

Chamber Choir Ireland

Board Biographies - Updated June 2020

Olga Barry

Olga is currently the Director of Kilkenny Arts Festival. She has held a number of key posts in the arts sector, including Assistant Manager of the O'Reilly Theatre in Dublin, CEO of Crash Ensemble, General Manager of the Festival of World Cultures, and Orchestra Manager of the RTÉ Concert Orchestra. She was also previously the Festival Producer at Kilkenny Arts Festival as well as New Music Dublin. Olga served as overall Project Manager under the Department of the Taoiseach and RTÉ, for Ireland 2016/RTÉ Reflecting the Rising celebrations at Easter 2016. She currently also serves on the Board of Corcadorca Theatre Company.

Bea Kelleher

Bea is an Executive Producer and marketer. She has been working in arts and communications for over 30 years. As the Executive Producer, she helped set up Spiegelworld LLP in the USA, and her other experience includes EP of the Dublin Fringe Festival, Line Producer for the iconic Gaiety Theatre pantomime, Manager for the Anna Livia International Opera Festival, Deputy Manager for the Dominion Theatre and other venues/productions. Most recently, as Executive Director of the Gate Theatre Dublin she was been responsible for the planning, transference and successful implementation of the commercial and operational side of the theatre following a change in leadership. In addition, she has worked across every discipline in the marketing industry from pure play graphic design agencies to PR companies, from sales promotion to advertising, from digital to direct response and shopper marketing. Bea has been on a number of arts boards as well as marketing industry-representative board and acts as an advisor to a number of self-producing performance companies and festivals. Currently, she is the Head of Operations for the Dublin City Council Culture Company.

Susan Lannigan

Deputy Company Secretary, Grafton Group plc

A qualified solicitor and experienced governance professional, Susan is responsible for the day-to-day management of the corporate secretarial function of Grafton Group plc, a FTSE-250 listed building materials group. Her role involves ensuring that Grafton, its Board of Directors and subsidiaries in various geographic locations remain compliant with all relevant legal and regulatory requirements, stock exchange listing rules, and corporate governance codes.

Susan qualified as a solicitor in 2009 following which she practiced in a Dublin general practice firm, advising on a wide range of areas including commercial, corporate, employment, property and technology/IP law. She then moved into the specialist field of corporate governance, gaining experience in the regulated financial services and the commercial sector.

Prior to her legal career, Susan undertook an MPhil in Music and Media Technologies (MMT) in TCD, and she plays piano and maintains a keen interest in classical music and contemporary composition.

Professor Brian MacCraith FInstP MRIA

President, Dublin City University

Professor MacCraith was inaugurated as President of DCU in July 2010 and will hold this position until 2020. He holds a Personal Chair in Physics at DCU and he was founding Director of both the National Centre for Sensor Research (NCSR) and the Biomedical Diagnostics Institute (BDI) at

DCU. He is a member of the Royal Irish Academy and a Fellow of the Institute of Physics. As President, he has advanced DCU's mission as a research - intensive, globally-engaged University of Enterprise that emphasises innovation in teaching, learning and research. During his time as President, DCU has been ranked among the world's leading young universities and in 2019 was ranked 19th in the world for Graduate Employment Rates in the QS World University Employment Rankings. Professor MacCraith has been a strong proponent of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and established various initiatives in this regard including the DCU Women in Leadership Programme and Project 50:50. The University has expanded significantly under his tenure, growing from 1 to 4 campuses while its student population (17,500) has increased by 50% in the last 5 years. Key achievements include the establishment of Ireland's first Faculty of Education and the success of DCU's Innovation Campus, DCU Alpha. Professor MacCraith is the current chair of the Irish Universities Association.

Alastair Rankin

Alastair began singing as a choir boy in the local church choir. At Trinity College Dublin, he joined the Choral Society then under the direction of Dr Jo Grocock. Returning to Belfast he joined Belfast Philharmonic Society singing in the bass and tenor sections for over 30 years during which time he practiced as a solicitor. Alastair was elected President of the Law Society of Northern Ireland in 1996 and represented the Society for 13 years on the CCBE – the Council of the Bars and Law Societies of Europe. In 1998 he was appointed as a legal member and chairman of the Pensions Appeal Tribunal for Northern Ireland and became Deputy President in 2017. In 2009 he was appointed as a fee paid judge of the First-tier Tribunal (Tax Chamber) where he hears tax appeals throughout the United Kingdom. Alastair is currently Chairman of Belfast Philharmonic Society and Hearth Historic Buildings Trust, Honorary Secretary of Ulster Architectural Heritage Society and a member of the board of Clanmil Housing Association.

Richard Twomey

Richard is a member of Chartered Accountants Ireland. With over 15 years' working in private practice, he has a wide range of experience providing tax advice, accounting and auditing services to many businesses in the SME sector.

During his time in both small and large accountancy firms, Richard has worked with a variety of non-profit and charitable organisations and has a knowledge of the financial and legal requirements of such companies, including providing advice on issues of governance and statutory matters.

Richard is a partner in a firm of Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors, Richard Ensor & Co., a practice which has operated for more than 30 years in Dublin.

Brian Walsh (Chair)

Brian is currently Deputy Head of Acquisitions and an Executive Producer with RTÉ Television. He produces a wide variety of programming and his most recent and best-known series was *Great Lighthouses of Ireland*. Brian has a long history of involvement in the arts, he was a founder member of the Cork Theatre Company and acted with The Everyman Players in Cork and later trained with Dublin's Focus Theatre. Brian is a former non-executive director of Monsoon Accessorize Ireland Ltd, a retail enterprise with 13 outlets in the ROI. He oversaw a successful examiner-ship process which ensured the survival and rationalisation of the group in 2011.

He was, prior to his career change, the commercial and institutional property manager with Hamilton Osborne King, Mason Owen and Lyons, and Druker Fanning and partners, managing a broad commercial portfolio.

Qualifications: BA NUI, MA Film and Television Studies DCU, Post Grad Broadcast Management IAB (International Academy of Broadcasting) Switzerland

Brian has a broad range of interests, theatre, opera, ballet, modern dance and cinema, and music, both choral and classical. His professional career requires a wide engagement with the arts in all forms.