

Gerry Murphy

(b. 1947)

‘Music is above all about collaboration and possibility, renewal and risk. The grey area which is the overlap between composer and performer offers recurring opportunity for communication at the interpretative level. The addition of a third mind, that of the listener, gives completion - now anything is possible.’



Photo: Eugene Langan

Gerry Murphy was born in Limerick. He gained a BMus degree at University College Dublin and was head of music at Dublin's Gonzaga College, a boys' secondary school, from 1973 to 2007.

Many of his compositions have been written for Gonzaga College and these include the *Aloysius Gonzaga Mass* (1974); a cycle of five school operas

which are repeated every five years; the *Quincunxes* of 1987 and 1992; and *Septenary* (1995). He has written several orchestral works which have been recorded by the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra on the Vienna Modern Masters label. These include *Dialects*, a concerto for the Irish traditional uilleann pipes and orchestra; an overture, *Good Friday: Belfast 10-4-98*; and a piano concerto, written for pianist Finghín Collins in 2000. Recent works include a work for percussion ensemble *Tá Ann* (2001) and a piano piece, *Five Locks on the Barrow* (2004), for Finghín Collins.

Gerry Murphy was the Composer-in-Residence in Athlone Community College from September to December 2008 as part of the West Meath County Council Arts Initiative.

Selected Works

ORCHESTRAL

Piano Concerto No. 1 (2000)

pf-solo, 3232 4330 timp perc str

MS 24'

Premiere: 25 June 2000. Philharmonic Hall, Olomouc, Czech Republic. Finghín Collins (pf), Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra, conductor Jiri Mikula.

Recording: *Music From Six Continents (2000)*. Finghín Collins (pf-solo), Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra, conductor Jiri Mikula. Vienna Modern Masters 2000. VMM 3051.

Good Friday - Belfast: 10-4-98 (1998)

2222 4331 timp 2 perc str

MS 11'

Premiere: 27 June 1999. Philharmonic Hall, Olomouc, Czech Republic. Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra, conductor Jiri Mikula.

Recording: *New Music for Orchestra (1999)*. Moravian Philharmonic, conductor Jiri Mikula. Vienna Modern Masters 2000. VMM 3049.

Dialects (1993 - 1994)

uilleann-pipes-solo, 2222 4331 timp xyl 2 perc hrp str

Ballavarra Music Ltd. 21'

Premiere: 22 June 1997. Philharmonic Hall, Olomouc, Czech Republic. David Downes (uilleann-pipes), Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra, conductor Jiri Mikula.

Recording: *Music from Six Continents (1997)*. David Downes (uilleann-pipes), Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra, conductor Jiri Mikula. Vienna Modern Masters 1997. VMM 3040.

ENSEMBLE

Tá Ann (2000)

Es gibt: Il y a: There is

8 timp 3 perc

Ballavarra Music 8'

Premiere: 12 November 2000. Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, Dublin. RIAM Percussion Ensemble, director Richard O'Donnell.

Sonata for Bass Guitar and Piano (1996)

gui pf

MS 5'

SOLO INSTRUMENTAL

Variations on an Original Theme (2008)

org

MS 8'

Premiere: 31 August 2008. St. Michael's Church, Marine Road, Dún Loaghair. Una Russell (org).

Five Locks on the Barrow (2004)

pf

MS 15'

Premiere: 3 June 2004. Duiske Abbey, Graiguenamanagh, Co. Kilkenny. Finghín Collins (pf).

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

VOCAL AND CHORAL

Mine is the Kingdom (1979)

3 S-solo, A-solo, 2 T-solo, 3 Bar-solo, B-solo, SB, fl cl bn asax tpt

hn timp perc pf str db/bgvi

MS 2'

Premiere: 16 January 1980. Gonzaga College, Dublin. Students of Gonzaga College and Muckcross Park, conductor Gerry Murphy.

Double Check (1978)

An Opera in Two Acts
 S-solo, T-solo, Bar-solo, B-solo, satb, 1011 1110 perc pf, 3 vn, 2
 vc, bgui/db
 Text: Gerry Murphy
 MS 130'
 Premiere: 13 January 1979. Gonzaga College, Dublin. Students of
 Gonzaga College and Muckcross Park.
 Recording: *Double Check*. Students of Gonzaga College,
 conductor Gerry Murphy. 1999. Gerry Murphy GM001.

Mass for the final vows of Dermot Murray, S.S. (1978)

unison choir, org
 MS 3'
 Premiere: 2 February 1978. Gonzaga College Chapel, Dublin.
 Choir of Gonzaga College, conductor Gerry Murphy.

Aghast at the Wedding (1977)

A Comic Opera in Two Acts
 S-solo, T-solo, Bar-solo, B-solo, satb, 1010 1110 asax perc pf, 3
 vn, 2 vc, bgui/db
 Text: Gerry Murphy
 MS 130'
 Premiere: 19 January 1978. Gonzaga College, Dublin. Students of
 Gonzaga College and Muckcross Park.

A Dog in the Hand (1976)

An Opera in Two Acts
 S-solo, T-solo, Bar-solo, sa, 1011 1110 perc pf, sax, egui, 3 vn,
 2 vc, bgui/db
 Text: Gerry Murphy
 MS 130'
 Premiere: 18 January 1977. Gonzaga College, Dublin. Students of
 Gonzaga College and Muckcross Park.

A Spy in the Ointment (1975 rev. 1980)

A Comic Opera in Two Acts
 S-solo, T-solo, Bar-solo, tb, 1011 1110 asax perc pf, 3 vn, 2 vc,
 bgui/db
 Text: Gerry Murphy
 MS 130'
 Premiere: 16 January 1976. Gonzaga College, Dublin. Students of
 Gonzaga College and Muckcross Park.

Mass of the Holy Spirit (Gonzaga Mass) (1974)

unison choir, org
 MS 4'
 Premiere: September 1974. St Pius X Church, Templeogue,
 Dublin. Choir of Our Lady's School, Templeogue, conductor
 Patricia Murphy.