

Gerald Barry

(b. 1952)

‘Gerald Barry is a composer of strange and rare device.’

(Paul Driver, *The Sunday Times*)

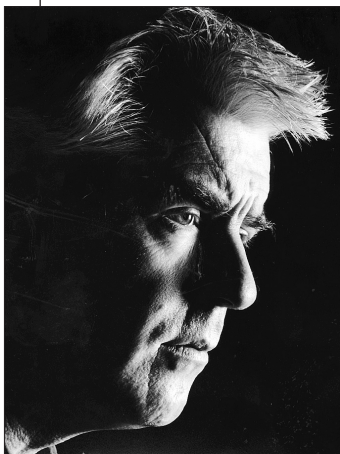


Photo: Clive Barda

Gerald Barry was born in Ireland in 1952 and studied with Stockhausen and Kagel. He first came to public attention in 1979 with his radical ensemble works ‘_____’ and Ø. Many of his works have been commissioned by the BBC, including *Chevaux-de-frise* for the 1988 Proms, *Hard D* for Orkest de Volharding, *The Conquest of Ireland* and *Day* for the BBCSO, and *The Eternal Recurrence*, a setting of Nietzsche for voice and

orchestra. Thomas Ades conducted the Russian premiere of *Chevaux-de-frise* with the Mariinsky Orchestra in St Petersburg in 2007.

His first opera, *The Intelligence Park* (recorded on NMC) was first performed at the 1990 London Almeida Festival, and a second, *The Triumph of Beauty and Deceit* opened the 2002 Aldeburgh Festival.

In 1997 *The Road* was written for the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, and the Bavarian RSO gave the German premiere of *The Conquest of Ireland* in 1998. Barry has had a long association with the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group for whom he wrote *Wiener Blut*, *Dead March* and *Beethoven*.

In 2005 the stage premiere of *The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant* (recorded on RTÉ) was given at English National Opera. A one act opera for Radio France, *La Plus Forte* (The Stronger), was written for the 2007 Festival Presences and given its American premiere with the New World Symphony in Miami in 2008.

The American patron, Betty Freeman, commissioned *Le Vieux Sourd*, a work for solo piano premiered by Gloria Cheng in Los Angeles in 2008. Portrait concerts of Barry’s music took place recently at Columbia University and the Isabelle Gardner Museum in Boston. A new orchestral work, *No other people*, was commissioned by RTÉ for 2009.

Selected Works

ORCHESTRAL

The Road (1997)

3333 4331 perc pf str [14.12.10.8.6]

OUP 17'

Commissioned by Hessischer Rundfunk.

Premiere: 29 May 1998. Sendesaal, Hessische Rundfunk, Germany.

Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, conductor David R. Coleman.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

La Jalousie Taciturne (1996)

str [5.4.3.3.1]

OUP 12'

Commissioned by the Irish Chamber Orchestra with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

Premiere: 26 October 1996. Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh. Irish Chamber Orchestra, director Fionnuala Hunt.

Recording: *Strings A-stray*. Irish Chamber Orchestra, director Fionnuala Hunt. Black Box 1998. BBM1013.

Flamboys (1991)

2223 4231 mar pf str

OUP 8'

Commissioned by Trinity College Dublin in celebration of its Quatercentenary with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

Premiere: 14 May 1992. Point Theatre, Dublin. National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, RTE Concert Orchestra, conductor Owain Arwel Hughes.

Recording: *Gerald Barry: Orchestral Works*. National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, conductor Robert Houlihan. Marco Polo 1997. 8.225006.

Chevaux-de-frise (1988)

2222 4231 glock pf str

OUP 17'

Commissioned by the BBC for the 94th season of BBC Promenade Concerts.

Premiere: 15 August 1988. BBC Promenade Concerts, Royal Albert Hall, London. Ulster Orchestra, conductor Robert Houlihan.

Recording: *Gerald Barry: Orchestral Works*. National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, conductor Robert Houlihan. Marco Polo 1997. 8.225006.

From The Intelligence Park (1986)

1111 1110 mar+glock pf str [vn va db]

OUP 10'

Commissioned by New Irish Chamber Orchestra with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

Premiere: 29 September 1986. Wesley College, Dublin. New Irish Chamber Orchestra, conductor Geoffrey Spratt.

Recording: *Gerald Barry: Orchestral Works*. National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, conductor Robert Houlihan. Marco Polo 1997. 8.225006.

ENSEMBLE

Wiener Blut (2000)

Version also available for symphony orchestra

fl, ob, cl, bcl, bn, 2 hn, tpt, 2 vn, va, vc, db

OUP 14'

Commissioned by the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group with funds provided by West Midlands Arts and BCMG’s Sound Investment scheme.

Premiere: 17 June 2000. Aldeburgh Festival, Snape Maltings, Aldeburgh, England. Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, conductor Thomas Adès. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Six Marches for String Quartet (2000)

OUP 18'

Commissioned by West Cork Chamber Music Festival and RTÉ.

Premiere: 24 June 2001. West Cork Chamber Music Festival, Bantry House, Co. Cork. RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

1998 (1999)

String Quartet No. 2

Versions also available for solo piano and violin and piano

OUP 20'

Commissioned by the RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon and RTÉ.

Premiere: 13 March 2002. Montréal, Canada. Quatour Bozzini.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Piano Quartet No. 2 (1996)

OUP 12'
Commissioned by the Ives Ensemble with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 1 December 1996. Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, England. Ives Ensemble.
Recording: *Things that gain*. Xenia Ensemble. Black Box 1998. BBM1011.

Octet (1995)

fl, afl, cl, bcl, vn, vc, pf, mar
OUP 10'
Commissioned by the Icebreaker Ensemble with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 5 May 1995. Sonorities Festival, Whitla Hall, Queen's University, Belfast. Icebreaker Ensemble.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Sextet (1992 - 1993)

cl+bcl, tpt, 2 mar, pf, db
OUP 8'
Commissioned by Arraymusic, Toronto with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 21 February 1993. Toronto. Arraymusic.
Recording: *Gerald Barry*. Nua Nós. NMC 1994. D022.

Hard D (1992)

fl+afl+picc, hn, ssax+barsax, 2 ssax+asax+barsax, 3 tpt, 3 trb, pf, db
OUP 13'
Commissioned by the BBC for Orkest de Volharding.
Premiere: 28 January 1993. De Ijsbreker, Amsterdam. Orkest de Volharding, conductor Jurjen Hempel.
Recording: *Gerald Barry: Orchestral Works*. Marco Polo 1997. 8.225006.

Piano Quartet No. 1 (1992)

OUP 12'
Commissioned by the Institute of Contemporary Arts Live Arts for New MusICA with funds provided by the London Arts Board.
Premiere: 6 December 1992. Institute of Contemporary Arts, London.
Capricorn. Recording: *Gerald Barry*. Nua Nós. NMC 1994. D022.

Bob (1989)

cl, cl+bcl, mar, pf, vn, vc
OUP 9'
Commissioned by the London New Music with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 21 March 1989. Purcell Room, South Bank Centre, London. London New Music, director Michael Blake.
Recording: *Gerald Barry*. NMC 1994. D022.

String Quartet No. 1 (1985 rev. 1994)

OUP 12'
Commissioned by the 1994 Rotterdam Confrontations Festival with funds provided by the Rotterdam Arts Council.
Premiere: 4 November 1994. Confrontations Festival, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Leonardo Quartet.
Recording: *Things that gain*. Xenia Ensemble. Black Box 1998. BBM1011.

Five Chorales (1984)

from The Intelligence Park
2 pf
OUP 19 372232 1 16'
Premiere: July 1984. Institute of Contemporary Arts, London. Peter Hill, Douglas Young. Recording: *Things that gain*. Kevin Volans (pf), Gerald Barry (pf). Black Box 1998. BBM1011.

o (1979)

2 pf
OUP 19 372233 X 7'
Commissioned by the Dublin Festival of Twentieth Century Music.
Premiere: 9 January 1980. Examination Hall, Trinity College Dublin.
Howard Shelley (pf), Hilary MacNamara (pf).
Recording: *Things that gain*. Kevin Volans (pf), Gerald Barry (pf). Black Box 1998. BBM1011.

' (1979)

cl, 2 cl+bcl, hpd+pf, 2 va, 2 vc / 2 cl+bcl, mar, pf, va, vc
OUP 12'
Premiere: 24 February 1980. Institute of Contemporary Arts, London.
Lontano. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

SOLO INSTRUMENTAL**Triorchic Blues (1990)**

Versions for piano, violin, cello.
OUP 19 372235 6 3'
Commissioned by the GPA Dublin International Piano Competition 1991 with funds provided by IMRO.
Premiere: 20 April 1991. GPA Dublin International Piano Competition, National Concert Hall, Dublin. Pavel Nersessian (pf).
Recording: *Gerald Barry*. Noriko Kawai (pf). NMC 1994. D022.

Au Milieu (1981)

pf
OUP 19 372231 3 12'
Premiere: March 1981. Institute of Contemporary Arts, London. Herbert Henck. Recording: *Gerald Barry*. Noriko Kawai (pf). NMC 1994. D022.

Sur les Pointes (1981)

Versions for piano, harpsichord, organ and orchestra
OUP 19 372234 8 13'
Premiere: 29 March 1981. Institute of Contemporary Arts, London. Herbert Henck (pf).
Recording: *Gerald Barry*. Noriko Kawai (pf). NMC 1994. D022. *Gerald Barry: Orchestral Works*. National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, conductor Robert Houlihan. Marco Polo 1997. 8.225006.

Things that gain (1977)

pl
OUP 19 372229 1 5'
Premiere: 20 October 1994. St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Rolf Hind (pf).
Recording: *Things that gain*. Kevin Volans (pf). Black Box 1998. BBM1011.

VOCAL AND CHORAL**The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant (2004)**

Opera
Text: R. W. Fassbinder
OUP 96'
Commissioned by RTÉ [check these]
Premiere: 27 May 2005. National Concert Hall, Dublin (first staged performance). Rayanne Dupuis, Mary Plazas, Stephanie Marshall, Deirdre Cooling-Nolan, Sylvia O'Brien, RTE National Symphony Orchestra, conductor Gerhard Markson. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

God Save the Queen (2000)

children's choir, fl+picc, ob, cl, bcl, bn, 2 hn, tpt, btrbn, perc, timp, 2 vn, va, vc, db
OUP 10'
Commissioned by the South Bank Centre for the Fiftieth Birthday of the Royal Festival Hall.
Premiere: 6 May 2001. Royal Festival Hall Ballroom Floor, London. New London Children's Choir, Hampstead School Choir, Centre for Young Musicians Choir, St Stephen's School Choir, Bishopsford Community College Choir, London Sinfonieta, conductor Martyn Brabbins.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

The Eternal Recurrence (1999)

A setting of Nietzsche for soprano and orchestra
S-solo, 3222 4231 2 perc str
OUP 16'
Commissioned by the BBC for performance by the Ulster Orchestra at the Sonorities festival, Belfast, 2000.
Premiere: 2 June 2000. Ulster Hall, Belfast. Mary Hegarty (S-solo), Ulster Orchestra, conductor Thierry Fischer.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

O Lord, how vain (1995)

S-solo, satb, org
Text: Sir Philip Sidney
OUP 5'
Commissioned by Trinity College Dublin with funds provided by the Cultural Enrichment Fund.
Premiere: 18 May 1995. Trinity College Chapel, Dublin. Trinity College Dublin School of Music Choir, conductor Michael Taylor.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

The Conquest of Ireland (1995)

B-solo, 3333 4331 2 perc mar pf str
Text: Giraldus Cambrensis
OUP 20'
Commissioned by BBC.
Premiere: 10 January 1996. BBC Maida Vale Studios, London. Stephen Richardson (B-solo), BBC Symphony Orchestra, conductor Mathias Bamert.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

The Triumph of Beauty and Deceit (1991 - 1992)

An Opera in Two Acts
2 Ct-solo, T-solo, Bar-solo, B-solo, 1121 1110 pf mar str [1.1.1.1.1]
Text: Meredith Oakes
OUP 53'
Commissioned by Channel 4 TV, London.
Premiere: Autumn 1994. Channel 4 TV, London. Nicholas Clapton (Ct-solo), Denis Lakey (Ct-solo), Richard Edgar-Wilson (T-solo), Adrian Clarke (Bar-solo), Stephen Richardson (B-solo), Composers Ensemble, conductor Diego Masson.
Recording: *The Triumph of Beauty and Deceit*. Largo 1997. 5135.

Water Parted (1988)

from The Intelligence Park
Ct-solo, pf
Text: Vincent Deane
OUP 19 345138 7 7'
Premiere: 25 May 1988. Brighton Festival, England. Nicholas Clapton (Ct-solo), Kathron Sturrock (pf).
Recording: *Things that gain*. Nicholas Clapton (Ct-solo), Catherine Edwards (pf). Black Box 1998. BBM1011.

The Intelligence Park (1981 - 1988)

An opera in three acts
S-solo, A-solo, Ct-solo, T-solo, Bar-solo, B-solo, 1211 1210 pf str tape
Text: Vincent Deane
OUP 105'
Commissioned by Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, with funds provided by the Gulbenkian Foundation and the Arts Council of Great Britain.
Premiere: 6 July 1990. Almeida Music Festival, London. Opera Factory: Richard Jackson, Paul Harry, Stephen Richardson, Angela Tunstall, Nicholas Clapton, Buddug Verona James, Almeida Ensemble, conductor Robert Houlihan, director David Fielding.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.