

Research and Innovation Overview 2024

Department of Music

In the academic year 2022-23, the Department of Music comprised 13 full-time and one half-time academic staff members, alongside two University Tutors and 15 PhD students. The department produced 28 new publications and secured research grants totalling €2,105,664. The department continues to excel across a diverse range of music research domains, enhancing both research-led pedagogy and the broader international music research community.



Research Themes and Focus Areas

The department's research spans various music disciplines, with key focus areas including:

- **Musicology and Cultural History:** The department engages with significant topics in music history, including the works of major composers like Schubert and innovative research on music from the Renaissance to contemporary periods.
- **Composition and Performance:** Faculty members contribute to modern and experimental music, including multi-channel compositions, performance practices, and the intersection of Irish traditional music and contemporary classical forms.
- **Digital Music and Technology:** Research in digital music, sound synthesis, and ambisonic composition continues to position the department at the forefront of music technology and computer music.



Significant Research Outputs

In 2022-23, the Department of Music produced significant publications and received prestigious awards:

Publications

- Professor Lorraine Byrne Bodley published *Schubert: A Musical Wayfarer* (Yale University Press, 2023), a major revisionist biography, which has been widely reviewed and awarded the Jean-Pierre Barricelli Prize for Best Book on Romanticism.
- Dr Adam Behan's article "Reading Creativity Forwards and Backwards: Process and Product Revisited", published in *Music & Letters*, won the Westrup Prize for best article in 2022.
- Dr Laura Watson published *Women and Music in Ireland*, which she co-edited with Jennifer O'Connor-Madsen, and Ita Beausang (Woodbridge: Boydell, 2022). This edited volume highlights representative composers and performers in classical music, Irish traditional music, and contemporary art music whose contributions have been marginalised in music narratives.
- Dr Antonio Cascelli contributed to *The Museum of Renaissance Music* (Brepols), broadening the scope of musicological analysis beyond traditional narratives.
- Professor Palmer has been granted a contract by Boydell Press for the publication of a monograph focused on the orchestral profession in Britain (1918-1930s). Disrupting the conventions surrounding writing about conductors, this volume moves beyond 'great conductor' tropes by combining prosopography and topic-based considerations.

Compositions

- Dr Molloy represented Ireland at the International Society for Contemporary Music's World New Music Days in Auckland and Christchurch, New Zealand, featuring the performance of his orchestral work *Ogham*. Dr Molloy also composed PIANOBOXING, a new work for button accordion, piano and string ensemble

commissioned by IMBOLC International Arts Festival, and partly funded by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland

- Dr Delap's new multi-channel composition "An Insect that Shuns the Light" was performed at Guayaquil, Ecuador and Salt Lake City, USA.

Awards and Grants

- Professor Karen Desmond received a €2 million ERC Consolidator Grant for her project BROKENSONG, which examines polyphonic singing and written culture in late medieval Britain and Ireland.
- Dr Estelle Murphy launched a publicly accessible research database *Musical Court Odes 1660-1779*, *Court Odes*, supported by the Maynooth University Impact Through Dissemination Research Fund.



Collaborations and Partnerships

The department has strong ties with national and international institutions:

- **Kildare County Council and Music Generation:** The department established the Musicians in Residence project in collaboration with Kildare County Council, Music Generation Kildare, Offaly, and Westmeath, supporting engaged musical research and education.
- **International Conferences:** Faculty members presented at numerous international conferences, including the Annual Medieval and Renaissance Music Conference in Uppsala, Sweden, and the New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival.



Research Impact and Societal Contributions

The department's research has far-reaching societal impact, particularly in music education and public engagement:

- **Digital Music and Csound:** Dr Victor Lazzarini's work in the Csound project, a leading sound and music programming system, continues to influence music and audiovisual production worldwide.
- **Public Engagement:** Professor Lorraine Byrne Bodley's biography of Schubert has reached a wide audience through lectures at prestigious institutions such as New York University and Yale University Press.



Future Directions

The department will continue to focus on musicology, composition, performance, and digital music technology. Future research will explore Irish traditional music's interface with contemporary forms, digital humanities in music studies, music on stage and on screen, music and wellbeing, and the growing impact of music technology on performance and pedagogy.

The Department of Music at Maynooth University continues to contribute significantly to music research, education, and public engagement. Through its diverse research outputs, international collaborations, and engaged projects, the department is well-positioned to shape the future of music studies both in Ireland and globally.