



Chris Peimann  
Director of Marketing and Publicity  
[cpeimann@TheSheldon.org](mailto:cpeimann@TheSheldon.org)  
Ph: 314.533.9900 ext. 19

Sarah Samples  
Marketing and Publicity Coordinator  
[ssamples@TheSheldon.org](mailto:ssamples@TheSheldon.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 3, 2014

**DAWN UPSHAW AND IARLA Ó LIONÁIRD TO BE GUEST PERFORMERS FOR ALARM WILL SOUND'S WORLD PREMIERE OF DONNACHA DENNEHY'S *THE HUNGER***

ST. LOUIS – Internationally acclaimed soprano Dawn Upshaw and Iarla Ó Lionáird, known as a member of the Irish music “super group” The Gloaming and for his own Afro Celt Sound System, will be the special guest artists when Alarm Will Sound presents the world premiere of the full score of Donnacha Dennehy's *The Hunger* at 8 p.m., Thursday, December 11 in the perfect acoustics of the Sheldon Concert Hall.

Known for a diverse repertoire that ranges from Baroque and opera to contemporary works composed specifically for her, Upshaw has received five Grammy Awards and in 2007 was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship (the so-called "genius grant"). Described as "a generative force in concert music," she has premiered more than 25 new works in the past decade, collaborating closely with composers and musicians such as Gilbert Kalish, the Kronos Quartet, James Levine, and Esa-Pekka Salonen.

Ó Lionáird's recordings as a solo artist and with The Gloaming and Afro Celt Sound System have sold millions of copies worldwide, and he is considered one of the leading practitioners of the Irish singing tradition known as *Sean nós* ("old style"). He has collaborated previously with Donnacha Dennehy and the Irish new music group Crash Ensemble on a new work entitled *Grá agus Bás*, which he premiered in 2007 and subsequently presented on a world tour and a recording for the Nonesuch label.

Dennehy, a native of Dublin and a co-founder of Crash Ensemble, received his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and is considered one of the leading contemporary composers in Ireland. He previously visited in Missouri in 2012, serving as a guest composer for the Mizzou International Composers Festival in Columbia.

MORE...

*Sheldon Concert Hall/Dawn Upshaw and Iarla Ó Lionáird cont'd.*  
*October 3, 2014*

*The Hunger* is based on diaries and personal accounts of those who directly witnessed and suffered through the Great Famine in Ireland. Parts of the work have been played previously by Alarm Will Sound at The Sheldon and at the Mizzou International Composers Festival, but the December 11 concert will be the first time *The Hunger* will be performed in its entirety. The production also includes video of present-day thinkers like Noam Chomsky and Paul Krugman who consider the effects of governance and economics that led to the famine and their implications for inequality in our own time.

Tickets for Alarm Will Sound's performance of *The Hunger* are \$35 for orchestra/\$30 for the balcony, and are on sale now through MetroTix at 314-534-1111 or at [TheSheldon.org](http://TheSheldon.org).

Alarm Will Sound's performances in St. Louis are part of a regional effort that began in 2010 when the group became the resident ensemble at the Mizzou International Composers Festival in Columbia. Through their continuing involvement with the MICEF, they forged a relationship with the Festival's sponsors, philanthropist Jeanne Sinquefield and the Sinquefield Charitable Foundation (<http://sinquefieldcharitablefoundation.com/>) that led to the Foundation's sponsorship of the group's performances in Columbia and St. Louis.

# # #

*Made possible by the Sinquefield Charitable Foundation*