



Éna Brennan

Composer | Designer

"One of the most talked about acts in the Irish live scene, Éna Brennan's Dowry has been slowly percolating and garnering devotees for a few years now. With the aid of her trusted fiddle, Brennan has been routinely fleshing out the sounds of some of the country's most engaging emerging acts." – Totally Dublin 2018

Podcasts & Radio

amplify #94 - Culture Night at CMC, Timescapes soundwalk at IMMA, and INO's Breathwork
The Contemporary Music Centre Ireland [\[link to listen\]](#)

RTÉ Radio 1 Arena with Sean Rocks
Irish National Opera – Breathwork [\[link to listen\]](#)

RTÉ Radio 1 Arena with Sean Rocks
Irish National Opera – 20 Shots of Opera [\[link to listen\]](#)

CMC Amplify
"This week's podcast features four of the composers whose works will be presented as part of Irish National Opera's 20 Shots of Opera online event. Éna Brennan, Michael Gallen, Emma O'Halloran and Evangelia Rigaki talk about their pieces alongside contributions from INO Artistic Director Fergus Sheil and soprano Orla Boylan." [\[link to listen\]](#)

Numb featured in Best of 2019 podcast
Eoghan O'Sullivan & Zara Hedderman [\[link to listen\]](#)

RTÉ Radio 1 Arena with Kay Sheehy
Singer/songwriter Dowry (aka Éna Brennan) in session [\[link to listen\]](#)

Irish Times Life & Style
Róisín Meets Podcast: Music Month: Dowry aka Éna Brennan
"Éna is a woman who wears many hats: multi-instrumentalist musician, composer, multi-media designer and costume designer, to name a few. She talks to Róisín Ingle about growing up in Brussels, the 12 Points festival 5-8 September and her musical collaborations with Paul Noonan and Lisa Hannigan." [\[link to listen\]](#)

The Point of Everything 94: Éna Brennan (Dowry) by Eoghan O'Sullivan
"Éna Brennan is very in demand at the moment, both with her own solo stuff as Dowry, playing with Tandem Felix and composing music for the likes of Paddy Hanna, among others. We talked about how the looped violin sounds of Dowry came about, improvisation, her increasingly busy schedule and what's next." [\[link to listen\]](#)

The Stars Are Underground: Side One by Cathal Funge
"Side One of The Stars Are Underground mixtape featuring words and music from some of Ireland's finest music makers including Farah Elle, David Keenan, Slow Place Like Home, Kestine and Dowry." [\[link to listen\]](#)

Features & Reviews

"Breathwork is a work of indictment and culpability and warning. Its message is not new. It's not hopeless, but it grapples with the urgency and seriousness of the moment. At the end, the audience in the dark faces each other alone. We did this. It's not enough for that to be known and understood. It has to be felt." – Brendan Finan, The Journal of Music (Read full article [here](#))

★★★★½ – "serene and beautiful... a delicate vision" – Michael Lee, GoldenPlec (Read full article [here](#))

★★★★ – "...excellent design, superlative voices and superb music..." – Chris O'Rourke, The Arts Review (Read full article [here](#))

★★★★ – "Breathwork, Éna Brennan's new work for Irish National Opera, presents a spectacular contrast between extreme intimacy of performance and the vast, global scale of its primary theme, environmental destruction." – Michael Dungan, Irish Times (Read full article [here](#))

"In the beautifully concise Breathwork, the audience is pushed well beyond their comfort zone, sitting on the edge of proceedings to confront a deeply uncomfortable reality. As the voices falter ... one potent question remains. Will you stand aside or stand up?" – Thoroughly Good Classical Music Blog (Read full article [here](#))

"Among the Irish National Opera's upcoming performances include productions of Éna Brennan's Breathwork, Gounod's Faust, and Richard Strauss's Salome." – Hot Press (Read full article [here](#))

"What could an opera look like in our time? How do sounds, stories and spaces interact with each other and how do they shape our perception? In the opera studio of the Bregenz Festival and the Kunsthhaus Bregenz, the audience can follow the creation of a new opera over several years - a process that usually takes place behind closed doors." – Bregenzer Festspiele (Read full feature [here](#))

"There are some surprising moments, too. Haint Blue's considered groove evokes 1970s California; the Geraghty-sung Bridge & Tunnel is a standout, one of several songs supplemented by the band's partnership with previous collaborators and touring mates, the Dowry Strings ensemble." – Lauren Murphy, The Independent (Read full article [here](#))

"Six new artists have joined ABL Aviation Opera Studio 2021-22, Irish National Opera's studio mentoring programme." – Irish National Opera (Read full article [here](#))

"Irish National Opera spoke to three of the women behind 20 Shots to get some insight into their experiences working in opera." – Irish National Opera (Read full article [here](#))

"20 Shots of Opera", available free, is an exhilarating jaunt through up-to-the-minute lyric creativity. Unlike the experience of losing yourself in the lengthy grandeur of more traditional operas, you absorb these intimate quick takes like jolts of recognition." – Wall Street Journal (Read full article [here](#))

"Irish National Opera commissioned 20 short operas that were composed and quickly produced for video." – Michael Dervan, The Irish Times (Read full article [here](#))

"The list of 20 Shots composers reads like a Who's Who of Ireland's contemporary classical music scene. Billed as one of the biggest single-event commissioning projects in the history of Irish classical music." – Broadway World (Read full article [here](#))

"'Courage' series two has garnered a fantastic global response since it began on the 23rd of June, with concerts from James Vincent McMorrow, Maija Sofia, Lankum, The Murder Capital, Kodamine, Neil Hannon, Cathy Davey, Eve Belle, Saint Sister, Fontaines D.C., Cormac Begley, Stephanie Keane, Laoise Kelly, Anna Mieke, Mick Flanery & SON (Susan O'Neill). Series two will conclude with performances from Bell X1 and Dowry Strings." – IMRO (Read full article [here](#))

"Our latest Tune Of The Week comes from folk artist Sive (AKA Sathbh O'Sullivan) with renowned string musician Éna Brennan (who performs as Dowry)." – RTÉ (Read full article [here](#))

"Kildare singer-songwriter Sive is joined by Éna Brennan (Dowry) for a quietly moving acoustic song that sounds like it was conceived in the magic hour of the night." – Nialler9 (Read full article [here](#))

"Sive and Dowry collaborate on the simply beautiful 'Storybook Moon'. With its handcrafted sound, deftly woven strings, and captivating vocal, Sive's latest offering is a long-lasting one."
– The Last Mixed Tape (Read full article [here](#))

"The song is a mournful and beautiful one that combines gentle acoustic, strings, piano, and the exploratory vocals of Dowry herself. It is immediately arresting through its strong sense of melody melded with its strong sense of experimentation."
– Overblown Magazine (Read full article [here](#))

"Set to a stark indie-folk sound, the ominous swaying sound of 'Numb' finds Dowry creating a world of tense strings, reverberant vocals and heavy piano chords that entangle themselves around her enigmatic lyrics." – The Last Mixed Tape (Read full article [here](#))

"Moving towards a more grandiose orchestral approach, 'Numb' develops smoothly lending a swelling gravity and urgency to the new addition of Brennan's vocals. It's a tender song that alternates between the cinematic and the intimate." – Premiere, Nialler9 (Read full article [here](#))

"It's her third time playing ALS and all in different rooms, the violinist growing as the festival itself grows. She was the highlight of the weekend for me ... Dowry is a special talent and this was a very special gig. ALS talking about a golden era of Irish music – Dowry is one of the shining stars."
– Review, Eoghan O'Sullivan, The Point Of Everything (Read full article [here](#))

"Violin confidently balanced on one shoulder, bow in hand, synth board under another, and feet on pedals, it's easy to see why Dowry is one of the most talked about acts on the live scene in Ireland."
– Review, GoldenPlec (Read full article [here](#))

"Éna Brennan is a creative powerhouse. Multi-instrumentalist, composer, arranger, songwriter, vocalist, radio presenter, and designer, Éna has established herself as a fixture on the Irish music scene since relocating from Brussels a decade ago."
– Plec Picks 2019, GoldenPlec Music Magazine (Read full article [here](#))

This Album Changed My Life: Dowry – The Irish Times
published December 15 2018 (Read full article [here](#))

"Éna Brennan created one of the most arresting songs of 2018 in 'In É'. And she's only getting started."
– [Hot For 2019 Irish Acts: Dowry](#), Hot Press Magazine

"One of the most talked about acts in the Irish live scene, Éna Brennan's Dowry has been slowly percolating and garnering devotees for a few years now. With the aid of her trusted fiddle, Brennan has been routinely fleshing out the sounds of some of the country's most engaging emerging acts."

– [Rich Inheritance](#) by Danny Wilson for Totally Dublin & Totally Cork

Imagining Ireland ★★★★★ The Guardian, Colin Irwin (Read full article [here](#))

"Dowry, aka Éna Brennan, is a fundamental experimentalist. A master of the violin, arrangement, composition and songwriting, her music swims and swirls like a whirlpool. Drenched in ideas, her music is challenging but, ultimately, inviting. This is 4 am music. It is close your eyes and contemplate all the failures and successes of your life music. It is vital. It is essential." – [Overblown's Favourite Female Irish Musicians](#) by Jamie Coughlan

"In É unfolds with measured purpose, the instrumental track building gently in tension as it moves from a drone base through subtle orchestral counterpoints towards its dramatic, understated conclusion." – snippet from [Explorations in É: An Interview with Dowry](#) (full feature) by Justin McDaid for The Thin Air

"In É is an absolutely glorious track – a long, downward hill, picking up pace in what seems like an infinity, building into a whirlwind of sound and intrigue." – snippet from [Recommendations #2](#) (full review) by Amanda Nordqvist for Piano & Coffee Co.

"Dowry releases stirring debut single In É" – Nialler9 [\[link to article\]](#)

State Magazine: Faces of 2018 » <https://statefaces.com/thefaces/#/dowry/>

The Thin Air: 18 For '18: Dowry » <http://thethinair.net/2018/01/18-for-18-dowry/>

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"The final act consisted of the exquisite Éna Brennan, also known as Dowry. The multi-talented one-woman band combined guitar, violin and voice. She wound the night down with her haunting layering of vocals over strings."

– Ciara Haley, The University Times [\[link to article\]](#)

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"I caught fifteen minutes of Dowry's set [...] and I'm glad I did. Éna's opening improv on the violin was calculated to make pianists jealous, all dynamic curves and notes bending into other notes. String instruments' ability to have something turn gradually into something else lends itself really well to loop pedalry, which works similarly. I think there's something very theatrical about loop pedals, watching someone add bricks to a musical wall. In music if nowhere else, the process actually is the product. You are conscious at every step of the ingredients and the taste."

– Dylan Coburn Gray, DRAFF Magazine [\[link to article\]](#)

More at www.enabrennan.com/press-index

Do not hesitate to get in touch for any further information.