

# John McLachlan

(b. 1964)

‘Music has not changed all that much. It is still concerned with the balance between intelligence and imagination: the anchor of technique and the flight of expression. Getting that balance right while renewing both is the challenge we set ourselves.’



John McLachlan was born in Dublin and studied music at the DIT Conservatory of Music, the Royal Irish Academy of Music and Trinity College Dublin, where he majored in composition and holds a PhD in musicology. He pursued further composition studies with Robert Hanson and Kevin Volans.

He has received commissions from RTÉ, the Arts Council, RTÉ lyric fm, Music Network, the National Concert Hall,

and Música Viva Festival (Portugal) among others. His works have been performed by many leading contemporary music groups and soloists, including Antipodes, Archaeus, the Crash Ensemble, the National Chamber Choir, Vox21, Concorde, Trio Arbos, Sequenza, Pro Arte, David Adams, Darragh Morgan, John Feeley, Ian Pace and Susanna Artzt.

His works have been performed in the USA, South Africa, Peru, Britain, France, Holland, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Denmark, Romania, Moldova, Croatia, Slovenia, and around Ireland and has been broadcast on national radio stations in several European countries. He has represented Ireland in major festivals in Slovenia, Croatia, South Africa, Portugal and Peru and has featured in Irish concert series such as Horizons, Composers' Choice and Mostly Modern.

He is also known as a broadcaster and writer on contemporary music, with publications in Ireland, Denmark, Britain, Austria and Germany.

John McLachlan is currently an administrator of the Irish Composition Summer School and Executive Director of the Association of Irish Composers. He is a member of Aosdána, Ireland's state-sponsored academy of creative artists. He lives in Inishowen, Donegal, with his wife Helen and two sons.

## Selected Works

### ORCHESTRAL

#### **Triptych (2004)**

0200 1211 asax, tsax, barsax, pf, perc, mar, vib, glock, mand, str  
MS 13'

#### **Here be Dragons (2003)**

3333 4321 timp perc pf str / org  
MS 9'

Premiere: 4 February 2003. 'Horizons' concert series, National Concert Hall, Dublin. RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, conductor William Eddins.  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive

#### **Concerto for Chamber Orchestra (1988)**

1111 2220 perc pf str  
MS 19'

Premiere: 4 February 2003. 'Horizons' concert series, National Concert Hall, Dublin. RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, conductor William Eddins.  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive

### ENSEMBLE

#### **leaves loose (2006)**

picc+fl+afl+bfl, ob+obda+ca, cl+bcl  
MS 16'

#### **Cut to Gibbons (2006)**

2 hpd  
MS 5'

#### **Fragile (2004)**

afl, gui  
MS 9'

Commissioned by John Feeley and William Dowdall with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

#### **The Metal Pig (2004)**

cl vn vc pf  
MS 11'

Commissioned by Music Network with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon. Premiere: 2 November 2005. Coach House, Dublin. Ensemble Nordlys.

#### **Ghost Machine (2004)**

vn pf  
MS 7'

Commissioned by the National Concert Hall, Dublin. Premiere: 6 April 2004. 'Composers' Choice', National Concert Hall, Dublin. Edigius Streiff (vn), Owen Lorigan (pf). Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

#### **Radical Roots (2003)**

2 pf / vn va vc  
MS 9'

Premiere: 9 October 2003. 'Mostly Modern' series, Bank of Ireland Arts Centre, Dublin. Vox21.

#### **neo-plastic coloured shapes (2003)**

2 vn va vc  
MS 25'

Premiere: 6 April 2004. 'Composers' Choice', National Concert Hall, Dublin. Antipodes String Quartet.  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Filament of Memory (2002)**

4 gui / xyl, 3 mar  
MS 4'

Premiere: 15 August 2003. Airfield House, Dundrum, Co. Dublin. Dublin Guitar Quartet.  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**meetings with remarkable men (2001)**

4 perc  
MS 15'

Premiere: 2 May 2002. Dagg Hall, Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin. RIAM Percussion Ensemble.  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Double Portrait (1994)**

2 hrp [Irish]  
MS 5'

Premiere: 28 April 1995. National Concert Hall, Dublin. Cormac de Barra, Anne-Marie O'Farrell (hrp).

**Frieze (1993)**

fl ob cl hn perc vn vc db  
MS 8'

Premiere: 16 April 1995. Days of New Music Festival, Chisinau, Moldova. Ars Poetica.

**Suspirations 111 (1991 rev. 1993)**

ob cl hn tpt vn db  
MS 6'

Premiere: 27 November 1993. Trinity College Dublin. Nua Nós, conductor Dáirine Ní Mheadhra.  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Concords (1991 - 1997)**

cl vn vc pf  
MS 7'

Premiere: 15 November 1997. Sligo Contemporary Music Festival, Model Arts Centre, Sligo. Concorde, director Jane O'Leary.  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Suspirations 1 (1991)**

3 tpt, hn, trb  
MS 6'

**Heuristic Pieces (1990)**

cl hn vn va vc  
MS 10'

Premiere: May 1990. Society for the Promotion of New Music Composers Day, Queen's University Belfast. Sequenza.

**Two Lyric Sketches for String Quartet (1987 rev. 1991)**

MS 8'

Premiere: 27 September 1991. New Music for Sligo Competition, Hawk's Well Theatre, Sligo. Degani String Quartet.

Recording: *Association of Irish Composers Hugh Lane November Series 1998*. Michael d'Arcy (vn), Hibernia Trio. *Association of Irish Composers 2000*. AIC001.

**Prelude and Fugue (1987)**

pf [4 hands]  
MS 2'

Premiere: July 1987. Letterkenny Summer School of Music. Helen Haughey (pf), John McLachlan (pf).

## SOLO INSTRUMENTAL

**Nuance (2003)**

pf  
MS 9'

Premiere: 23 November 2003. Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, Dublin. Ian Pace (pf).  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Here be Dragons (2001)**

org  
MS 9'

Commissioned by David Adams with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.  
Premiere: 2 September 2001. St Michael's Church, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. David Adams (org).

**Fifteen Easy Miniatures (1998)**

pf  
John McLachlan 10'

**Archaeopteryx (1996 rev. 1997)**

pf  
MS 4'

Premiere: 27 March 1998. Feis Ceoil, Royal Dublin Society, Dublin. Manus de Barra (pf).

**From the Strings of a Rainbow (1996)**

pf  
John McLachlan 24'

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Two Piano Studies (1994)**

MS 10'

Premiere: X: 23 September 1994. John Field Room, National Concert Hall, Dublin. Ockham's Razor: 6 April 1995. Kishinev, Moldova. Raymond Deane (pf).  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Four Short Pieces for Guitar (1988)**

MS 8'

Premiere: 30 October 2003. 'Mostly Modern Series', Bank of Ireland Arts Centre, Dublin. John Feeley (gui).  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Two Movements for Solo Cello (1988)**

MS 5'

Premiere: September 1988. New Music for Sligo Competition, Sligo. Aisling Drury-Byrne (vc).

**Five Movements for Piano (1983)**

MS 4'

Premiere: January 1984. National Concert Hall, Dublin. Réamonn Keary (pf).  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

## VOCAL AND CHORAL

**He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven (1995)**

saattb

Text: W. B. Yeats

MS 2'

Premiere: 16 September 1995. Church of St Mary the Virgin, Surrey, England. Ad hoc choir.

**Lord, What Love Have I (1988)**

ssatb, org

Text: Psalm 119, vv. 97-104.

MS 4'

Commissioned by St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

Premiere: 1 May 1988. St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. St Patrick's Cathedral Choir, Colm Carey (org), conductor John Dexter.

**Two Poems in Memoriam Stevie Smith (1986)**

satb

MS 2'

Premiere: First broadcast: 1989. RTÉ. RTÉ Chamber Choir.

**Two Akhmatova Settings (1986)**

satb

Text: Anna Akhmatova

MS 5'

## ELECTRO-ACOUSTIC AND MIXED MEDIA

**The Red Thread (2000)**

gui tape

MS 10'

Premiere: 25 January 2001. 'Mostly Modern' series, Bank of Ireland Arts Centre, Dublin. Benjamin Dwyer (gui).  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.