

Beside the Sea

A story of love, loss and memory told
through music

Wednesday 5th July 2023 | Rich Mix

Ian Wilson *Beside the Sea* (55')
(UK premiere)

Ian Wilson Composer / Artistic Director

Dušica Mladenović violin

Olivia Songer director

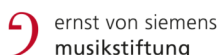
Jack Scullion designer

“Beside the Sea” is both a piece of instrumental music and a piece of theatre and features a solo violinist within a specially-built set that evokes a dock by the sea. The soloist acts as the audience’s guide, commenting musically on the unfolding drama in the recorded part and interacting with objects on the stage to build up a picture of the composer’s father’s life that revolved around music (such as the choir he sang in for 40 years), his wife (also a singer, and also heard on the soundtrack), sailing, and his struggle with Alzheimer’s. Featuring acclaimed Serbian violinist Dušica Mladenović, directed by Olivia Songer and designed by Jack Scullion, “Beside the sea” is a universal and uplifting story of changing minds and bodies, of ageing, using elements of Wilson’s father’s life as found objects around which the narrative has been built. An important element is the hugely evocative soundtrack that Dušica plays along with, which the composer made in collaboration with Shanghai-based Irish sound artist Steve McCourt.

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REVIEW:

“..the ultimate message of the piece is one of hope. The all-encompassing, changeless sea is a unifying force, symbolic of both death and birth, binding together the generations. Mladenović gives an outstanding and compelling performance. I cannot recommend this production highly enough.”

Prof. Gráinne Mulvey, Head of Composition at TU Dublin

Ian Wilson

Ian Wilson was born in Belfast and began composing while at university. He has written nearly one hundred works, including chamber operas, concertos, string quartets, a range of orchestral and chamber music and multi-media pieces. His compositions have been performed and broadcast on six continents, and presented at festivals including the BBC Proms, Venice Biennale and Frankfurt Bookfair and at venues such as New York’s Carnegie Hall, London’s Royal Albert and Wigmore Halls, Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw and Muziekgebouw, Vienna’s Musikverein and Tokyo’s Suntory Hall. Wilson has in recent years also worked with jazz musicians, Asian tabla and Chinese pipa players and traditional Irish singers; he has also collaborated with choreographers, theatre directors and electroacoustic and computer music composers.

In 1991, *Running, Thinking, Finding* received the composition prize at the Ultima festival in Oslo, and in 1992 he received the Macaulay Fellowship

administered by the Arts Council of Ireland. In 1998 he was elected to Aosdána, Ireland's State-sponsored body of creative artists and in recent years he has been AHRB Research Fellow at the University of Ulster, Composer-in-Association with California's Camerata Pacifica ensemble and An Foras Feasa post-Doctoral Research Fellow at Dundalk Institute of Technology in Ireland. He was director of the Sligo New Music Festival from 2003 to 2011 and from 2010 to 2013 is Associate Composer with the Ulster Orchestra.

There are commercially-available recordings of nearly fifty of Wilson's works on labels including Diatribe, Riverrun, Black Box, Timbre, Guild, Meridian and Chandos. His music is published by G. Ricordi & Co. Ltd and Universal Edition.

Read more at www.ianwilson.ie

Dušica Mladenović

Dušica Mladenović began playing violin at the age of six at the School for Musical Talents in Ćuprija, Serbia. She graduated from the music high school "Dr. Vojislav Vučković" in Belgrade, in the class of Professor Rankica Orsolić, and finished her basic and postgraduate studies at the Academy of Arts in Novi Sad, in the class of Professor Dejan Mihailović. She won a scholarship from the Fund for Young Talents for Professional Specialization in the EU and further developed her skills working with renowned professors such as Marina Yashvili, Igor Ozim, Ilya Grubert, Antoinette Lohmann and Marko Josifoski. At that time she was also engaged in important international culture projects for youth in Germany as a participant in the International Youth Festival in Bayreuth and as

concertmaster of the German-Scandinavian Youth Orchestra.

She has made more than 150 appearances as a member of various chamber ensembles around the world. She has appeared as a soloist with the Belgrade String Orchestra "Dušan Skovran" and has been a member of the Žebeljan Orchestra. She is now a permanent member of the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra, regularly plays with the chamber orchestra Muzikon, and is leader of the Anime String Quartet and of the Anime Violin Trio which released their debut CD, "Refleksija", in September 2019.

As a chamber musician she has performed at many music festivals such as BEMUS, A-Fest, KOMA, Constantinus, Days of Mokranjac, the Spring Festival of Chamber Music, International Review of Composers, Front Festival etc. She has premiered a number of works by Ian Wilson and Dejan Despić (both of whom composed for her and for chamber ensembles she has led), Mirjana Živković, Dušan Radić, Miloje Milojević, Draško Adžić and many other Serbian composers.

Dušica has taught violin at a number of music schools in Belgrade over the past 14 years and her students have won many domestic and international prizes in competitions such as Kocian Violin Competition, Ohrid Pearls, International Festival of Musical Creativity in Yekaterinburg (Russia), and at the Moscow International Festival of Slavic Music, where she won the Best Teacher prize in 2016.

Dušica has made recordings for Farpoint Recordings (Ireland) – most recently playing on the latest album of

Ian Wilson's music, "Echoes and Shadows" – Metropolis and RTS (Serbia), "Oboe Classics" and "Riverrun Records" (UK), and the Irish national radio station RTÉ Lyric fm broadcast the recording from one of her chamber music concerts in the shows "Nova" and "Encore".

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