

About me

Pianist Didzis Kalniņš enjoys an advancing career as a soloist, chamber musician and teacher. In 2023, he was conferred with a Doctorate in Music Performance by the Royal Irish Academy of Music and the Trinity College Dublin. Originally from Latvia, now residing in Ireland, Didzis has performed in venues such as the National Concert Hall, Christ Church Cathedral Dublin, The National Gallery, The Mansion House and King House in Boyle in Co. Roscommon to name a few. Didzis has also given recitals for audiences internationally including Italy, Germany, United Kingdom, France, Spain, Latvia, Estonia and Brazil.

Reflecting on his career, Didzis completed his undergraduate studies at the Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music with Professor Juris Kalnciems, and subsequently attained a Master's degree in Piano performance from the Conservatorio di Musica di Vicenza 'Arrigo Pedrollo' in Italy with Professor Marco Tezza. While studying in Italy Didzis appeared as a concerto soloist with the l'Orchestra Regionale Veneta and the Symphony Orchestra of the Conservatorio di Vicenza 'Arrigo Pedrollo'. Didzis also won the 'Premio Claudio Abbado 2015' in the vocal chamber music section, along with soprano Selena Colombera. From 2018-2023 Didzis undertook full-time doctoral studies at the Royal Irish Academy of Music with Professors Therese Fahy and Denise Neary, furthering in performance and research in music. While being a member of the Society for Musicology in Ireland (SMI) he has presented lecture recitals in artistic research conferences both in Ireland and abroad. His current research explores the artistic qualities of and perspectives on the sostenuto pedal.

As an educator, Didzis has expertise teaching students ranging from beginners to Diploma level, including the third level of conservatoire. Didzis has been teaching at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and is a member of the EPTA (European Piano Teacher's Association) in Ireland. Since 2019, Didzis has served on the panel of Music examiners for the Royal Irish Academy of Music. His former and existing students have enjoyed success at the Feis Ceoil, EPTA and PianoFest competitions as well as achieving outstanding results in their examinations with the Royal Irish Academy of Music and the ABRSM.

Some of the recent engagements include performances of Brahms' Piano Quintet in F minor with the ConTempo Quartet and the World Premiere of a new commissioned piece, *Surfacing*, for the sostenuto pedal by Rhona Clarke on 23 June 2023 at the National Concert Hall. The commission and performance of *Surfacing* was supported by the Fingal County Council and the Wicklow County Arts Office.