), known (because of this introduction's haunting harmonies) as the *Dissonance Quartet*. This definitively changed my adolescent view of Mozart as a purveyor of predictable clichés, thereby greatly enriching my musical life."

21:15

## Siberia

IN Siberia's wastes  
The ice-wind's breath  
Woundeth like the toothed steel;  
Lost Siberia doth reveal  
Only blight and death.

Blight and death alone.  
No Summer shines.  
Night is interblent with Day.  
In Siberia's wastes alway  
he blood blackens, the heart pines.

In Siberia's wastes  
No tears are shed,  
For they freeze within the brain.  
Nought is felt but dullest pain,  
Pain acute, yet dead;

Pain as in a dream,  
When years go by  
Funeral-paced, yet fugitive,  
When man lives, and doth not live.  
Doth not live — nor die.

In Siberia's wastes  
Are sands and rocks  
Nothing blooms of green or soft,  
But the snow-peaks rise aloft  
And the gaunt ice-blocks.

And the exile there  
Is one with those;  
They are part, and lie is part,  
For the sands are in his heart,  
And the killing snows.

Therefore, in those wastes  
None curse the Czar.  
Each man's tongue is cloven by  
The North Blast, that heweth nigh  
With sharp scymitar.

And such doom each sees,  
Till, hunger-gnawn,  
And cold-slain, he at length sinks there,  
Yet scarce more a corpse than ere  
His last breath was drawn.

**DEANE *Siberia* - String Quartet V for string quartet with solo soprano (world premiere).** 25'  
Schoenberg's inclusion of a soprano voice in his 2<sup>nd</sup> String Quartet set an example that has been followed by (among others) Ginastera and Brian Ferneyhough. My 5th Quartet is a setting of the poem *Siberia* by the Irish “*poète maudit*” James Clarence Mangan (1803-1849), which both evokes a Siberia of the mind and provides a metaphor for famine-ridden Ireland. *Siberia* is, indeed, a political poem, and it is perhaps particularly appropriate that its premiere takes place so close to Achill's Deserted Village. Each of its eight verses is set for soprano with a different combination of instruments ranging from solo viola to complete quartet, while the verses are separated by purely instrumental movements. The 15 sections are performed without a break, and the piece lasts roughly 25'.

## **Raymond Deane**

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Raymond Deane spent the first 10 years of his life on Achill Island. Subsequently he studied music in University College Dublin, graduating in 1974. He studied composition in Switzerland and Germany, and lived for a time in Paris. He has composed over 100 musical works in all genres, including three operas (with a fourth in progress, based on a play by Emma Donohue). He has also published a novel (*Death of a Medium*, 1992) and a memoir (*In my own Light*, 2014), as well as many articles and essays on aesthetic and political matters. He was elected to Aosdána, the Irish academy of artists, in 1987. In 2005 he was awarded a D.Mus degree by NUI Maynooth. Raymond Deane divides his time between Dublin and Fürth (Bavaria).

## **Sylvia O'Brien**

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Regarded as one of Ireland's finest sopranos, Sylvia O'Brien has impressed audiences in opera, oratorio and chamber music. Recently returned to live in Ireland, Sylvia is a regular guest with some of the main orchestras, chamber ensembles and festivals throughout Europe with a repertoire that includes Chausson, Berlioz, Mozart, Bach, Verdi, Shostakovich and Wagner and the lighter repertoire of Strauss, Lehar, Novello and Gilbert and Sullivan. She has worked with such noted conductors as Michael Roswell, Nicholas Cleobury, Alan Pierson, Philippe Jordan and Stefan Asbury. Her specialist vocal and interpretative skills have established her as an important performer of contemporary music having performed numerous international premieres as well as many composers writing works specifically for her voice.

Sylvia is a member of the vocal faculty at The Royal Irish Academy of Music and Mavnooth University.

She is presently pursuing a Doctorate in Performance at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and Trinity College Dublin, focusing on Irish vocal music.

### **Lynda O'Connor**



Lynda O'Connor is one of the leading Irish violinists of her generation. Showing early promise she made her debut appearance at the National Concert Hall, Dublin when she was just four years old. Subsequently Lynda developed a career as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral musician throughout Ireland, Europe and the USA.

As a soloist Lynda has performed Bach's double violin concerto, Haydn's concerto for Violin, Mozart's A major violin concerto, Bruch's violin concerto, Tchaikovsky's violin concerto, Beethoven's violin concerto and many other works with Camerata Ireland, the Dublin Symphony Orchestra, the Dublin Orchestral Players, the Wexford Sinfonia and the Greystones Orchestra.

In demand as a chamber musician Lynda has collaborated with such wonderful artists as Michael Collins, Richard Watkins, Barry Douglas, Chee Yun Kim, Andreas Diaz, Nobuko Imai, Sharon Shannon, Frankie Gavin and Dr. Carol Leone. In 2012 she launched the 'Belisama piano trio' with cellist Ailbhe McDonagh and pianist Orla Mc Donagh.

As an orchestral artist and leader, Lynda has performed with the National Symphony Orchestra, Irish Chamber Orchestra, Camerata Ireland, Lyric Opera, The National Concert Hall Orchestra, The Wexford Opera Orchestra, The Dublin Philharmonic Orchestra, Irish Film Orchestra, Plano Symphony Orchestra, San Antonio Orchestra, Aalborg Symphony Orchestra and many other groups throughout Ireland, Europe and the USA. In 2017 Lynda will be touring with young American, prize winning pianist Alexander Bernstein throughout Ireland.

### **Aoife Ni Dhornain**



Aoife Ni Dhornain began her violin studies with Suzuki method. She attended conferences in Cork in 1985 and in Berlin in 1987. In 1989 she continued her studies with Brian McNamara in The Conservatory of Music. Aoife graduated from UCD with a 1st class honours Bachelor of Music in 1998 and went on to complete a Masters in Music Performance in University of Limerick studying with Hugh Maguire, Maurizio Fuchs, Georg Pauk and Katherine Hunka. She directed the chamber orchestra in UCD to great acclaim in 1997, and returned to play as soloist with the Baroque orchestra in 2000. Aoife was chosen to play with the Viennese Youth orchestra in 1999 and after being invited to play with the Jeunesse Musical Orchestre in Switzerland in 1997 she was asked to lead the Orchestra in a Swiss tour. She performs regularly as soloist and chamber musician throughout Ireland and has toured extensively across Europe and the United States.

Aoife has been a member of IBO since 1998 and has played a number of Baroque projects with the Opera Theatre Company including a memorable rendition of Pergolesi's Stabat Mater in a Grotto on Valencia Island in collaboration with visual artist Dorothy Cross. Since graduating she has studied Baroque Violin with Maya Homburger and Elizabeth Wallfisch. She has performed throughout Ireland with Andrew Manze, Lucy van Dael, Elizabeth Wallfisch, Maya Homburger, Emma Kirkby and Monica Huggett. Aoife is a regular guest player with the RTE Concert and Symphony Orchestras and also enjoys playing with Jack L, Glen Hansard and George Michael.

## Nathan Sherman



Nathan studied viola with Elizabeth Csibi and John Lynch, Paul Silverthorne at the Royal Academy of Music, and with Ashan Pillai at the Escuela Superior de Musica Catalunya in Barcelona. Based in Dublin, Nathan enjoys a varied career, performing regularly with all the orchestras in the country, and is especially interested in baroque, contemporary and chamber music. Nathan has premiered works for viola by Ian Wilson and Kevin O'Connell, and has enjoyed working with composers. As a baroque player he regularly tours with the Irish Baroque Orchestra, Resurgam and Camerata Killkenny.

He is founder and artistic director of Ficino Ensemble, and performs frequently at chamber music festivals. He mainly spends time cooking, watching films and playing with his son. Nathan plays on a viola made by Joseph Curtin and is grateful to Music Network for funding his Geary Leahy bow.

## Ailbhe McDonagh



Irish cellist, Ailbhe McDonagh, performs throughout Ireland and internationally as a soloist and chamber musician. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY, and the Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin, Ireland, she studied with world-renowned cellists Steven Doane, Nora Gilleese, Aisling Drury-Byrne and William Butt. McDonagh gave her debut recital with celebrated Irish pianist John O'Connor at the National Concert Hall in Dublin, Ireland.

Over the last ten years, she has performed throughout Europe, Asia and the USA and has appeared as a concerto soloist numerous times all over Ireland and abroad.

Performances include concerts at Carnegie Hall, the Yale Norfolk Festival, Schleswig Holstein Music Festival, Great Irish Houses Festival, for the Irish President at Aras an Uachtarain and on Irish national television and radio.

She has recently formed a new duo, [The McDonagh Sisters](#) with pianist Orla McDonagh. Keenly interested in contemporary music, McDonagh collaborates with several composers and other artists worldwide, most recently recording a CD of contemporary music for Bridge Records in New York. A composer and arranger in her own right, she has had several piano compositions published for the RIAM Local Centre Examinations. McDonagh joined the cello faculty of the RIAM in 2010. Upcoming engagements include performances with her new piano trio [The Belisama Trio](#) and a tour of Ireland with her classical/traditional crossover group, [Trio Elatha](#) along with other solo recitals. McDonagh's debut CD called "It's a Cello Thing" was released on 27th April 2012 and was named "CD of the Week" on RTE Lyric FM. McDonagh is due to release two books of her own compositions in the summer of 2017.

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This concert is sponsored by **Patricia Deane** and **Peter Wilson**.