

# Ed Bennett

(b. 1975)

•Musical accidents, stark contrasts and the freshness of improvisation interest me. Striving for perfection leads me to boredom. I like to be surprised by music, staying on the outside of things and occasionally dipping in and taking what I need to try to create something new.•



Co. Down-born Ed Bennett is a composer working in the fields of notated, electronic and improvised music.

He has been commissioned and performed internationally by many diverse artists, ensembles and organisations, including the BBC, RTÉ, PRSF, Music Network, Moving On Music and the Arts Councils of England,

Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Recent premieres include *Noise Machine* (2008) commissioned by the Integra festival for saxophone, large ensemble, electronics and video for Paul Dunmall and the Swedish Ensemble Ars Nova, a new work for viola d'amore and electronics for Garth Knox, *all of this used to be trees* (2005) for orchestra and electronics for the Ulster Orchestra and a new work for the Fidelio Trio, *for Marcel Dzama* (2007). He was a finalist in the 2005 British Composer Awards and in early 2007 he was a featured composer in the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra's Horizons series. His work *Ausland* (2005) for orchestra was awarded first prize in the Tactus Composers Forum in Brussels in 2006 and has subsequently been performed, broadcast and recorded many times. His music has been widely broadcast on radio and released on the Lorlelt, Enzyeme and NMC labels.

His teachers have included Michael Finnissy, Brian Irvine and Jo Kondo. He has also participated in international courses in Holland (Louis Andriessen) and Germany (Chaya Czernowin). In 2008 he was composer-in-residence at the Irish Cultural Centre in Paris and is currently based at Birmingham Conservatoire where he is active as a teacher in the composition department.

## Selected Works

### ORCHESTRAL

#### **Bad Disco (2008)**

3222 4231 2 perc str (sampler)  
MS 14'

Commissioned by BBC Radio 3 for the Ulster Orchestra. Premiere: 26 August 2008. Spires Centre, Belfast. Ulster Orchestra, conducted by Fergus Sheil.

#### **Ausland (2005)**

3222 4231 timp 3 perc str  
MS 16'

Commissioned by the BBC and SPNM for the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. Premiere: 24 November 2005. Broadcasting House, Manchester, England. BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, conductor James McMillan. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

#### **all of this used to be trees (2005)**

3233 4231 timp 3 perc pf sampler str  
MS 14'

Commissioned by BBC Radio 3 for the BBC Ulster Orchestra. Premiere: 27 April 2005. Sonorities Festival, Queen's University, Belfast. BBC Ulster Orchestra, conducted by Philippe Nahon. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

#### **Reaching (2002)**

4343 4432 timp 4 perc 2 hrp str  
MS 16'

Commissioned by the Ulster Youth Orchestra with funds provided by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Premiere: 29 August 2002. Arts Arena, Share Village, Lisnaskea. Ulster Youth Orchestra, conductor En Shao.

### ENSEMBLE

#### **Noise Machine (2008)**

solo sop sax (improvised), fl+picc, bcl, tpt, elec gtr, perc, pf, 2vn, 1vla, 1vc, 1db, electronics (all amplified)  
MS 16'

Commissioned by the Integra and New Generation Arts Festivals. Premiere: 5 June 2008. Birmingham Town Hall, Birmingham. Ensemble Ars Nova, Paul Dunmall (sax) conducted by George-Ellie Octors.

#### **Cartoon Music (2007)**

asax perc pf  
MS 7'

Commissioned by Noszferatu. Premiere: 13 December 2007. BMIC Cutting Edge Series, the Warehouse, London. Noszferatu.

#### **for James Ferrada (2007)**

2 vn va vc  
MS 15'

Commissioned by the Contemporary Music Centre and Galway Ensemble-in-Residence for the ConTempo Quartet. Premiere: 2 December 2007. Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin. ConTempo Quartet. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

#### **DO NOT BEND (2006)**

Solo-asax. fl+picc cl+bcl ob bsax hn tpt 2 trb 2 perc pf 2 vn va vc db  
MS 16'

Commissioned by Birmingham Conservatoire for the Thallein Ensemble. Premiere: 1 December 2006. Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham. Neil McGovern (sax), Thallein Ensemble, conductor Nicholas Cleobury. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Breath (2006)**bcl vn vc  
MS 5'Commissioned by Concorde with funds provided by the Beckett Centenary Festival and the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism. Premiere: 13 April 2006. National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin. Concorde.  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.**Shrigley (2006)**picc fl bcl 2 asax hn tpt 2 trb tuba perc pf egui bgui  
MS 10'Commissioned by Orkest de ereprijs.  
Premiere: 25 November 2006. Gigant, Apeldoorn, Netherlands. Orkest de ereprijs.**Excavation (2004)**va-solo picc fl cl bcl acc vn vc  
MS 17'Commissioned by Concorde.  
Premiere: 3 October 2004. National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin. Garth Knox (va), Concorde.  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.**My Broken Machines (2004)**3 instr [variable], pf, perc  
MS 8'Commissioned by COMA with funds from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, the Performing Rights Society Foundation, the Arts Council of England and Friends of COMA. Premiere: 23 November 2004. Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, St Paul's Hall, Huddersfield, England. COMA Ensemble.  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.**Just as You have the Impulse to do Something, (stop) (2002)**4 perc  
MS 14'Commissioned by the Backbeat Percussion Quartet.  
Premiere: 28 June 2002. Corsham Town Hall, England. Backbeat Percussion Quartet.  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.**Lost and Found (2002)**vn, pf  
MS 13'Commissioned by Roman Mints.  
Premiere: October 2002. Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London. Roman Mints (vn), Evelyn Chang (pf).  
Recording: *Music from Northern Ireland*. Lontano. Lontano Records 2004. LNT117.**No Attachment to Dust (2001)**fl+picc, ob, cl, vib, acc, vn, vc  
MS 12'Commissioned by the Homecoming Chamber Music Festival.  
Premiere: 12 January 2002. Homecoming Festival, Moscow Conservatoire, Russia. Homecoming Ensemble.  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

## SOLO INSTRUMENTAL

**Gothic (2008)**pf  
MS 7'Commissioned by Mary Dullea  
Premiere: 5 November 2008, Goethe Institute, Dublin. Mary Dullea (pf)**Clockwork Monkey Machine (2005)**perc  
MS 10'Commissioned by Moving on Music and BT Northern Ireland for Pedro Carneiro's Music Network tour of Ireland. Premiere: 28 March 2006. An Grianán, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. Pedro Carneiro (perc).  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.**Staggering (2002)**pf  
MS 6'Commissioned by Evelyn Chang.  
Premiere: 3 March 2003. Linen Hall Library, Belfast. Evelyn Chang (pf).  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

## VOCAL AND CHORAL

**Black Dots (2003)***After Vincent Van Gogh*S-solo, Mez-solo, T-solo, Bar-solo, picc, fl+picc, bcl, 2 ssax, hn, tpt, 2 trb, tuba, egui, bgui, pf, perc  
MS 6'Premiere: 28 March 2003. Gigant Centre, Apeldoorn, The Netherlands. De Ereprijs.  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.**Motion Songs (2002 rev 2003)**

S-solo, barsax+fl+picc, vn, pf, tape

Text: Andrew Motion

MS 12'

Premiere: 29 March 2003. Linen Hall Library, Belfast. decibel. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

## ELECTRO-ACOUSTIC AND MIXED MEDIA

**Flickering (2007)**

4 perc, tape

MS 11'

Commissioned by the Berlin Percussion Ensemble.  
Premiere: 1 November 2007. Kreuzberg, Berlin. Berlin Percussion Ensemble.**for Marcel Dzama (2007)**

pf vn vc, electronics

MS 12'

Commissioned by Bromsgrove Concerts for the Fidelio Trio. Premiere: 13 April 2007. The Artrix, Bromsgrove. Fidelio Trio.  
Recording: *Bulb*. Fidelio Trio. NMC Recordings 2008. NMC D147**Flicker (2006)**

perc tape

MS 10'

Commissioned by Damien Harron.

Premiere: 19 May 2006. Rymer Auditorium, University of York, England. Damien Harron.

**Restricted Viewing (2004)**

pf, tape

MS 8'

Commissioned by Sarah Nicolls.

Premiere: 17 November 2004. London College of Music and Media. Sarah Nicolls (pf). Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Monster (2005)**

bcl tape

MS 10'

Commissioned by Paul Roe with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon. Premiere: 16 July 2005. Galway Arts Centre, Galway. Paul Roe (bcl).  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.**Bad Mullet Day (2003)**

S-solo, vn bsax+picc perc pf electronics

MS 8'

Commissioned by Moving on Music for decibel.

Premiere: December 2003, Project Arts Centre, Dublin. decibel.

**El Tigre (2002)**

tape

MS 10'

Premiere: 24 April 2004. Sonorities Festival, Sonic Arts Research Centre, Belfast.

**String Factory (2001)**

vn, tape

MS 12'

Recording: Game Over. Roman Mints (vn).

**I Need This (2001)**

S-solo, tape

Text: Ed Bennett

MS 14'

Commissioned by Steve Halfyard. Premiere: 30 September 2001. Twelve Bar Club, London, England. Steve Halfyard (S-solo).

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**You're always right (2000)**

S-solo [amplified], tape

MS 12'

Commissioned by Steve Halfyard. Premiere: 12 May 2000. Bartsley Electric Experience, England. Steve Halfyard.