



Arvo Pärt at 90: Chamber Choir Ireland celebrates the great Estonian composer with a 4-date tour of his works

◆ 16 Singers / Organ / Conductor

◆ Summary

Arvo Pärt is one of the most influential and widely performed living composers today. In celebration of the great Estonian composer's 90th birthday in 2025, Chamber Choir Ireland and Paul Hillier will bring a programme of Pärt's choral works to audiences in Kilkenny, Galway, Cork, and Dublin.

◆ Paul Hillier

Pärt's long-time artistic collaborator, biographer, and one of the world's leading interpreters of his work, Paul Hillier conducts Chamber Choir Ireland in this celebration of Pärt's 90th year.

◆ Chamber Choir Ireland

As the country's national chamber choir, Chamber Choir Ireland holds a unique place in the cultural life of Ireland. Through broadcasts, streaming, and live performances, they bring the joy of world-class choral music to over a million listeners each year.

Under Paul Hillier's artistic direction (2008-2024), Chamber Choir Ireland has developed a particular connection to the work of Arvo Pärt, and were honoured to perform at the invitation of the Arvo Pärt Centre in Laulasmaa in 2024.

We would be extremely grateful for any support the Estonian Embassy in Dublin would be willing to offer, as we invite Irish audiences to share in this worldwide celebration of Arvo Pärt.

◆ Programme

Arvo Pärt (Estonia, b. 1935)

An den Wassern zu Babel saßen wir und weinten

First composed under the title 'In Spe' in 1976, this work uses only the vowels "i", "e" and "o", from the Kyrie eleison, the opening of Latin mass. This was a kind of coded writing which Pärt used to avoid Soviet censorship.

Sieben Magnificat-Antiphonen

The seven antiphons sung on the seven days anticipating Christmas Eve in the Roman Catholic liturgy, assembled together and each given its own individual form and character.

Pari intervallo

Composed upon the death of Pärt's step-father, with text from Paul's letter to the Romans: "For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord."

Morning Star

A restrained and deeply moving work based on the prayer inscribed above St Bede's tomb in Durham Cathedral, in which Christ brings the dawn of everlasting day

Habitare fratres in unum

A serene hymn to brotherly unity and peace.

Trivium

One of the earliest works created in Pärt's distinctive compositional language, the title refers to three paths. Its three short sections all use the same melody, but follow a different option offered by Pärt's tintinnabuli technique.

Dopo la vittoria

A "little cantata" telling the story of St. Augustine's baptism by St. Ambrose, during which Ambrose begins singing his Te Deum and Augustine spontaneously joins him, continuing as if he already knew the song.

Beatitudines

Based on Pärt's earlier English-language setting of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Paul Hillier conducted the world premiere of The Beatitudes in 1990, and now revisits the Latin setting in this tribute to his long-time artistic collaborator in his 90th year.

◆ Concert Dates

12 August 2025

St. Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny
(in partnership with Kilkenny Arts Festival)

26 September 2025

St. Nicholas Collegiate Church, Galway

27 September 2025

St. Patrick's Church, Cork

28 September 2025

Newman University Church, Dublin

For more information on supporting this project, contact:
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Chamber Choir Ireland is a company limited by guarantee registered in Dublin, no. 245790 and a registered charity RCN: 20025557.