

DUBLIN

MARCH 2006

My visit to Dublin in March 2006 was at the invitation of **EPTA Ireland**—the local branch of the European Piano Teachers Association.

Held in the concert hall of the Royal Irish Academy of Music, it was a day workshop, with a session for teachers in the morning and a session with students in the afternoon.

The morning first session was an overview of materials written by me, with lots of audience participation, including the obligatory “lesson” with a member of the audience who didn’t play the piano at all.

Clapping and singing was included, and everyone felt there was something engaging for them to do. Backing tracks were used as part of the presentation and these were well received.

The second session was on improvisation, using my recent book, *The Easiest Way To Improvise*. The teachers all came up onto the stage, and were able to see the two “volunteers” trying to improvise with the CD backings. This was a session of considerable interest to the teachers and they felt that the approach was comprehensible and effective.

The afternoon session was akin to a Christopher Norton Piano Festival, but on a small scale. Students had prepared pieces (lots of performances of *Struttin’*, which is on the examination syllabus for the Royal Irish Academy of Music) and there was a good spread of ages and technical accomplishment.

Overall, the understanding by the students of the range of Christopher Norton music styles was very good and the audience found their performances communicated very directly.

There is already talk of a return visit at some stage, so that more time can be spent on improvisation and so that more students can take part. Maybe there is interest in a Dublin Christopher Norton Piano Festival?

My hosts were extremely kind, especially Eithne Gallagher and Elizabeth Fuller, and of course it was great to visit such a magical city—the bus ride back to the airport was a chance to see the stunning 18th century panorama that is Dublin.

CN
6th March 2006
Leeds, UK



In Dublin with EPTA Ireland—the European Piano Teachers Association.

