

# Roger Doyle

(b. 1949)

“It is written that in the beginning was the word! Hmm...already I am having problems.”

(Goethe, from *Faust*)

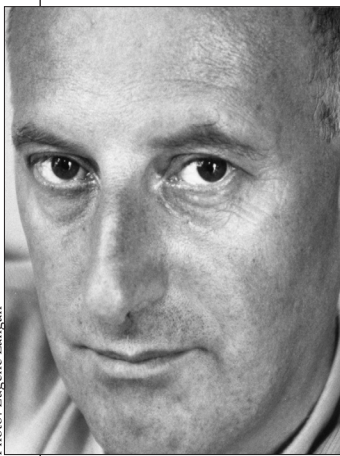


Photo: Eugene Langan

Roger Doyle was born in Dublin and studied composition on scholarships at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, the Institute of Sonology at the University of Utrecht and the Finnish Radio Experimental Music Studio.

He has worked extensively in theatre, film and dance, in particular with the music-theatre company Operating Theatre, which he co-founded with actress Olwen Fouéré.

*Babel*, his magnum opus, was begun in 1990 and had its first public showing in an entire wing of the Irish Museum of Modern Art in 1992 as a dance piece. Subsequent sections were composed during residencies at the University of Washington in Seattle, the Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada, the EMS studios in Stockholm and at the Royal Conservatory of Music in The Hague. A five-CD box set, *Babel*, was released to celebrate the work's completion and the composer's fiftieth birthday in 1999. Other works include a piano score for the Gate Theatre production of *Salomé*, directed by Steven Berkoff, which played in Dublin, London's West End and on three world tours. The music, performed by the composer, was released on CD in 2000, as was the CD *Under the Green Time*, a collaboration with the Netherlands Wind Ensemble. A new large-scale electronic work *Passades* has just been completed and released on three CDs. He was recently commissioned by RTÉ for a new work, *Adolf Gebler, clarinettist*, for symphony orchestra and pre-recorded acted scenes.

Awards include the Programme Music Prize (1997) and the Magisterium Prize (2007) at the Bourges International Electro-Acoustic Music Competition, France, and the Marten Toonder Award (2000) in recognition of his innovative work as a composer. Roger Doyle is a member of Aosdána, Ireland's state-sponsored academy of creative artists.

## Selected Works

### ORCHESTRAL

#### **Adolf Gebler, clarinettist (2007/2008)**

Text: Carlo Gebler  
S-solo, 333 4331 pf str, pre-recorded acted scenes  
MS 39'  
Commissioned by RTÉ and the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon. Premiere: 5 February 2008. Horizons Series, National Concert Hall, Dublin. Susannah de Wrixon (voice), RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, conductor Gavin Maloney.

### ELECTRO-ACOUSTIC AND MIXED MEDIA

#### **The Ninth Set (2006/2007)**

Passades - Volume 3  
tape 67'  
Recording: *The Ninth Set*. Die Stadt 2007. DS 103.  
Awarded the Magisterium Prize at the 2007 Bourges International Electro-acoustic Music Competition, France.  
Recording: *Contemporary Music from Ireland, Volume Seven*. Contemporary Music Centre 2008. CMC CD07

#### **Passades - Volume 1 & 2 (2002-2005)**

tape 113'  
Commissioned in part by Concerts 'M' Montréal.  
Premiere: 14 March 2002. Voyages: Dublin-Montréal Festival, Oscar Peterson Concert Hall, Montréal, Canada [extract].  
Recording: *Charlotte Corday and the Lament of Louis XVI / Passades - Volume I*. BVHaast 0304; *Passades - Volume 2*. BVHaast 0505.

#### **The Idea and its Shadow (2000)**

Tape (featuring the voice of Kevin O'Connell) 5'  
Premiere: 21 December 2000. Project Arts Centre, Dublin.  
Recording: *By the new time*. Silverdoor 2001. SIDO 010 CD.

#### **Mall Fountain (1998 - 1999)**

From *The Babel Project*  
tape 12'  
Premiere: 5 June 1999. 18th Festival of Electro-Acoustic Music, Skinnskatteberg, Sweden.  
Recording: *Babel*. Silverdoor 1999. SIDO 003-007 CD.

#### **Mr Foley's Final Moments (1998)**

From *The Babel Project*  
tape 10'  
Commissioned by Institute Internationale de Musique Electroacoustique de Bourges.  
Premiere: 30 May 1999. Bourges Festival of Electro-Acoustic Music, France. Recording: *Babel*. Silverdoor 1999. SIDO 003-007 CD.

#### **Johnny's Body at 002 (1996 - 1998)**

From *The Babel Project*  
tape 16'  
Performers: Olwen Fouéré (voice), Roger Doyle (kbds, electronics).  
Recording: *Babel*. Silverdoor 1999. SIDO 003-007 CD.

#### **Spirit Levels I - IV (1993 - 1997)**

From *The Babel Project*  
tape 14'  
Premiere: 10 May 1997. Elektrisk Helg, Malmö, Sweden.  
Recording: *Babel*. Silverdoor 1999. SIDO 003-007 CD.  
Awarded the Programme Music Prize, 1997 Bourges International Electro-acoustic Music Competition, France.

#### **KBBL - Surface du Monde (1992 - 1998)**

From *The Babel Project*  
tape 24'  
Premiere: June 1999. Anna Iivia Radio, Dublin. . Roger Doyle (kbds), Severine Angele, Barbara Gogan, Elena Lopez (vocals).  
Recording: *Babel*. Silverdoor 1999. SIDO 003-007 CD.

#### **The Iron Language Alphabet (1992 - 1997)**

From *The Babel Project*  
tape 14' Premiere: 9 May 1997. Elektrisk Helg, Malmö, Sweden.  
Recording: *Babel*. Silverdoor 1999. SIDO 003-007 CD.

Further information on this and other composers is available on the CMC web site at [www.cmc.ie](http://www.cmc.ie)

**KBBL - The Entertainment and Leisure Pursuits Show (1992 - 1996)**

From *The Babel Project*  
 tape 45'  
 Performers: Myra Davies, Olwen Fouéré, Anne Lapiere (voices), Roger Doyle (kbd, voice, electronics).  
 Recording: *Babel*. Silverdoor 1999. SIDO 003-007 CD.

**KBBL - The Morning Show (1992 - 1994)**

From *The Babel Project*  
 tape 29'  
 Performers: Elena Lopez, Willie Monigold, Finn MacGinty (voices), Roger Doyle (keyboards, electronics).  
 Premiere: Anna Livia Radio, Dublin. July 1999.  
 Recording: *Babel*. Silverdoor 1999. SIDO 003-007 CD.

**KBBL - The Nightshow (1992 - 1993 rev. 1997)**

From *The Babel Project*  
 tape 33'  
 Premiere: January 1994, Co-Op Radio, Vancouver, Canada. David Olds, Olwen Fouéré, Elena Lopez (voices), Roger Doyle (kbds, electronics).  
 Recording: *Babel*. Silverdoor 1999. SIDO 003-007 CD.

**Concert Music - Pagoda Charm / Mansard (1991 - 1992)**

From *The Babel Project*  
 tape 15'  
 Premiere: February 1992. Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin. Jo O'Grady (sax), Roger Doyle (pf), Cindy Cummings (voice sample).  
 Recording: *Babel*. Silverdoor 1999. SIDO 003-007 CD.

**Temple Music - Cantilena (1991)**

From *The Babel Project*  
 tape 11'  
 Commissioned by Groupe de Musique Experimentale de Bourges.  
 Premiere: June 1991. Bourges Festival of Experimental Music, France.  
 Recording: *Babel*. Silverdoor 1999. SIDO 003-007 CD.

**The Room of Rhetoric (1990 - 1991)**

From *The Babel Project*  
 tape 20'  
 Premiere: September 1991. Accents Festival, Royal Hibernian Academy Gallagher Gallery, Dublin. (tape).  
 Recording: *Babel*. Silverdoor 1999. SIDO 003-007 CD.

**Charlotte Corday and the Lament of Louis XVI (1989)**

Text: Olwen Fouéré  
 tape 25'  
 Commissioned by Groupe de Musique Experimentale de Bourges to celebrate the bi-centenary of the French Revolution.  
 Premiere: 12 June 1989. Bourges Festival of Electro-acoustic Music.  
 Recording: *Charlotte Corday and the Lament of Louis XVI / Passades - Volume I*. BVHaast 2004. BVHaast 0304.

**Trapeze in Full-Moon Nights (1988)**

tape 16'  
 Premiere: 25 May 1991. Ystad Electro-Acoustic Music Festival, Sweden.  
 Recording: *Babel*. Silverdoor 1999. SIDO 003-007 CD.

**The Love of Don Perlimplin and Belisa in the Garden (1984)**

Electronic chamber opera  
 tape [Fairlight CMI], 4 actors 56'  
 Text Lorca, trans. Graham-Lujan, O'Connell  
 Premiere: December 1984. Project Arts Centre, Dublin. Operating Theatre: Elena Lopez (voice), Roger Doyle (voice), Thom McGinty (voice), Joan Sheehy (voice).  
 Recording: *Fairlight Memories*. Silverdoor 2000. SIDO 009 CD.

**Contents of the Pay-Jar (1983-88)**

A collection of eighteen pieces.  
 Tape 70'  
 Recording: Roger Doyle, *Fairlight Memories*. Silverdoor 2000. SIDO 008-009CD.

**Miss Mauger (1980 - 1983)**

**A collection of ten pieces**  
 tape 39'  
 Recording: *Miss Mauger*. Operating Theatre: Roger Doyle (pf, synth). Kabuki Records 1983. KAOT 6.

**Rapid Eye Movements (1978 - 1980)**

tape 30'  
 Premiere: 4 January 1980. Dublin Festival of Twentieth Century Music.  
 Recording: *Rapid Eye Movements*. Silverdoor 2003. SIDO 013 CD.

**Fin-estra (1977)**

tape 25'  
 Premiere: 1978. Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.  
 Recording: *Rapid Eye Movements*. Silverdoor 2003. SIDO 013 CD.

**Thalia (1976)**

tape 29'  
 Premiere: October 1976. Geertekerkerk, Utrecht, The Netherlands.  
 Recording: *Oizzo No*. Silverdoor. 2002. SISO 012 CD.

**Solar Eyes (1975)**

tape 13'  
 Premiere: September 1975. Dublin Theatre Festival.  
 Recording: *Oizzo No*. Silverdoor 2002. SIDO 012 CD.

## ENSEMBLE

**Tradarr (1999)**

Variable ensemble, tape  
 MS 22'  
 Commissioned by Nederlands Blazers Ensemble with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.  
 Premiere: 5 October 1999. Muziekcentrum Eindhoven, The Netherlands. Sarah Grealish (sean nós singer), Brian Ó hUiginn (uilpipes), Nederlands Blazers Ensemble.  
 Recording: *Under the Green Time*. Sarah Grealish (sean nós singer), Brian Ó hUiginn (uilpipes), Nederlands Blazers Ensemble Nederlands Blazers Ensemble 2000. NBEC001.

**Mercedes Spring (1996 - 1997)**

cl vc perc tape  
 MS 6'  
 Commissioned by Concorde with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.  
 Premiere: 17 November 1996. Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, Dublin. Concorde: Paul Roe (cl), David James (vc), Richard O'Donnell (perc).  
 Recording: *Babel*. Silverdoor 1999. SIDO 003-007 CD.

**Under the Green Time (1995)**

tape / uilpipes, fl tape 19'  
 Commissioned by Distant Relations exhibition with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.  
 Premiere: 12 September 1998. Project @ the Mint, Dublin. Brian Ó hUiginn (uilpipes) [extract].  
 Recording: Contemporary Music from Ireland, Volume Two. Contemporary Music Centre 1997. CMC CD02. *Under the Green Time*. Nederlands Blazers Ensemble 2000. NBEC001.

**Temple Music - Earth to Earth (1991)**

From *The Babel Project*  
 variable ensemble, tape 10'  
 Commissioned by the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.  
 Premiere: 12 August 1991. National Concert Hall, Dublin. Claire Wallace (fl), Rachel Nolan (bn), Laura Delaney (vn).  
 Recording: *Under the Green Time*. Nederlands Blazers Ensemble 2000. NBEC001. *Babel*. Silverdoor 1999. SIDO 003-007 CD.

**Budawanny (1986)**

Film score  
 Piano and variable ensemble 70'  
 Commissioned by Bob Quinn.  
 Premiere: 3 February 1990. National Concert Hall, Dublin. Ad Hoc ensemble.  
 Recording: *Budawanny*. Silverdoor 2002. SIDO 011 CD.

## SOLO INSTRUMENTAL

**Six pieces for pupils who don't like exams (1968 - 1973)**

pf  
 MS 16'  
 Premiere: September 1975. Dublin Theatre Festival, Project Arts Centre, Dublin. Roger Doyle [with tape for duet].  
 Recording: *Oizzo No*. Roger Doyle (pf). DOM 1992. BW03 / Artware 05.

**Salomé (1988)**

Music for the play by Oscar Wilde  
 pf, tape 59'  
 Premiere: April 1988. Gate Theatre, Dublin. Roger Doyle (pf).  
 Recording: *Salomé*. Roger Doyle (pf). Gate Theatre 2000. GATE 001 CD.