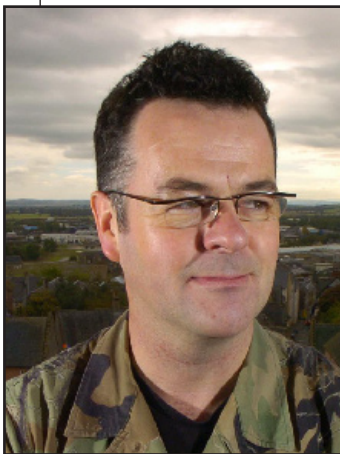


Brian Irvine

(b. 1965)

“Composition is like the best toy I ever had: all the thrills of a home-made go-kart, but with more levels than a Sony playstation.”



Brian Irvine was born in Belfast. He studied music at Berklee College of Music, Surrey University and University of Ulster, specialising in composition.

His work includes orchestral works, chamber music, operas, film scores as well as solo and ensemble pieces. He has collaborated with and been commissioned by many diverse musical personalities throughout Europe and the United States.

He has won a number of awards including the 2006 British Composers Award for his youth opera *The Tailors Daughter* which was commissioned and premiered by Welsh National Opera. His second youth opera *The Calling of Maisy Day* was also commissioned by Welsh National Opera and was premiered in July 2008. His Ivor Cutler inspired piece, *Interrupting Cutler* won the BBC Radio 3 Jazz Award and in 2007 his orchestral work *Secret Cinema* was short listed for the British Academy of Composers /BBC Radio 3 Listeners Award. Other awards have included the Bass Ireland Award, and the Major Individual Artist Award from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. He was also appointed as the New Music Fellow based at the Tolbooth in Scotland for three years.

Recent compositions include several large scale orchestral commissions including a re-interpretation of the Pied Piper story for orchestra and children's chorus, a piece for the Ulster Orchestra to mark the re-opening of the Ulster Hall in Belfast in 2009 and a solo piano piece, *Junk Genius: The Klippell Collection*. Together with writer filmmaker and director John McIluff he is also completing a major new Wexford Festival Opera commission *DUMBWORLD*.

Brian Irvine is currently the Associate Composer with the Ulster Orchestra. He also composes for and conducts his own 12-piece ensemble, which performs worldwide.

Selected Works

ORCHESTRAL

And Pigs Might Fly! (2003)

3222 4331 timp perc sampler str
MS 15'

Commissioned by Ulster Orchestra.

Premiere: 19 September 2003. Waterfront Hall, Belfast. Ulster Orchestra, conductor Thierry Fischer.

The Adventures of Captain Weather and Magnet Man (1998)

3332 4331 timp 3 perc str
MS 15'

Commissioned by the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra. Premiere: 14 November 1998. Paramount Arts Centre, Aurora, Illinois, USA. Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra, conductor Fusao Kajima.

Ferragosto IV (1995)

3222 4231 timp perc str
MS 12'

Commissioned by the Ulster Orchestra with funds provided by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Premiere: November 1995. Ulster Hall, Belfast. Ulster Orchestra, conductor John Lubbock. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

ENSEMBLE

You seem distracted! (2004)

2 vn vc hrp pf
MS 46'

Commissioned by Tolbooth, Stirling, as part of the New Music Fellowship.

Premiere: 2 October 2003. Tolbooth, Stirling, Scotland. Roman Mints (vn), John Fitzpatrick (vn), Scot Heron (vc), Cliona Doris (hrp), Evelyn Chang (pf), conductor Brian Irvine.

Odd Ball (2003)

4 perc
MS 16'

Premiere: 6 November 2003. Bank of Ireland Arts Centre, Dublin. 4-MALITY: Jan Bradley, Adrian Spillet, Geir Rafnsson and Stephen Whibley. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Six Gibbering fools (2004)

pf
MS

Interrupting Cutler (2000)

sax-solo [improvising], fl+picc, ssax, asax, tsax, bcl, tpt, trb, vn vc, egui, ebass, perc, sampler
MS 12'

Commissioned by Sonorities Festival, Belfast.

Premiere: 14 May 2000. Sonorities Festival, South Dining Hall, Queen's University Belfast. Paul Dunmall (sax), Brian Irvine Ensemble.

Chaplin's Leg (2000)

pf-solo, ssax [improvising], fl+picc, ssax+cl, asax+cl, tsax+cl, tpt, 2 trb, vn, vc, egui, ebass, kbd+sampler, perc
MS 20'

Commissioned by Sonorities Festival, Belfast.

Premiere: 4 May 2000. Sonorities Festival, South Dining Hall, Queen's University Belfast. Joanna MacGregor (pf), Paul Dunmall (sax), Brian Irvine Ensemble.

She dreamt she danced with Charlie (2000)

fl, cl, bcl, vn, vc

MS 5'

Commissioned by the Sonorities Festival, Belfast.
 Premiere: 4 May 2000. Sonorities Festival, South Dining Hall, Queen's University Belfast. Beverley White (fl), Lewis Smith (cl), Phil Lavery (bcl), John Fitzpatrick (vn), Scot Heron (vc).

Thug! (1999)

sax-solo [improvising], fl+picc, ssax+cl, asax+cl, tsax+cl, tpt, 2 trb, vn, vc, pf, egui, ebass, perc

MS 10'

Premiere: September 1999. Moving on Music Festival, Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast. Paul Dunmall (sax), Brian Irvine Ensemble.

Bersudsky's Machines (1998)

fl+picc, ssax, asax, tsax, tpt, 2 trb, vn, vc, perc, kbd, egui, ebass

MS 45'

Commissioned by the Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast.
 Premiere: 25 June 1998. Moving on '98 Festival, Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast. Brian Irvine Ensemble.
 Recording: *Bersudsky's Machines*. Brian Irvine Ensemble, conductor Brian Irvine. Coyote Records 1999. YOTE004.

I dreamt I dwelt in marble halls (1997 rev. 1998)

fl cl vn vc

MS 5'

Commissioned by the Belfast Festival at Queen's.
 Premiere: November 1997. Elmwood Hall, Queen's University, Belfast. Beverley White (fl), Lewis Smith (cl), Nial Lynch (vn), Dee Isaacs (vc).

Wind of the wings of madness (1997)

vn pf

MS 60'

Premiere: 1997. Belfast Festival at Queen's, Elmwood Hall, Queen's University, Belfast. Waco Donaldson (vn), Neil Everett (pf).

Our New House (1997)

pf [4 hands]

MS 7'

First Song for Jamie (1996)

fl+picc, harmonica, ssax, egui, vn, vc [all amplified]

MS 5'

Premiere: 1996. Sonorities Festival, Queen's University Belfast. Brian Irvine Ensemble.

280 Bells (1994)

fl+afl, cl+bcl, tsax+asax, bn, 2 tpt, trb, perc, pf, vn, vc, db [amplified], egui

MS 40'

Commissioned by Belfast Festival at Queen's.
 Premiere: November 1995. Belfast Festival at Queen's, Belfast. The Big Bash Ensemble, conductor Brian Irvine.

VOCAL AND CHORAL

Do not go gentle into that good night (1998)

2 perc, str, speaker

Text: Dylan Thomas

MS

Black Man Dance (1990)

satb [div., opt.], fl, cl, 2 asax, tsax, 3 tpt, 2 trb, egui, ebass, perc

MS 10'

Premiere: June 1990. Surrey University, England.
 Maverick Wurlitzer Ensemble.
 Recording: *Dirge Gig*. Maverick Wurlitzer: Anita Conway (fl), David Mayes (cl), Bob Dawson (tpt), Ian Simpson (trbn). Coyote Records 1993. Yote 002.

ELECTRO-ACOUSTIC AND MIXED MEDIA

New York II (1997)

Improvisers, CD playback

tape 8'

Commissioned by the Sounds Electric Festival, Belfast.
 Premiere: February 1997. Sounds Electric Festival, Queen's University Belfast.
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.