

Make room for memorable music

Classical Notes

Dick O’Riordan



From now on, concerts at the Kevin Barry Room at the National Concert Hall require serious and specific attention. Its elegantly restored environment and acoustics now bask in their own importance as the concert hall’s flagship for chamber music, a far cry from when the room was merely recital space upstairs.

Chamber music lovers, in particular, have to be constantly on the alert in case interesting stuff slips under the radar. To help matters, series of bespoke programmes are available to supplement listings in the main calendar of events. They reveal some hugely exciting artistic link-ups.

For instance, two dazzling talents, violinist Gwendolyn Masin and pianist Finghin Collins, join up with one of today’s greatest young cello players, the Hungarian Ist-



Gwendolyn Masin will perform in the Kevin Barry Room at the NCH this Tuesday

ván Várdai, for a piano trio series of concerts that range between evocative and explosive. The first of six concerts, with works by Ravel, de Falla and Schubert, takes place this Tuesday.

Várdai was the 2014 winner of the annual ARD international competition in Germany, one of the most prestigious in the world.

Masin is a fearless and uncompromising talent, whose career as a performer and artistic director

in Switzerland and Europe has flourished. She has been seen far too little in Ireland in recent times, and this series is a major opportunity to catch up with a charismatic performer who never fails to deliver that most prized of qualities – excitement. (Her latest album, titled *Origin*, has certainly excited reviewers across the continent.)

Tickets €25 (series €120); call 01-4170000.