

# Deirdre Gribbin

(b. 1967)

‘I always follow my gut reaction to structure and form. The emotions generated by a place, the reaction to an environment, people, pace of life... all affect my relationship to my music.’



Photo: Eugene Langan

Deirdre Gribbin was born in Belfast. She studied at Queen's University Belfast, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London and in Denmark with Per Nørgård. In 2000 she received a Fulbright Fellowship attached to Princeton University and in 2001 she completed a PhD in composition at Royal Holloway College, University of London. She was artistic director of the Society for the Promotion of New Music, UK (SPNM) and is Senior Fellow in Composition at Trinity College of Music, London.

She has written over forty works, which have been performed at many international festivals including the Gaudeamus, Saarbrücken, Huddersfield, Presence, Almeida, Aldeburgh and Taipei festivals, among others. In 2001 her orchestral work, *Unity of Being*, was performed by the Ulster Orchestra at the UK with NY Festival in New York. *Empire States* (2002), an RTÉ commission for the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, was chosen as a winning finalist at the 2003 UNESCO International Rostrum of Composers.

Deirdre Gribbin has received commissions from Almeida Opera/Aldeburgh Festival, the Northern Sinfonia, Joanna McGregor, COMA, Music Network, the Vanbrugh Quartet, Imogen Cooper, the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra and the Ulster Orchestra, among others. Her violin concerto *Venus Blazing* (2001) was part of a Contemporary Music Network Tour of the UK Spring 2005 and was directed by Lou Stein with lighting by Bruce Springstein's lighting designer Jeff Ravitz. Recent works include a BBC commission *Goliath* for percussion and orchestra and music for a BBC Radio 3 production of Dostoevsky's *The Possessed*.

## Selected Works

### ORCHESTRAL

#### *Empire States* (2002)

2222 4231 timp 3 perc hrp bgui str  
Deirdre Gribbin Publications 12'

Commissioned by RTÉ.

Premiere: 31 January 2003. National Concert Hall, Dublin.

National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, conductor William Eddins.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

#### *Venus Blazing* (2001)

vn-solo, 2222 2210 timp perc str  
Deirdre Gribbin Publications 15'

Commissioned by the Northern Sinfonia with funds provided by Northern Arts.

Premiere: 31 January 2002. All Saints Church, Newcastle, England. Northern Sinfonia, conductor Susanna Maalkki.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

#### *Unity of Being* (2001)

3222 2431 timp perc str  
Deirdre Gribbin Publications 8'

Commissioned by the Ulster Orchestra with funds provided by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland National Lottery Unit.

Premiere: 28 September 2001. Waterfront Hall, Belfast. Ulster Orchestra, conductor Thierry Fischer.

#### *Tribe* (1997)

1111 2110 2 perc pf hrp str [2.1.1.1.1]

Deirdre Gribbin Publications 15'

Commissioned by Athèlas Ensemble.

Premiere: November 1997. Danish Radio, Denmark. Athèlas Ensemble, conductor Giordani Bellancampi.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

### ENSEMBLE

#### *What the Whaleship Saw* (2004)

2 vn va vc  
MS 10'

Commissioned by the City of London Festival with funds provided by the Esmée Fairairn Foundation.

Premiere: 21 June 2004. The City of London Festival, Jerwood Hall, London. Karol Szymanowski Quartet.

Recording: *Contemporary Music from Ireland, Volume Six*. Contemporary Music Centre 2007. CMC CD06

#### *Speaker's Corner* (2003)

2 vn va vc pf  
Deirdre Gribbin Publications 16'

Commissioned by West Cork Music with funds provided by RTÉ, the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon and Key Choice commissioners Rachel Cheyne and Paule Cotter.

Premiere: 29 June 2003. West Cork Chamber Music Festival, Bantry, Co. Cork. RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet, Joanna MacGregor (pf).

#### *Amazing Face* (2000)

2 vn va vc  
Deirdre Gribbin Publications 12'

Commissioned by the West Cork Chamber Music Festival.

Premiere: 26 June 2000. West Cork Chamber Music Festival, Bantry House, Co. Cork. RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Celestial Pied Piper (2000)**

cl-solo, fl+picc, cl+ecl+bcl, ssax+asax, hn 2 perc vn va vc db  
 Faber 12'  
 Commissioned by Faber Music.  
 Premiere: 18 November 2000. Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, England. Composers Ensemble, director Pierre Andre Valade.  
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**How to Make the Water Sound (1997)**

vn vc pf  
 Deirdre Gribbin Publications 8'  
 Commissioned by Fidelio Trio with funds provided by South East Arts, UK.  
 Premiere: 12 July 1997. Petworth Festival, England. Fidelio Trio.  
 Recording: *Rational Option Insanity*. Concorde: Jane O'Leary (pf), Alan Smale (vn), David James (vc). Black Box 1999. BBM1015.

**Cease (1995)**

2 cl+bcl+whistle, va, vc+whistle, db+whistle, pf  
 Deirdre Gribbin Publications 3'  
 Premiere: 24 June 1995. Purcell Room, South Bank Centre, London. Composers' Ensemble, conductor Diego Masson.

**And now the shadows are too long (1993)**

cl pf  
 Deirdre Gribbin Publications 12'  
 Commissioned by the Park Lane Group with funds provided by London Arts Board.  
 Premiere: January 1994. Park Lane Group Series, Purcell Room, South Bank Centre, London. Kate Romano, Alan Hicks.  
 Recording: *Rational Option Insanity*. Paul Roe (cl), Jane O'Leary (pf). Black Box 1999. BBM1015.

**Jack B. (1993)**

vn va vc pf  
 Deirdre Gribbin Publications 20'  
 Commissioned by Sonorities Festival with funds provided by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.  
 Premiere: April 1993. Sonorities Festival, Belfast. Orion Quartet.  
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Narrative for a Harlequin (1991 rev. 1996)**

tpt pf  
 Deirdre Gribbin Publications 10'  
 Premiere: July 1991. Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London. Andrew Crawley (tpt), Rolf Hind (pf).  
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**High (1990)**

fl ob cl bn hn  
 Deirdre Gribbin Publications 3'  
 Premiere: September 1991. SCO Composition Course, Hoy, Scotland. Members of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.  
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**The Isamniion Fragments (1990)**

4 tpt, hn, 3 trb, btrb, tuba  
 Deirdre Gribbin Publications 8'  
 Premiere: July 1990. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre, London. London Brass.  
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

## SOLO INSTRUMENTAL

**Rothko Chord (1997)**

pf  
 Deirdre Gribbin Publications 4'  
 Premiere: 17 June 1997. BBC recital, London. Kate Ryder (pf).  
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Waking in Laughtears (1996)**

pf  
 Deirdre Gribbin Publications 15'  
 Commissioned by Kate Ryder with funds provided by the Holst Foundation.  
 Premiere: 14 April 1996. Purcell Room, South Bank Centre, London. Kate Ryder (pf).

**Hells Kells (1995)**

acc  
 Deirdre Gribbin Publications 17'  
 Commissioned by Stuttgart Arts Council.  
 Premiere: 18 November 1995. Berlin New Music Festival, Germany. Stefan Hussong (acc).

**North (1995)**

va  
 Deirdre Gribbin Publications 17'  
 Premiere: April 1995. Bucharest, Serbia. Bridget Carey (va).

**Per Speculum in Aenigmate (1991)**

pf  
 Deirdre Gribbin Publications 12'  
 Premiere: November 1991. Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, England. Joanna Mac Gregor.  
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Giles (1989)**

fl  
 Deirdre Gribbin Publications 3'  
 Premiere: May 1989. Harty Room, Queen's University, Belfast. Deirdre Gribbin (fl).  
 Recording: *Rational Option Insanity*. Madeleine Staunton (fl). Black Box 1999. BBM1015.

## VOCAL AND CHORAL

**Te Deum (2003)**

satb org  
 MS 6'  
 Commissioned by Trinity College Cambridge for the installation of the new master, Sir Martin Rees.  
 Premiere: 15 January 2004. Trinity College, Cambridge, England. Trinity College Cambridge Choir, conductor Richard Marlow.

**Mare Tran (2003)**

*Crossing the Sea*  
 Mez-solo, str  
 Text: Liu Han  
 MS 20'  
 Commissioned by the Irish Chamber Orchestra.  
 Premiere: 26 April 2004. St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. Alison Wells (Mez-solo), Irish Chamber Orchestra, conductor Stephen Cleobury.  
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Hey Persephone! (1998)**

4 S-solo, 2 Mez-solo, A-solo, Ct-solo, 2 T-solo, Bar-solo, 3 children's voices, 0010 0010 2 perc acc hrp str  
 Text: Sharman MacDonald  
 Deirdre Gribbin Publications 140'  
 Commissioned by Almeida Opera with funds provided by the Arts Council of England.  
 Premiere: 26 June 1998. Aldeburgh Festival, Snape Maltings, Aldeburgh, England. Jonathan Peter Kenney (CT-solo), Almeida Opera.

**By Kilbrannon Sound (1996)**

S-solo, 2 cl, va, vc, db  
 Deirdre Gribbin Publications 3'  
 Commissioned by Composers' Ensemble.  
 Premiere: 14 March 1996. Staines Arts Centre, England. Mary Wiegold (S-solo), Composers' Ensemble: Mark Vanderveldt (cl), Jane Atkins (va), Philip Sheppard (vc), Katie Woods (db), conductor Brad Cohen. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.