Crash30

Open Call for Composers

CRASH ENSEMBLE

an arts council funding music

Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath Dublin City Council

RESIDENT AT NCH NATIONAL CONCERT HALL AN CEOLÁRAS NÁISIÚNTA

Crash Ensemble
Crash30 Open Call for Composers

Crash Ensemble invites applications from composers for CRASH30, a commissioning initiative marking the ensemble's 30th anniversary in 2027.

As part of our anniversary celebrations, Crash will commission **3 new works** by 3 Irish and Ireland-based composers. These commissions are made possible thanks to our generous donors who supported our **CRASH30** fundraising campaign, which invests directly in the creation of new music and the artists shaping its future.

For three decades, Crash has championed adventurous music and the composers behind it. CRASH30 continues that commitment by creating new opportunities for composers to write for the group.

The Commission

Three composers will each be commissioned to write a **new work of approximately three minutes** for one of the following ensemble sections:

- Strings (violin, viola, cello, double bass)
- Wind (flute, clarinet, trombone)
- Rhythm (percussion, electric guitar, piano)

The completed works will receive their world premieres as part of Crash's 30th Anniversary programme in 2027. In keeping with the spirit of the campaign, both the composers and the new works will remain under wraps until they are officially unveiled during the anniversary celebrations.

Commissioning fee: €1,000 per commission

Who Can Apply?

The open call is open to:

- Irish composers, wherever they are based
- Composers of any nationality currently based in Ireland

Composers at all stages of their careers are encouraged to apply. Crash Ensemble is committed to policies supporting equality and inclusion and we welcome and encourage applications representative of the ten characteristics as outlined in our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy - age, disability, gender, marital/civil status, family status, race, religion/politics, sexual orientation, membership of the travelling community and socio-economic status.

Selection Process

Applications will be assessed through a **blind selection process** by members of Crash Ensemble.

Identifying information will be removed from submitted materials before assessment. Applications will be evaluated on the strength of the music and the artistic response to the brief.

Three composers - one for each ensemble section - will be selected.

Timeline

- **Open call launches:** 3 November 2026
- **Closing date for applications:** 20 November 2026
- **Successful applicants notified:** 7 December 2026
- **Premieres:** During Crash's 30th Anniversary programme in 2027

How to Apply

Applications should include:

- Email sian@crashensemble.com with ‘Crash30 Commission Proposal’ in the subject line

- Submit a short video or written document answering the following questions:

  1.Your name and contact details (email and phone number)
  2.Which ensemble section you would like to write for - strings, wind or rhythm

- Submit 2 examples of existing works. These can be PDF notated scores/graphic scores/musical thoughts & ideas/instructions/MP3s/electronic mock ups (if you have one). Please provide in a format where we can redact identifying information.

Closing date for applications: 20 November 2026

Crash Ensemble is strategically funded by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon, revenue funded by Dublin City Council with international touring supported by Culture Ireland. Crash is ensemble-in-residence at the National Concert Hall in Dublin and at Kilkenny Arts Festival.



PHOTO: RICH GILLIGAN