

Joan Trimble

(1915 - 2000)

“I have always written music "subject to neither schools nor period". As a performer-composer, communication with the listener is essential and response follows. Shape and form, rhythm and clarity, as well as freedom of expression, are all important. I am free to be myself, regardless of fashion.”



Photo: Pat Lunny

Joan Trimble was born in Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh. She studied at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and Trinity College in Dublin before going to the Royal College of Music in London to study piano with Arthur Benjamin and composition with Vaughan Williams and Herbert Howells.

Recognition as a composer came with the publication in 1938 of songs and two-piano music. These were followed in 1940 by her *Sonatina* for two pianos and her *Phantasy Trio*, which won the Cobbett Prize at the RCM. In 1938 she formed a piano duo with her sister, Valerie Trimble, and enjoyed a highly successful professional partnership for over thirty years.

In 1957 her opera, *Blind Raftery*, a BBC commission, was broadcast on television. This was her last major composition until 1990, when a seventy-fifth birthday commission from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland persuaded her to write a wind quintet. CDs of her music have been released on the Koch International Classics and Black Box labels. In 1999 a disc of her songs and chamber music was issued on the Marco Polo label.

Selected Works

ORCHESTRAL

Suite for Strings (1951)

str

MS 12'

Premiere: 7 April 1953. Phoenix Hall, Dublin. Radio Éireann Symphony Orchestra, conductor Arthur Duff. Recording: *Silver Apples of the Moon*. Irish Chamber Orchestra, director Fionnuala Hunt. Black Box 1997. BBM1003.

In Glenade (1942)

str

MS 4'

Commissioned by Dublin String Orchestra. Premiere: 1942. Royal Dublin Society. Dublin String Orchestra, conductor Terry O'Connor.

ENSEMBLE

Three Diversions (1990)

fl ob cl bn hn

Rosewood Publications 11'

Commissioned by the Belfast Wind Quintet with funds provided by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Premiere: 8 June 1990. Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Belfast. Belfast Wind Quintet. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Introduction and Air for Two Harps (1969)

Mercier Press, The Irish Harp Book 4'

Commissioned by Cáirde na Cruite.

Premiere: 1970. Grainne Yeats, Mercedes Bolger.

The Green Bough (1941)

2 pf

Boosey & Hawkes 5'

Premiere: 8 December 1941. Royal Dublin Society [RDS]. Joan Trimble (pf), Valerie Trimble (pf). Recording: *Joan Trimble: Songs and music for two pianos*. Una Hunt (pf), Roy Holmes (pf). Marco Polo 1999. 8.225059.

Phantasy Trio (1940)

vn vc pf

MS 11'

Premiere: 30 April 1943. London, Society for the Promotion of New Music. Grinke Trio. Recording: *Joan Trimble: Songs and music for two pianos*. Dublin Piano Trio: Fionnuala Hunt (vn), Aisling Drury-Byrne (vc), Una Hunt (pf) Marco Polo 1999. 8.225059.

The Pool among the Rushes (1940)

cl pf

MS 4'

Premiere: February 1941. York. Reginald Kell (cl), BBC Salon Orchestra. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Further information on this and other composers is available on the CMC web site at www.cmc.ie

Sonatina (1940)

2 pf
 Winthrop Rogers Edition (Boosey & Hawkes) / No. 15321 10'
 Premiere: 22 May 1940. Royal College of Music, London. Joan Trimble (pf), Valerie Trimble (pf).
 Recording: *Joan Trimble: Songs and music for two pianos*. Una Hunt (pf), Roy Holmes (pf). Marco Polo 1999. 8.225059.

The Coolin (1939)

vc pf
 Hawkes & Son (Boosey & Hawkes) 3'
 Premiere: 10 February 1939. Royal College of Music, London. Valerie Trimble (vc), Joan Trimble (pf).

Buttermilk Point (1938)

2 pf
 Winthrop Rogers Edition (Boosey & Hawkes) 2'
 Premiere: 28 September 1938. Royal College of Music, London. Joan Trimble (pf), Valerie Trimble (pf).
 Recording: *Joan Trimble: Songs and music for two pianos*. Una Hunt (pf), Roy Holmes (pf). Marco Polo 1999. 8.225059.

The Humours of Carrick (1938)

2 pf
 Winthrop Rogers Edition (Boosey & Hawkes) 3'
 Premiere: 28 September 1938. Royal College of Music, London. Joan Trimble (pf), Valerie Trimble (pf).
 Recording: *Joan Trimble: Songs and music for two pianos*. Una Hunt (pf), Roy Holmes (pf). Marco Polo 1999. 8.225059.

The Bard of Lisgoole (1938)

2 pf
 Winthrop Rogers Edition (Boosey & Hawkes) 3'
 Premiere: 1938. Joan Trimble (pf), Valerie Trimble (pf).
 Recording: *Joan Trimble: Songs and music for two pianos*. Una Hunt (pf), Roy Holmes (pf). Marco Polo 1999. 8.225059.

VOCAL AND CHORAL

Blind Raftery (1957)

An opera in two scenes for television
 S-solo, A-solo, 2 T-solo, Bar-solo, B-solo, satb, 1121 2100
 perc gui hrp str
 MS 60'
 Commissioned by BBC TV.
 Premiere: May 1957. BBC TV. Gertrude Holt, Denis Dowling, Parry Jones, John Kentish, Denis Noble, Edmond Donlevy, Patricia Black, Brendan O'Dowda, Goldsborough Orchestra, conductor Stanford Robinson.
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

The Milkmaid, The Lamb (1953)

S-solo, Bar-solo, pf
 MS 3'
 Commissioned by BBC Northern Regional Children's Hour.

The County Mayo (1949)

voice, 2 pf / voice pf
 MS 12'
 Premiere: 4 November 1949. Wigmore Hall, London Robert Irwin (Bar-solo), Joan Trimble (pf), Valerie Trimble (pf). Recording: *Joan Trimble: Songs and music for two pianos*. Joe Corbett (B-solo), Una Hunt (pf), Roy Holmes (pf). Marco Polo 1999. 8.225059.

Green Rain (1938)

voice pf
 Winthrop Rogers Edition (Boosey & Hawkes) 3'
 Premiere: 1 March 1938. Royal College of Music, London. Diana Lake (Mez-solo), Joan Trimble (pf).
 Recording: *Joan Trimble: Songs and music for two pianos*. Patricia Bardon (Mez-solo), Una Hunt (pf). Marco Polo 1999. 8.225059.

My Grief on the Sea (1937)

voice pf
 Text: Traditional
 Winthrop Rogers Edition (Boosey & Hawkes) 4'
 Premiere: 1 March 1938. Royal College of Music, London. Diana Lake (Mez-solo), Joan Trimble (pf).
 Recording: *Joan Trimble: Songs and music for two pianos*. Patricia Bardon (Mez-solo), Una Hunt (pf). Marco Polo 1999. 8.225059.

Girl's Song (1937)

Mez-solo, pf
 Text: Wilfrid Wilson Gibson
 MS 3'
 Recording: *Joan Trimble: Songs and music for two pianos*. Patricia Bardon (Mez-solo), Una Hunt (pf). Marco Polo 1999. 8.225059.

BAND

Érin go Brágh (1943)

March Rhapsody
 brass band
 MS 6'
 Commissioned by BBC.
 Premiere: 1943. Fairey Aviation Works Band, conductor Harry Mortimer.
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.