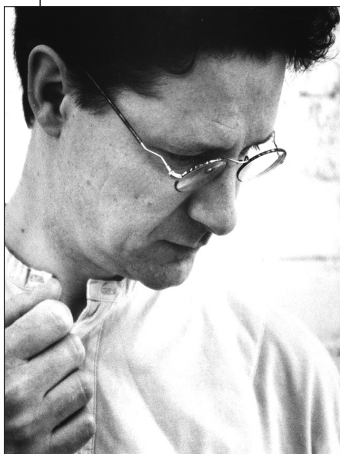


# Fergus Johnston

(b. 1959)

“The underlying principle behind most of my recent instrumental music is the process of change: things accumulate, piling up (often at different speeds), reaching a threshold, and then suddenly the horizon shifts, the landscape changes, and everything is different. My vocal works, by contrast, tend to be more inwardly directed: static rather than dynamic; reflections on the text, rather than illustrations of it.”



Fergus Johnston was born in Dublin and is a music graduate of Trinity College Dublin. He studied composition with James Wilson at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and later privately with the English composer Robert Hanson. While his output is mostly instrumental, he has recently ventured into the area of computer-assisted music having taken a Masters in Music and Media Technology in Trinity College Dublin. He is a recipient of the 1989 New Music for Sligo Composition Prize and the 1989 Macaulay Fellowship. He is a member of Aosdána, Ireland's state-sponsored academy of creative artists.

## Selected Works

### ORCHESTRAL

#### *Je goûte le jeu...* (1997)

str  
MS 10'  
Commissioned by the Irish Chamber Orchestra with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon. Premiere: 21 May 1997. University Concert Hall, Limerick. Irish Chamber Orchestra, conductor Nicholas Kraemer. Recording: *Strings A-stray*. Irish Chamber Orchestra, director Fionnuala Hunt. Black Box 1998. BBM1013.

#### *Flute Concerto (1996 rev. 1997)*

fl-solo+picc, 3333 4331 timp 3 perc str  
MS 20'  
Commissioned by RTE. Premiere: 17 January 1997. National Concert Hall, Dublin. Gareth Costello (fl, picc), National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, conductor Alexander Annisimov. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

#### *Samsara (1991)*

3333 4331 3 perc hrp str [14.14.12.10.8]  
MS 9'  
Commissioned by RTE for performance by the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland. Premiere: 14 June 1991. National Concert Hall, Dublin. National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, conductor Colman Pearce. Recording: *Music from Six Continents (1996)*. Ruse Philharmonic, conductor Tsanko Delibozov. Vienna Modern Masters 1996. VMM 3035.

### ENSEMBLE

#### *Opus Lepidopterae (1996)*

Versions for recorder and guitar, flute and piano, oboe and piano, flute and harpsichord available  
MS 7'  
Premiere: 6 October 1996. Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, Dublin. Aedín Hálpin (arec), Luke Tobin (gui). Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

#### *Liofa (1994)*

fl, ca, bcl, hn, 2 vn, va, vc  
MS 7'  
Premiere: 9 September 1996. ISCM World Music Days, Arken Museum of Modern Art, Copenhagen. Esbjerg Ensemble.

#### *Carn (1993)*

2 pf  
MS 10'  
Commissioned by the Project Arts Centre, Dublin. Premiere: 14 November 1993. Project Arts Centre, Dublin. Réamonn Keary, Shirin Goudarzi-Tobin (pf). Recording: *Ard Fhearta*. Shirin Goudarzi-Tobin (pf), Réamonn Keary (pf). Monumental Music 2001. MOMUO14.

#### *Kaleidophone (1992 rev. 1996)*

2 vn va vc hrp perc  
MS 10'  
Commissioned by the Young European Strings 1992 for performance by the Degani Ensemble. Premiere: 15 November 1992. National Concert Hall, Dublin. Degani Ensemble, conductor John Finucane. Recording: *Contemporary Music from Ireland, Volume Two*. Contemporary Music Centre 1997. CMC CD02.

#### *Cusp (1992)*

vn pf  
MS 23'  
Commissioned by Fiona Quilligan. Premiere: 1 October 1992. Royal Hibernian Academy Gallagher Gallery, Dublin. Louis Roden (vn), Réamonn Keary (pf). Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

#### *Brass Quintet (1985)*

2 tpt hn trb tuba  
MS 6'  
Commissioned by The Prelude Brass Ensemble with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon. Premiere: 7 November 1985. Trinity College Chapel, Dublin. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Rashad's Words (1999)**solo perc  
MS 12'

Commissioned by the Sonorities Festival with funds provided by the the Arts Council of Northern Ireland National Lottery Unit.

Premiere: 29 April 1999. Sonorities Festival, Harty Room, Queen's University Belfast. Jonny Axelsson (perc).

## SOLO INSTRUMENTAL

**The Oul' Winda Rag (1996)**

pf

Contemporary Music Centre Editions / CMC 1018 5'

Commissioned by the Guardian Dublin International Piano Competition 1997 with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

Premiere: 10 May 1997. National Concert Hall, Dublin. Max Levinson (pf).

Recording: *Guardian Dublin International Piano Competition*. GPC 01.**Éagaoineadh (1995)**

pf

MS 3'

Premiere: 15 May 1995. St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Réamonn Keary (pf).

**Piano/Keyboard Study No. 2 (1995)**

MS 2'

Premiere: 15 May 1995. St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Réamonn Keary (pf).

**Three Piano Pieces (1994 - 1995)**

MS 8'

Commissioned by Raymond Deane with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

Premiere: 6 April 1995. Days of New Music, Kishinev, Moldova. Raymond Deane (pf).

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Piano/Keyboard Study No. 1 (1993)**

MS 1'

Premiere: 21 August 1994. Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, Dublin. David Adams (hpd).

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Prelude (1993)**

pf

School of Music, Trinity College Dublin 2'

Commissioned by The School of Music, Trinity College Dublin, on the occasion of Joseph Grocock's Eightieth Birthday Anniversary.

Premiere: 23 November 1993. Graduates' Memorial Building, Trinity College Dublin. Pádraic Ó Cuinneagáin.

**Psyche (1992)**

aréc

MS 5'

Premiere: 28 April 1992. St Ann's Church, Dawson Street, Dublin. Aedin Halpin (rec).

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Signals! (1989)**

Ballet Music

vn

MS 20'

Premiere: 4 May 1989. New Music-New Dance Festival, Project Arts Centre, Dublin. Louis Roden (vn), Rubato Ballet, choreographer Fiona Quilligan.

Recording: *Ard Fhearta*. Frantisek Jaros (vn). Monumental Music 2001. MOMUO14.**Prelude and Passacaglia (1987)**

vn

MS 10'

Premiere: 23 October 1987. John Field Room, National Concert Hall, Dublin. Maighread McCrann (vn).

## VOCAL AND CHORAL

**After a Childhood away from Ireland (1997)**

S-solo, pf

Text: Eavan Boland

MS 5'

Commissioned by the Irish Centre for Migration Studies, University College Cork.

Premiere: 24 September 1997. The Scattering, University College Cork. Kathleen Tynan (S-solo), Eleanor Malone (pf).

**Bitter Fruit (1992)**

Chamber opera

S-solo, 2 Bar-solo, 2 vn va vc hrp

Text: Nell McCafferty

MS 18'

Commissioned by Opera Theatre Company with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

Premiere: 17 November 1992. Royal Hospital Kilmainham,

Dublin. Kathleen Tynan (S-solo), Omar Ebrahim (Bar-solo), Nick Sears (Bar-solo), Opera Theatre Company, conductor Mark Armstrong.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**The Little Snowgirl (1991)**

A-solo, B-solo, children's &amp; female voices, 2121 0000 hrp str

MS 20'

Commissioned by Newpark Music Centre with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

Premiere: 9 December 1991. National Concert Hall, Dublin.

Newpark Ensembles, Joanna Hilary (S-solo), Chlodhna McDonagh (A-solo), Conor Biggs (B-solo), conductor Geraldine McDonnell.

**The Wisdom of the World (1990)**

Mez-solo, hrp [Irish]

MS 5'

Premiere: 8 April 1990. Accents Festival, Royal Hibernian

Academy Gallagher Gallery, Dublin. Aylish Kerrigan (Mez-solo), Anne-Marie O'Farrell (hrp).

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Praise Music (1988)**

sath, str [4.4.3.2.2]

Text: Psalms 90, 145, 95, 150

MS 6'

**Sine Musica Nulla Vita (1988)**

ssath

MS 4'

Premiere: 30 January 1989. National Concert Hall, Dublin.

Newpark Singers, conductor Geraldine McDonnell.

**... (1987 rev. 1988)**

Three Zen Texts

Mez-solo, vc pf

Text: Takahashi.

MS 5'

Premiere: 27 September 1988. St John's Cathedral, Sligo. Aylish Kerrigan (Mez-solo), Aisling Drury-Byrne (vc), Gillian Smith (pf).

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Two Tang Poems (1984)**

S-solo, 1121 2100 str

Text: Li Ho

MS 8'

Commissioned by Frances Lucey and the Dublin Chamber Orchestra with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

Premiere: 4 November 1984. Dublin. Frances Lucey (S-solo), Dublin Chamber Orchestra.

**now i lay (with everywhere around) (1983)**

sath

Text: E. E. Cummings

MS 4'

Premiere: 1984. Douglas Hyde Gallery, Trinity College Dublin.

Trinity College Singers.

**Three Songs on Words by e. e. cummings (1981 rev. 1982)**

S-solo, fl cl bn

Text: E. E. Cummings

MS 5'

Premiere: 12 May 1982. Trinity College Dublin. Myra

McGuckin (S-solo), Ellen Cranitch (fl), Fergus Johnston (cl), Eoin Dunne (bn).

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

## ELECTRO-ACOUSTIC AND MIXED MEDIA

**Méadú (2001)**

vn, pf, tape

MS 11'

Commissioned by the National Concert Hall.

Premiere: 28 March 2002. John Field Room, National Concert Hall, Dublin. Yosif Radionov (vn), Zornitsa Damianova (pf).

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Ard Fhearta (2001)**

2 ob, 2 cl, 2 bn, 2 hn, 2 tpt, 2 trb, tuba, bronze-age hn, live electronics [keyboard-controlled sampler]

MS 21'

Commissioned by Dúchas, The Heritage Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht, and the Islands to celebrate the second phase of the conservation and consolidation of Ardfert Cathedral, Co. Kerry, in 2000 A.D.

Premiere: 18 May 2001. St Brendan's Cathedral Ardfert, Co. Kerry.

Recording: *Ard Fhearta*. Monumental Music 2001. MOMUO14.