



PRESS RELEASE

February 2009

MUSIC IN THEIR EYES: **LIGHTWAVE AT SCIENCE GALLERY HOSTS "EYELIGHT"**

REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY ALLOWS PEOPLE WITH LIMITED PHYSICAL MOVEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN CREATIVE COLLABORATIONS

A unique performance as part of LIGHTWAVE at the Science Gallery will bring together world renowned musicians with two creative collaborators with extremely limited physical movement due to cerebral palsy, in a live music jam with a difference.

The EyeLight music performance will allow James Brosnan and Katy Gilligan, both from Dublin, to use their eyes to play music, allowing them to take an equal part in creating a moving live performance. Playing with James and Katy are Colm O'Snodaigh, Dee Armstrong and Martin Brunsden of Kila, Robbie Perry of Dead can Dance and Juliet Turner.

This free performance on Saturday 7th February at 7pm is part of LIGHTWAVE, and showcases an important new application for eye-tracking technology with the aim of allowing people with limited mobility to use their eyes to communicate - not just through music, but also in daily life.

Speaking prior to the performance, Professor Lizbeth Goodman (Director of SMARTlab and Futurelab) said: "The eye-controlled technology that we use in the Eyelight show is only one part of a much bigger project: the technology is a tool to help our very smart, very creative collaborators to speak, sing, make music, write poetry, dance and otherwise engage in the world as creatively and instantly as we all do!

She continued "the point is not the technology tool itself, nor the music itself, but rather the social and cultural achievements of this team, and the potential for real immediate results and a much wider spread and more liberating impact of the technology on the lives of ALL the world's people."

Welcoming the performance to the Science Gallery, Dr Michael John Gorman, Director of Science Gallery said: "this performance is a great example of how technology can allow everyone to participate in a creative activity. This application is allowing people who otherwise would be unable to express themselves creatively to make music. Science Gallery is a space where the latest technologies meet art; this performance is a practical example of the extraordinary impact of science and technology in people's daily lives."

EyeLight Music will begin with a brief lecture/introduction by Professor Goodman and Dr Mick Donegan, co-Principle Investigators of the InterFACES project, which aims to put a human face on technology for sustainable creative futures