

John Gibson

(b. 1951)

“Real art is one of the most powerful forces in the rise of mankind.”

(Kodály)

“By you; by those deceptive cadences
Where with the common measure is refined;
by conscious art practised with natural ease;
By the delicate, invisible web you wove –
The inexplicable mystery of sound.”

(T. S. Eliot).



John Gibson was born in Dublin and began piano lessons with his mother at the age of five. Further studies were at the Dublin College of Music, the Royal Irish Academy of Music, where he studied composition with Dr A. J. Potter, the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik in Munich and with Prof. Valentyna Schubinskaya in Moscow. In 2006 he was awarded a first class honours MA in Composition from the

Cork School of Music. He has performed extensively as a concerto soloist, recitalist, accompanist and chamber musician, and has worked with Karlheinz Stockhausen and Witold Lutoslawski. During 2003, he travelled on Swan Hellenic cruises in the Baltic region where he gave piano recitals which included some of his recent compositions.

His music has been performed in Ireland, England, America, Germany, France, Poland, Romania, Israel, Japan, Russia, Brazil and China. Awards include the Dublin Arts Festival Prize for String Quartet No. 2; second prize in the 1975 Ó Riada Competition at the Cork International Choral Festival; and the Nijinsky Medal, awarded by the Polish Ministry of Arts in 1997 for the piano piece *Nijinsky* (1980). To date, five CDs of his music have been released. Recent releases include a compilation album, ‘The John Gibson Collection’, and a disc of his chamber opera, *Judith and Holofernes* (2000-01). Recent commissions include *Moladh go Deo le Dia* (2006) for the Dublin AXA International Piano Competition and *Ikon* (2006) for the RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet at the West Cork Chamber Music Festival.

Selected Works

ORCHESTRAL

Sounds (1981)

str
MS 15'
Commissioned by the Dublin Baroque Players with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 30 May 1981. St Ann's Church, Dawson St, Dublin.
Dublin Baroque Players, conductor Liam Fitzgerald.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Music for Orchestra (1974)

The Sound and the Fury
2222 2231 timp perc str
MS 10'
Premiere: 28 November 1976. Examination Hall, Trinity College Dublin. Dublin Symphony Orchestra, conductor Colin Block.

Kinderklagelied (1974)

1000 0000 pf xyl vib str
MS 16'
Premiere: 19 July 1974. St. Francis Xavier Hall, Dublin. RTE Symphony Orchestra, conductor Albert Rosen.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

ENSEMBLE

Ikon (2006)

Ten Meditations for String Quartet
vn va vc
MS 15'
Commissioned by West Cork Music with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 26 June 2006. West Cork Chamber Music Festival, Bantry House, Cork. RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet.

Sliabh Luachra (1996 - 1997)

trad. fl, vn, vc, pf
MS 9'
Commissioned by the Crawford Piano Trio with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 26 June 1997. Crawford Municipal Art Gallery, Cork. Johnny McCarthy (trad. fl), Crawford Piano Trio: Jan Cáp (pf), Adrian Petcu (vn), Iosef Calef (vc).
Recording: *Out of Ireland*. John Gibson 1997. JG002.

Five Irish Aírs (1993 - 1994)

fl/ob/cl/vn pf
MS 14'
Premiere: 15 March 1993. Waterford Regional Technical College [Movts 3-5]. Aisling Casey (ob), John Gibson (pf).
Recording: *Out of Ireland*. Ruxandra Colan-Petcu (vn), John Gibson (pf). John Gibson 1997. JG002.

Wind Quintet in Three Movements (1982 - 1989)

MS 20'
Commissioned by the Ulysses Ensemble with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 29 March 1995. Waterford RTC. Françaix Wind Quintet. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Planxty (1980)

va pf
MS 8'
Commissioned by the Dublin Festival of Twentieth Century Music.
Premiere: 3 January 1980. Dublin Festival of Twentieth Century Music. John Vallery (va), John Gibson (pf).
Recording: *Mass of Mercy and Compassion*. Niamh Quigley (va), John Gibson (pf). John Gibson 2000. JG003.

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

Something Else (1977)

2 pf
MS 3'
Premiere: 10 May 1980. Dublin College of Music. Mairead Hurley (pf), Niamh Hurley (pf).
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

String Quartet No. 2 (1973 - 1974)

MS 12'
Premiere: 1974. Dublin Arts Festival, Trinity College Dublin.
Arthur McIvor, Donal Byrne, Charles Maguire, Katherine Behan.

Piano Quartet No. 1 (1972)

MS 16'
Premiere: 25 June 1972. Examination Hall, Trinity College Dublin [Dublin Festival of Twentieth Century Music 1972]. Joan Mooney (vn), John Vallery (va), Gerard Kelly (vc), John Gibson (pf).
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

String Quartet No. 1 (1969 - 1973)

MS 20'
Premiere: 1972. Dublin Festival of Twentieth Century Music. Sunniva Fitzpatrick (vn), Ruth O'Donovan (vn), Kitty Dalligan (va) [Miriam Lynch (va)?], Hilary O'Donovan (vc).
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Piano Trio No. 1 (1969)

MS 10'
Premiere: 1969. Dagg Hall, Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin. John Gibson (pf).

Two Pieces for Violin and Piano (1969)

MS 7'
Premiere: 9 May 1980. Dublin College of Music. Eileen Owens (vn), John Gibson (pf).
Recording: *Out of Ireland*. Ruxandra Colan-Petcu (vn), John Gibson (pf). John Gibson 1997. JG002.

SOLO INSTRUMENTAL

Moladh go Deo le Dia (2005)

pf
Contemporary Music Centre Editions 5'
Commissioned by AXA Dublin International Piano Competition 2006 with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Nijinsky 1998 (1998)

pf
MS 16'
Premiere: 26 June 1998. Crawford Municipal Art Gallery, Cork. John Gibson (pf).
Recording: *Mass of Mercy and Compassion*. John Gibson (pf). John Gibson 2000. JG003.

Tocatta (1995)

pf
MS 6'
Commissioned by Brian McNamara with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 25 May 1995. Crawford Municipal Art Gallery, Cork. John Gibson (pf).
Recording: *Out of Ireland*. John Gibson (pf). John Gibson 1997. JG002.

Slow Dance in 3 and 4 (1994)

pf
MS 7'
Commissioned by Brian McNamara with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 5 June 1994. Bantry House, Cork. John Gibson (pf).
Recording: *Reflections in the Water*. John Gibson (pf). John Gibson 1994. JG001.

Nijinsky (1980)

pf
MS 7'
Premiere: 5 September 1980. Kilkenny Arts Week. John Gibson (pf).
Recording: *Reflections in the Water*. John Gibson (pf). John Gibson 1994. JG001.

Three Pieces for Young Pianists (1979)

pf
MS 8'
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (1977 - 1978)

org
MS 7'
Premiere: 2 August 1981. St Michael's Church, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Eric Sweeney (org).
Recording: *Mass of Mercy and Compassion*. John O'Brien (org). John Gibson 2000. JG003.

Nocturne (1977)

pf / pf [4 hands]
MS 6'
Commissioned by Dublin Festival of Twentieth Century Music.
Premiere: 10 January 1978. Dublin Festival of Twentieth Century Music, Examination Hall, Trinity College Dublin. Jan Cáp (pf).
Recording: *Reflections in the Water*. John Gibson (pf). John Gibson 1994. JG001.

Six Preludes (1968)

pf
MS 10'
Premiere: 7 January 1970. Dublin Festival of Twentieth Century Music, Examination Hall, Trinity College Dublin. John Gibson (pf).
Recording: *Reflections in the Water*. John Gibson (pf). John Gibson 1994. JG001.

VOCAL AND CHORAL

Judith and Holofernes (2000 - 2001)

Chamber opera
S-solo, Mez-solo, 2 Bar-solo, satb, rec, tpt, perc, pf
Text: Robert Craig
MS 48'
Commissioned by P.E.A.C.E. Movement.
Premiere: 29 April 2001. Cathedral of St Mary and St Ann, Cork. Helen Hassett (S-solo), Veronica O'Keefe (Mez-solo), Brendan Collins (Bar-solo), Gordon Garde (Bar-solo), John Gibson (pf), Richard Riordain (perc), Fionn Ó Ceallacháin (perc), Nell O'Hora (tpt), Paul Callaghan (rec), Cork School of Music Choir, conductor Richard Craig.

I see his blood upon the rose (1996)

voice pf / pf
Text: Joseph Mary Plunkett
MS 4'
Premiere: 25 June 1999. Triskel Arts Centre, Cork. Robert Craig (T-solo), John Gibson (pf).
Recording: *Mass of Mercy and Compassion*. Eileen McMahon (S-solo), John Gibson (pf). John Gibson 2000. JG003.

Mass of Mercy and Compassion (1996)

satb, cntr, cong, org
Text: Sacred
MS 20'
Recording: *Mass of Mercy and Compassion*. Zephiro. John Gibson 2000. JG003.

Mass for Peace (1993 - 1994)

satb org / unison voices, org
Text: Isaiah 42: 1-10.
MS 20'
Commissioned by The Prayer Enterprise and Christian Effort Movement.
Premiere: 5 March 1995. St Augustine's Church, Washington Street, Cork. Angel Climent (org), Choir of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, conductor Pat Killeen, St Vincent's Childrens' Choir, conductor Eileen McMahon.
Recording: *Reflections in the Water*. John Gibson (pf). John Gibson 1994. JG001.

Four Emily Dickinson Songs (1991 - 1992)

voice pf
Text: Emily Dickinson
MS 10'
Premiere: 4 December 1992. Aula Maxima, University College Cork. Mary Mulcahy (S-solo), John Gibson (pf).
MS 15'