

Michael Holohan

(b. 1956)

“For he had gone alone into the island
And brought back the whole thing.
The house throbbed like his full violin.”
(Seamus Heaney)

“See everything through music -
those chords yet to resound
in you, swim like fish
in all the rivers of the world
You love their playful surge,
their shadows flickering deep within you..”
(Susan Connolly)



Photo: Eugene Langan

Born in Dublin, Michael Holohan was educated at University College Dublin, the DIT Conservatory of Music and Queen's University, Belfast. He has won numerous prizes for his compositions as well as Arts Council travel awards to attend masterclasses with

Messiaen, Boulez, Xenakis, Berio and Lachenmann in France. His music has been performed both in Ireland and abroad, and has been broadcast by RTÉ, BBC and other international networks. His orchestral works *Cromwell* (1994), *Building Bridges* (1995), *Leaves of Glass* (1995) and *The Lost Land* (1996) have all been premiered by the RTÉ Concert Orchestra. He has collaborated regularly with well known Irish poets such as Seamus Heaney, Richard Murphy, Dermot Healy and Paul Durcan. *Running Beast*, his collaboration with the playwright Donal O' Kelly toured Ireland and Europe extensively during 2007 as part of the government's 400th Commemoration of the Flight of the Earls. He is a former chairman of the Association of Irish Composers and the Droichead Arts Centre, Drogheda. In 1999 he was elected to Aosdána, Ireland's state-sponsored academy of creative artists.

Selected Works

ORCHESTRAL

Building Bridges (1995)

2232 4230 timp 2 perc str [8.6.4.4.2]

MS 6'

Commissioned by SIPTU with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon and AIC.

Premiere: 1 May 1995. May Day Concert, Liberty Hall, Dublin. RTE Concert Orchestra, conductor Christopher Bell.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Leaves of Glass (1995)

2222 4330 timp 3 perc hrp str [8.6.4.4.2]

MS 10'

Commissioned by the National Botanic Gardens, Dublin with funds provided by the Office of Public Works.

Premiere: 3 October 1995. Conference Centre, Dublin Castle. RTE Concert Orchestra, conductor Proinnsias Ó Duinn.

Cromwell (1994)

2222 4330 timp 4 perc str [8.6.4.4.2]

MS 9'

Commissioned by The Drogheda Federation of Residents and Tenants Associations with funds provided by the FÁS Community Employment Scheme.

Premiere: 17 May 1994. Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Drogheda, Ireland. RTE Concert Orchestra, conductor Proinnsias Ó Duinn. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

The Ferry Across the Boyne (1993)

str

Ms : 5'

Premiere: August 1993, Droichead Arts Centre, Drogheda, Co. Louth. The Boyne Youth Orchestra, Director, Helen Leahy.

ENSEMBLE

The Legend of Fraoch (2007)

3 bronze-age hn, perc

MS 9'

Commissioned by RTÉ lyric fm. Premiere: 30 December 2007

RTÉ lyric fm. Simon O'Dwyer, John Kenny and Dr John Purser (bronze-age hns), Bernard Reilly and Michael Holohan (perc).

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

His Final Journey (2004)

fl ob cl hn perc

MS 4'

Commissioned by Contemporary Music Centre, Temple Bar

Properties Ltd and the Association of Irish Composers with funding from the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism through the 'ReJoyce Dublin 2004 - Celebrating Bloomsday 100' festival.

Premiere: 20 June 2004. 'ReJoyce Dublin - Celebrating Bloomsday 100' festival 2004, Meeting House Square, Temple Bar, Dublin. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Cassandra (1989)

efl [digital delay, chorus pedal, octave divider], perc

MS 9'

Premiere: 10 June 1989. Association of Irish Composers Concert, Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, Dublin. Ron Cooney (fl), Noel Eccles (perc). Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Waves (1987)

fl ob cl pf

MS 6'

Premiere: 2 February 1987. St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Susan Connolly (fl), Sile Daly (ob), Celia Donoghue (cl), Michael Holohan (pf). Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

SOLO INSTRUMENTAL

Byrd in Blue (2008)

pf
Ms: 3'
Premiere: 2 May 2008, John Field Room, The National Concert Hall, Dublin. Niamh Mc Donagh (pf).

Carving the High Cross (2006)

pf
MS 7'
Commissioned by The National Concert Hall for the Composers' Choice Series. Premiere: 27 November 2006 John Field Room, NCH, Dublin. Therese Fahy (pf). Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Leafy-with-Love Banks (2004)

fl
MS 4'
Commissioned for The Patrick Kavanagh Centenary. Premiere: 26 November 2004. Patrick Kavanagh Centre, Inishkeen. Brian Dunning (fl).

The Snotgreen 'C' (2004)

fl
MS 5'
Premiere: 16 June 2004. James Joyce Tower, Sandycove, Co. Dublin. Brian Dunning (fl). Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

An Fear As Fingal (2003)

uilpipes
MS 8'
Commissioned by Fingal Co. Council and The Seamus Ennis Centre. Premiere: 22 October 2003. The Seamus Ennis Centre, The Naul, Fingal, Co. Dublin. Micheál Ó Briain (uilpipes). Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Monaincha (2002)

pf 10'
Contemporary Music Centre Editions / CMC 1021 6'
Commissioned by the AXA Dublin International Piano Competition 2003.
Premiere: 17 May 2003. National Concert Hall, Dublin. Yurie Miura (pf).

The Lads (2000)

cl+bcl
MS 7'
Commissioned by the Galway Arts Festival 2000 with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon. Premiere: 22 July 2000. 'Containers' exhibition, Galway Arts Festival, Aula Maxima, National University of Ireland, Galway. Paul Roe (cl). Recording: *Containers*. Paul Roe (cl). Galway Arts Festival 2000. GAF 01.

The Listoke Preludes (2000)

pf
MS 10'
Commissioned by the Drogheda Mayoral Millennium Committee. Premiere: 6 June 2000. Droichead Arts Centre, Drogheda. John O'Connor.

VOCAL AND CHORAL

One Fine Day (2006)

s-solo fl vn pf perc
Text: Samuel Beckett
MS 15'
Commissioned by Poetry Ireland with the support of the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism through the Beckett Centenary Fund 2006.
Premiere: 25 May 2006, The National Gallery, Dublin
Anna Devin (s-solo), Brian Dunning (fl), Tadhg Murphy (vn), Michael Holohan (pf and perc).
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Portrait of the Artist (2001 rev. 2004)

voice, afl
Text: Paul Durcan
MS 4'
Premiere: 14 June 2001. Royal Hibernian Art Gallery, Dublin.
Melanie O'Reilly (voice), Brian Dunning (fl)
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Winter in Meath (2002)

satb
Text: John F. Deane
MS 5'
Premiere: 5 May 2002. Cork International Choral Festival, City Hall, Cork. Tredagh Singers, conductor Patricia Hegarty.

Quis est Deus? (2001)

satb
MS 4'
Commissioned by the Cork International Choral Festival for the 38th Seminar on Contemporary Choral Music, with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 2 May 2002. Cork International Choral Festival, Honan Chapel, Cork. National Chamber Choir.

The Lost Land (1996)

S-solo, uilpipes-solo, 3222 4330 timp 2 perc hrp str speaker dancer
Text: Pearse Hutchinson, Davoren Hanna.
MS 10'
Commissioned by RTE.
Premiere: 6 March 1997. Roy Thompson Hall, Toronto, Canada.
Méav Ní Mhaolcatha (S-solo), Michael McGoldrick (uilpipes), RTE Concert Orchestra, Bill Golding (speaker), conductor Proinnsias Ó Duinn. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

The Potter's Field (1990 rev. 1997)

voice pf
Text: Lalic trans. Jones
MS 5'
Commissioned by Dedalus Press.
Premiere: 21 May 1990. Buswell's Hotel, Dublin. Gabrielle Holohan (A-solo), Michael Holohan (pf).

Mass of Fire (1990 rev. 1995)

satb, 4 tpt, trb, euph timp org str
MS 15'
Premiere: 14 April 1990. Augustinian Church, Drogheda. Augustinian Senior Choir, Drogheda Brass Band, Michael Holohan (org), Edward Holly (perc), conductor Anne Grennan. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

The Given Note (1989)

voice pf
Text: Séamus Heaney
MS 5'
Premiere: 1989. Horse and Hound Inn, Drogheda. Tracey Whirley (voice), Michael Holohan (pf).
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

My Place of Clear Water (1985 - 1997)

ssaa [children's or adult choir]
Text: Séamus Heaney
MS 10'
Premiere: 27 February 1997. Augustinian Church, Drogheda. Lindsay Singers, conductor Ethna Barror.
Recording: *Ethna Barror's Lindsay Singers*. The Lindsay Singers, conductor Eithne Barror. Lindsay Singers. LS 01.

Bagairt na Marbh (1982 rev. 1986)

satb
MS 4'
Commissioned by the Parnassian Singers for the Seán Ó Riada Memorial Trophy 1982.
Premiere: 1 May 1982. Cork International Choral and Folk Dance Festival. Parnassian Singers, conductor Gráinne Gormley.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

BAND

Ritual Landscapes (1986)

4 cnt, fgh, 3 hn, 2 bar, 2 trb, btrb, euph, 3 bass, 2 perc
MS 11'
Commissioned by the Drogheda Brass Band with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 28 May 1987. Medical Missionaries of Mary Auditorium, Drogheda, Ireland. Drogheda Brass Band, conductor Harry Kelly.

ELECTRO-ACOUSTIC AND MIXED MEDIA

What the Hammer (1994)

Text: Dermot Healy
tape 18'
Premiere: October 1994. AART Radio, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin. Ceol Batucada, Dermot Healy (speaker), Michael Holohan (electronics).
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

The Source (1990)

tape 8'
Commissioned by St Oliver's Community School, Drogheda.
Premiere: 27 April 1990. St Oliver's Community School, Drogheda. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.