

John Kinsella

(b. 1932)

“Generally speaking, my style is very bold, but it has not the slightest tendency to subvert any of the constituent elements of art. The prevailing characteristics of my music are passionate expression, intense ardour, rhythmical animation and unexpected turns.”

Quotation: Berlioz. Aspiration: mine.

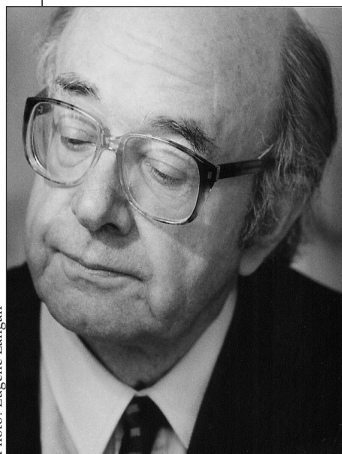


Photo: Eugene Langan

Born in Dublin, John Kinsella for many years combined composition with administration until he resigned from the post of Head of Music at RTÉ in 1988 to devote his time to composition. Since then he has written nine symphonies; a second violin concerto; a fourth string quartet and other works. He has received commissions

from, among others, Concorde, the Guardian Dublin International Piano Competition, RTÉ and the Irish Chamber Orchestra. In 1999 his Eighth Symphony, a work commissioned by RTÉ, was premiered by the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra. Recent commissions include his Ninth Symphony for the Irish Chamber Orchestra, and a cello concerto for RTÉ premiered by cellist Carlos Prieto and the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra in 2002. The work has since been recorded on the Mexican record label, Urtext.

During Ireland's Presidency of the EU in 2004, Serenata and conductor Barry Douglas toured his *Nocturne* for Strings throughout Europe and in China, while the Irish Chamber Orchestra with Nicholas McGegan performed *Hommage à Clarence* on their European tour. His works have been recorded on the Altarus, Keltia, Chandos, Urtext and Marco Polo labels.

John Kinsella is a member of Aosdána, Ireland's state-sponsored academy of creative artists.

Selected Works

ORCHESTRAL

Symphony No. 9 (2004)

str
MS 30'
Commissioned by Irish Chamber Orchestra.
Premiere: 25 September 2004. University Concert Hall, Limerick. Irish Chamber Orchestra, conductor Nicholas McGegan.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Hommage à Clarence (2001)

str
MS 12'
Premiere: 18 October 2001. Duke's Hall, Royal Academy of Music, London. Royal Academy of Music String Orchestra, conductor Shuntaro Sato.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Cello Concerto (2000)

vc-solo, 2222 2200 timp str
MS 25'
Commissioned by Daniel Dultzin for Carlos Prieto with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 15 March 2002. National Concert Hall, Dublin. Carlos Prieto (vc), National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, conductor Robert Houlihan.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Festive Overture (1995)

3323 4231 timp 3 perc cel hrp str
RTE Music 10'
Commissioned by RTE Music Ltd to celebrate seventy years of broadcasting in Ireland.
Premiere: 1 January 1996. National Concert Hall, Dublin. National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, conductor Albert Rosen.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Symphony No. 6 (1992 - 1993)

3223 7231 timp perc str
MS 30'
Commissioned by RTE.
Premiere: 2 February 1996. National Concert Hall, Dublin. National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, conductor Proinsias Ó Duinn.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Symphony No. 4 (1990 - 1991)

The Four Provinces
3223 4431 2 timp perc org [ad lib.] str
MS 45'
Commissioned by RTE.
Premiere: 20 November 1992. National Concert Hall, Dublin. National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, conductor Proinsias Ó Duinn.
Recording: *John Kinsella: Symphonies No. 3 & 4*. Marco Polo 1997. 8.223766.

Nocturne (1990)

str [2.2.2.2.1]
OCMP Publications 9'
Premiere: 15 July 1994. Galway Arts Festival, St Nicholas' Collegiate Church, Galway. Irish Chamber Orchestra, director Fionnuala Hunt.
Recording: *L'Imaginaire Irlandais*. Irish Chamber Orchestra, director Fionnuala Hunt. Keltia Musique 1996. KMCD63.

Symphony No. 3 (1989 - 1990)

Joie de Vivre
3223 4231 asax, timp perc str
MS 30'
Commissioned by RTE.
Premiere: 10 September 1991. Accents Festival, Royal Hibernian Academy, Gallagher Gallery, Dublin. National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, conductor Colman Pearce.
Recording: *John Kinsella: Symphonies No. 3 & 4*. Marco Polo 1997. 8.223766.

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

Violin Concerto No. 2 (1989)

vn-solo, 2222 2200 timp str
MS 33'
Commissioned by RTE.
Premiere: 9 March 1990. National Concert Hall, Dublin.
Thérèse Timoney (vn), National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, conductor Albert Rosen.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Symphony No. 2 (1986 - 1988)

2222 4431 cel timp str
MS 43'
Commissioned by RTE.
Premiere: 27 September 1989. National Concert Hall, Dublin.
RTE Symphony Orchestra, conductor Albert Rosen.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Rhapsody on a Poem of Francis Ledwidge (1986 - 1987)

2 vn-solo, 2022 2100 timp str
MS 8'
Premiere: 19 May 1987. National Concert Hall, Dublin. Thérèse Timoney (vn), Clarence Myerscough (vn), RTE Symphony Orchestra, conductor Janos Fürst.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Sinfonietta (1983)

1111 1000 str
MS 30'
Commissioned by the Ulysses Ensemble with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 9 October 1983. Carroll's Summer Music Festival, Dublin. Ulysses Ensemble, conductor Colman Pearce.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Symphony No. 1 (1980 - 1984)

3222 4431 timp str
MS 49'
Premiere: 27 September 1985. National Concert Hall, Dublin.
RTE Symphony Orchestra, conductor Albert Rosen.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

The Wayfarer (1979)

Rhapsody on a poem of P. H. Pearse
0202 2000 str
MS 15'
Commissioned by The Irish Government to mark the centenary of Pearse's birth.
Premiere: 21 February 1980. Mullingar Cathedral, Mullingar, Ireland. Ulster Orchestra, conductor Bryden Thomson.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Music for Cello and Chamber Orchestra (1971)

vc-solo, 1202 2000 str [4.4.3.2.1]
MS 17'
Premiere: 23 June 1972. Trinity College, Dublin. New Irish Chamber Orchestra, Vincenzo Caminiti (vc), conductor André Prieur. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Two Pieces for String Orchestra (1965)

str [min. 13 players]
MS 15'
Premiere: March 1965. Trinity College Dublin. Irish Chamber Orchestra, conductor Janos Fürst.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

ENSEMBLE

Symphony for Five (1996)

fl cl vn vc mar+perc
MS 15'
Commissioned by Concorde with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 15 September 1996. Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, Dublin. Concorde.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

String Quartet No. 4 (1991 - 1993)

MS 20'
Commissioned by the Industrial Credit Corporation, with additional funding provided by IMRO.
Premiere: 28 November 1994. Town Hall, Castlebar.
RTE Vanbrugh Quartet.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

A Reeling Rhapsody (1989)

2 vn
MS 5'
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Synthesis (1987)

2 vn va vc
MS 8'
Premiere: 25 April 1988. Wigmore Hall, London. RTE Vanbrugh Quartet.

String Quartet No. 3 (1977)

MS 19'
Premiere: 8 January 1978. Dublin Festival of Twentieth Century Music. Testore String Quartet.
Recording: *Ceathrar: Contemporary Irish String Quartets*. RTE Vanbrugh Quartet. Chandos 1994. CHAN 9295.

String Quartet No. 2 (1968)

MS 22'
Commissioned by David Lillis, RTE String Quartet.
Premiere: 24 November 1970. National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin. RTE String Quartet. Recording: *String Quartets*. RTE String Quartet. NIRC 1971. NIR002.

SOLO INSTRUMENTAL

Reflection 11 (1996)

pf
Contemporary Music Centre Editions / CMC 1018 5'
Commissioned by Guardian Dublin International Piano Competition 1997 with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 9 April 1997. Dublin City University. Finghin Collins (pf). Recording: *Guardian Dublin International Piano Competition*. GPC 01.

Reflection (1995)

pf
MS 15'
Commissioned by Geoffrey Buckley with funds provided by the Arts Council of Wales and University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.
Premiere: 16 October 1995. Great Hall, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. Geoffrey Buckley (pf).
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Rhapsody on a Poem of Joseph Campbell (1975 rev. 1993)

vn / va
MS 14'
Premiere: 26 June 1976. Canterbury Cathedral, Canterbury, England. Clarence Myerscough (vn).
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Sonata No. 1 (1971)

pf
MS 14'
Premiere: 10 January 1974. Dublin Festival of Twentieth Century Music, Trinity College Dublin. Charles Lynch (pf).
Recording: *New Piano Music from Ireland*. Anthony Byrne (pf). Goasco 1985. GXX 003-4.

VOCAL AND CHORAL

Symphony No. 8 (1999)

3 boy sopranos, 3433 4231 timp 2 perc hrp str
MS 45'
Commissioned by RTE.
Premiere: 3 December 1999. National Concert Hall, Dublin. National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, conductor Proinnsias Ó Duinn.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Symphony No. 7 (1997)

satb [off stage], 4323 4231 timp 5 perc str
MS 25'
Commissioned by Geoffrey Spratt and the Cork School of Music Symphony Orchestra with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 25 February 1999. North Cathedral, Cork. Cork School of Music Fleischmann Choir, Cork School of Music Symphony Orchestra, conductor Adrian Petcu.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Symphony No. 5 (1991 - 1992)

The 1916 Poets
Bar-solo, 2222 2210 cel timp perc str, male speaker
MS 38'
Commissioned by RTE.
Premiere: 18 February 1994. National Concert Hall, Dublin. Gerard O'Connor (Bar-solo), National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, conductor Colman Pearce, Bill Golding (speaker).
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Last Songs (1983)

S-solo, pf
Text: Francis Ledwidge
MS 11'
Commissioned by Penelope Price-Jones and Philip Martin with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 12 February 1984. Wigmore Hall, London. Philip Martin (pf), Penelope Price-Jones (S-solo).
Recording: *LeFanu/Kinsella/Wilson/Buckley/Barber Songs*. Altarus 1996. AIR-CD-9010.