

Rob Canning

(b. 1974)

• *A musical performance is like an ecosystem: the slightest change in population dynamics or environmental conditions can have a profound impact on the evolution of organisms within that system. I like to keep my music open to these possibilities - creating worlds and watching them slowly mutate around a variety of performance and compositional interventions.*



Photo: Eugene Langan

Rob Canning studied music at the University of Wales with Anthony Powers and University College Dublin with Seóirse Bodley where he gained an M.Litt in Composition in 1999. He is currently studying for a PhD in composition at Goldsmiths College, University of London.

Awards include first prize in the 1998 Composers' Class of the RTÉ Musician of the Future competition; first prize in the international section of the New Music for Sligo Composition Competition (1999); the

Macaulay Fellowship (2001); among others. His most recent award, the Arts Council's Professional Development Award (2004) has allowed him to commence doctoral studies in London, where he now lives.

He has received several commissions including *The Garden of the Forking Paths* (2002), an RTÉ commission for the London Sinfonietta; *Mutations* (2003) for ensemble and live electronics, commissioned by Concorde; *Myriorama (Penelope Sleeps)* for the ReJoyce Dublin 2004 Festival; and a sound installation for the National Library of Ireland's 2004 Ulysses exhibition. In 2004 *Clints&Glikes*, a CD commissioned by the Barrons Exhibition with funding from the Cultural Relations Committee of the Department of Foreign Affairs, was released. Recent works include an Ave Maria commissioned by RTÉ lyric fm for the National Chamber Choir of Ireland, and incidental music for the Performance Corporation's production, *Dr Ledbetters Experiment*. Current projects include a multi-channel tape composition commissioned by Wexford County Council, a work for bass clarinet and tape commissioned by Paul Roe and a collaborative project with choreographers at the Laban Institute in London involving live electronics, dancers and video.

Rob Canning has lectured in composition in the music department of Trinity College, Dublin, and has also given workshops in composition and computer music. His main research interest focuses on computer assisted performance and composition strategies.

Selected Works

ENSEMBLE

Myriorama (Penelope Sleeps) (2004)

fl ob cl hn 2 perc

MS 4'

Commissioned by the Contemporary Music Centre, Temple Bar Properties and the Association of Irish Composers with funding from the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism through the 'ReJoyce Dublin 2004 - Celebrating Bloomsday 100' festival.

Premiere: 20 June 2004. 'ReJoyce Dublin - Celebrating Bloomsday 100' festival 2004, Meeting House Square, Temple Bar, Dublin.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

The Garden of Forking Paths (2002)

fl, cl, bcl, tpt, trb, perc, vib+mar, hrp, vn, vc, db

MS 13'

Commissioned by RTÉ for performance by the London Sinfonietta in the RTÉ Living Music Festival 2002

Premiere: 26 October 2002. Mahony Hall, The Helix, Dublin. London Sinfonietta, conductor Pierre André Valade.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Bunraku (2001)

2 perc

MS 10'

Out of Line (2001)

evn [5 string], pf [prepared]

MS 8'

...and turn the mirror to the wall (2000)

afl, bcl, pf, vn, vc

MS 12'

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

Premiere: 16 November 2000. National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin. Concorde.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Creole (1999)

cl, ssax, egui, perc [dmkit], 2 vn, va, vc

MS 7'

Knoten (1999)

fl cl vib vc

MS 7'

Premiere: 18 June 2000. The Pillar Room, Rotunda Hospital, Dublin. Concorde.

Through Cages (1997)

fl cl perc pf va
MS 6'
Premiere: 12 February 1998. National Concert Hall, Dublin. Concorde: Madeleine Staunton (fl), Paul Roe (cl), Richard O'Donnell (perc), Jane O'Leary (pf), Elizabeth Csibi (va).
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

SOLO INSTRUMENTAL

Mantra (1999)

pf
MS 18'
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Untitled work (1997)

pf
MS 6'
Premiere: 14 September 1999. Music Department, University College Dublin. Geraldine Nolan Spada (pf).

VOCAL AND CHORAL

Ave Maria (2004)

satb [div.] MS
Commissioned by RTE Lyric FM for the National Chamber Choir of Ireland.

ELECTRO-ACOUSTIC AND MIXED MEDIA

Clints & Grikes (2004)

fl pf zither live electronics
MS 33'
Commissioned by Limestone Barrens Exhibition with assistance from the Cultural Relations Committee of the Department of Foreign Affairs.
Premiere: July 2004. Sir Wilfred Grenfell College Art Gallery, Corner Brook, Canada. Gráinne Mulvey (pf), Joe O'Farrell (fl), Rob Canning (electronics).

Mutations (2003)

fl, cl, vn, acc, pf, tape, live electronics
MS 30'
Commissioned by Concorde with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 5 October 2003. Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, Dublin. Concorde.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Soundshapes I-IV (2002)

fl+glasses, cl+glasses, live electronics
Premiere: 22 July 2002. Galway Arts Festival, Galway. Rob Canning (live electronics), Paul Roe (cl), Joe O'Farrell (fl).

Costruzione Illegittima (2001)

cl, live electronics, quadrasonic sound diffusion
MS 730'
Premiere: 21 July 2001. Galway Arts Festival, Aula Maxima, National University of Ireland, Galway. Paul Roe (cl), Rob Canning (electronics).
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Room Full of Mirrors (2001)

pf [amplified], tape
MS 11'
Commissioned by Music for Galway.
Premiere: 22 February 2002. Music for Galway, Aula Maxima, National University of Ireland, Galway. Finghín Collins (pf), Rob Canning (tape).
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Continuum (2000)

bcl [amplified with digital delay], tape
MS 8'
Commissioned by Galway Arts Festival 2000 with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 22 July 2000. Aula Maxima, National University of Ireland, Galway. Paul Roe (cl).
Recording: *Containers*. Paul Roe (cl). Galway Arts Festival 2000. GAF 01.

An Maighdean Mhara (1998)

tape 8'
Premiere: 14 September 1999. Department of Music, University College Dublin.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.