



"Consistently one of the most interesting and adventurous musicians of his generation." – **The Irish Times**

Seán Mac Erlaine is a Dublin based multi-instrumentalist and composer working in a variety of settings including free improvisation, jazz, folk music, theatre and radio.

An accomplished saxophonist and clarinetist, Seán holds a PhD in music (practice-led research around live electronics in solo woodwind performance), a first degree honours Masters of Music (Jazz Performance) and a Diploma in Jazz Performance awarded by The Guildhall School of Music, London. He was awarded the Cork Jazz Festival *Best Young Irish Artist Award* in 2008, nominated for Irish Times Theatre Awards *Best Sound Designer* in 2010 and winner of Silver Medal for best editing at New York Festivals World's Best Radio Programs 2015.

Seán maintains a busy performance schedule in Ireland and internationally working with a hugely diverse range of musicians and artists reflecting his own versatility and interest in cross-platform work. He has performed with leading musical figures including Jan Bang, Bill Frisell, David Toop, Ernst Reijseger, Eivind Aarset, The Smith Quartet, Hayden Chisholm, Lisa Hannigan, Frank Gratkowski, Ronan Guilfoyle, Iarla O'Lionaird, Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh, Valgeir Sigurðsson, Damo Suzuki and many more. He has also performed as a special guest with Detroit techno legends Underground Resistance and The Gloaming. He has composed for and performed with poets Gabriel Rosenstock, Paula Meehan, Dermot Bolger, Ciaran Carson and Louis de Paor and has premiered new works by composers Alvin Lucier, John Godfrey, Linda Buckley, Christopher Fox and Pauline Oliveros.

Although involved in a myriad of collaborative projects, solo performance remains at the core of Seán's practice. Seán started to play as a solo artist in 2006. His solo work since then has seen him take this research to PhD level combining custom designed software built in Max/MSP with woodwinds. He has released two critically acclaimed solo albums

Long After The Music Is Gone (2012) and *A Slender Song* (2014).

Seán's primary group output is with *This is How we Fly* a contemporary folk band whose music sees Swedish folk rhythms meet the texture of traditional Irish fiddle, percussive dance from America, and improvised jazz and electronics. Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh – fiddle, hardanger fiddle. Seán Mac Erlaine – clarinets, live electronics. Nic Gareiss – percussive dance. Petter Berndalen – drums, percussion. TIHWF have performed throughout Ireland, Northern Ireland, Denmark, Sweden, France and Scotland.

Seán has recorded for radio (Nova, Documentary on One, The JK Ensemble, Arena, BBC Radio 3), television (RTÉ 1, BBC Alba) and can be heard on over 30 releases. He has performed his own music at festivals all across Ireland and Europe including flagship festivals such as Celtic Connections Glasgow, The Dublin Theatre Festival and Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival.

Work Highlights:

2016:

- November tour of Ireland plus two French dates with *This is How we Fly*.
- Commissioned composer for Estonian new music group Avarus Ensemble, new piece based on Yeats poetry with premiere performance in Tallinn (November).
- Co-composer and performer at *Dracula Live: Screening with Live Score*, centrepiece for Bram Stoker Festival 2016 in National Concert Hall.
- Curator and performer in Bottlenote's BLEED as part of Dublin Fringe Festival with notable improvising musicians including Barry Guy and Toby Delius.
- Note Productions Duo Series: Seán is curator and featured performer alongside leading international contemporary musicians including Eivind Aarset (Norway), Unni Løvlid (Norway), Valgeir Sigurðsson (Iceland) and Jan Bang (Norway).
- Music Network tour of Ergodos 'Songs Project' with Kate Ellis, Michelle O'Rourke
- Quiet Music Ensemble shows at South Bank Centre, London & Poznan Festival, Poland as well as Irish tour.
- Featured soloist in major new work by composer Benedict Schlepper-Connolly with The Robinson Panoramic Quartet and pianist Saskia Lankhoorn (Holland).

2015:

- Solo performance in Triskel, Cork Jazz Fest supporting sax player Colin Stetson.
- September: Curator and performer at Bottlenote Festival with leading Dutch cellist Ernst Reijseger.
- September: Solo and collaborative performances at *Sounds From a Safe Harbour* festival curated by Bryce Dessner and Cork Opera House.
- May: Premiere of *Alas Awake*, major new work based on *Finnegans Wake* in Dublin Writers Festival.
- April: Solo performance at National Concert Hall opening for Anouar Brahem.
- April: Residency at Princeton University and NYC Irish Arts Center performances with *This is How we Fly*.
- April: Performance for MusicTown festival, live scoring archive film at IFI, Dublin.
- March: New work for Galway Music Residency with RTÉ ConTempo Quartet.
- January: Development of *The Genealogy Project* with actors Shane O'Reilly and Raymond Scannell & contemporary dancers Emma O'Kane and Oona Doherty.

2014:

- Release and critical reception of second solo album *A Slender Song* (Ergodos).
- Kilkenny Arts Festival performances with Bill Frisell, The Gloaming and others.
- Composition for new radio piece based on Michael Hartnett for RTÉ Radio One in collaboration with director Dylan Tighe.
- CD Release of Songs by Ergodos Musicians with Kate Ellis (cello), Michelle O'Rourke (vocal) and Benedict Schlepper-Connolly (guitar).
- Musician/performer with Willfredd Theatre's production CARE, Project Arts.
- Touring France, Sweden and Ireland with This is How we Fly.
- World premiere of commissioned piece by Pauline Oliveros with Quiet Music Ensemble and live broadcast for Nova, Lyric FM.

2013:

- Release of debut album from This is How we Fly plus Irish tour.
- Performance at Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival.
- Development and performance of new work with saxophonist Hayden Chisholm.
- Tour of Denmark and Sweden with This is How we Fly.
- Irish solo national tour with live visuals by film maker Donal Dineen.
- Collaborative performance at StAnza Poetry Festival, St. Andrews, Scotland.
- *Pilgrimage - A Cultural Odyssey*: collaborative project connecting a diverse group of Irish, Icelandic and Greek musicians, visual and performative artists.

2012:

- New collaborative performance for Dublin Writers Festival 2012.
- Commission from Bloomsday festival for new setting of Finnegans Wake, for two improvising musicians and live film in Banquet Hall, Smock Alley.
- Performance of *Palimpsest* with Simon Jermyn, Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh, Isabelle O'Connell & Sean Carpio at Project Arts Centre.
- Release of debut solo album on Ergodos Records, funded by Music Network.
- Release and performances of *An Táin* CD with Lorcán Mac Mathúna, Martin Tourish, Eoghan Neff & Flaithrí Neff.
- Performance at Celtic Connections, Glasgow with This is How we Fly.
- Performances at 'Child of Tree' – centenary celebration of John Cage, Triskel Christchurch with The Quiet Music Ensemble.
- Première of feature film *Silence* directed by Pat Collins including music by Seán.

2011 - 2010:

- Composed and designed radio sound piece for RTÉ Radio One (Drama on One).
- Solo performance at Dublin Contemporary, Irish Museum of Modern Art.
- Live broadcast for Nova, Lyric FM Quiet Music Ensemble with guest David Toop.
- Collaboration and composition for An Táin performance at William Kennedy Piping Festival with Lorcán Mac Mathúna (vocals), Martin Tourish (accordion).
- Performance of new work for string quartet, saxophone, guitar and electronics for Sligo New Music Festival with the world renowned Smith Quartet (broadcast on BBC Radio 3).
- Performance with Iarla Ó'Lionáird at Kings Place, London.
- Sound design for *The Trailer of Bridget Dinnigan*, Project Arts Centre.

"Evocative and heartfelt... An elegant and haunting celebration of tradition and modernity that extols the possibilities of modern folk music to surprise and delight."

- All About Jazz

"There's a good chance you'll be charmed and even dazzled by this jazz-tinged stylishly modernized quartet"

- Time Out New York