

# Greg Caffrey

(b. 1963)

‘What is most interesting about every composer is their unique perspective, the collation of their experiences and how this informs their art.’

*I have come to see my music as an amalgam of all my experiences, not as the grafting of one experience on the other, but as the natural subconscious fusion of disparate elements of my art.*



Greg Caffrey was born in Belfast. He studied music at Queen's University, Belfast, and in 2002 completed a PhD in composition under Piers Hellawell and James Clarke. Awards include the Harty Scholarship, May Turtle Award and an award from the Harrison Foundation.

As a performer he has worked in many ensembles, including the Irish Jazz Orchestra, as well as working in theatre orchestras and in groups

giving TV and radio broadcasts.

His compositions have been performed throughout Europe and the US. The formation of his own ensemble, *Greg Caffrey Circle*, in 2000, allowed him to release an album of his own compositions entitled *Child's Play*. His music has been recorded on the Meridian, Naturalstudio, Cactus and CMC record labels.

Greg Caffrey has received commissions from many performers and ensembles as well as from BBC Radio 3 and RTÉ. His music has been performed by the Ulster Orchestra, Ensemble Bash, Craig Ogden, Gerard McChrystal, The Smith Quartet, violinist Elizabeth Cooney, pianist Izumi Kimura, guitarist Patrick Zeoli, Trio Collage, Aisling Agnew and Matthew McAlister and the Ireland Quartet. Recent works include a commission from the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry for a string quartet setting poems by eminent Scottish and Irish poets and from the British contemporary music group SCAW.

Greg Caffrey lecturers in Music and Music Technology at the South Eastern Regional College and recently spent a period composing at the prestigious Cite Internationale des Arts in Paris where he resided for three months. He has been appointed composer-in-residence with the London based orchestra EMFEB and is a registered artist with Creative Youth Partnerships. He is also a member of the Association of Irish Composers.

## Selected Works

### ORCHESTRAL

#### **Theophilus in Space (2007)**

3222 4221 timp perc hrp str [12.12.8.6.4]

MS

Commissioned by BBC Radio 3 for the Ulster Orchestra. Premiere: 3 August 2007. Whitla Hall, Belfast. Ulster Orchestra.

#### **Quinbus Flestrin, Relplum Scalcaith (2004)**

3222 4231 timp perc str [12.10.8.7.5]

MS 2'

Commissioned by the Ulster Orchestra.

Premiere: 19 March 2004. Waterfront Hall, Belfast. Ulster Orchestra.

#### **Spike (2001)**

1111 1110 timp 3 perc pf str

MS 40'

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

#### **Killing Tree (1998)**

3221 4320 timp 4 perc gui pf str

MS 6'

### ENSEMBLE

#### **Pluck, Blow II (2007)**

*The Return!*

fl gui

MS 7'

Commissioned by RTÉ lyric fm.

Premiere: 25 August 2007. St Audoen's Church, Dublin. Aisling Agnew (fl), Matthew McAlister (gui).

#### **Is There Another Rock? (2007)**

*String Quartet no. 2*

2 vn va vc

MS 11'

#### **Bockschauen (2007)**

fl bcl egui vib tape

MS 8'

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

#### **Honk! (2006)**

ssax pf

MS 3'

Commissioned by Gerard McChrystal.

Premiere: 13 August 2007. Dartington Summer School, Devon, England. Gerard McChrystal (ssax), Stephen de Pledge (pf).

Recording: *Contemporary Music from Ireland, Volume Seven*. Contemporary Music Centre 2008. CMC CD07

#### **Last Django in Paris (2006)**

3 gui

MS 3'

#### **Lapse (2005)**

ssax, 2 vn, va, vc

MS 8'

Commissioned by Gerard McChrystal and the Smith Quartet with funds from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

Premiere: 15 September 2007. Wigmore Hall, London. Gerard McChrystal (ssax), the Smith Quartet.

**Freudian Scrapbook #1 (2004)**

vib 2 mar perc  
MS 5'  
Commissioned by SPNM for Ensemble Bash.  
Premiere: 10 April 2004. Tate Gallery, Liverpool,  
England. Ensemble Bash.

**Pluck, Blow (2002)**

fl gui  
MS 7'  
Premiere: 16 July 2005. St Mary's Church, Slough,  
London, England. Aisling Agnew (fl), Matthew  
McAlister (gui).  
Recording: *Recital*. Aisling Agnew (fl), Matthew  
McAllister (gui). Naturalstudio Records 2006. NSR CD  
004

**Looking Down from a Great Height (2000)**

afl ob bn hn va hrp  
MS  
Premiere: May 2000. Sonorities Festival, Queen's  
University, Belfast.

**String Quartet No.1 (1995 rev. 2000)**

*Towards a Better Place*  
2 vn va vc  
MS 7'

**Child's Play (1999)**

cl+sax gui dmkit  
MS 40'  
Premiere: May 2000. Sonorities Festival, Belfast.  
Recording: *Child's Play*. Richard Mawhinney (cl), Greg  
Caffrey (gui), Andrew Lavery (dm). Cactus Records  
2000. RD9:00CD1

**Piano Trio No. 1 (1998)**

vn vc pf  
MS 5'  
Premiere: 13 June 1999. Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of  
Modern Art, Dublin. Concorde: Elaine Clark (vn), David  
James (vc), Jane O'Leary (pf).  
Awarded 'Honourable mention' in New Music for Sligo  
Competition 1998.  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Paula's Peace (1998)**

fgh, trb, asax, tsax+fl, barsax, pf db dmkit  
MS 6'  
Commissioned by TIME (The Improvised Music  
Ensemble) with funds provided by the Arts Council / An  
Chomhairle Ealaíon.  
Premiere: 25 January 1999. Valence, France. TIME.

**Atoms (1997 rev. 1998)**

fl, 2 asax, 2 tsax, barsax, 4 tpt, 4 trb, dmkit, pf, gui, db  
MS 6'  
Premiere: 16 October 1998. The White Horse Hotel,  
Derry. Irish Jazz Orchestra, director Hugh Fraser.  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Variations on Confirmation (1997)**

ssax asax tsax barsax dmkit  
MS 5'

**Unison (1996)**

vc perc  
MS 2'  
Premiere: 28 February 1997 [workshop performance].  
Psappa.

## SOLO INSTRUMENTAL

**Corrog (2007)**

gui  
MS 8'

**Six Illustrations musicales du Petit Nicolas (2006)**

pf  
MS 6'

**Deluge, Fugue and Allegro (2005)**

gui  
MS 12'  
Premiere: 27 October 2005. North Down Heritage  
Centre, Bangor, Co. Down. Craig Ogden (gui).  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Five Preludes (1997)**

gui  
MS 12'  
Premiere: 26 February 1999. Harty Room, Queen's  
University Belfast. Patrick Zeoli (gui).  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.