

David Fennessy

(b. 1976)

‘I’m not sure if there is a consistent line of inquiry running through my work. Each piece is its own little universe with its own technique, language, rules, problems and solutions.’



Photo: CMC

David Fennessy was born in Maynooth, Co Kildare. He studied guitar with John Feeley and composition with Eibhlís Farrell at the DIT Conservatory of Music. He gained a BMus in performance from Trinity College, Dublin and an MMus in composition with James MacMillan at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in 2000. He has recently been awarded a scholarship to

participate in a course run by Ensemble Modern at the Frankfurt University of Music and the Performing Arts.

His works have been performed in Ireland, the UK, Europe, Australia, South America and the United States by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, members of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the Hebrides Ensemble, the Paragon Ensemble, the Endymion Ensemble, the RTÉ National Chamber Choir, Concorde, the Castagneri Quartet (France), the Zephyr Quartet (Netherlands), Synchronia (USA) and Trio Gragnani (Australia) and have been broadcast by RTÉ and the BBC.

Works include the string quartet *graft* was shortlisted for the 2000 Gaudeamus music prize in Amsterdam and *room*, a music theatre work created in collaboration with the Hebrides Ensemble.

David Fennessy is a founder member of KEN, a two-day exhibition of new music and visual art. Recent works include *Security Blanket* (2005), performed by Scottish guitarist Simon Thacker in London’s Royal Festival Room and *Confetti Medley* (2005), which was shortlisted for the 2006 Gaudeamus Prize in Amsterdam.

Selected Works

ORCHESTRAL

Dead - End (1999)

3333 4331 timp 3 perc hrp pf str
MS 4'

Commissioned by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.
Premiere: 18 January 2001. Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow. Royal Scottish National Symphony Orchestra, conductor Nicholas Kok.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

ENSEMBLE

Confetti Medley (2005)

4 bcl, 2 hand-cranked music box mechanisms
MS 9'

Commissioned by Scottish Arts Council, Hope Scott Trust and Ralph Vaughan Williams Trust.
Premiere: 28 August 2005. Edinburgh Fringe Festival, St Andrew’s and St George’s, Edinburgh, Scotland. Scottish Clarinet Quartet, David Fennessy (music box), Colin Broom (music box).
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

room (2003)

fl, cl+bcl, pf, perc, 2 vn va vc CD
MS 60'

Commissioned by the Hebrides Ensemble with funds provided by the Scottish Arts Council.
Premiere: 7 November 2003. Tolbooth, Stirling, Scotland.
Hebrides Ensemble, director Benjamin Twist.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Continuity Error (2002 rev. 2003)

sax, gui / fl gui
MS 4'

Premiere: 2 June 2003. Tron Theatre Bar, Glasgow. Paragon Ensemble.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

felt (2002)

2 vn va vc
MS 11'

Commissioned by Music Network with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 6 March 2003. Music Network Tour, Coach House, Dublin Castle. Castagneri String Quartet.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

dreaming is free (2002)

2 fl, asax, tsax, barsax, 3 trb, 2 perc, hrp, 2 pf, 2 egui, db [all amplified]
MS 15'

Commissioned by the M.Use Ensemble.
Premiere: 16 May 2002. Korzo Theatre, The Hague, Netherlands.
The M.Use Ensemble.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Guitharsis (2002)

4 gui
MS 13'

Premiere: July 2002. Dundee Guitar Festival, Dundee, Scotland.
DGF Young Guitarists.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

airbrush (2001)

asax, egui, perc, vc, pf, CD [all amplified]
MS 15'

Premiere: 9 December 2001. Arches, Glasgow. Paragon Ensemble, David Fennessy (egu).
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

The Art of Falling Apart (2001)

fl, ob, cl+bcl, hn, bn, pf
MS 15'

Premiere: 17 August 2001. John Field Room, National Concert Hall, Dublin. Gliondar Ensemble.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

The Eye of the Duck (2000)

fl+picc, cl, vn, vc, pf

MS 10'

Commissioned by Concorde with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

Premiere: 9 November 2000. Hungarian Embassy, Rome, Italy. Concorde.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

graft (1999)

2 vn va vc

MS 18'

Premiere: 14 January 2000. Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, England. Sonoré Quartet.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Neon (1997)

ssax+voice, asax+voice, tsax+voice, barsax+voice

MS 8'

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

SOLO INSTRUMENTAL

Security Blanket (2005)

gui

MS 14'

Commissioned by the Park Lane Group.

Premiere: 13 January 2006. Purcell Room, London. Simon Thacker (gui).

...sting like a bee (1998)

gui

MS 22'

Premiere: July 1999. Aula Maxima, NUI Galway. John Feeley.

VOCAL AND CHORAL

The Answer Machine (2003)

S-solo, Bar-solo, fl+picc+afl, ob+ca, perc, gui, vc+crot, CD

Text: Tom McGrath

MS 30'

Commissioned by the Paragon Ensemble.

Premiere: 20 November 2002. Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow, Scotland. Paragon Ensemble, conductor Gary Walker.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

chOirland (2002)

satb, slapstick

MS 4'

Premiere: 26 September 2003. St Iberius Church, Wexford.

National Chamber Choir, conductor Celso Antunes.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Some kind of (1999)

S-solo, cl+bcl, va, pf

Text: Sam Shepard, Joseph Chaikin

MS 13'

Commissioned by the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

Premiere: 19 May 2000. Stevenson Hall, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Glasgow. Hebrides Ensemble.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Aimhréidh (1997)

satb [with soli]

Text: Caitlin Maude

MS 10'

Premiere: December 1997. Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin. Cantique, conductor Blánaid Murphy.

Recording: *Pie Jesu*. Méan Ní Mhaolchatha (S-solo), Cora Newman (A-solo), National Chamber Choir of Ireland, conductor Colin Mawby. Black Box 2000. BBM1030.