

Karen Power

(b. 1977)

“Icebergs on speed” - right now that is how I think of myself and my output. My “style” is always shifting. Sometimes the shifts are slow and steady but there are also sudden bursts of change that take me by surprise. So much music to be taken on board - it’s both exhilarating and distracting!



Photo: John Godfrey

Karen Power is currently a PhD student at the Sonic Arts Research Centre, Belfast with Michael Alcorn. Her initial interest in composition came during her undergraduate degree in University College Cork (UCC), where she familiarised herself with as many musical styles as were on offer. This musical diversity continues to shape the character of her musical output.

She completed an MA in Composition in UCC in 2000 and is currently working as a music technician in Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick.

Up until 2004, Karen Power’s compositional output was predominantly instrumental, but she is currently exploring electro-acoustic composition, sound-art and live electronics. Recently, her electro-acoustic tape piece, *fried rice, curried chip and a diet coke* (2007) was a finalist at the 2009 ASCAP/SEAMUS (Society of Electro Acoustic Music in the US) Student Commission Award in the US, her orchestral piece, *one piece of chocolate per bar* (2008) got an honorable mention at The International Alliance for Women in Music 28th IAWM (2009) Search for New Music by Women Composers and her ensemble and tape piece, *squeeze birds to improve your garden’s plant variety* (2008) was selected for performance on the Annual Concert of the International Alliance for Women in Music (IAWM) by the NOVA Ensemble, directed by Professor Elizabeth McNutt.

Karen Power is an active member of the AIC (Association of Irish Composers) the SPNM (Society for the Promotion of New Music), the IWMA (International Women in Music Association), SEAMUS (Society for Electro Acoustic Music in the US) and a former member of the ICC (Irish Composer’s Collective).

Selected Works

ORCHESTRAL

One piece of chocolate per bar (2008)

3222 4231 perc str
MS 8'

ENSEMBLE

Old Fashioned Chocolate Fondue Fountain (2006)

vn pf

MS 5'

Premiere: 8 October 2006. National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin. Darragh Morgan (vn), Mary Dullea (pf).

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

we’re not there yet (2005)

all bcl vn vc

MS 9'

Premiere: 9 June 2005. National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin. Concorde.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

that night of the geckos (2004)

fl+all 4 perc

MS 4'

Premiere: 5 December 2005. Royal Irish Academy of Music, Ireland. Royal Irish Academy of Music Percussion Ensemble.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive

Supergran’s bed now has wheels (2000 rev. 2004)

cl vn vc pf

MS 10'

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

it’s like riding a hefalump (2003)

cl bcl asax tsax barsax hn 2 tpt trb tuba pf 2 vn va vc

MS 15'

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

wombi in the middle (2002)

fl gui

MS 6'

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

I fought an orang-utan (2000)

fl cl ssax kbd perc egui vn db

MS 11'

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

SOLO INSTRUMENTAL

like piglets at a market (1999)

pf

MS 6'

Premiere: 1999. Aula Maxima, University College, Cork. Bill Scobie (pf).

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Further information on this and other composers is available on the CMC web site at www.cmc.ie

VOCAL AND CHORAL

as happy as owlies in their hammock (2004)

2 S-solo, Mez-solo, T-solo, Bar-solo, fl afl bcl ssax barsax
hn tpt 2 trb tuba 2 perc pf

MS 3'

Premiere: 11 February 2005. Apeldoorn, The Netherlands. 'de ereprijs' ensemble.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

ELECTRO-ACOUSTIC AND MIXED MEDIA

squeeze birds to improve your garden's plant variety (2008)

tsax hn va vc db tape

MS 9'

Premiere: 13 October 2008. Aula Maxima, University College Cork. ENSEMBLE ICC.

squeeze birds to improve your garden's plant variety (2008)

afl cl trb egui vn va vc db tape

MS 9'

flies who dreamt of more than windscreens (2008)

cl trb vc and tape

MS 8'

Premiere: 5 July 2008. Glucksman Gallery, Cork. Quiet Music Ensemble. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Cows, Coffee, Birds, Bees and a New Room (2007)

db tape

MS 7'

Premiere: 29 July 2007. The New Theatre, Temple Bar, Dublin. Dan Bodwell (db).

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

You Me (2007)

2 vn va vc, tape

MS 7'

Premiere: 19 August 2007. Town Hall, Sombor, Serbia. Seasons String Quartet.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

fried rice, curried chip and a diet coke (2007)

tape 11'

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

are you sure you're hearing what's written (2007)

tape 7'

Premiere: 12 October 2007. Listening room; SS Michael and John, Essex St West, Temple Bar, Dublin.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

grounded (2006)

tape, video

MS 15'

Sound art collaboration with Sinéad Dineen and Maria Finucane.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Dan (2006)

sax vc db tape

MS 6'

Premiere: 9 December 2006. EAR-Plugged Festival, The Lab, Dublin. EAR Ensemble: Lioba Petrie (vc), Antonio Cafolla (ssax), Bryan Quigley (db).

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

just one girl playin' around (2006)

vc, tape

MS 7'

Premiere: October 2006. Triskel Arts Centre, Cork. Kate Ellis (vc).

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

an alsation ate my dog (2005)

bcl tape

MS 9'

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

freight trains and manuscript paper (2005)

perc tape

MS 7'

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.