

# No 2 Pery Square

## by Fiona Linnane

Music & libretto	Fiona Linnane
Producer & Director	Shirley Keane
Music Director	Sinead Hayes
Producer & Production Manager	Pius McGrath

### Ensemble

Triona Walsh	Sophia Vanderkist / Keening Woman
Jade Phoenix	Elizabeth Barrington / Keening Woman / Rebecca
Raphael Mangan	Ann Barrington / Keening Woman / Ruth
Andrew Gavin	Captain Thomas P Vokes / Surveyor
Kevin Neville	George de la Hare / Surveyor
Anna Gioria	Violin 1
Anna Mitchell	Violin 2
Hains Tooming	Viola
Alona Kliuchka	Cello
Chi Hui Ho	Percussion
Siobhain O'Higgins	Piano (performances)
Eóin Scanlon	Piano (recording)
Rehearsal Pianists	Irina Dernova
	Bethan Lee
	Katerina Speranskaya





## Production Team

Technical Stage Manager & Associate Designer	Emily Waters
Assistant Stage Managers	Robyn O'Riordan & Nora Burke
Stage Crew	Ryan Goodfellow
Production Assistant	Lianne Daly
Costume	Ella Daly
Marketing design & social media	Eve Stafford
Sound Engineer	Dave Keary, Red Door Productions
Logistics Transport	Gary Sciascia
Photography & documentary film-making	Shane Vaughan & Lucy Dawson

## Opera Workshop and Honest Arts explore opera for a digital world...

Spearheaded by Pius McGrath of Honest Arts, in collaboration with independent creative technologists, **Alan Dormer** and **Scott Robinson** we have we have carried out a proof of concept 3D scan of the environment at No.2 Pery Square, along with some 360 image/video elements whilst also exploring photogrammetry within the space. We have created a 'demo experience' of what a virtual Opera of No.2 Pery Square can eventually become.

Alan and Scott have provided technical expertise for various artists and arts groups, along with cultural and heritage organisations. This has included work for museums, galleries, public and site-specific installation, and visual arts. Most recent collaborative work has included the development of an augmented reality application and 3D modeling. As independent new media artists, Alan and Scott have created works that cross the visual and sound art, site-specific installation, and digital art. Both share an interest in immersive technologies and art practices that merge the physical and digital worlds.

No 2 Pery Square is funded by the **Arts Council of Ireland**, with additional funding from **Limerick City & County Council Arts Office**. Their complete support, from the very early stages of discovery and possibility through the commissioning process to this point of advanced Research and Development, was of huge importance to this project. The No 2 Pery Square opera evolved from a number of devising and research workshops in 2019 with the input of a collaborative and highly imaginative group comprising, singers **Sarah-Ellen Murphy, Kevin Neville, Roisin Walsh** and **Triona Walsh**, composer **Fiona Linnane** and director **Shirley Keane**. The work was further developed through the participation of Fiona Linnane, Shirley Keane and Triona Walsh on the **Theatre Forum / MAKE Artist Residential (on-line) week** in 2021. During 2021, Fiona Linnane composed music and libretto of the chamber opera, No 2 Pery Square. This project would not be possible without the generous support of **Limerick Civic Trust** and the People's Museum of Limerick, **David O'Brien - CEO** Limerick Civic Trust and **Meadhbh Nolan**. And the most heartfelt thank you for making us so welcome each day of our rehearsals in No 2, our temporary home from home for the last few weeks.

Kevin Pearse, Brian Coughlin, John Power, Joe Creagh, Mike Shinnors, Dave Ryan and Ger Fitzgerald.

We are so appreciative of the **University Concert Hall Limerick** for sharing their space with us and inviting us to record the work in the fantastic surrounds of the concert hall. We would like to extend a sincere thanks to **UCH Limerick** and to the **Irish Chamber Orchestra, RTÉ Lyric FM, The Irish World Academy of Music & Dance** and **Lime Tree Theatre | Belltable** including Jay Kavanagh for their encouragement and assistance with No 2 Pery Square and with the ongoing opera and company development of Limerick's first opera production company, Opera Workshop.



## No 2 Pery Square by Fiona Linnane



*"Equal sums of money are put into a pot, the one who lives the longest, gets the lot!"*

Tontine schemes were a popular form of raising capital in the 1700 and 1800s, but were riddled with rumours of foul play and scandal. The first tontine schemes were built on the premise that shares would be sold and the shareholder that outlived the rest got the pot! The Pery Square Tontine Company was a nuanced scheme which required each shareholder to elect a nominee. The validity of the share would depend on the lifespan of the nominee, rather than the original investor. This meant that shareholders could sell or bequeath the original share, as long as the nominee was still living. A flawless plan, in theory.

*"Nominees are named and put into a pot, if the pot boils over, it's too hot!"*

Eighty nine shares were sold to 23 investor in 1834, at £120 per share. The capital was used to build six new houses, in the Georgian style, overlooking Pery Square. Once the houses were built, rents were collected and divided among the existing shareholders.. The final outcome of the scheme was curious - in 1913 a woman named Sophia Vanderkist was awarded Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Pery Square, despite her family not having been on the list of original investors. She backed the right horse!

*A note from the composer: A number of characters and names in this opera - including Sophia Vanderkist, the Barrington, Pery and Spaight families, Thomas P. Vokes and George de la Hare - are connected with No 2 Pery Square and its history. However, the characters in the opera, while inspired by these people, are imagined and the events depicted in this opera, are a work of fiction.*





### **Fiona Linnane - Composer**

Fiona Linnane is a composer, based in Limerick and Clare, specialising in opera and site responsive work. She is director of Limerick New Music Ensemble and represented by the Contemporary Music Centre. In 2020 she was recipient of the Art Council of Ireland Music Bursary Award and an Agility Award in 2021.

In 2021 Linnane worked on several projects exploring sound art, creative audio and installation. This included a reflective piece on the pandemic based on the poem Covid-1 by Mary Coll, the soundtrack for the short film *From the Well* featuring electronics and spoken word, with imagery by Claire O'Rorke and *Inference*, a short dance film in collaboration with dancer Angie Smalis.

Recent works include this site responsive chamber opera, *No.2 Pery Square*, commissioned by Opera Workshop through the Arts Council of Ireland Opera Commissions Award 2020. Other significant works include *Songs for Kate O'Brien*, a song cycle of 12 songs with lyrics by Mary Coll, and *Off Tuskar*, a short opera inspired by, and performed in, the Old Sailors Home in Limerick City (both supported by Limerick City and County Council Individual Arts Bursary in 2018 and 2019).

Fiona Linnane is widely sought after for her work in arts in education and collaborative practice. She has undertaken training at European level through participation in the International Teacher Artist Partnership Professional Development (I-TAP-PD). In 2022 she will work with Limerick Bat Group for an Arts Council of Ireland Artist in the Community Research and Development Project.



### **Shirley Keane - Director**

Founder and Artistic Director of Opera Workshop, Shirley has had training in both theatre and opera, at Rose Bruford College, Guildhall School of Music and the Royal Academy of Music. Shows created and produced for Opera Workshop include *The Countess' Salon*, *Opera What The Fuss!*, *The Trouble with Virtue*, *Abandoned* at Limerick's Sailor's Home and *No 2 Pery Square* by Fiona Linnane.

She has worked as a performer, director, teacher and mentor with companies as diverse as Opera Theatre Co., Opera Holland Park, Basingstoke Haymarket Theatre, Glyndebourne Opera, Live Music Now, Accademia Solti Te Kanawa, Royal Academy of Music summer school, Newham Young Peoples' Chorus, Half Moon Young People's Theatre Co., and The Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Currently Shirley is engaged on the Women's Conducting Programme at the National Concert Hall, led by conductor Alice Farnham. Shirley also enjoys regular cover presenter time on RTE Lyric Fm.

Recently awarded an Arts Council of Ireland Opera Bursary and supported by Limerick City and Co Council Arts Office, she has worked with a number of artists in the development of new opera projects and worked with librettist Stephen Plaice on libretto writing. Her first libretto, for composer Luke Byrne will be performed at the Guildhall School of Music, London in June 2022.



### **Sinead Hayes - Musical Director**

Irish conductor/composer and multi-instrumentalist Sinead Hayes is equally at home working with choir, orchestra, opera and contemporary music ensembles. A graduate of the masters conducting programme of the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, she is emerging as a leading interpreter of contemporary music and opera in Ireland. The 2021-22 season is Sinead's eighth season as conductor of the Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble in Belfast, with whom she has premiered numerous works by established Irish and international composers.

She has conducted all the major professional orchestras in Ireland including the Ulster Orchestra, RTE Concert Orchestra and Irish Chamber Orchestra, as well as conducting productions for Northern Ireland Opera and Opera Collective Ireland. The 20/21 season saw her devise and lead two award winning education projects with over 200 young Galway musicians: the Baroque Session and Carolan's Rambles, as well as conducting the opening concert for the Ulster Orchestra's Online Spring season. Future projects include her continued work with the Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble, conducting the postponed performances of Elaine Agnew's opera Paper Boat, concerts with the Luminosa Orchestra, as well as collaborations with writers and theatremakers as part of the 'Music for Stories' project through [www.solstrekmusic.com](http://www.solstrekmusic.com).



### **Pius McGrath - Producer and production manager**

Pius is Co-Director of Honest Arts Production Company, having written, performed, produced and toured original work Internationally since 2013. He most recently produced *'Waiting for Poirot'* last summer in the People's Park in association with Lime Tree Theatre|Belltable. His production design work has been seen internationally at venues in New York, London, Edinburgh, Toronto and Paris, his portfolio includes work for various touring Performance Companies, some favourites include designs for; *Ballet Revolucion Company* (Australia), *Tongue Fu* (London U.K.), *Junk Ensemble*, *Iseli-Chiodi Dance Company*, *Opera Workshop*, *Bottom Dog*, *Amalgamation*, *LYT*, and his own company *Honest Arts* to name but a few. He has spent 10+ years working in the Live Events sector both nationally and internationally, with significant experience in the roles of Event management, Production management, Technical stage management and Site operations, catering for projects ranging in scale from independent festivals to large scale spectacle events. *No.2 Pery Square* has provided the opportunity to explore the avenue of virtual production via the 'VR' leg of this project and he believes it promises a very exciting future for audiences at home and abroad.

Thank you Limerick School of Music and Royal Irish Academy of Music for providing percussion instruments and to Dr. Diane Daly, Course Director, MMus Classical Strings, Irish World Academy of Music & Dance, UL. Thank you Jay Kavanagh, Technical Manager of Lime Tree Theatre | Belltable. Thank you to Limerick City Art Gallery.

St George Hare, (1857-1933)

Still Life, Herring, nd.

Oil on linen

26.5 x 44cm (unframed)

(Gift of Dermod O'Brien, 1948 to the Collection of Limerick City Gallery of Art LCGA) © LCGA





Limerick born Soprano, Triona Walsh, completed her music education in Western Australia at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts before continuing on to further study at The University of Western Australia. As a performer, Triona has appeared in numerous recitals and operatic productions as well as featuring regularly as a concert soloist. She has performed as a chorus member in a number of productions for organisations including The Australian Opera Studio and Opera Ireland. Since returning to Limerick, Triona has been an ensemble member of Opera Workshop Limerick; performing in a number of productions including *The Countess' Salon*, *Opera*, *What the Fuss?* and *The Trouble with Virtue*. In 2019 she created the role of 'Woman One' in Fiona Linnane's chamber opera, *Off Tuskar*.



Jade Phoenix is a 24-year-old lyric soprano from Ireland and is currently a studio member with Northern Ireland Opera. In 2020 she graduated with First Class honors from the RIAM with a Bachelor of Music Performance studying with Mary Brennan. In 2021 Jade graduated from Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London under the tutelage of Yvonne Kenny with a Ma in Music Performance of class distinction with scholarship. Jade participated in Wexford Festival Opera's Academy programme in 2020 and 2021. With WFO she sang the role of Alice in Verdi's *Falstaff* in 2020 and then Giulietta in Bellini's *I Capuleti e i Mocheccchi* in 2021. Jade also participated in the Rossini Opera Festival Academy in Pesaro, Italy. There she sang the role of Modestina in *il Viaggio a Reims* by Rossini. Future engagements include a concert recital in the Whale Theatre, May 14th. Jade will also be singing the role of Iris in Opera Collective Ireland's production of *Semele* by Handel.



One of Ireland's leading mezzo-sopranos Raphaela obtained a record-breaking First Class Honours Degree from the Conservatory of Music and Drama and a Post Graduate Distinction from the International Opera Academy, Belgium. Her international operatic roles have included Bradamante in *Alcina*, Ottavia in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Marcellina in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Geneviève in *Pelléas et Mélisande*, Idamante in *Idomeneo*, Glasha and Varvara in *Katya Kabanová*, Buttercup in *HMS Pinafore*, Euridice in *L'anima del filosofo*, Olga in *Eugene Onegin* and Mrs Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*. At home performances include the title role in *Carmen*, Cherubino in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Orfeo in *Orfeo ed Euridice*, Tessa in *The Gondoliers*, Bianca in *The Rape of Lucretia*, Penelope in *The Return of Ulysses*, Third Lady in *The Magic Flute*, Corrado in *Griselda* and the title role in *Hansel and Gretel*.



Andrew completed his Masters in Music Performance at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in 2016, achieving First Class Honours under the tuition of Mary Brennan. A graduate of the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Andrew attained First Class Honours in English Literature. He also holds an M. Phil in Children's Literature from Trinity College, Dublin. In 2016 Andrew was awarded the PwC Wexford Festival Opera Emerging Young Artist bursary and is a former member of the Irish National Opera ABL Aviation Studio. Andrew is currently undertaking his doctoral studies at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and Trinity College Dublin. Operatic highlights include *Tebaldo* in Bellini's *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*, *Fenton* in Verdi's *Falstaff*, *Pedrillo* in Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, *Tamino* and *Monostatos* in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, *Arbace* in Mozart's *Idomeneo*, *Acis* and *Damon* in Händel's *Acis* and *Galatea*, *Mr. McCarthy* in the World Premiere of Andrew Synnott's *The 47th Saturday*.



Kevin Neville is a bass from Limerick where he began his studies with Olive Cowpar. He completed his BA (Hons) in Music and English Literature at Trinity College Dublin and his MMus with First Class Honours under the tutelage of Emmanuel Lawler at the Conservatory of Music and Drama D.I.T. Kevin is an alumni of the Northern Ireland Opera Studio He made his *début* with Irish National Opera as Schlemihl in Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann* in 2018 and as The Regent in Balfe's *The Sleeping Queen* at the Blackwater Valley Opera Festival & the Mananan International Festival of Music & the Arts in 2019. Kevin has performed as a soloist at the National Concert Hall, St. Patrick's Cathedral, University Concert Hall and Ulster Hall.



Anna Gioria is an Italian violinist. She studied starting from the Suzuki method and continued her studies with Anna Modesti. She graduated with Alina Company at Scuola di musica di Fiesole (Bachelor) and with Diane Daly at the IWA (Ireland, Master) with full marks. She has collaborated with numerous orchestras and has been invited as a guest in orchestras such as Orchestra del Maggio musicale Fiorentino, Crash Ensemble, the ICO. She was conducted by U.B. Michelangeli, G. Pretto, D. Gatti, E. Morricone, P. Auguin, L. Borrani, J. Widmann, Alessandro Moccia among others. She has been part of many chamber music formations both as a violinist and violist and she is currently attending PhD in Arts Practice at the UL.



Anna Mitchell is an Irish violinist based in Limerick. She is a graduate of UCD, where she held an Ad Astra Performing Arts Scholarship. During her time there, she led and performed as soloist with the Ad Astra Chamber Orchestra. In 2019, Anna's own ensemble, The Stella Quartet, won the ESB Feis Ceoil Chamber Music Cup and the Hazel de Courcy Lewis Cup for best string quartet. Anna was awarded the DLR County Council Emerging Artist Grant and the RTÉ Lyric FM Scholarship to support her studies with Diane Daly at the Irish World Academy. Since she began studying for her MA in Classical String Performance in September, Anna has performed with the Irish Chamber Orchestra on many occasions.



Hains Tooming is a musician originating from Estonia. He has expressed his love for music mainly through classical singing and violin playing but since his studies with the Irish Chamber Orchestra principal violist Joachim Roewer, he has for the most part focused on playing the viola. Hains is currently participating in the Irish classical music scene by working and performing with various chamber music groups such as the Libra Ensemble and the Genie Ensemble. He is also cultivating general classical music training by teaching locally and undertaking PhD in the University of Limerick, researching the effects of the Dalcroze method on classical musician's wellbeing.





Alona Kliuchka is Ukrainian cellist currently based in Ireland. Alona completed her Master's degree with Irish chamber orchestra at University of Limerick in 2021, and now plays as sub-principal cellist with 'Luminosa' orchestra in Galway, along with guest performances with the 'Irish Chamber Orchestra', the 'Irish National Opera', "Crash Ensemble" and new baroque ensemble "Vespera".

Alona studied for her bachelor degree at the Moscow state conservatory (2012-2017) and also at the Hague Royal Conservatory (2017- 2019). She won the first prize at the 'Fermata' competition and the international 'Prokofiev' competition in Moscow (both in 2015). She has participated in many different festivals including: Cello festival in Zutphen, Cello Bienale Festival in the Netherlands Animato orchestra in Austria Residentie Orkest in the Hague Adda Sinfonica orchestra in Alicante.



ChiHui Ho commenced her percussion study at the aged of four, she is currently a master student at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, particularly focusing on percussion solo and chamber music. At home in Taiwan, she was a member of Jumping Percussion Group and lecturer of percussion before her studies in Ireland. ChiHui received Recital Artist Diploma in September 2020 graduating with Distinction. Recently ChiHui performed in RIAM Percussion Ensemble Tour in New York, NCH Spring Master Class Series, and Dublin Lunar New Year Festival. With ambitions not only performing or education, but also administration, ChiHui involves in assistance both stage and front-of-house managements of the concerts and competitions for Royal Irish Academy of Music.



Siobhain is based in London, working mainly as a recitalist and a vocal coach.

In recent years her performances have taken place in locations such as the Linbury Theatre, Royal Opera House, St James's, Piccadilly, Southbank Centre, the Austrian Cultural Institute, Fairfield Hall, as well as various live BBC Radio broadcasts. Siobhain made her television debut in Channel 5's *The Singing Estate*, culminating in a performance at the Royal Albert Hall. She has directed various operas, her favourite being *Suor Angelica* for Zezere Arts Festival, Portugal. Prizes include the Guildhall School of Music's Accompanist Prize, The Meghan Foster Prize and performance partners have included Paul Hamburger, Ameal Gunson and Elizabeth Watts. April 2022 sees a performance of *Rio Grande* at the Fairfield Halls.



Eóin holds a BMus and MA in Performance from MTU Cork School of Music. He is an experienced accompanist, conductor and educator. He worked as Musical Director of multiple musical groups during his time in Cork (2007-2014) and is an avid choral singer having sung with notable choirs such as Madrigal 75, the UCD Choral Scholars and Limerick Chamber Choir. Eóin teaches on the BA in Performing Arts in the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance in the University of Limerick, in Munster Music Academy and in the Redemptorist Centre of Music. He has worked with Opera Workshop for several projects now and is very excited to be a part of this next chapter for Number 2 Pery Square.



## SCENES

- Scene 1     The Tontine Scheme  
In which we meet the Pery Square Tontine Company Committee, who explain the Tontine Scheme and try to sell some shares.
- Scene 2     Father Was A Dentist  
In which we meet Limerick artist, Saint George de la Hare, a resident of No 2 Pery Square, alumnus of The Limerick School of Art, son of a dentist and artistic rebel.
- Scene 3     Give Us Our Dead / Away From The Scaffold  
In which we meet Capt Thomas P Vokes, investor in the New Town Pery Tontine Scheme, resident of Pery Square and Magistrate. Upon discovering the secret wake of one of his victims, he decides further lessons in obedience and law abiding must be conducted.
- Scene 4     Sophia and Vokes Take Tea / The Taking of Tea  
In which we meet Sophia Vanderkist, a woman of polite discretion, high social standing and exquisite manners, who operates a quiet business in acquiring shares, over tea.
- Scene 5     Freeman Of This City  
In which Vokes rages.
- Scene 6     Sophia And George Take Tea  
In which George and Sophia enjoy tea and gossip.
- Scene 7     Lovely Things / An Old House is Never Empty  
In which we meet Rebecca and Ruth, two sisters of the modern day, with opposing views on the best way to deal with a shared inheritance.
- Scene 8     Ruth, Listen / Marian Madeline Spaight  
In which two sisters disagree and worlds collide.
- Scene 9     An Old House Is Never Empty  
In which George soothes the ghosts of No 2 Pery Square.
- Scene 10    Dilapidation  
In which Sophia receives some dispiriting news.

