



## **MAIRÉAD HICKEY**

19 year old Irish violinist Mairéad Hickey has recently been awarded the Fr. Frank Maher Scholarship, the Belfast Clondeboye Festival Flax Trust Bursary, the Overall Flax Award and the Bank of Ireland Catherine Judge Memorial Award. She was Irish National Concert Hall Young Musician of the Year 2010-12. Internationally, she has won the Jeunesses Musicales Violin Competition in Romania 2012 and the Antonio Salieri Prize in Italy 2010.

Mairéad started playing the violin aged 3 with Jyrki Pietila. From 2003 to 2014 she studied with Adrian Petcu at the CIT Cork School of Music and spent 2011-12 at the Conservatoire de Nantes, France with Constantin Serban. Now studying with world renowned violinist Mihaela Martin as a Young Soloist at Kronberg Academy, sponsored by the Ustinov Foundation, Mairéad has recently taken masterclasses with such prestigious musicians as Zakhar Bron, Mauricio Fuks, Ivry Gitlis and Stephen Isserlis.

An enthusiastic chamber musician, Mairéad's love of chamber music emerged at a very young age. She was leader of the Cairde String Quartet from the age of 10 with whom she performed nationally and internationally for 8 years. Mairéad has participated numerous times in the West Cork Chamber Music Festival, the West Cork Comes to Dublin concert series and the Westport Chamber Music Festival.

Performing regularly throughout Ireland, Mairéad has recorded with both the RTÉ National Concert and Symphony Orchestras. She also enjoys performing as a soloist with the City of Dublin Chamber Orchestra, the City of Cork Symphony Orchestra and Camerata Ireland. Her recent solo performance in Carnegie Hall, New York, with the New York Concerti Sinfonietta was described as '*...magical, penetrating to the heart and soul of the music.*' (NEW YORK EPOCH TIMES)

Mairéad studied piano at CIT Cork School of Music with Dr Gabriela Mayer from 2003-2014. Mairéad also plays traditional Irish music and is the winner of eight All Ireland fiddle titles. Her instructional app 'Irish Fiddler' is available on iTunes. She has played both classical and traditional music for the former President of Ireland, Mary McAleese.

Mairéad is one of the Artistic Directors of the Ortús Chamber Music Festival which will take place for the first time in February 2016.