

# Martin O'Leary

(b. 1963)

“Music is life and, like life, inextinguishable.”  
(Nielsen)

“If it were possible, if a musical work could be described precisely in words, then music as an art would be entirely unnecessary.” (Lutoslawski)

To these quotations, I will add one thought of my own: music is a language of communication. What it communicates is, quite simply, itself. ♪



Born in Dublin, Martin O'Leary began composing at the age of fourteen. He studied music at Trinity College, from where he holds a PhD for an extended study of three orchestral works of the English composer Havergal Brian. Since 1991 he has lectured at NUI Maynooth, where he became a full time member

of staff in the Department of Music in 1993.

He has written an extensive series of works covering most genres, and his compositions have been heard throughout Europe, as well as in Israel and the USA. *Glory to His Name*, a CD of arrangements for a capella choir, was released on Ceol Records in 2003. His more recent works include *Tenebrae* (2001) for clarinet, violin and piano, *Ave Maria* (2002) for unaccompanied choir, *Blue Peace* (2004) and *Aubade in Blue* (2005) for 4-part guitar orchestra, *Bluescape* (2007) for piano trio, written for the Fidelio trio, and two solo guitar works, *6 Preludes* (2005) and *Fantasia Elegiaca* (2007), written for Leslie Cassidy and Christian Fergo.

Martin O'Leary performs regularly in solo repertoire and chamber works as a pianist, and has premiered works by John Buckley, John Casken, Rhona Clarke, Peter Michael Hamel, Paul Hayes and Kevin O'Connell. He is a committee member of the Association of Irish Composers and a director of the Irish Composition Summer School.

## Selected Works

### ORCHESTRAL

#### *Alea* (1996 - 1997)

2221 0210 perc pf str  
MS 6'

Premiere: 20 March 1997. Aula Maxima, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Maynooth Orchestral Players, conductor Trini Armstrong.

#### *Suantraí Maeve* (1996)

2110 0110 hrp str  
MS 4'

Premiere: 26 March 1996. St Mary's Church, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Maynooth Orchestral Players, conductor Trini Armstrong.

#### *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra* (1987 - 1990)

pf-solo, 2222 4231 timp perc cel hrp str  
MS 30'

Premiere: April 1994. National Concert Hall, Dublin. Philip Martin (pf), National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, conductor Albert Rosen.  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

#### *Ballade* (1985)

2222 2211 timp perc hrp cel str  
MS 17'

Premiere: 7 May 1986. St. Ann's Church, Dawson Street, Dublin. Dublin Chamber Orchestra, conductor John Finucane.

### ENSEMBLE

#### *Tenebrae* (2001)

cl vn pf  
MS

Premiere: 5 October 2001. John Field Room, National Concert Hall, Dublin. Sarah Lane (vn), John Murphy (cl), Catriona McElhinney-Grimes (pf).

#### *Concertante 111* (1993)

ob cl hn tpt vn db  
MS 4'

Commissioned by Nua Nós.

Premiere: 27 November 1993. Trinity College Dublin [Workshop performance]. Nua Nós, conductor Dáirine Ní Mheadhra.

Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

#### *Concertante 11* (1990)

fl+afl, ob+ca, cl+bcl, bn, hn, 2 vn, va, vc, db  
MS 10'

#### *Adagio* (1988)

cl pf  
MS 9'

Commissioned by Michael Seaver and Mary Collins.  
Premiere: 22 August 1988. Black Abbey, Kilkenny. Michael Seaver (cl), Mary Collins (pf).

**Scherzo (1988)**

3 gui  
MS 7'  
Commissioned by The Turina Trio.  
Premiere: 4 November 1988. Dundalk, Ireland. The Turina Trio: Benjamin Dwyer (gui), Eddie McLachlan (gui), Brian Farrell (gui).

**Concertante 1 (1988)**

fl ob cl vn vc pf  
MS 9'  
Premiere: 19 November 1988. Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, Dublin. Dublin Sinfonia.  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Toccata (1985)**

cl pf  
MS 4'  
Premiere: 3 April 1990. Royal Hibernian Academy Gallagher Gallery, Dublin. Michael Seaver (cl), Réamonn Keary (pf).

**String Quartet No. 1 (1984)**

MS 20'

## SOLO INSTRUMENTAL

**Geantraí (1996 - 1998)**

pf  
MS 12'

**Sonata Schumanniana (1994 - 2000)**

pf  
MS 24'

**Maeve's Air (1994)**

pf  
MS 4'  
Premiere: 17 July 1995. IMRO Composition Summer School, Ennis, Co. Clare. Martin O'Leary (pf).

**Sonata No. 2 for Guitar (1993 - 1994)**

MS 13'

**Three Slow Airs (1992)**

pf  
MS 8'  
Premiere: 16 October 1992. University College Cork. Martin O'Leary.  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Divisions (1988)**

org  
MS 15'  
Commissioned by David Adams.  
Premiere: 19 July 1988. Westminster Cathedral, London. David Adams (org).

**Sonata No. 1 for Guitar (1987)**

MS 12'  
Premiere: 28 October 1987. Boydell Recital Room, Trinity College Dublin. Benjamin Dwyer (gui).  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Breaks (1986)**

asax  
MS 8'  
Premiere: 16 October 1987. National Concert Hall, Dublin. Kenneth Edge (sax).  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Partita (1985)**

cl  
MS 8'  
Premiere: 8 May 1986. Examination Hall, Trinity College Dublin. Michael Seaver (cl).

**Sonata for Organ (1981 rev. 1986)**

MS 14'  
Premiere: 28 June 1988. Pro-Cathedral, Dublin. David Adams (org).

## VOCAL AND CHORAL

**Berceuse (2000)**

voice pf  
Text: Musashi  
MS 6'

**De Profundis (1999)**

ttbb  
Text: Anon  
MS 10'  
Commissioned by Maynooth Chamber Choir.  
Premiere: 18 April 1999. Gunn Chapel, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Maynooth Chamber Choir, conductor Cathal Clinch.

**By Tears of Sorrow Shaded (1995)**

satb [div. with soli ], fl, hrp [Irish], vn, vc  
MS 14'  
Commissioned by Cois Cladaigh with funds provided by the George Moore Society.  
Premiere: 19 August 1995. Claremorris Town Hall, Co. Clare. Cois Cladaigh, conductor Brendan O'Conor.  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Leaves Lie (1991)**

Mez-solo, hrp [Irish]  
Text: James Joyce  
MS 8'  
Premiere: 20 November 1991. Project Arts Centre, Dublin. Aylish Kerrigan (Mez-solo), Anne-Marie O'Farrell (hrp).  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Three Japanese Lyrics (1990)**

S-solo, pf  
MS 6'  
Premiere: 21 November 1990. John McCann Hall, College of Music, Dublin. Emma Coulthard (S-solo), Fergal Caulfield (pf).  
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

**Missa Sacra (1989 -1993)**

S-solo, A-solo, T-solo, B-solo, satb [div.], org  
Text: Sacred  
MS 45'

**The Heartbeats of Sleep (1986 - 1987)**

Cantata Sinfonica  
S-solo, A-solo, B-solo, 2222 2111 pf perc str  
Text: E. E. Cummings  
MS 25'

**the silence of unsinging (1986)**

S-solo, B-solo, fl, cl, gui, vn, vc  
Text: E. E. Cummings  
MS 20'  
Premiere: 5 February 1987. Boydell Recital Room, Trinity College Dublin. Anne O'Byrne (S-solo), Conor Biggs (B-solo), Elizabeth MacNally (vn), Brona Colfer (vc), Ann Macker (fl), Ruth Doyle (cl),