

ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH / THE SUN ALSO RISES

the music of Garrett Sholdice and Benedict Schlepper-Connolly

an Ergodos production

Ergodos, an Irish production company, is currently seeking bookings for its tour of North America between 4–13 February 2011. Ergodos offers an evening length programme in two halves, consisting of the music of Garrett Sholdice and Benedict Schlepper-Connolly.

This is work that celebrates communal and individual effort, optimism and ancestry. But most importantly, we celebrate beauty.

PART I *35 minutes*

All the ends of the earth is an act of homage. Garrett Sholdice frames his own compositions – each based on portions of the eighth-century plainchant *Viderunt Omnes* – with his own arrangements of starkly beautiful two-part organa by Léonin, a composer active in Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris in the twelfth century. A former cathedral chorister, Sholdice has an intuitive feel for the restrained majesty of Medieval cathedral music. His own music makes subtle use of Medieval techniques to present single ideas in continuously changing light.

Part II *70 minutes*

The Sun Also Rises is a meditation on optimism. A work by Benedict Schlepper-Connolly, it features settings of a text from Ecclesiastes in an affirmation of what American poet Frank O'Hara might refer to as the 'continuity of things': 'One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.' The music speaks in a language of resolute beauty; sometimes cathartic, sometimes violent, sometimes fragile. Echoes of American minimalism are frequent, both in the pulsating piano chords that permeate the score, and in the searingly beautiful repetitions of melody. Instrumental movements are interspersed with vocal interludes and occasionally accompanied by a oceanic wild track, recorded in the northwest of Ireland. Silent films and 8mm footage from the composer's childhood augment the music and place a subtle narrative at the work's core.



from The Sun Also Rises

Ergodos Voices is a young, brazen, all-amplified female vocal ensemble with experience ranging from early music to musical theatre. **Ergodos Orchestra**, a flexible ensemble, featuring luminaries of the Irish classical and contemporary scenes. The use of the word 'orchestra', despite the make-up of the ensemble, is deliberate and congruent with our themes: we lay the emphasis on the historical sense of the word, with its associations of communal activity, rather than the modern understanding.

Technical requirements

To be provided by the venue

- An acoustic grand piano; Steinway Model B or similar
- Piano tuning
- Full PA system and mixing desk (12 channels)
- LCD projector and projection screen (or surface)
- 8 condenser microphones (specifications on request)
- Sound engineer
- Lighting rig and lighting technician

Estimated costs to venue

A quote, tailored to your venue, will be supplied on request

	\$
Fees (including all personnel)	2100.00
Accommodation	1300.00
Administration costs	390.00
Programme printing and design	130.00
Total	3920.00
Est. travel (will vary according to location)	2700.00

About the production company

Ergodos is a production company and record label based in Dublin city. Founded in 2006, Ergodos is directed and curated by composers Garrett Sholdice and Benedict Schlepper-Connolly.

Selected past projects include the presentation of Morton Feldman's *Trio*, performed by Aki Takahashi, Rohan de Saram and Marc Sabat; *Dubh*, an album of contemporary Irish work for Amsterdam microtonal music group, Trio Scordatura; and the presentation of Baroque violin/double bass duo Maya Homburger and Barry Guy in concert.

About the performers



Ergodos Voices is a brazen, all-amplified, all-female vocal ensemble. Formed in 2009, they made their debut in the National Concert Hall of Ireland with a critically-acclaimed programme that included numerous premieres.

Soprano **Peyee Chen** has studied voice in the US and England. Recent projects include the performance of Feldman's *Three Voices*, Berio's *Sequenza III* and Finnissey's *Song 1* and *Song 16*.

Irish mezzo-soprano **Michelle O'Rourke** has performed as a soloist with, amongst many others, Harmonium, Gamelan Sekar Petak, Yorkshire Bach Choir and her own jazz ensemble, the Michelle O'Rourke Quartet.

Alto **Nora Ryan** has studied experimental vocal practice with renowned English tenor John Potter. Her performance background includes musical theatre, the western art song repertoire, and contemporary dance.

Ergodos Orchestra is a chamber ensemble of flexible instrumentation built around a core piano trio. Concert repertoire includes James Tenney's seminal *In a large open space*, arrangements of J.S. Bach by Irish composers Simon O'Connor and Jonathan Nangle, and John Cage's *Five*.



Violinist/violist **Cora Venus Lunny** has recently toured the US and China as a soloist with the Dublin Philharmonic Orchestra. Described as 'astonishingly talented' and 'one of the most extraordinary talents [Ireland] has ever produced', Lunny also performs with Irish jazz/klezmer outfit Yurodny and experimental group Fovea Hex.

Cellist **Kate Ellis** works widely in the fields of contemporary, classical and improvised music. Kate's solo work with Ireland's Crash Ensemble has focused upon the use of extended techniques and live performances with pre-recorded tape. Steve Reich himself singled out her 2006 Irish premiere performance of his *Cello Counterpoint* for high praise.



Pianist **Paul G. Smyth** has been described as 'Ireland's darkest jewel'. Primarily a free-improvising musician, Smyth has also worked closely with Irish composers Simon O'Connor and Benedict Schlepper-Connolly.

Smyth has performed with such heavyweights as Keiji Haino, Derek Bailey, Chris Corsano, Damo Suzuki and Evan Parker.

Clarinetist **Jonathan Sage** has studied with the legendary Alan Hacker, and performed as a soloist with, amongst others, the Dartington Festival Orchestra under Diego Masson, Harmonium and the London Mozart Players.



About the composers

Garrett Sholdice is an Irish composer, curator and occasional performer currently based in England. He is currently in the final year of a PhD in composition at the University of York. Sholdice has had his music performed by, amongst others, the National Chamber Choir of Ireland, Trio Arbós, Crash Ensemble, the Elias String Quartet, the Dublin Guitar Quartet, ensemble Noszferatu, New York Miniaturist Ensemble, Maya Homburger/Barry Guy duo and Gamelan Sekar Petak. Sholdice is a Sound and Music short-listed composer.

Benedict Schlepper-Connolly is a freelance composer, producer, editor and writer. Born in Dublin to an Irish father and German mother, he now lives in Berlin. He is Deputy Editor of *The Journal of Music* and is a founding editor and publisher of *Another World*, a newspaper for optimists.