

# Derek Ball

(b. 1949)

“Music is to do with emotion, not ideas, so saying anything relevant about it is the province of poets, preferably in French. I’m not a poet and I’m not French -- so there’s nothing I can say.”



Derek Ball was born in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal and studied composition at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin, with A. J. Potter and James Wilson. A founder member of the Association of Young Irish Composers, he was active as a composer in Ireland throughout the 1970s. During this time his music was performed

by the RTÉ Symphony Orchestra and the Dublin Symphony Orchestra and at many Dublin Festivals of Twentieth Century Music.

Since moving to Scotland in 1978 he has largely concentrated on a career in medicine while continuing to compose and involve himself actively in musical life. He was the secretary and treasurer of the Scottish Society of Composers from 1991 to 2003. Retirement from medicine has allowed him to resume full-time composing. In recent years his pieces have been performed by pianist Owen Lorigan, clarinetist Paul Roe, violinist Leonie Curtin, cellist Marc Coppey, Unison (Glasgow University), Two’s Company, the Saltire Quartet (Edinburgh), Dublin Guitar Quartet, the Paragon, Argento and Crash Ensembles and the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, among others. He was featured composer in one of the 2009 Horizons series concerts, which took place in the National Concert Hall in February 2009.

## Selected Works

### ORCHESTRAL

#### **Aes Triplex : 3 pieces for orchestra (2008)**

3343 5331 2 perc timp hrp str  
MS 14'

#### **Surrounded Now By Strangers (2006)**

va-solo, str  
MS 17'

#### **Trid an bhFraoch (2006)**

3343 4431 2 perc timp hrp str  
MS 5'

#### **Le monde des ombres (2005)**

2232 2121 timp pf str  
MS 14'

#### **Les Sentiers Étincelants (2005)**

3 perc-solo, 3333 4331 timp perc str  
MS 15'

#### **Voilà (2004)**

va-solo [amplified], 4344 4431 timp 3 perc hrp str  
MS 28'

#### **a crane circling (2003)**

a collection of 'phono-haiku'  
3333 4331 2 perc timp 2 hrp str  
MS 11'

#### **Passant de Maupassant de mauvais passant (2003)**

3333 5331 2 perc timp hrp str  
MS 15'

Premiere: 31 March 2006. National Concert Hall, Dublin. RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, conductor Gerhard Markson.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

#### **Bipole (2003 - 2005)**

A 'thymography' in homage to the life, work and suffering of Robert Schumann, 1810-1856

3333 5331 2 perc timp trp str tape electronics  
MS 17'

#### **Miniature Violin Concertos Nos 1 to 4 (1997 rev. 1998)**

vn-solo, str  
MS 7'

Premiere: 15 August 1998. St Andrew's College, Bearsden, Glasgow, Scotland. Erika Buurman (vn), National Youth String Orchestra of Scotland, conductor Mark Duncan.

## ENSEMBLE

**The Mischievous Boy (2007)**

2 tpt hn trb tuba, speaker  
MS 27'

**Plumed Serpent (2007)**

vc pf  
MS 10'

**A Braided Stream (2006)**

cl va pf / cl pf  
MS 2'

**A Company of Free Spirits (2006)**

2 vn va vc  
MS 13'

**Equepieces (2005)**

2 tpt hn trb tuba  
MS 11'

**Meicnic Sreabhach (2005)**

fl ob cl bn hn  
MS 9'

**At Time's End (2005)**

cl vn vc pf  
MS 6'

**Ceol Chrann na Gaoithe (2004)**

Wind-Tree  
fl ob cl bn hn  
MS 7'

**Ceol Gliondrach (2002 rev. 2004)**

do Cúigréad Gaoth [for wind quintet]  
fl ob cl bn hn  
MS 7'

**Working through (2001)**

2 vn va vc / pf  
MS 8'

Premiere: 11 November 2001. Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, Dublin. Saltire Quartet.  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Earth, Tree, Sky (1999)**

cl vn  
MS 6'

Premiere: 3 June 2000. Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow. Shinobu Miki (cl), Hector Scott (vn).

**Shrub Replanted (1973 rev. 2001)**

2 vn va vc  
MS 14'

Premiere: 11 November 2001. Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, Dublin. Saltire Quartet  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

## SOLO INSTRUMENTAL

**Splitting the Capsule (2007)**

pf  
MS 7'

**Au temps de Carolan (2006)**

vc  
MS 5'

**Obwien (2006)**

pf  
MS 8'

**October Memories (2005)**

pf  
MS 7'

**Les analyses multivariées de la mémoire (2004)**

pf  
MS 8'

**Countertangos (1994)**

pf / cl pf 2 vn va vc  
MS 12'

## VOCAL AND CHORAL

**Tragedia dell'Arte (2008)**

Chamber opera  
S-solo, Mez-solo, T-solo, 2Bar-solo, B-solo, cl, tpt, pf  
MS 15'

**Bloom & Fade (2008)**

Chamber opera  
S-solo, Bar-solo, str  
MS 14'

**Beethoven's Grandfather (2008)**

Chamber Opera  
S-solo, Mez-solo, T-solo, 5 bar-solo, B-solo  
MS 20'

**Crimes Against the Golden Point (2008)**

Chamber Opera  
Mez-solo, Bar-solo, 2 B-solo, eorg, perc, str  
MS 15'

**Vaulted Gothic (2007)**

Chamber Opera  
S-solo, Mez-solo, Bar-solo, B-solo, picc, 2 cl, perc, db  
MS 15'

**Tristesse de la folie (2007)**

A Miniature Opera-Burlesque  
S-solo, Mez-solo, Bar-solo, B-solo, 2 hn str  
MS 19'

**Re Your Tears (2007)**

An Opera in 6 Acts  
2 S-solo, A-solo, T-solo, Bar-solo, B-solo, 2222 4431  
perc timp hrp str  
MS 120'

**A Brightness of the Upper Cheek (2006)**

A Short Opera  
T-solo, Bar-solo, 3333 4000 timp hrp str  
MS 37'

**La Dolce Volta (2006)**

A Chamber Opera-Burlesque  
T-solo, B-solo, 2 cl tuba MS 35'

**Songs of Anguish and Despair (2005)**

S-solo, fl pf  
MS 8'