

# Jennifer Walshe

(b. 1974)

‘The sounds I am interested in include those that we hear all the time but are normally considered flawed or redundant: twigs snapping in a burning fire, paper tearing, breathing, instrumental sounds that aren’t considered ‘beautiful’ in standard terms. I think these sounds have their own beauty in the way that pebbles on a beach or graffiti can have.’



Photo: Eugene Lanhlan

Born in Dublin, Jennifer Walshe studied composition at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. She graduated from Northwestern University, Chicago, with a doctoral degree in composition in 2002. In 2003-04 she was a fellow of the Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart, and from 2004-05 she lived in Berlin as a guest of the DAAD Berliner Künstlerprogramm. From 2006 to 2008 she is the composer-in-residence for

the In Context 3 project in South Dublin. In 2007 she was awarded a grant from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, New York.

Her music has been performed and broadcast throughout Europe, the USA, and Canada. She has received numerous commissions in Ireland and abroad. From 2003-04, she was composer-in-residence at the National Sculpture Factory, Cork. Rewards include first prize at both the 2000 Kranichsteiner Musikpreis at the Internationale Ferienkurse für Neue Musik in Darmstadt and the SCI/ASCAP 2002 Commission Competition. Two of her works were shortlisted for the 2002 and 2003 Gaudeamus Foundation compositions.

In addition to her activities as a composer, Jennifer Walshe frequently performs as a vocalist, specialising in extended techniques. Many of her recent compositions were commissioned for her voice in conjunction with other instruments. She is also active as an improviser, performing regularly with musicians in Europe and the USA.

Recent projects include *Physics for the Girl in the Street* (2007), a music theatre work commissioned by the Maerzmusik Festival, Berlin, performed in Berlin, Wiesbaden and Cologne; *My Extensive Relationship with Mr. Stephen Patrick M.* (2007), a piece for ensemble commissioned by Wien Modern, performed in the Sammlung Essl, Austria; and *Grove of Drift* (2006), a sound installation commissioned by the Project Arts Centre, Dublin, exhibited in the Sirius Arts Centre, Cobh, and the Project Arts Centre.

## Selected Works

### ORCHESTRAL

#### **movement v: presto giocose (2002)**

str

MS 3'

Commissioned by the Irish Chamber Orchestra.

Premiere: 17 July 2002. Killaloe Music Festival, Killaloe. Irish Chamber Orchestra.

### ENSEMBLE

#### **a sensitive number for the laydeez (2004)**

asax, va, pf, perc, video

Text: Jennifer Walshe

MS 10'

Commissioned by Ensemble Intégrales.

Premiere: 2 May 2004. Block Auditorium, Chicago, USA  
Ensemble Intégrales.

#### **THIS IS WHY PEOPLE O.D. ON PILLS / AND JUMP FROM THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE (2004)**

1 - 10 instruments [solo or ensemble] (including voice)

Milker Corporation 5'

Commissioned by Anton Lukoszevics.

Premiere: 23 June 2004. Sammlung Essl, Vienna, Austria.  
Anton Lukoszevics (vc).

#### **saw it in a movie (2003)**

2 vn va vc [2 boomboxes, torch]

MS 11'

Commissioned by the Society of Composers, Inc. and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

Premiere: 10 November 2003. University of Miami, Miami, USA. Miami String Quartet.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

#### **theme from (2002)**

vn, pf

MS 10'

Commissioned by the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival.

Premiere: 24 November 2002. Huddersfield

Contemporary Music Festival. Psappha.

#### **unbreakable line. hinged waist (2002)**

fl, ob, cl, perc, pf, vn, va, vc

MS 15'

Commissioned by the Internationales Musikinstitut Darmstadt.

Premiere: 18 July 2002. Internationale Ferienkurse für Neue Musik, Darmstadt. Ensemble Recherche.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive

#### **like glass in a mirror on a window pane (2000)**

fl ob cl bn hn

MS 12'

Premiere: 19 November 2000. Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, Dublin. Psst Wind Quintet.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

#### **need nothing too deep (1999)**

bn, 2 va, vc

MS 15'

Commissioned by Ursula Leveaux with funds provided by the Scottish Arts Council.

Premiere: 3 November 1999. Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow, Scotland. Ursula Leveaux (bn), Hebrides Ensemble. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**running and running and running and running and (1999)**fl, tpt (+ crystal glass), va, vc, pf  
MS 6'

Premiere: 11 February 2000. John Field Room, National Concert Hall, Dublin. Ellen Cranitch (fl), Eamonn Nolan (tpt), Elizabeth Csibi (va), Gerald Peregrine (vc), Dearbhla Collins (pf). Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**(rows of houses) (1998)**2 gui, bn  
MS 6'

Premiere: 28 May 1998. Regenstein Hall, Northwestern University, Chicago, USA. Zach Seldess (gui), James Baur (gui), Collin Anderson (bn). Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

## SOLO INSTRUMENTAL

**The Blue Room (2007)**from *FASTER, FASTER, PUSSYCAT - KILL KILL KILL!*pf  
MS 3'Commissioned by Mary Dullea.  
Premiere: 19 October 2007. BMIC Cutting Edge Series, The Warehouse, London. Mary Dullea (pf).

## VOCAL AND CHORAL

**you breathe in you breathe out (2007)**Solo voice  
MS 5'Commissioned by Frau Musica Nova.  
Premiere: 4 November 2007. Deutschlandfunk Kammermusiksaal, Frau Musica Nova Festival. Jennifer Walshe (voice).**Kommander Kobayashi #17 (2004)**set phasers on *KILL!*

3 female voice, 2 male voice, trb, 2 perc, pf, va, vc, video, slides, CD

Text: Jennifer Walshe, Sven Holm, Sebastian Bark, Tobias Dusche.

MS 31'

Commissioned by Novoflot. Premiere: 14 January 2005. Staatsoper / Opera Stabile, Hamburg, Germany. NOVOFLOT.

**XXX Live Nude Girls!!! (2003)**

2 female voices, cl, trb, acc, vc, 2 pupeteers, 2 camera operators, CD

Text: Jennifer Walshe

MS 32'

Commissioned by Dresdner Tage der zeitgenössischen Musik.

Premiere: 5 October 2003. Festspielhaus Hellerau, Dresden, Germany. Apartment House.

**he wants his cowboys to sound like how he thinks cowboys should sound (2003)**

Méz-solo, Ct-solo, T-solo, Bar-solo, B-solo, lighting

Text: Jennifer Walshe

MS 21'

Commissioned by Musik der Jahrhunderte, with funds provided by Tilla Frank-Neumeyer.

Premiere: 5 February 2004. Theaterhaus, Stuttgart, Germany Neue Vocalsolisten Stuttgart.

**been in a room and a room and a room and a room (2002)**

satb [div. with soli]

MS 12'

Commissioned by Crash Ensemble for performance by the Rilke Ensemble in the Up North! Festival 2002.

Premiere: 8 December 2002. Chapel Royal, Dublin Castle, Dublin. Rilke Ensemble.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive

**here we are now (2002)**

voice, vc, trb, perc

MS 18'

Commissioned by Sudwest Rundfunk, Germany

Premiere: 20 October 2002. Donaueschingen Musiktagen, Germany. Jennifer Walshe, Anton Lukoszevics, John Kenny and Dirk Rothbrust.

**dirty white fields (2002)**voice, vn  
MS 16'Commissioned by The National Concert Hall, Dublin.  
Premiere: 27 March 2002. 'Composers' Choice' Festival, John Field Room, National Concert Hall, Dublin.

Jennifer Walshe (vn, voice).

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**NOW WASH YOUR HANDS (2001)**

voice, vc, 2 DJs

Commissioned by the Project Arts Centre, Dublin.

Premiere: 12 April 2002. Northwestern University, USA.

Jennifer Walshe, Bjorn Berkhout, Chaka Travis and Fred Gifford, Lutkin Hall.

**moving in/love song/city front garden with old men (2001)**

T-solo, pf

Text: John McAuliffe

MS 22'

Commissioned by RTÉ.

Premiere: 4 September 2002. International Gaudeamus

Music Week, Beurs van Berlage, Amsterdam, Holland.

Alasdair Bamford (T-solo), Nora Mulder (pf).

**ná déan NÍL CEAD (2001)**

voice, str

MS 15'

Commissioned by Westdeutscher Rundfunk Köln, Germany.

Premiere: 26 April 2002. Wittener Tage für Neue

Kammermusik, Germany. Jennifer Walshe (vn),

Ensemble Resonanz.

**as mo cheann (2000)**

voice, vn

MS 12'

Premiere: 27 July 2000. Edith Stein Schule, Darmstadt,

Germany. Jennifer Walshe (voice), David Ryther (vn).

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**exercise (1999)**

voice, vn, va, perc [log dm, wood block, rice bowl, glasses], pf

MS 10'

Premiere: 22 November 1999. Regenstein Hall,

Northwestern University, Chicago, USA. Jon Chen,

Rachel Goff, Jon Ostrowski, Marc McAneny, Jennifer

Walshe. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**your name here (1998)**

voice

MS 20'

## BAND

**small small big (2001)**

4 fl, 4 ob, 8 cl, 2 bn, 4 sax, 4 hn, 6 tpt, 4 trb, 2 euph, 2

tuba, 4 perc, db

MS 12'

Commissioned by Irish Youth Wind Ensemble with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle

Ealaíon.

Premiere: 21 August 2001. National Concert Hall,

Dublin. Irish Youth Wind Ensemble, conductor James

Cavanagh. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

## ELECTRO-ACOUSTIC AND MIXED MEDIA

**My Extensive Relationship with Mr. Stephen Patrick M. (2007)**

voice, ob cl acc perc vc and CD

MS 10'

Commissioned by Commissioned by the ESSL Collection, Klosterneuburg/Vienna for the Wien Modern Festival.

Premiere: 11 November 2007. Schömerhaus,

Klosterneuburg. Jennifer Walshe and Apartment House.

**they could laugh smile (1999)**

trb, tape

MS 25'

Commissioned by John Kenny.

Premiere: 27 March 2002. John Field Room, National Concert Hall, Dublin. John Kenny (trb).

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**piece/by/ (1999)**

tape 15'

Premiere: 25 May 1999. Regenstein Hall, Northwestern University, Chicago, USA.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.