

Seóirse Bodley

(b. 1933)

“Is iomaí sort ceoil atá ann, mar adúirt an fear a raibh an trúmpa maide aige.” (There are many different sorts of music, as the man with the wooden trumpet said.)

The past. Influences from various forms of "modern" music and also traditional Irish music. The future? Now there's an interesting thought...

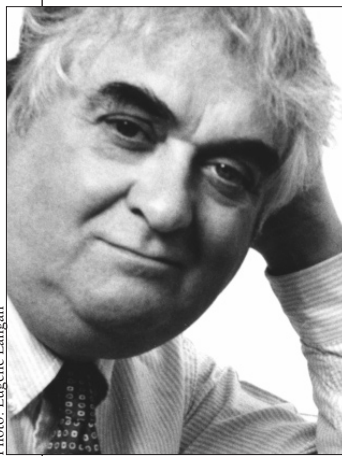


Photo: Eugene Langan

Seóirse Bodley was born in Dublin in 1933. Studies in Ireland and Germany led to a teaching appointment at University College Dublin, where he was awarded the degree of D. Mus. He is currently Emeritus Professor in the music department there.

Influences on his compositions include a range of musical styles

from the European avant-garde to Irish traditional music. His works include five symphonies for full orchestra, two chamber symphonies and numerous orchestral, choral, vocal and chamber pieces. The many commissions he has received include his Third Symphony, commissioned for the opening of the National Concert Hall in Dublin, and his Fourth Symphony, commissioned by the Arturo Toscanini Symphony Orchestra of Parma, Italy. In addition to many performances in Ireland, his music has been broadcast and performed in North America, many European countries, Australia and China. Awards include the Arts Council Prize for Composition, a Travelling Studentship of the National University of Ireland, the Macaulay Fellowship in Music Composition and the Marten Toonder Award. He is a founder-member of Aosdána, Ireland's state-sponsored academy of creative artists.

Selected Works

ORCHESTRAL

Metamorphoses on the name Schumann (2004)

pf-solo, 3333 3434 timp perc hrp str
MS 11'

Commissioned by RTÉ

Premiere: 23 April 2004. National Concert Hall, Dublin. Bernd Glemser (pf-solo), RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, conductor Gerhard Markson.

Sinfonietta (1999)

3333 4331 timp perc hrp str

Seóirse Bodley Publications 20'

Commissioned by the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland with funds provided by the the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

Premiere: 24 July 2000. University Concert Hall, Limerick. National Youth Orchestra of Ireland, conductor En Shao.

Recording: National Youth Orchestra of Ireland 2001. NYOI 01.

Symphony No. 5 (1991)

2222 4331 timp perc hrp str

Seóirse Bodley Publications 40'

Commissioned by The Cross Chemical Group and ICC for Limerick Treaty 300. Premiere: 4 October 1991. Jetland Festival Centre, Limerick. RTE Concert Orchestra, conductor Proinnsias Ó Duinn.

Recording: *Bodley: Symphonies Nos. 4 and 5*. Marco Polo 2001. 8.225157.

Symphony No. 4 (1990 - 1991)

3333 4331 timp perc hrp str

Seóirse Bodley Publications 25'

Commissioned by the Orchestra Sinfonica dell'Emilia-Romagna 'Arturo Toscanini', Parma, Italy.

Premiere: 21 June 1991. Teatro Farnese, Parma, Italy. Orchestra Sinfonica dell'Emilia-Romagna 'Arturo Toscanini', conductor José Ramon Encinar. Recording: *Bodley: Symphonies Nos. 4 and 5*. Marco Polo 2001. 8.225157.

Chamber Symphony No. 2 (1982)

1111 2010 glock str [min. 4.3.2.2.1]

MS 30'

Commissioned by P. J. Carroll & Co. Ltd.

Premiere: 17 June 1982. Summer Music at Carrolls, Carrolls Building, Dublin. Ulysses Ensemble, conductor Seóirse Bodley.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

I Have Loved the Lands of Ireland: Symphony No. 2 (1980)

3333 4331 timp 2 perc cel str

MS 40'

Commissioned by An Taoiseach on the occasion of the commemoration of the centenary of the birth of Pádraic Pearse.

Premiere: 9 January 1981. Royal Dublin Society, Dublin. RTE Symphony Orchestra, conductor Colman Pearce.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

A Small White Cloud Drifts over Ireland (1975)

2222 4331 timp 2 perc hrp pf str

MS 14'

Premiere: 5 January 1976. Sixth Dublin Festival of Twentieth Century Music. RTE Symphony Orchestra, conductor Proinnsias Ó Duinn.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Meditations on Lines from Patrick Kavanagh (1971)

A-solo, 2222 4231 3 perc pf cel hrp str

Text: Patrick Kavanagh

MS 25'

Premiere: 30 June 1972. St Francis Xavier Hall, Dublin. Bernadette Greevy (A), RTE Symphony Orchestra, conductor Colman Pearce.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Configurations (1967)

2222 4331 4 perc pf cel 2 hrp egui str

MS 18'

Premiere: 29 January 1969. Gaiety Theatre, Dublin. RTE Symphony Orchestra, conductor Tibor Paul. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Chamber Symphony No. 1 (1964)

1001 1000 timp 2 perc hrp pf 2 vn va vc

MS 26'

Premiere: 1964. International Rostrum of Composers, Paris, France.
 Players from the Radio Éireann Symphony Orchestra, conductor Seóirse Bodley. Recording: *New Irish Chamber Orchestra*. New Irish Chamber Orchestra, conductor Seóirse Bodley. NIRC 1974. NIR012.

Divertimento (1961)

str

MS 17'

Premiere: 15 June 1962. Phoenix Hall, Dublin. RTE Symphony Orchestra, conductor Tibor Paul.
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Symphony No. 1 (1958 - 1959)

2222 4231 timp 2 perc hrp str

MS 20'

Premiere: 23 October 1960. Gaiety Theatre, Dublin. Radio Éireann Symphony Orchestra, conductor Hans Müller-Kray.
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Music for Strings (1952)

str

Seóirse Bodley Publications 17'

Premiere: 10 December 1952. Metropolitan Hall, Dublin. Dublin Orchestral Players, conductor Brian Boydell.
 Recording: *New Music from Old Erin Volume 1*. Radio Éireann Symphony Orchestra, conductor Milan Horvat. Decca. DL9843.

ENSEMBLE

String Quartet No. 2 (1992)

Seóirse Bodley Publications 25'

Commissioned by RTE.

Premiere: 21 May 1993. Music of Today, National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin. Degani String Quartet, leader Alan Smale.
 Recording: *Contemporary Music from Ireland, Volume Two*. Degani String Quartet. Contemporary Music Centre 1997. CMC CD02.

September Preludes (1973)

fl pf

MS 17'

Premiere: 7 January 1974. Dublin Festival of Twentieth Century Music.
 Patricia Dunkerley (fl), John Gibson (pf).
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

The Narrow Road to the Deep North (1972)

Versions available for piano and piano duo

MS 5'

Commissioned by Queen's University Belfast Festival.
 Premiere: 17 February 1972. Queen's University Belfast Festival.
 Raymond Warren (pf), Evan John (pf).
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

String Quartet No. 1 (1968)

MS 24'

Premiere: 6 January 1969. Dublin Festival of Twentieth Century Music. RTE String Quartet: David Lillis, Audrey Park, Archie Collins, Coral Bognuda.
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

SOLO INSTRUMENTAL

An Exchange of Letters (2002)

pf

Seóirse Bodley Publications 27'

Commissioned by National Concert Hall.

Premiere: 25 March 2002. 'Composers' Choice', John Field Room, National Concert Hall, Dublin. Rolf Hind (pf).
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

News from Donabate (1999)

pf

Seóirse Bodley Publications 50'

Commissioned by RTE.

Premiere: 21 February 2001. Musicailt Festival, Aula Maxima, National University of Ireland, Galway. Andrei Roudenko (pf).
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Aislingí (1977)

pf

MS 25'

Commissioned by Kilkenny Arts Week.

Premiere: 29 August 1977. Kilkenny Arts Week. John O'Connor (pf).
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

VOCAL AND CHORAL

Pax Bellumque (1997)

S-solo, fl cl vn pf

Text: Wilfred Owen and Thomas MacGreevy

MS 14'

Commissioned by Concorde with funds jointly provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon and RTE.

Premiere: 2 May 1997. John Field Room, National Concert Hall, Dublin.
 Concorde. Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Fraw Musica (1996)

Mez-solo, satb, 1001 0000 org str / Mez-solo, pf

Seóirse Bodley Publications 30'

Commissioned by Johann-Walter-Kantorei, Torgau with funds provided by Johann-Walter-Kantorei and the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

Premiere: 5 October 1996. Schlosskirche, Torgau, Germany. Aylish Kerrigan (Mez-solo), Johann-Walter-Kantorei, Musica Juventa Orchestra, conductor Ekkehard Saretz.
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Carta Irlandesa (1988)

medium voice, pf

Text: González-Guerrero

Seóirse Bodley Publications 15'

Commissioned by the Spanish Armada Commemoration Society.

Premiere: 4 September 1988. Inauguration of the Symposium on the Spanish Armada (1588), St John's Cathedral, Sligo. Aylish Kerrigan (Mez-solo), Seóirse Bodley (pf).
 Recording: *The Naked Flame*. Echo Classics 1996. EC01.

The Naked Flame (1987)

medium voice, pf

Text: Micheal O'Siadhail

MS 40'

Commissioned by RTE.

Premiere: 7 April 1988. National Concert Hall, Dublin. Bernadette Greevy (Mez-solo), Micheál O'Rourke (pf).
 Recording: *The Naked Flame*. Echo Classics 1996. EC01.

A Concert Mass (1984)

S-solo, Mez-solo, T-solo, B-solo, satb, str [4.3.2.2.1]

Text: Seóirse Bodley

MS 30'

Commissioned by Gorey Arts Week with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

Premiere: 4 May 1990. National Concert Hall, Dublin. RTE Chamber Choir, Irish Chamber Orchestra, conductor Seóirse Bodley.
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Ceol: Symphony No. 3 (1980)

S-solo, Mez-solo, T-solo, Bar-solo, satb, semi-chorus, children's choir, 3223 4331 timp 2 perc hrp cel str, speaker, audience

Text: Brendan Kennelly

MS 25'

Commissioned by RTE for the opening of the National Concert Hall, Dublin.

Premiere: 9 September 1981. National Concert Hall, Dublin. RTE Symphony Orchestra, choirs and soloists, conductor Colman Pearce.
 Recording: *Two Irish Symphonies*. RTE 1981.

A Girl (1978)

Mez-solo, pf

Text: Brendan Kennelly

MS 35'

Commissioned by RTE.

Premiere: 17 October 1978. National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin.
 Bernadette Greevy (Mez-solo), John O'Connor (pf).
 Recording: *A Girl*. Gael Linn 1980. CEF085.

Never to have lived is best (1965)

S-solo, 2222 4331 tsax 3 perc hrp pf cel str

Text: W. B. Yeats

MS 13'

Commissioned by RTE.

Premiere: 11 June 1965. St Francis Xavier Hall, Dublin. Veronica Dunne (S-solo), RTE Sympony Orchestra, conductor Tibor Paul.
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

ELECTRO-ACOUSTIC AND MIXED MEDIA

The Banshee (1983)

S-solo, Mez-solo, T-solo, B-solo, live electronics

Text: Seóirse Bodley

MS 15'

Commissioned by BBC.

Premiere: 25 April 1983. Sonorities Festival, Belfast. Electric Phoenix.
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.