

James MacMillan



James MacMillan Photo © Eric Richmond / ArenaPAL

Introduction to the music of James MacMillan by Stephen Johnson

When James MacMillan began to make the musical headlines at the beginning of the 1990s it was clear this was a composer who had cast his net wide in terms of influences: from Celtic folk music to the hard-edged modernism of Harrison Birtwistle; from the radically experimental mysticism of Olivier Messiaen to the darkly humanist symphonic narratives of Dmitri Shostakovich. Of course there were some who grumbled about 'eclecticism'; but to many others who were stirred by such early masterpieces as the orchestral *The Confession of Isobel Gowdie* (1990) and the percussion concerto *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel* (1992), it was clear that this was a composer whose inclusiveness was natural, unforced – as much a reflection of a coherent vision as any narrow ideology.

The key word here is 'catholic', in its original sense of 'universal', 'all-inclusive'. MacMillan is Roman Catholic by birth, and today his faith remains central to his life. His early involvement with Marxism was strongly coloured by Latin American Liberation Theology, and its impact can still be sensed in his work today, right up to his latest opera *The Sacrifice* (2005-06). At the same time MacMillan is keenly aware of the divisions partisan religious thinking can cause. While his works often draw on Catholic liturgy and chant for their basic formal and melodic material, he can also include elements from the Jewish Passover rite in his second string quartet, *Why is this night different?* (1998), or instrumental colours associated with the Japanese Shinto religion in *Symphony No.3: 'Silence'* (2003).

The result is music that embraces a startling variety of musical styles. Dense, thorny atonal textures can suddenly yield to soaring tonal melodies, reminiscent of Wagner (another crucial early influence). Jagged, complex, muscular rhythms may similarly melt into free-floating improvisatory lyricism, or fine-spun polyphony recalling Bach and the renaissance church composers. Thrillingly garish or abrasive colours sit alongside delicate, fragile patterns or velvety warmth. Hymn tunes, folk laments and brash marches float as conflicting layers in vibrant musical tapestries. One may be reminded of the teeming orchestral kaleidoscopes of the pioneering American composer

Charles Ives, or the Russian 'polystylist' Alfred Schnittke.

What draws all this together is MacMillan's deeply ingrained feeling for musical storytelling. Today grand narratives are often derided as outdated, irrelevant. MacMillan however has proved through works like *Isobel Gowdie*, *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel* and the massive orchestral trilogy *Triduum* (1995-97) that this kind of spiritual journey in music, as exemplified by Beethoven in his symphonies and Bach in his great 'Passions', can be recreated in terms which speak both to sophisticated musical intelligences and ordinary music lovers – MacMillan's more recent large-scale works include his own very personal response to the classic St John Passion narrative. His choral-orchestral *Quickening* (1998) brought a potent reminder that compelling contemporary music can be inspired by the most common human experiences: in this case the conception and birth of a child. In an age when populism and modernism seem like irreconcilable poles, James MacMillan's music continues to hold out the hope of integration, the healing of painful divisions, of transcendence.

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Writer and broadcaster, author of books on Bruckner (Faber), Wagner and Mahler (Naxos), and regular presenter on BBC Radio 3's *Discovering Music*.

OPERAS

Búsqueda

1988

29 min

Music Theatre work for speaker, actors, soprano and ensemble

Text: Text from Latin Mass and Poems by the Argentinian Mothers of the Disappeared, translated by Gilbert Markus O.P. (L-E)

8 actors, 3 sopranos, speaker

1(=af).0.3(III=bcl).0-0.3.3(III=ttrbn/btrbn).0-perc(2):l=vib/2tam-t/drum kit/wdbl/2spring coils/sleighbells;

II=lg tam-t/drum kit/maracas/wdbl/2spring coils/sleighbells/claves-2harps-2vlc.db

"...music of shattering directness, clearly defined emotion and angry idealism... It is hard to think of another contemporary figure who is so lyrical and dramatic, and yet so thoroughly in command of his material."

The Independent

World Premiere: 06 Dec 1988

Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

John Shedden, speaker; ECAT Ensemble

Conductor: James MacMillan

Inés de Castro

1991-95

2 hr 4 min

an opera in two acts

Text: Libretto after the play 'Inés de Castro' by John Clifford (E)

S,2M,T,BBar,B; chorus

2(II=picc).2(II=corA).2(II=Ebcl,bcl).2(II=dbn)-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(4);

BD/2tam-t(bowed)/2cowbells/2wdbl/log dr/vib(bowed)/crot/t.bells/2lg

handbells/sizzle cym/mark tree/clash cyms/gong/susp.cym/thundersheet

with superball/finger cyms/anvil/xyl/flexatone/SD/2bongos/

4tom-t/5tpl.bl/glsp/tgl/bass lion's roar/metal sheet or plate-harp-pft

(=cel)-strings

"...a classic example of the fusion of a brilliant musical score with gut wrenching theatre... It is gripping from start to finish... Underpinning it all is music that has everything - floating lyricism, overpowering emotion, and a fundamental Wagnerian concept of encapsulating and driving the narrative."

The Scotsman

"Inés de Castro is a complex, ambitious work, a modern attempt at grand opera in the tradition of Verdi and Mussorgsky... Mr MacMillan is a serious gifted composer with a public that cares deeply about his work - the first such creature in Britain since the death of Benjamin Britten."

The Wall Street Journal

9790060104831 Libretto

World Premiere: 23 Aug 1996

Edinburgh Festival, United Kingdom

Jonathan Moore, director; Helen Field/Jeffrey Lawton/Stafford Dean/Scottish Opera

Conductor: Richard Armstrong CBE

Parthenogenesis

2000

50 min

Scena for soprano, baritone, actress and chamber ensemble

Text: Libretto by Michael Symmons Roberts (E)

1.1.1(=bcl).dbn-2.0.0.0-perc(1):glsp/vib/tuned

gongs/2wdbl/5tom-t/2bongos/SD/BD/susp.cym/sizzle cym/2tam-t(sm,lg)

-harp-pft-strings(1.1.1.1.1 or string orch)-2tapes

"...rhapsodically lyrical music, soaring phrases floridly decorated at their end, together with flawlessly atmospheric orchestration and lacerating rhythmic drive..."

Glasgow Herald

World Premiere: 12 Sep 2000

Corn Exchange, Cambridge, United Kingdom

Lisa Milne/Christopher Purves/John Fulljames, dir; Britten Sinfonia

Conductor: James MacMillan

The Sacrifice

2005-06

2 hr 10 min

Opera in three acts

Text: Libretto by Michael Symmons Roberts, based on a story from the Mabinogion (E)

Main roles: 2S, T, 2Bar; 'The Birds' of Rhiannon: 2S, M; Dressers: 2S, M; plus chorus ('The Birds' and Dressers may be sung by same three singers)
2(I, II=picc). 2(II=corA). 2(II=bcl). 2(II=dbn)

-4. 3. 3. 1-timp. perc(3): glsp/vib/tgl/whistle/rainstick/whip/tamb/bodhrán/BD/2Peking gongs/t.bells/5wdbl (graded)/anvil/SD/susp.cym/crot/tuned gongs/guero/vibraslap/metal bar/TD/crash cyms/tam-t-harp-strings

"The Sacrifice offers as many thrills as Tosca, as much agony as Peter Grimes, more violence than Elektra and Salome combined and a suspense quotient to rival Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk. MacMillan's expertly crafted music has easy-to-identify theme tunes and gut-wrenching climaxes, with a closing tableau of which Verdi himself would have been proud... Michael Symmons Roberts has furnished an excellent libretto, built in half-rhymed couplets that leave acres of space for the music. MacMillan sets the words gratefully, with a central duet for soprano and baritone ("Your heart is my homeland") that is more beautiful than anything in modern opera."

Financial Times

"Here is something rare, a new opera with instant appeal... Michael Symmons Roberts' libretto is verbally crisp and narratively lucid - even without surtitles it would be easy to grasp the basics. MacMillan's score respects the text and is refreshingly well written for the voice."

Daily Telegraph

"...a score of real brilliance... His trump card is that he knows how to write for the voice, and - no less vital - how to accompany it; his ear for balance and texture is superb, and there are many pages in The Sacrifice that were plainly being sung with delight - I'm thinking of the passionate Act II duet for the daughter and her discarded lover, and the delicately ornate soprano aria at the very end, a gem... He uses uncomplicated ingredients - simple chords, long, eloquent string lines - working them into dense combinations or leaving them open. He has great sustaining powers; his polyphonies really work through and take the ear with them."

The Independent

"...the applause at the end was as warm as any I've heard for a new commission. For MacMillan has created a modern opera for people who dislike modern opera... Few operas enjoy premieres as well-executed as this."

Independent on Sunday

"...there are wonderful passages: a ravishing love duet underpinned by gorgeously folksy orchestration; Verdi-like declamations for the warlords; a choral threnody that summons the anguished modes of Eastern Europe to haunting effect; and a breathtakingly sonorous choral finale."

The Times

World Premiere: 22 Sep 2007

Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff, United Kingdom

Katie Mitchell, director; Welsh National Opera

Conductor: James MacMillan

Visitatio Sepulchri

1992-93

40 min

for 7 solo singers or 7-part chorus and chamber orchestra

Text: Texts from a 14th century Easter Day liturgical drama and the Te Deum (L)

2S, A, 2T, B, male speaker (Sprechstimme)

2(II=picc). 2(II=corA). 2(II=bcl). 2(II=dbn)-2. 2. 2(II=btrbn). 0-timp.

perc(1): 2cowbells/2wdbl/2bongos/2timbales/SD/2tam-t/5tom-t/

5tpl.bl/glsp/t.bells/BD/cyms/bell tree-strings(min:8.6.4.4.2)

NB: this work is available both as a music theatre piece and for concert performance

"This work is quintessential MacMillan. It progresses relentlessly from spaciouly looming towers of string tone to outbursts of terror... the strength of feeling is irresistible; bursting with love, pain and tenderness..."

Opera

World Premiere: 20 May 1993

Tramway, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Francisco Negrin, director; Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Conductor: Ivor Bolton

FULL ORCHESTRA

The Birds of Rhiannon

2001

24 min

Tone-poem for orchestra with optional chorus (SATB)

Text: Michael Symmons Roberts (E)

2.picc.2.corA.2.bcl.dbcl.ssax.2.dbn-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(4):glsp/tuned gongs/t.bells/6low bells/vib/
marimba/3wdbl(graded)/6tpl.bl/3cowbells/guero/whip/rainstick/3metal sheets(sm,med,lg)/
thundersheet/bongos/bodhran/brake dr/SD/TD/BD/2flexatones/susp.cym/water gongs(sm,lg)/
2gliss.gongs/tam-t-harp-strings

"...boldly coloured music, dramatic confrontations of ideas, a powerful surge of momentum, and instrumental lines that have an independent life but gel as a cohesive texture... MacMillan shares with Rimsky a virtuosity in defining and combining instrumental timbres."
Daily Telegraph

World Premiere: 26 Jul 2001

Royal Albert Hall, London, United Kingdom

The Sixteen; BBC Philharmonic

Conductor: James MacMillan

Britannia

1994

14 min

for orchestra

3(III=picc).3(III=corA).3(III=bcl).2.dbn-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(3):
bodhran or tambour/tgl/flexatone/duck call/vib/lg tam-t; 2wdbl/
2cowbells/snare drum/coconut shells/5tom-t; cym/BD/whip/klaxon/
duck call/referee's whistle/autohorn-harp-strings

"...a Charles Ivesian spree in which bits of Elgar, Vaughan Williams, Britten and other British icons are irreverently and skilfully insinuated into a bustling, elaborate texture fond of reverting into a kind of Celtic reflectiveness. It was a little like Brahms's Academic Festival Overture in reverse..."
Sunday Times

World Premiere: 21 Sep 1994

Barbican Hall, London, United Kingdom

London Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Michael Tilson Thomas

The Confession of Isobel Gowdie

1990

26 min

for orchestra

2(II=picc).2(II=corA).2(II=bcl).2(II=dbn)-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(2):
2congas(high,low)/2timbales(high,low)/xyl/3tam-t(sm/med/lg)/anvil/
t.bells/SD/2congas(high/low)/vib/BD/v.lg tam-t-strings

"...a stirringly powerful work which grows implacably from a rapt modal string threnody through mounting violence to the re-emergence and transformation of the opening lament."
Gramophone

"MacMillan brilliantly demonstrated in Isobel Gowdie that accessibility need not necessarily involve compromise... all its various musical elements - be they Scottish folk tune, Gregorian chant or pure MacMillan - are by no means merely illustrative but emanate from a powerful, all-embracing and unifying emotional impulse."

Daily Telegraph

9790060113376 (Full score)

World Premiere: 22 Aug 1990

Royal Albert Hall, London, United Kingdom

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Jerzy Maksymiuk

Exsultet

(version for symphonic brass)

1998, arr.2000

8 min

for orchestral brass and percussion

4hn.3tpt.3trbn.tuba-timp.perc(1/2):SD/bell/lg tam-t/sm tam-t(opt)-org(opt)

World premiere of version: 30 Sep 2000

Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, United Kingdom

BBC Philharmonic

Conductor: James MacMillan

Into the Ferment

1988

25 min

for ensemble and orchestra

ensemble: 1(=picc).1.1.1-1.1.1.0-perc(1):tam-t/5tpl.bl/vib/BD/
3susp.cym/5tom-t/SD-harp-strings(1.1.1.1.1);
orchestra: 2(II=picc).2.2.2-4.2.3.1-timp.perc:BD/SD/glsp/tgl/
susp.cym-strings

World Premiere: 19 Dec 1988

Magnum Centre, Irvine, United Kingdom

Scottish Chamber Orchestra / Ayr Schools Orchestra

Conductor: James MacMillan

The Sacrifice: Three Interludes

2005-06

15 min

for orchestra

2(I,II=picc).2(II=corA).2(II=bcl).1.dbn-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(3):glsp/vib/tamb/BD/t.bells/wdbl/SD/susp.cym/crot/tuned gongs/guio/vibraslap/tam-t-harp-strings

World Premiere: 22 Feb 2008

Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, United Kingdom

BBC Philharmonic

Conductor: James MacMillan

Stomp (with Fate and Elvira)

2006

5 min 30 sec

concert overture for orchestra

2.2.2.2-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(2):SD/susp.cym/hi-hat/bodhran/spoons (or other similar folk-like instrument)-strings

"Imagine Mozart and Tchaikovsky in kilts, thrown into the middle of a highland fling."
Financial Times

"...an irreverent deconstruction of the two big works heard earlier — the Tchaikovsky 4th symphony and Mozart's Elvira Madigan Piano Concerto, K467... Stomp went through all sorts of wacky distortions before being whisked, ceilidh-style, into a punch-drunk jig of delight."
The Times

World Premiere: 03 Mar 2007

Barbican Centre, London, United Kingdom

London Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Colin Davis CBE

Symphony No.3: 'Silence'

2002

36 min

for orchestra

3(III=afll, picc).2.corA.2.bcl.dbcl.2.dbn-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(4):marimba/tuned gongs/5tpl.bl/SD/susp.cym/glsp/steel drums/BD/crot/t.bells/3heavy metal bars/2congas/2timbales/med tam-t/cencerros (tuned cowbells)/vib/lg tam-t/thundersheet-harp-pft-strings

"MacMillan's masterful orchestral imagination is Mahlerian in its huge but translucent tutti and in its chamber-music-like intimacy. But the voice is his own, and the sounds are wonderfully beguiling."
Sunday Times

World Premiere: 17 Apr 2003

NHK Hall, Tokyo, Japan

NHK Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Charles Dutoit

FULL ORCHESTRA 5

Symphony: 'Vigil'

1997

53 min

(third part of the orchestral triptych Triduum)

3(III=picc).2.corA.2.bcl.2.dbn-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(3):lg susp.cym/sizzle cym/wdbl/t.bells/wooden cube/glsp/tam-t/cencerros/thundersheet /lg piece of metal/tgl/vib/tuned gongs/BD/5tpl.bl/2congas/2timbales/SD/susp.cym/antique cym/xyl/5tom-t-harp-pft(=cel)-strings-separate brass quintet (1.2.1.1)

"...a breathtaking piece, potent, haunting and magnetic, and with a profound inner beauty which speaks of music conceived by the soul... the whole symphony seems to be a natural progression from its early dark murmurings towards the incandescence of the finale."

Daily Telegraph

"...it has the feel of a real symphony: a large-scale, organically developing canvas, a massive emotional journey that travels from darkness into light, from bleak reality into transcendence."
Glasgow Herald

World Premiere: 28 Sep 1997

Barbican, London, United Kingdom

London Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Mstislav Rostropovich

Triduum

1995-97

1 hr 41 min

Orchestral triptych comprising The World's Ransoming, Cello Concerto and Symphony: 'Vigil'

see individual works for scorings

The World's Ransoming

1995-96

21 min

(first part of the orchestral triptych Triduum) for orchestra, with obbligato cor anglais

2(I,II=picc).1.corA(obbligato).2(II=bcl).2(II=dbn)-4.2.3.0-timp.perc(1):crot/t.bells/2go-go bells/2tpl.bl/2bongos/lg tam-t/sm tam-t(or gong)/5tom-t/SD/lg sizzle cym/lg splash cym/lg plywood cube-strings

"An orderly meditation on Maundy Thursday, of considerable breadth and depth... MacMillan's orchestral skill, and his art of construction, ensure that it pleases the ear and rewards the attention."

Financial Times

9790060113604 **Cor Anglais, Piano**

9790060107054 **Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 1320**

World Premiere: 11 Jul 1996

Barbican, London, United Kingdom

Christine Pendrill, cor anglais; London Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Kent Nagano

FULL ORCHESTRA 5

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Cumnock Fair

1999 12 min

version for string orchestra and piano
pft-strings (max:8.6.4.4.2)

Cumnock Fair

1999 12 min

version for piano sextet
pft-string quintet

World Premiere: 23 Mar 1999
Cumnock Academy, Ayrshire, United Kingdom
musicians from Scottish Chamber Orch.

A Deep but Dazzling Darkness

2001-02 22 min

for solo violin, ensemble and tape

1(=picc).af1.1.1.dbcl.0-1.2.1.1-perc(2):l=vib/5cowbells/5tpl.bl/2bongos/BD/4gliss.gongs;
ll=tuned gongs/tamb/SD/pedal BD/hi-hat/tam-t/watergong-harp-2pft*(ll=cel)
-2vln.vla.vlc.db-
tape(CD)

*Piano 2 is tuned a quarter-tone above the norm

*alternative version: with a string section (max:8.6.4.4.2)

"...tremendously dramatic, even by the standards of a composer whose mode of expression rarely falls short of volcanic... the work's subtext is music's power to comfort in times of darkness or conflict..."

The Times

World Premiere: 27 Mar 2003
St.Lukes, London, United Kingdom
Gordan Nikolitch, violin; London Symphony Orchestra (private performance, admission by invitation only)
Conductor: James MacMillan

Í (A Meditation on Iona)

1996 17 min

for strings and percussion

perc(1):t.bells/steel pans/lg thundersheet-strings

"Lamenting violins; eruptive, angular drumming; shivering bells: here was a piece with a strong if mysterious sense of place."

The Times

World Premiere: 21 Feb 1997
City Hall, Glasgow, United Kingdom
Scottish Chamber Orchestra
Conductor: Joseph Swensen

Kiss on Wood

James MacMillan, arranged by Ingvar Karkoff

1993, arr. 2008 9 min

for cello and string orchestra

World premiere of version: 14 May 2008
St Andrew's Hall, Norwich, United Kingdom
Natalie Clein, cello; European Chamber Orchestra
Conductor: Mark Gottoni

Memoire imperiale

1993 5 min

A variation on General John Reid's March 'Garb of Gaul' (March of the 42nd or Old Highland Regiment)

2.1.corA.1.bcl.1.dbn-2.2.0.0-timp.perc:SD-strings

World Premiere: 13 Feb 1994
Edinburgh University, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Scottish Chamber Orchestra
Conductor: Matthias Bamert

Sinfonietta

1991

19 min

for orchestra or chamber orchestra

aff(=picc).corA.Ebcl(=bcl).ssax.dbn-1.piccpt.1.1-perc(2):tg/
vib/SD/wdbl/tam-t/glsp/2cowbells/2congas/BD/susp.cym/t.bells/2tom-t/
anvil/lg tam-t/lg sizzle cym-harp-pft-strings(min:6.6.4.4.2 or 1.1.1.1.1)

"...a 20-minute arch, beginning with chant-like melodies before erupting with Varèse-like violence into a grotesque march, which veers in and out of focus before subsiding into the quietude of the opening again."

Financial Times

World Premiere: 14 May 1992

Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, United Kingdom

London Sinfonietta

Conductor: Martyn Brabbins

Symphony No.2

1999

24 min

for chamber orchestra

2(II=picc).2(II=corA).2(II=bcl).1.dbn-2.2.0.0-perc(2):glsp/vib/
t.bells/bell-tree/bongo/SD/BD/cyms/tam-t-harp-strings

"This is a brilliantly written chamber-orchestral score... there is clearly more to MacMillan's Second than a coherent, thematically integrated three-movement construction... behind it all, as with the Piano Sonata on which it is based, there is the harsh Scottish winter landscape."

The Times

World Premiere: 02 Dec 1999

Town Hall, Ayr, United Kingdom

Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Conductor: James MacMillan

Tryst

1989

30 min

for orchestra

2(II=picc).2(II=corA).2(II=bcl).2(II=dbn)-2.2.0.0-timp(=wind chimes/bell tree)-strings

"This piece has a powerful sense of propulsion, its potency resulting from the insistent way he works round, manipulates and develops an idea...to produce music of compelling cumulative energy."

Daily Telegraph

World Premiere: 17 Jun 1989

Kirkwall, Orkney, United Kingdom

Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Conductor: Paul Daniel CBE

SOLO INSTRUMENT(S) AND ORCHESTRA

The Berserking

1990

33 min

Concerto for piano and orchestra

2.picc.3(III=corA),3(III=bcl),2.dbn-4.3.2.Btrbn.1-timp.perc(3):
2timbales(high/low)/glsp/lg tam-t/mark tree/crot/tom-t(high)/xyl/
snare dr(high); snare dr(med)/anvil/vib/tom-t(low); v.lg BD/
loud claves/t.bells/ant.cym/snare dr(low)-cel-harp-strings
(min:14.12.10.8.8)

"The violent energy of the outer movements, full of Stravinskian rhythms and brutal explosions of soloist and orchestra, encloses a lyrical core tinged with Celtic folksong."
BBC Music Magazine

9790060103322 2 Pianos, 4 Hands

World Premiere: 22 Sep 1990

Musica Nova, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Peter Donohoe, piano; Scottish National Orchestra

Conductor: Matthias Bamert

Cello Concerto

1996

41 min

(second part of the orchestral triptych Triduum)

2(II=picc),2.2(II=Ebcl,bcl),1.dbn-4.3.3.1-timp-perc(3):glsp/xyl/vib/
cym/susp.cym/sizzle cym/BD/SD/lg tam-t/sm tam-t/tuned gongs/
3bongos/lg thundersheet/metal bar/2lge plastic jamblocks/lg plywood
cube-pft(=cel)-harp-strings

"With customary energy, MacMillan manipulates his material and uses splashes of orchestral colouring to create fluctuating moods — celestial or violently propulsive... The concerto has reasoning, intensity and beauty."

Daily Telegraph

9790060107931 **Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 1328**

9790060107047 **Cello, Piano**

World Premiere: 03 Oct 1996

Barbican, London, United Kingdom

Mstislav Rostropovich, cello; London Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Colin Davis CBE

A Deep but Dazzling Darkness

2001-02

22 min

for solo violin, ensemble and tape

1(=picc).af1.1.1.dbcl.0-1.2.1.1.1-perc(2):l=vib/5cowbells/5tpl.bl/2bongos/BD/4gliss.gongs;
II=tuned gongs/tamb/SD/pedal BD/hi-hat/tam-t/watergong-harp-2pft*(II=cel)
-2vln.vla.vlc.db-
tape(CD)

*Piano 2 is tuned a quarter-tone above the norm

*alternative version: with a string section (max:8.6.4.4.2)

"...tremendously dramatic, even by the standards of a composer whose mode of expression rarely falls short of volcanic... the work's subtext is music's power to comfort in times of darkness or conflict..."

The Times

World Premiere: 27 Mar 2003

St.Lukes, London, United Kingdom

Gordan Nikolitch, violin; London Symphony Orchestra (private performance, admission by invitation only)

Conductor: James MacMillan

Epiclesis

1993, rev.1998

25 min

Concerto for trumpet and orchestra

3(III=picc),2.corA.3(III=bcl),2.dbn-6.3.3.1-timp.perc(4):marimba/
thundersheet/bowl gong/2tam-t(lg & sm, with bows)/4gamelan
gongs/2vib(bowed)/crot/sanctus bells/4cowbells/6tom-t/2bongos/glsp/
cym/anvil/cencerros(chromatic cowbells)/t.bells/BD/bell tree/4wdbl/
tgl/SD-strings(min.14.12.10.8.8)
offstage: 2 antiphonal tpt

"...MacMillan writes brilliantly for brass. The trumpet is not used as a bravura expressionist, more as a virtuoso communicator. The writing has a jazz-like conversational flow..."

The Scotsman

9790060114182 **Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 1362**

World Premiere: 28 Aug 1993

Usher Hall, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

John Wallace OBE, trumpet; Philharmonia Orchestra

Conductor: Leonard Slatkin

From Ayrshire

2005

8 min

for violin and orchestra

0.0.0.0-2.0.0.0-timp.perc:BD/crot/bell tree/whip-harp-strings

World Premiere: 23 Mar 2007

Schuster Center, Dayton, OH, USA

Nicola Benedetti, violin; Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra

Conductor: Carlos Miguel Prieto

Kiss on Wood

James MacMillan, arranged by Ingvar Karkoff

1993, arr. 2008

9 min

for cello and string orchestra

World premiere of version: 14 May 2008

St Andrew's Hall, Norwich, United Kingdom

Natalie Clein, cello; European Chamber Orchestra

Conductor: Mark Gottoni

Ninian

1996

35 min

Concerto for clarinet and orchestra

3(III=picc).2.corA.1.bcl.2.dbn-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(3):vib/whip/
2timbales/5tom-t/SD/susp.cym/2tam-t/t.bells/lions roar/BD/crot/
marimba/tuned gongs/2cowbells/2congas/metal bar/2bell plates/
sizzle cym/tam-t-harp-strings

"Using from the start the full dynamic and registral range of the clarinet, MacMillan seemed to be evoking memories of the stark lines and flashing gracenotes of the piobaireachd, the ancient music of the bagpipes."

The Independent

"MacMillan's exceptional strength is his use of the orchestral palette. And here, Ninian is downright amazing... as a concerto it is riveting with the soloist and orchestra in spellbinding dialogue, reaction and confrontation..."

Glasgow Herald

9790060116476 Clarinet, Piano

World Premiere: 04 Apr 1997

Usher Hall, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

John Cushing, clarinet; Royal Scottish National Orchestra

Conductor: Paul Daniel CBE

SOLO INSTRUMENT(S) AND ORCHESTRA 9

Piano Concerto No.2

2003

30 min

for piano and string orchestra

Piano solo-strings: minimum 8.6.4.4.2

"This is a work of fierce physicality: a half-hour's frenzy of folk-song and dance... The first movement, Cumnock Fair, is a whirling fantasy of 18th-century Scottish dance melodies... Shambards, the second movement is a dizzying hall of mirrors: Burnsian folk-song and fragments of the Mad Scene from Lucia di Lammermoor drift in and out of focus... Shannation sounds like a devilish Strathspey Society on speed. For sheer visceral excitement... this half-romp, half-tantrum of a work is hot stuff."

The Times

World Premiere: 08 May 2004

Lincoln Center, New York, NY, USA

Christopher Wheeldon, choreographer; New York City Ballet

Conductor: James MacMillan

A Scotch Bestiary

enigmatic variations on a zoological carnival at a Caledonian exhibition

2003-04

33 min 30 sec

for organ and orchestra

3(II=af, III=picc).3(III=corA).3(III=bcl).3(III=dbn)
-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(4):crot/marimba/whip/lion's roar/2typewriter(noisy)/t.bells/SD/4brake
dr/vib/bongos/4tom-t/BD/dr-kit/xy/2wdbl/5tpl.bl/tamb/tuned
gongs/susp.cym/tam-t/gisp/2tgl/Herdenglocken*/vibraslap/lg guiro/bodhran/water
gong/cyms/sizzle.cym/hi-hat-harp-elec.pft-strings
*Herdenglocken as used in Strauss's Eine Alpensinfonie and Mahler's Symphony No.6

"A sonically spectacular concerto for organ and orchestra... The sense of whimsy inspired by the sight of pickup-sticks organ pipes bursting forth behind the stage led MacMillan through a stage of mental associations: Disney, cartoons, the Warner Bros classics, their daffy Carl Stalling soundtracks. What MacMillan has come up with is a two-part, quirkily animated concerto... a musical book of fanciful animals impersonated by organ and orchestra..."

MacMillan seems at times almost a Scottish Ives. But what sounds he gets from both orchestra and organ!"

Los Angeles Times

"The piece was certainly fun: riotous, at times cacophonous, wittily orchestrated and cleverly structured. It also brilliantly integrated the organ into the orchestra proper. Reptiles and fish were conjured on organ pedals and tuba, with percussion and other brasses lending texture. Buzzing from the organ effectively suggested a queen bee, and a snare drum gave the howler monkey his martial personality... All these things (and more) merged in the work's second half, a crazy but exciting amalgam..."

Los Angeles Daily News

World Premiere: 07 Oct 2004

Disney Hall, Los Angeles, California, United States

Wayne Marshall, organ; Los Angeles Philharmonic

Conductor: Esa-Pekka Salonen

SOLO INSTRUMENT(S) AND ORCHESTRA 9

Tuireadh

1991, arr.1995

22 min

arr. for clarinet and string orchestra

"Tuireadh, for clarinet and string orchestra, is a thematically terse elegy for the victims of the Piper Alpha oil rig disaster in 1991, searingly intense and precisely focused; MacMillan has written nothing better."

The Guardian

9790060116582 **Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 1396**

World premiere of version: 24 Nov 1995

Filharmonia Baltycka, Gdansk, Poland

Karol Respondek, clarinet; Gdansk Philharmonic

Conductor: James MacMillan

Veni, Veni, Emmanuel

1992

26 min

Concerto for percussion and orchestra

2(II=picc).2(II=corA).2(II=bcl).2(II=dbn)-2.2.ttrbn.btrbn.0-timp-strings(min:8.6.4.4.2)

Solo percussion:2tam-t(one lg)/2SD/2congas/6tom-t/2timbales/pedal

BD/6Chin.gongs/6tpl.bl/log drum/2wdbl/2cowbells/marimba(5-octave)/

mark tree/lg cym/sizzle cym/t.bells

Orchestral musicians to play bells or two pieces of loud clanging metal at end of work

"...a sure, confident, expertly engineered piece of soloist-versus-orchestra showmanship..."

Veni, Veni, Emmanuel arrests attention from the first downbeat. MacMillan's harmonic signalling and underpinning are lucid. His gestures are graphic in vividness, focused in purpose, powerful yet economical in musculature."

Financial Times

"...strong, punchy rhythms, instant accessibility, an exuberant physicality in the sounds produced by both orchestra and soloist, and, at its centre, a more meditative section of a haunting, incantatory tranquility."

Daily Telegraph

9790060092718 **Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 1238**

World Premiere: 10 Aug 1992

Royal Albert Hall, London, United Kingdom

Evelyn Glennie, percussion; Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Conductor: Jukka-Pekka Saraste

Violin Concerto

2009

25 min

for violin and orchestra

2.2.corA.2.1.dbn-2.2.2.1-timp.perc(2):vib/whip/2congas/BD/crot/marimba/bell

tree/vibraslap/SD/2Chinese gliss gongs-pft-strings

Third movement contains a fragment of text in German (by the composer), which should be spoken by voices from the orchestra, on or off stage. If this is not possible the text may be spoken by a single voice.

World Premiere: 12 May 2010

Barbican, London, United Kingdom

Vadim Repin, violin; London Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Valery Gergiev

The World's Ransoming

1995-96

21 min

(first part of the orchestral triptych Triduum) for orchestra, with obbligato cor anglais

2(I,II=picc).1.corA(obbligato).2(II=bcl).2(II=dbn)-4.2.3.0-timp.perc(1):

crot/t.bells/2go-go bells/2tpl.bl/2bongos/lg tam-t/sm tam-t(or

gong)/5tom-t/SD/lg sizzle cym/lg splash cym/lg plywood cube-strings

"An orderly meditation on Maundy Thursday, of considerable breadth and depth... MacMillan's orchestral skill, and his art of construction, ensure that it pleases the ear and rewards the attention."

Financial Times

9790060113604 **Cor Anglais, Piano**

9790060107054 **Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 1320**

World Premiere: 11 Jul 1996

Barbican, London, United Kingdom

Christine Pendrill, cor anglais; London Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Kent Nagano

VOICE(S) AND ORCHESTRA

Visitatio Sepulchri

1992-93

40 min

for 7 solo singers or 7-part chorus and chamber orchestra

Text: Texts from a 14th century Easter Day liturgical drama and the Te Deum (L)

2S,A,2T,B,male speaker (Sprechstimme)

2(II=picc).2(II=corA).2(II=bcl).2(II=dbn)-2.2.2(II=btrbn).0-timp.

perc(1):2cowbells/2wdbl/2bongos/2timbales/SD/2tam-t/5tom-t/

5tpl.bl/glsp/t.bells/BD/cyms/bell tree-strings(min:8.6.4.4.2)

NB: this work is available both as a music theatre piece and for concert performance

"This work is quintessential MacMillan. It progresses relentlessly from spaciouly looming towers of string tone to outbursts of terror... the strength of feeling is irresistible; bursting with love, pain and tenderness..."

Opera

World Premiere: 20 May 1993

Tramway, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Francisco Negrin, director; Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Conductor: Ivor Bolton

CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA

The Birds of Rhiannon

2001 24 min

Tone-poem for orchestra with optional chorus (SATB)

Text: Michael Symmons Roberts (E)

2.picc.2.corA.2.bcl.dbcl.ssax.2.dbn-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(4):glsp/tuned gongs/t.bells/6low bells/vib/
marimba/3wdbl(graded)/6tpl.bl/3cowbells/guero/whip/rainstick/3metal
sheets(sm,med,lg)/
thundersheet/bongos/bodhran/brake dr/SD/TD/BD/2flexatones/susp.cym/water
gongs(sm,lg)/
2gliss.gongs/tam-t-harp-strings

"...boldly coloured music, dramatic confrontations of ideas, a powerful surge of momentum, and instrumental lines that have an independent life but gel as a cohesive texture... MacMillan shares with Rimsky a virtuosity in defining and combining instrumental timbres."
Daily Telegraph

World Premiere: 26 Jul 2001

Royal Albert Hall, London, United Kingdom

The Sixteen; BBC Philharmonic

Conductor: James MacMillan

Cantos Sagrados

(orchestral version)

1989 orch.1997 22 min

for chorus (SATB) and orchestra

Text: Ariel Dorfman, Ana Maria Mendoza and sacred texts (L-E)

3(III=afI/picc).2.corA.2.bcl.3(III=dbn)-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(3):vib/
metal bar/cyms/sizzle cym/t.bells/SD/susp.cym/2tuned gongs(B,D)/BD/
tam-t-harp-pft(=cel)-strings

World premiere of version: 21 Mar 1998

Glasgow Cathedral, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Royal Scottish National Orchestra and chorus

Conductor: Christopher Bell

The Company of Heaven

1999 30 min

for children's voices (in 2 parts) and organ, with optional wind band and carnyx

Text: John Bell (E)

Magnificat

(orchestral version)

1999 14 min

for SATB choir and orchestra

Text: 1662 Book of Common Prayer (E)

2.2.2.2-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(2):vib/glsp/t.bells/tam-t/susp.cym-harp-organ(ad lib)-strings

World Premiere: 05 Jan 2000

Wells Cathedral, Wells, United Kingdom

Wells Cathedral Choir/St.John's CollegeChoir, Cambridge/BBC Philharmonic

Conductor: James MacMillan

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis

(orchestral version)

1999/2001 20 min

for SATB choir and orchestra

Text: 1662 Book of Common Prayer (E)

2(II=picc).2(II=corA).2.2-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(2):vib/glsp/t.bells/tam-t/susp.cym-harp-organ(ad lib)-strings

Nunc Dimittis

(orchestral version)

2001 8 min

for SATB choir and orchestra

Text: 1962 Book of Common Prayer (E)

1.picc.1.corA.2.2-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(2):vib/glsp/t.bells/tam-t/susp.cym/BD-harp-organ(ad lib)-strings

World premiere of version: 16 Nov 2001

Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, United Kingdom

BBC Philharmonic and BBC Singers

Conductor: James MacMillan

Quickening

1998

48 min

for counter-tenor, 2 tenor and baritone soloists, children's choir, SATB choir and orchestra

Text: Michael Symmons Roberts (E)

2.picc.3(II=corA),3(II=bcl),2.dbn-4.4.3.1-timp.perc(4);handbells/
3temple bowls(dobaci)/marimba/tgl(high)/rainstick/2wdbl/2congas/
5tpl.bl/4brake dr/finger cyms/glsp/steel dr/3wdbl/SD/cyms/susp.cym/
tam-t(med)/vib/tuned gongs/5cowbells/5tom-t/tam-t(lg)/t.bells/
3tgl(high,med,low)/whip/log dr/BD/susp.cym-harp-pft(=cel)-
chamber org-grand org or synth(ad lib)-strings

"Using a richly allusive libretto by Michael Symmons Roberts, Quickening deals with the the concept of birth in all its explosive, miraculous, life-changing and occasionally life-threatening forms... MacMillan grounds it in sonorities of gripping viscerality... His great gift is to make a complex but white-hot passion immediately coherent and persuasive."

The Times

"MacMillan writes a skilful, archaic counterpoint for the Hilliards, with only the lightest accompaniment... the final climax of this virtual oratorio is a rampage of choral-orchestral joy."

Sunday Times

"Two outer movements, joyous and celebratory, frame an inner pair, dark and menacing with belching low brass, screaming trumpets, whip-crack percussion and martial snare drums... MacMillan's output is prodigious, his skill at handling large forces dazzling..."

The Observer

9790060119811 Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 1412

World Premiere: 05 Sep 1999

Royal Albert Hall, London, United Kingdom

Hilliard Ensemble; BBC Symphony Orchestra/BBC Symphony Chorus/Westminster Cathedral Boys' Choir

Conductor: Andrew Davis

Seven Last Words from the Cross

1993

45 min

Cantata for SSAATTBB chorus and strings

Text: Biblical (E-L)

"...probably MacMillan's masterpiece... the maturity in this composition is astounding: the tonal structure of the seven settings, harmony which can be spare or lush without ever being overwritten, an inexorable sense of the drama in the text, the balance between voice and strings. A few seconds, in difficult times, when meditation was centre stage, when it was possible to regain optimism."

The Guardian

9790060114175 Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 1360

9790060115615 (Vocal Score)

World Premiere: 27 Mar 1994

BBC TV, United Kingdom

Capella Nova/BT Scottish Ensemble

Conductor: Alan Tavener

St John Passion

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

2007

1 hr 27 min

for solo baritone, chorus and orchestra

Text: Revised Standard Version of The Bible (E); the Vulgate (L)

1 baritone solo, small chorus(="narrator"), larger chorus (professional chorus minimum 80 voices, amateur chorus minimum 120 voices)
2(II=picc),2(II=corA),2(II=bcl),1.dbn-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(1);t.bells/tuned gongs/tgl/Sanctus bells/5tpl.bl/SD/BD/susp.cym/sizzle cym/tam-t-chamber organ-strings

"MacMillan has come up with a masterly work that has all the hallmarks of a 21st-century classic... MacMillan is a master of ratcheting up the tension, building the drama, his subtle use of syncopation adding to the effect. But he can also turn his hand to the most lyrical, vulnerable music."

Musical America

"A blazing blockbuster, a piece as fiercely communicative as anything that the 48-year-old MacMillan has written before.... The end of Part One was masterly: no loudspeaker wailing as the Crucifixion loomed, but a resigned, pianissimo meditation, threaded with keening instrumental solos." *The Times*

World Premiere: 27 Apr 2008

Barbican Hall, London, United Kingdom

Christopher Maltman, baritone; London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus

Conductor: Colin Davis CBE

Visitatio Sepulchri

1992-93

40 min

for 7 solo singers or 7-part chorus and chamber orchestra

Text: Texts from a 14th century Easter Day liturgical drama and the Te Deum (L)

2S,A,2T,B,male speaker (Sprechstimme)
2(II=picc),2(II=corA),2(II=bcl),2(II=dbn)-2.2.2(II=btrbn),0-timp.
perc(1):2cowbells/2wdbl/2bongos/2timbales/SD/2tam-t/5tom-t/
5tpl.bl/glsp/t.bells/BD/cyms/bell tree-strings(min:8.6.4.4.2)
NB: this work is available both as a music theatre piece and for concert performance

"This work is quintessential MacMillan. It progresses relentlessly from spaciouly looming towers of string tone to outbursts of terror... the strength of feeling is irresistible; bursting with love, pain and tenderness..."

Opera

World Premiere: 20 May 1993

Tramway, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Francisco Negrin, director; Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Conductor: Ivor Bolton

ENSEMBLE AND CHAMBER WITHOUT VOICE(S)

...as others see us...

1990 25 min

for mixed ensemble

fl(=picc).cl(=bcl).bsn(=dbn)-tpt-perc(1):tabor/marimba/wdbl/
4rototoms/3susp.cym(high/med/low)/SD-strings(1.0.1.1.1)

World Premiere: 05 Apr 1990

National Portrait Gallery, London, United Kingdom
Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Adam's Rib

1994-95 12 min

for brass quintet

2tpt.hn.trbn.tuba

World Premiere: 28 Mar 1995

Usher Hall, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Members of Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Chant for John

2007 2 min

for piano quartet

pft-vln.vla.vlc

Cumnock Fair

1999 12 min

version for piano sextet

pft-string quintet

World Premiere: 23 Mar 1999

Cumnock Academy, Ayrshire, United Kingdom
musicians from Scottish Chamber Orch.

A Deep but Dazzling Darkness

2001-02 22 min

for solo violin, ensemble and tape

1(=picc).af1.1.1.dbcl.0-1.2.1.1.1-perc(2):l=vib/5cowbells/5tpl.bl/2bongos/BD/4gliss.gongs;
ll=tuned gongs/tamb/SD/pedal BD/hi-hat/tam-t/watergong-harp-2pft*(ll=cel)
-2vln.vla.vlc.db-
tape(CD)

*Piano 2 is tuned a quarter-tone above the norm

*alternative version: with a string section (max:8.6.4.4.2)

"...tremendously dramatic, even by the standards of a composer whose mode of expression rarely falls short of volcanic... the work's subtext is music's power to comfort in times of darkness or conflict..."

The Times

World Premiere: 27 Mar 2003

St.Lukes, London, United Kingdom

Gordan Nikolitch, violin; London Symphony Orchestra (private performance, admission by invitation only)

Conductor: James MacMillan

Etwas zurückhaltend

2008 15 min

for string quartet

World Premiere: 31 Mar 2010

Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Edinburgh Quartet

The Exorcism of Rio Sumpúl

1989 25 min

for mixed ensemble or chamber orchestra

1(=picc).2(ll=corA).2(ll=bcl).1-2.0.0.0-perc(1):2timbales/2snare dr(high/low)/tam-t/
bell tree/susp.cym/wind chimes/BD(with pedal)/anvil/glsp/5tom-t-strings
Ensemble version reduces strings to 1.1.1.1.1

World Premiere: 28 Jan 1990

Glasgow, United Kingdom

Paragon Ensemble

Conductor: David Davies

Exsultet**1998** 8 min

for brass quintet and optional percussion
hn.2tp.t.trbn.tuba-perc(opt):SD/bell

World Premiere: 01 Dec 1998
RSAMD, Glasgow, United Kingdom
players from the RSAMD

For Max**2004** 3 min

for piano quintet
pft-2vln.vla.vlc

World Premiere: 22 Jun 2004
St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall, Orkney, United Kingdom
Nash Ensemble

For Michael**2004** 3 min

for piano quintet
pft-2vln.vla.vlc

World Premiere: 15 Jul 2004
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham, United Kingdom
Aleksander Madzar/Belcea Quartet

For Sally**2006** 4 min

for piano quintet
pft-2vln.vla.vlc

World Premiere: 05 Jul 2006
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham, United Kingdom
Nash Ensemble
Conductor: Martyn Brabbins

Fourteen Little Pictures**1997** 25 min

for piano trio
pft-vln.vlc

"A powerful new chamber work... MacMillan sets in motion a battle of contrasts - of energy and stasis, of ferocious thunder and ghostly echoes - while the unifying element is its mood of dark profundity."
Daily Telegraph

World Premiere: 21 May 1997
Wigmore Hall, London, United Kingdom
Frankl/Pauk/Kirshbaum Piano Trio

Horn Quintet**2007** 15 min

for horn and string quartet

World Premiere: 09 Jul 2007
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham, United Kingdom
Nash Ensemble
Conductor: Richard Watkins

intercession**1991** 7 min

for 3 oboes
9790060802065 **3 Oboes or 3 Saxophones**

World Premiere: 26 Nov 1991
Art Gallery, Huddersfield, United Kingdom
Chione Oboe Trio

Memento**1994** 4 min 30 sec

for string quartet

World Premiere: 13 Oct 1994
Merkin Concert Hall, New York, New York, United States
Kronos Quartet

The Road to Ardtalla

1983

15 min

for chamber sextet

fl(=picc).cl(=bcl)-hn-pft-vln.vlc

World Premiere: 06 Nov 1987

Manchester University Concert Hall, Manchester, United Kingdom

Manchester University New Music Ensemble

Conductor: James MacMillan

String Quartet No.3

2007

25 min 30 sec

for string quartet

"MacMillan's String Quartet No.3 operates at the boundary between the physical and the ethereal, between sounds and silence."

San Francisco Chronicle

World Premiere: 21 May 2008

Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, United Kingdom

Takacs String Quartet

They saw the stone had been rolled away

1993

6 min

Fanfare for brass and percussion

3tp.3trbn-perc(2):2timbales/2bongos/5tpl.bl/2wdbl/2cowbells/t.bells/
lg tam-t/BD/4tom-t

World Premiere: 27 Aug 1993

St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Edinburgh Festival Ensemble

Conductor: Christopher Bell

Three Dawn Rituals

1983

9 min

for chamber ensemble

af(=picc).cl(=Ebcl).bn-hn-perc:vib-prepared pft-vln.vlc

9790060095696 **Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 1270**

World Premiere: 02 Nov 1985

London, United Kingdom

Nomos Ensemble

Tuireadh

1991

22 min

for clarinet and string quartet

"Tuireadh is a deeply compassionate threnody which shows the influence of Gaelic psalmody still practised in the Western Isles today."

Gramophone

World Premiere: 25 Jun 1991

St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall, Orkney, United Kingdom

James Campbell, clarinet; Allegri String Quartet

Two Movements for Wind Quintet

1987

10 min

for wind quintet

World Premiere: 29 Jun 2007

Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Glasgow, United Kingdom

faculty ensemble

Conductor: James MacMillan

Two Visions of Hoy

1986

9 min

for solo oboe and ensemble

fl.cl.bsn-hn-perc(1):4rototoms/marimba/tam-t/med.gong/susp.cym-vlc

World Premiere: 17 Jun 1986

Manchester University Concert Hall, Manchester, United Kingdom

Manchester University New Music Ensemble

Conductor: James MacMillan

Untold

1987, rev.1991

7 min

for wind quintet

fl.corA.cl.bn-hn

World Premiere: 13 Sep 1988

Ayr, United Kingdom

Flaxton Ensemble

Visions of a November Spring

String Quartet No.1

1988, rev.1991

28 min

for string quartet

"...a work of great depth and intensity with a poignant Scottish flavour, evident in the apparent allusions to Gaelic psalmody."

Daily Telegraph

World Premiere: 03 May 1989

Glasgow, United Kingdom

Bingham String Quartet

Why is this night different?

String Quartet No.2

1998

22 min

for string quartet

"...an arrestingly powerful and sure-footed masterwork, ideally proportioned, economically argued and always evincing a riveting narrative and emotional scope."

Gramophone

9790060117398 **String Quartet (parts)**

9790060116483 **String Quartet**

World Premiere: 23 Apr 1998

Wigmore Hall, London, United Kingdom

Maggini Quartet

ENSEMBLE AND CHAMBER WITH VOICE(S)

The Beneficiaries

2009 1 min

for soprano, clarinet and piano

Text: Les Murray (E)

World Premiere: 25 Feb 2010

Purcell Room, Southbank Centre, London, United Kingdom

Jane Manning OBE, soprano; Jane's Minstrels

Lament of Mary, Queen of Scots

2008 5 min

for soprano, tenor, violin, cello and piano

Text: Robert Burns (E)

World Premiere: 16 Jan 2009

University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Lorna Anderson, sop / Jamie MacDougall, ten; Haydn Trio Eisenstadt

Parthenogenesis

2000 50 min

Scena for soprano, baritone, actress and chamber ensemble

Text: Libretto by Michael Symmons Roberts (E)

1.1.1(=bcl).dbn-2.0.0.0-perc(1):glsp/vib/tuned
gongs/2wdbi/5tom-t/2bongos/SD/BD/susp.cym/sizzle cym/2tam-t(sm,lg)
-harp-pft-strings(1.1.1.1.1 or string orch)-2tapes

"...rhapsodically lyrical music, soaring phrases floridly decorated at their end, together with flawlessly atmospheric orchestration and lacerating rhythmic drive..."

Glasgow Herald

World Premiere: 12 Sep 2000

Corn Exchange, Cambridge, United Kingdom

Lisa Milne/Christopher Purves/John Fulljames, dir; Britten Sinfonia

Conductor: James MacMillan

The Prophecy

(version for soprano and ensemble)

1997 8 min

for soprano and ensemble

Text: 'The Story of Deirdre', as translated by Kenneth Hurlstone-Jackson in 'A Celtic Miscellany' (E)

fl.Ebcl-trbn-perc(1):glsp/2tom-t/BD/susp.cym-vln.vlc

World premiere of version: 12 Mar 2001

Teatro alla Scala, Milan, Italy

Cristina Zavalloni, voice; Sentieri selvaggi

Raising Sparks

1997 34 min

6 songs for mezzo-soprano and ensemble

Text: Michael Symmons Roberts (E)

fl.cl-harp-pft-string quartet

"Based on a Hassidic creation myth, it depicts the outpouring of God's love into a clay vessel which explodes, showering the universe with scattered "sparks"... MacMillan's response is slow-moving, spare, intense: reminiscent of the dark but spiritually-directed music coming out of Russia..."

Independent on Sunday

9790060108211 (Full score)

World Premiere: 05 Oct 1997

Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, United Kingdom

Jean Rigby, mezzo-soprano; Nash Ensemble

Conductor: Martyn Brabbins

Scots Song

1991 6 min

for soprano and ensemble

Text: The Tryst by William Soutar (Scots)

2cl-vla.vlc.db

World Premiere: 10 May 1991

Brighton, United Kingdom

Composers Ensemble

Variation on Johnny Faa'

1988

4 min

for soprano, flute (doubling piccolo), cello and harp

Text: Traditional (E)

PIANO(S)

25th May 1967

2002 3 min

for solo piano

World Premiere: 06 May 2003

Bateman Auditorium, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, United Kingdom
Simon Smith;

Angel

1993 4 min

for piano solo
9790060812866 Piano

World Premiere: 31 Oct 1993

Stockbridge Parish Church, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
James MacMillan, piano;

Barncleupédie

1992 2 min

With apologies to Eric Satie for solo piano
9790060113833 Piano

World Premiere: 28 Feb 1993

Queens Hall, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Catherine Edwards, piano;

Birthday Present

1997 2 min

for piano solo
9790060113840 Piano

A Cecilian Variation for J.F.K.

1991 3 min 30 sec

2nd movement of 'Kennedy Variations' for piano solo

World Premiere: 22 Nov 1991

Kennedy Center, Washington DC, USA
David Owen Norris, piano;

Cumnock Fair

1999 12 min

version for string orchestra and piano
pft-strings (max:8.6.4.4.2)

For Ian

2000 5 min

for solo piano
9790060113864 Piano

World Premiere: 08 Feb 2000

St. Ninian's Women's Guild, Cumnock, United Kingdom
James MacMillan, piano;

For Neil

2002 3 min

for solo piano

World Premiere: 06 May 2003

Bateman Auditorium, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, United Kingdom
Simon Smith, piano;

in angustis... I

2001 3 min

for piano solo
9790060811630 Piano

World Premiere: 16 Feb 2002

Bute Hall, Glasgow University, Glasgow, United Kingdom
Simon Smith, piano;

Lumen Christi

1997 2 min 30 sec

for piano solo
9790060113895 Piano

World Premiere: 11 Apr 1997

Palazzo Barozzi, Milan, Italy
Carlo Boccadoro (pft)

Piano Sonata

1985

14 min

for piano

"...intense lonely landscapes, wild gestures and beautifully-spaced harmonies."

Musical Times

9790060091797 **Piano**

World Premiere: 26 Feb 1989

Purcell Room, London, United Kingdom

Rolf Hind, piano;

Walfrid, On His Arrival At The Gates Of Paradise

2008

3 min

for piano solo

INSTRUMENTAL

After the Tryst

1988 3 min

for violin and piano
9790060095092 Violin, Piano

World Premiere: 19 Sep 1990
Henry Wood Hall, Glasgow, United Kingdom
Members of the Paragon Ensemble

After the Tryst

(version for soprano saxophone or clarinet)
1995 3 min

for soprano saxophone or clarinet and piano
9790060108532 Soprano Saxophone or Clarinet, Piano

World premiere of version: 07 Jul 1995
Royal Pump Room, Leamington Spa, United Kingdom
Gerard McChrystal, saxophone

Cello Sonata No.1

1999 22 min

for cello and piano
"One of MacMillan's main strengths is in finding new perspectives for old musical genres, and there are echoes here of the visionary force and depth of Bartók's Second Violin Sonata..."
Gramophone

9790060112812 Cello, Piano

World Premiere: 30 May 1999
Assembly Rooms, Bath, United Kingdom
Raphael Wallfisch (vcl)/John York (pft)

Cello Sonata No.2

2000 17 min

for cello and piano
9790060113598 Cello, Piano

World Premiere: 17 Apr 2001
Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Julian Lloyd Webber, cello/John Lenehan, piano;

A Different World

1995 5 min

for violin and piano
9790060108228 Violin, Piano

World Premiere: 22 Jul 1995
Almeida Theatre, London, United Kingdom
Madeleine Mitchell, violin / John Lenehan, pft

From Ayrshire

2005 8 min

for violin and piano
9790060120374 Violin, Piano

From Galloway

2000 2 min

for solo clarinet
9790060113871 Clarinet

World Premiere: 01 Oct 2000
Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow, United Kingdom
John Cushing, clarinet;

Gaudeamus in loci pace

1998 6 min

for organ solo
9790060115513 Organ

World Premiere: 12 Sep 1998
Pluscarden Abbey, United Kingdom
Joseph Cullen, organ;

HB to MB

2004 3 min 30 sec

for solo cello
9790060117404 Cello

World Premiere: 07 Oct 2004
House of Lords, Palace of Westminster, London, United Kingdom
Raphael Wallfisch;

in angustiis... II**(version for cello solo)****2001**

8 min

for cello solo

9790060823558 Cello

in angustiis... II**(version for oboe solo)****2001**

8 min

for oboe solo

intercession**arr. for three saxophones****1991**

7 min

for three saxophones

3 saxophones - either all soprano or alto saxes

Kiss on Wood**1993**

9 min

for violin and piano

9790060101830 Violin, Piano

World Premiere: 06 Aug 1994

Harrogate Festival, United Kingdom

Madeleine Mitchell, violin / John Lenehan, piano

Kiss on Wood**(cello version)****1993**

9 min

for cello and piano

9790060106873 Cello, Piano

World premiere of version: 15 Dec 1994

Wigmore Hall, London, United Kingdom

Julian Lloyd Webber, vlc / John Lenehan

Northern Skies**2000**

14 min

Seven intermediate pieces for cello and piano

9790060113451 Cello, Piano

World Premiere: 09 Mar 2001

Hutcheson's Hall, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Catherine MacMillan/Fay Jennett/Rachel Brolly/Alison Jones, vlc/Myra Chahin, pft

Le Tombeau de Georges Rouault**2003**

14 min

for solo organ

*"...a kaleidoscope of virtuosity, fleetingly stilled by evocations of Bach chorale preludes."**The Times*

9790060116469 Organ

World Premiere: 18 Mar 2004

Birmingham Symphony Hall, Birmingham, United Kingdom

Thomas Trotter, organ;

Wedding Introit**1983**

2 min 30 sec

for organ

9790060113918 Organ

World Premiere: 09 Jul 1983

Chapel of St Albert the Great, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Michael Bonaventure, organ;

White Note Paraphrase**1994**

2 min

for organ solo

9790060113925 Organ

World Premiere: 25 Jun 1994

Kirkcudbright Parish Church, Scotland, United Kingdom

Tom Carrick, organ;

VOCAL

Ballad

1994 4 min

for voice and piano

Text: William Soutar (E)

9790060113826 **Voice, Piano**

World Premiere: 15 May 1994

RSAMD, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Frances McCafferty, sop Graeme McNaught, pft

The Blacksmith

1981? 3 min 30 sec

vocal arrangement of an Irish traditional song for voice and B flat clarinet

Text: Trad (E)

9790060118845

The Children

1995 5 min

for mezzo/baritone and piano

Text: William Soutar (E)

9790060113857 **Medium Voice, Piano (English)**

World Premiere: 23 Jul 1995

BBC Radio 3, United Kingdom

Sandra Porter, sop/Graeme McNaught, pft

The Halie Speerit's Dauncers

(The Holy Spirit's Dancers)

1996 6 min

for unison childrens choir and piano, or voice and piano

Text: James McGonigal (Scots)

9790060836473 **Voice, Piano**

9790051471829 **Unison**

World Premiere: 28 Apr 1997

Corpus Christi Primary School, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Children of Corpus Christi Primary School

Conductor: James MacMillan

in angustiis... II

(version for soprano solo)

2001 8 min

for soprano solo

Text: the composer, compiled from various ancient English, Dutch and Latin sources

Lament of Mary, Queen of Scots

2008 5 min

for soprano, tenor, violin, cello and piano

Text: Robert Burns (E)

World Premiere: 16 Jan 2009

University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Lorna Anderson, sop / Jamie MacDougall, ten; Haydn Trio Eisenstadt

Mouth of the Dumb

2008 4 min

for SS soli or chorus and harp

Text: James MacMillan after Latin from the Inchcolm Antiphoner (E)

World Premiere: 04 Apr 2009

Kings Place, London, United Kingdom

Andrew Swait, treble / Sam Harris, treble / Lucy Wakeford, harp

On Love

1984 5 min 30 sec

for solo voice or unison trebles and organ

Text: From "The Prophet" by Khalil Gibran (E)

9790060119279 **Voice, Piano or Organ**

World Premiere: 18 Aug 1984

Chapel of St Albert the Great, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Barbara Kelly; James MacMillan

Scots Song

1991 6 min

for voice and piano

Text: The Tryst by William Soutar (Scots)

9790060113901 **Voice, Piano**

9790060115523 **Soprano, Piano**

The Strathclyde Motets

Os mutorum

2008

3 min

for 2-part women's voices (or 2 solo voices) and medieval harp

Text: Medieval chant (L)

9790060120763 (Vocal Score) SATB (Latin)

World Premiere: 22 Jun 2008

St Columba's Roman Catholic Church, Hopehill Road, Maryhill, Glasgow, United Kingdo
Canty

CHORAL

...fiat mihi...

2007

5 min

for double chorus a cappella

Text: Stabat Mater (L) with additional text by the composer (E)

SSAATTBB

9790060120749 **(Vocal Score) SATB (Latin)**

World Premiere: 21 Mar 2008

Wells Cathedral, Wells, United Kingdom

Bath Camerata

Conductor: Nigel Perrin

...here in hiding...

1993

13 min

for four male voices or for unaccompanied choir

Text: from Adoro te devote by St Thomas Aquinas and translated by Gerard Manley Hopkins (E, L)

CT.2T.Bar

(either one to a part or a choir. Altos may be used to replace countertenors if necessary)

"...a striking mixture of Gregorian chant with contemporary dissonance."

The Guardian

9790060114588 **ATTB Soli or Choir**

World Premiere: 10 Aug 1993

Stevenson Hall, RSAMD, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Hilliard Ensemble

After Virtue

2006

5 min

for SSAATTBB chorus a cappella

Text: Taken from the final paragraph (chapter 18) of the book After Virtue, by Alasdair MacIntyre (E)

World Premiere: 18 Mar 2007

Oslo, Norway

Oslo Soloists Choir

Conductor: Grete Pedersen

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them

2009

3 min

for three mixed-voice choirs a cappella

Text: Gospel of St Luke 2: 9-14 (E)

World Premiere: 19 Dec 2009

St Paul's Church, Birmingham, United Kingdom

Ex Cathedra

Conductor: Jeffrey Skidmore

Benedictus Deus

Blessed be God

2009

4 min 30 sec

for SATB chorus a cappella

Text: From a 15th-century Canterbury pontifical (L)

World Premiere: 21 May 2009

Westminster Cathedral, London, United Kingdom

Westminster Cathedral Choir

Conductor: Martin Baker

Bless the Lord, my soul

2005

2 min

Responsorial psalm for SATB choir

Bless the Lord, my soul

2006

2 min

responsorial psalm, unaccompanied chant for unison voices

Bring us, O Lord God

2009

5 min

for SATB choir a cappella

Text: John Donne (E)

World Premiere: 01 May 2010

Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, United Kingdom

Schola Cantorum

Conductor: James Burton

Cantos Sagrados

1989 22 min

for chorus (SATB) and organ

Text: Ariel Dorfman, Ana Maria Mendoza and sacred texts (L-E)

"MacMillan propels us unceremoniously into the heat, glare and violence of Latin America... In the outer movements the choral writing is vividly dissonant with an organ part to match. The central prayer, an almost conversational arioso over a slow-breathing ostinato, is hauntingly beautiful."

Choir and Organ

9790060098727 SATB, Organ

World Premiere: 10 Feb 1990

Old St Paul's Church, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Scottish Chamber Choir

Conductor: Colin Tipple

Catherine's Lullabies

1990 20 min

for SATB chorus, brass and percussion

Text: Sentences from the Creed and Magnificat, and from a mother of the Plaza de Mayo; Isaiah 61:1-2; Ecclesiasticus 4; Litany of the Saints (L-E)

3tpt.2trbn.Btrbn-perc(2):metal wind chimes/susp.cym/snare dr/4tom-t/
cro; ant.cyms/t.bells/2timbales/lg tam-t

World Premiere: 10 Feb 1991

Glasgow, United Kingdom

John Currie Singers

Changed

1997 2 min 30 sec

for mixed chorus (SATB) with accompaniment of organ, harp, string trio or any three like instruments

Text: 'The Man with the Blue Guitar' (Wallace Stevens) (E)

9790060112072 SATB

World Premiere: 12 Dec 1998

Walker Hall, Kilbirnie, Ayrshire, United Kingdom

Cunningham Chamber Choir/members of the North Ayrshire Youth Silver Band

Conductor: Dorothy Howden

A Child's Prayer

1996 4 min

for SATB choir a cappella, with two treble/soprano solos

Text: Traditional, remembered by composer from childhood (E)

9790060106361 SS Soli, SATB

World Premiere: 04 Jul 1996

Westminster Abbey, London, United Kingdom

Choir of Westminster Abbey

Conductor: Martin Neary

Chosen

2003 7 min

for SAATTB choir and organ

Text: Michael Symmons Roberts (E)

9790060116407 SAATTB, organ

World Premiere: 24 Dec 2003

Paisley Abbey, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Oliver Rundell, organ; Choir of Paisley Abbey

Conductor: George McPhee

Christus Vincit

1994 7 min

for SSAATTBB chours with soprano solo

Text: from the Worcester Acclamations, 10th century (L)

9790060097614 Soprano solo, SSAATTBB

World Premiere: 23 Nov 1994

St Paul's Cathedral, London, United Kingdom

joint choirs of Westminster Abbey, Westminster Cathedral & St Paul's Cath.

Conductor: John Scott

Divo Aloysio Sacrum**1991** 7 min

for SATB chorus and optional organ
Text: from an inscription on a church wall (L-E)
SATB chorus and optional organ
9790060095108 **SATB**

World Premiere: 27 Aug 1993
St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Royal Scottish National Orchestra Chorus/Edinburgh Festival Ensemble
Conductor: Christopher Bell

Dutch Carol**2001** 4 min

for unison treble voices and piano
Text: Dutch traditional. English translation by RC Trevelyan, taken from the Oxford Book of Carols (E-L)
9790060114366 **Treble Voices**

The Gallant Weaver**1997** 7 min

for SATB choir a cappella
Text: Robert Burns (Scots)
9790060106668 **SATB**
World Premiere: 14 Apr 1997
Thomas Coats Memorial Church, Paisley, United Kingdom
Paisley Abbey Choir
Conductor: George McPhee

The Galloway Mass**1996** 15 min

for cantor, congregation, choir and organ
Text: Setting of Catholic Mass (E)
9790060106347 **SATB (Vocal Score)**
9790060106354 **Congregational Parts (Pack of 10)**
World Premiere: 25 Mar 1997
Good Shepherd Cathedral, Ayr, United Kingdom
Congregation of Good Shepherd Cathedral

Give me Justice**2003** 3 min

Introit for the 5th Sunday of Lent, for SATB choir a cappella
Text: Psalm 42 (43) (E-L)
9790060120176 **SATB**

Give me justice, O God**2004** 1 min

Introit, unaccompanied chant

Gospel Acclamation**2004** 30 sec

unaccompanied chant, unison voices

The Halie Speerit's Dauncers

(The Holy Spirit's Dancers)
1996 6 min

for unison childrens choir and piano, or voice and piano
Text: James McGonigal (Scots)
9790060836473 **Voice, Piano**
9790051471829 **Unison**

World Premiere: 28 Apr 1997
Corpus Christi Primary School, Glasgow, United Kingdom
Children of Corpus Christi Primary School
Conductor: James MacMillan

Heyoka Te Deum**1999** 5 min 30 sec

for 3-part treble voices, flute, tubular bells and piano
Text: Latin Te Deum (L)/Lakota native Indian text (E)
9790051331000 **Unison or SSS**

World Premiere: 03 May 2001
Great Hall of Cooper Union, New York, New York, United States
Brooklyn Youth Choir
Conductor: Dianne Berkon

Invocation**2006** 6 min

for SATB double chorus a cappella
Text: Karol Wojtyła, trans Jerzy Peterkiewicz (E)
9790060120756 **SATB**

World Premiere: 11 Jul 2006
Tewkesbury Abbey, Tewkesbury, United Kingdom
Oriol Singers
Conductor: Tim Morris

Jubilate Deo**2009** 3 min

for SATB choir and organ
Text: Book of Common Prayer (E)
9790060122224

World Premiere: 17 May 2009
Wells Cathedral, Wells, United Kingdom
Jonathan Vaughn, organ; Wells Cathedral Choir
Conductor: Matthew Owens

The Lamb has come for us from the House of David**1979** 3 min

for SATB choir and organ
Text: St Ephraim (E)
"At all times the lines are lyrical and singer-friendly, and the word-setting inspired. A definite must for any competent choir's library."
Organists' Review
9790060119255 **SATB, Organ**

World Premiere: 09 Jun 1979
St Peter's, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Schola Sancti Alberti
Conductor: James MacMillan

Laudi alla Vergine Maria**2004** 9 min

for SSAATTBB chorus a cappella
Text: Dante (I)
9790060116803 **Mixed Voices**

World Premiere: 06 Oct 2004
St Janskerk, Gouda, Netherlands
Netherlands Chamber Choir
Conductor: Stephen Layton

Let the sons of Israel say**2006** 2 min

Responsorial psalm for SATB choir

The Lord is my life and my help**2004** 2 min 30 sec

Introit, unaccompanied chant for unison voices

Magnificat**1999** 14 min

for SATB choir and organ
Text: 1662 Book of Common Prayer (E)

World premiere of version: 15 Jul 2000
Cathedral, Winchester, United Kingdom
Choir of Winchester Cathedral
Conductor: David Hill

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis**1999/2000** 20 min

for SATB choir and organ
Text: 1662 Book of Common Prayer (E)
9790060112973 **SATB (Choral Score)**

World premiere complete: 15 Jul 2000
Cathedral, Winchester, United Kingdom
Choir of Winchester Cathedral/Philip Scriven, organ
Conductor: David Hill

Màiri**1995**

11 min

for 16-part choir a cappella

Text: Evan Maccoll, trans James MacMillan (E)

SSSSAAAATTTTBBBB

9790060114595 **SSAA, TTBB****World Premiere: 19 May 1995**

St John's Smith Square, London, United Kingdom

BBC Singers

Conductor: Bo Holten

Mass**2000**

35 min

for SATB chorus and organ

Text: Liturgical (E)

"It is hard to think of any recent music that conveys religious ecstasy as intensely as James MacMillan's Mass... Closer in style to Britten than to Tavener, MacMillan is distinctive in his brilliant use of choral effects, with surging crescendos to stir the blood: it is music of high voltage from first to last."

*Gramophone*9790060112997 **SATB (Choral Score)****World Premiere: 22 Jun 2000**

Westminster Cathedral, London, United Kingdom

Andrew Reid, organ; Westminster Cathedral Choir

Conductor: Martin Baker

Miserere**2009**

10 min

for mixed chorus a cappella

Text: Psalm 51:3-21 (L)

World Premiere: 29 Aug 2009

Antwerp, Belgium

The Sixteen

Conductor: Harry Christophers

Missa Brevis**Kyrie; Gloria; Sanctus; Agnus Dei; At the conclusion**
1977

16 min

for SATB chorus a cappella

Text: Latin mass

"...here is a definite addition to the repertoire - finely crafted, sensitively set, it should sit well alongside the essays of Walton, Berkeley etc."

*Organists' Review*9790060119262 **SATB (Choral Score) (Latin)****World premiere incomplete: 21 Oct 2007**

St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Strathclyde University Chamber Choir

Conductor: Alan Tavener

Nemo te condemnavit**2005**

5 min

for SATB chorus a cappella

Text: Gospel according to St John, chapter 8, verses 10-11 (L)

9790051477470 **SATB****World Premiere: 18 Nov 2005**

Woolsey Hall, Yale University, New Haven, United States

Yale Glee Club

Conductor: Jeffrey Douma

A New Song**1997**

4 min

for SATB chorus and organ

Text: from Psalm 96 (E)

9790060112089 **SATB****World Premiere: 01 Mar 1998**

St Bride's Episcopal Church, Glasgow, United Kingdom

The Choir of St. Bride's Episcopal Church/Peter Christie, org

Conductor: Robert Marshall

Nunc Dimittis**2000**

8 min

for SATB choir and organ

Text: 1962 Book of Common Prayer (E)

O**An Antiphon for Advent****2008**

7 min 30 sec

Advent antiphon for 21 December, for 3-part treble choir, trumpet and strings or organ

Text: Liturgical (E)
9790060120237

World Premiere: 23 Jun 2008

Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
St Mary's Music School

O bone Jesu**2002**

10 min

for chorus a cappella

Text: Anon, 16th century (L)
9790060114953 **Mixed Choir (Choral Score)**

World Premiere: 10 Oct 2002

Southwark Cathedral, London, United Kingdom
The Sixteen
Conductor: Harry Christophers

O Lord, you had just cause**2006**

1 min

Entrance Antiphon, unaccompanied chant

Text: Liturgical (E)

On Love**1984**

5 min 30 sec

for solo voice or unison trebles and organ

Text: From "The Prophet" by Khalil Gibran (E)
9790060119279 **Voice, Piano or Organ**

World Premiere: 18 Aug 1984

Chapel of St Albert the Great, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Barbara Kelly; James MacMillan

On the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin**1996**

7 min

for SATB choir and organ

Text: Jeremy Taylor (E)
9790060106675 **SSATB, Organ**

World Premiere: 27 Apr 1997

Caius Chapel, Cambridge, United Kingdom
Choir of Gonville & Caius College Andrew Arthur, organ
Conductor: Geoffrey Webber

Our Father, Doxology, Acclamation and Great Amen**2007**

2 min 10 sec

for unison voices with organ accompaniment

Out of the depths**2005**

2 min

Responsorial psalm for SATB choir a cappella

Padre Pio's Prayer**2008**

11 min

Padre Pio prayer setting for SATB chorus and organ

Text: James MacMillan version of prayer attributed to Padre Pio (E)
9790060120350 **SATB, Organ**

World Premiere: 03 Jun 2008

Westminster Cathedral, London, United Kingdom
The Sixteen
Conductor: Harry Christophers

The Prophecy

(version for school-choir and ensemble)

1997

8 min

for school choir (2-part) and ensemble

Text: 'The Story of Deirdre', as translated by Kenneth Hurlstone-Jackson in 'A Celtic Miscellany' (E)

fl.Ebcl-trbn-perc(1):glsp/2tom-t/BD/susp.cym-pft-vln.vlc

World Premiere: 11 Oct 1997

Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, United Kingdom
children from Haringey Schools / musicians from The Philharmonia
Conductor: James MacMillan, Nicholas Wilks, John Cooney

Remember your mercies, Lord

2004

30 sec

Entrance antiphon, unaccompanied chant

Text: Liturgical (E)

Seinte Mari moder milde

1995

6 min

for SATB chorus and organ

Text: Anonymous, 13th century (E)

9790060103711 **SATB**

World Premiere: 24 Dec 1995

Kings College, Cambridge, United Kingdom
Kings College Chapel Choir
Conductor: Stephen Cleobury

Serenity

2009

4 min

for SATB choir and organ

Text: O Salutaris Hostia - St Thomas Aquinas (L); The Serenity Prayer - attributed to Reinhold Niebuhr (E)

World Premiere: 21 Jun 2009

St Aloysius' Church, Rose Street, Glasgow, United Kingdom
Students from St Aloysius' College

So Deep

1992

7 min

for SSAATTBB chorus with optional oboe and viola solos

Text: Robert Burns (Scots)

9790060092879 **SSAA, TTBB**

The Song of the Lamb

2008

5 min

for SATB chorus and organ

Text: Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Revelation 15: 2-4 (E)

9790060120770 **SSAATTBB (Score)**

World Premiere: 09 Mar 2008

House of Hope Presbyterian Church, St Paul, Minnesota, USA
Nancy Lancaster, organ; Motet Choir of The House of Hope Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, Minnesota
Conductor: Andrew Altenbach

The Spirit of the Lord fills the whole world

2005

2 min 30 sec

Entrance antiphon for SATB choir

St Anne's Mass

1985

5 min

Congregational Mass for unison voices and organ (or piano) with optional SATB choir

Text: Setting of movements from Catholic Mass (E)

9790060106330 **Congregational Parts (Pack of 10)**

9790060106323 **SATB (Vocal Score)**

The Strathclyde Motets

Data est mihi omnis potestas (It has been given to me)

2007

4 min 30 sec

Communion motet for Ascension Day, for SATB chorus a cappella

Text: Roman Breviary, Matthew 28: 18,19 (L)

9790060119538 **SATB (Vocal Score)**

World Premiere: 14 May 2007

St Columba's Church, Maryhill, Glasgow, United Kingdom
Strathclyde University Chamber Choir
Conductor: Alan Tavener

The Strathclyde Motets

Dominus dabit benignitatem (The Lord will bestow his loving kindness)
2006 5 min

Communion motet for the 1st Sunday in Advent, for SATB chorus a cappella

Text: Roman Breviary, Psalm 84: 13 (L)
9790060119316 **SATB (Vocal Score)**

World Premiere: 03 Dec 2006
St Columba's Church, Maryhill, Glasgow, United Kingdom
Strathclyde University Chamber Choir
Conductor: Alan Tavener

The Strathclyde Motets

Factus est repente (Suddenly, a sound came)
2005 2 min 45 sec

Communion motet for Pentecost, for SATB chorus a cappella

Text: Roman Breviary, Acts 2: 2,4 (L)
9790060119323 **SATB (Vocal Score)**

World Premiere: 15 May 2005
Strathclyde University Chaplaincy Centre, Glasgow, United Kingdom
Strathclyde University Chamber Choir
Conductor: Alan Tavener

The Strathclyde Motets

In splendoribus sanctorum (Amidst the splendours of the heavenly sanct)
2005 8 min 10 sec

Communion motet for Nativity Midnight Mass, for SATB chorus and obbligato trumpet or organ

Text: Roman Breviary, Psalm 109: 3 (L)
9790060119330 **SATB (Vocal Score)**

World Premiere: 24 Dec 2006
St Columba's Church, Maryhill, Glasgow, United Kingdom
St Columba's Church Choir

The Strathclyde Motets

Lux aeterna (Eternal Light)
2008 3 min

for SATB choir a cappella
9790060120558 **(Choral Score) (Latin)**

World Premiere: 02 Nov 2008
St Columba's Church, Maryhill, Glasgow, United Kingdom
Strathclyde University Chamber Choir
Conductor: Alan Tavener

The Strathclyde Motets

Mitte manum tuam (Stretch forth your hand)
2006 3 min

Communion motet for the 2nd Sunday of Easter, for SATB choir a cappella

Text: Roman Breviary, John 20: 27 (L)
9790060119347 **SATB (Vocal Score)**

World Premiere: 23 Apr 2006
St Columba's Church, Maryhill, Glasgow, United Kingdom
Strathclyde University Chamber Choir
Conductor: Alan Tavener

The Strathclyde Motets

O Radiant Dawn
2007 3 min

Advent antiphon for 21 December, for SATB choir a cappella

Text: (E)
9790060120275 **SATB (Choral Score)**

World Premiere: 02 Dec 2007
St Columba's, Maryhill, Glasgow, United Kingdom
St Columba's Church Choir

The Strathclyde Motets

Os mutorum
2008 3 min

for 2-part women's voices (or 2 solo voices) and medieval harp

Text: Medieval chant (L)
9790060120763 **(Vocal Score) SATB (Latin)**

World Premiere: 22 Jun 2008
St Columba's Roman Catholic Church, Hopehill Road, Maryhill, Glasgow, United Kingdo
Canty

The Strathclyde Motets**Pascha nostrum immolatus est (Our passover is sacrificed)
2008**

3 min

Communion motet for Easter Day, for SATB chorus a cappella

Text: Liturgical (L)

9790060120251 **SATB (Choral Score)****World Premiere: 23 Mar 2008**

St Columba's Church Maryhill, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Strathclyde University Chamber Choir

Conductor: Alan Tavener

The Strathclyde Motets**Qui meditabitur
2010**

5 min

for SSATTBB chorus a cappella

Text: Communion antiphon for Ash Wednesday (L)

World Premiere: 17 Feb 2010

St Columba's Church, Maryhill, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Strathclyde University Chamber Choir

The Strathclyde Motets**Sedebit Dominus Rex (The Lord will sit on his throne)
2005**

4 min 40 sec

Communion motet for the feast of Christ the King, for SATB chorus a cappella

Text: Roman Breviary, Psalm 28: 10b,11b (L-E)

9790060119354 **SATB (Vocal Score)****World Premiere: 20 Nov 2005**

Strathclyde University Chaplaincy Centre, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Strathclyde University Chamber Choir

Conductor: Alan Tavener

The Strathclyde Motets**The Canticle of Zachariah
2007**

3 min 30 sec

for SATB choir a cappella

Text: Luke I: 68-79 (E)

9790060120268 **SATB (Choral Score)****World Premiere: 02 Dec 2007**

St Columba's Maryhill, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Strathclyde University Chamber Choir

The Strathclyde Motets**Videns Dominus (When the Lord saw)
2005**

5 min 30 sec

Communion motet for the 5th Sunday in Lent, for SATB chorus a cappella

Text: Roman Breviary, John II: 33,35,43,44,39 (L)

9790060119361 **SATB (Vocal Score)****World Premiere: 13 Mar 2005**

Strathclyde University Chaplaincy Centre, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Strathclyde University Chamber Choir

Conductor: Alan Tavener

Success**2006**

2 min

for SATB chorus a cappella

Text: Bessie Stanley (E)

*"This is an eminently singable and attractive setting, and the closing reiterations of 'this is to have succeeded' are very moving indeed."**Organists' Review*9790060119309 **SATB**

Summae Trinitati

To the most high Trinity

2009

4 min

for SATB chorus, 4 trumpets, 3 optional trombones, timpani and organ

Text: From a 15th-century Canterbury pontifical (L)

World Premiere: 21 May 2009

Westminster Cathedral, London, United Kingdom

Westminster Cathedral Choir

Conductor: Martin Baker

Sun-Dogs

2006

18 min

for SATB chorus a cappella (with multiple divisi)

Text: Michael Symmons Roberts 'Sun Dogs' (E); Latin from the Roman Missal; English trad.

"The music itself was a revelation: a mesmeric blending of traditional and contemporary elements... a choral array of chanting and whispering, of shouting and speaking, of whistling and controlling disparate lines so that they wondrously merged... The co-creator of Sun-Dogs was British poet Michael Symmons Roberts who addresses theological and mythical symbolisms. Dogs, beggars, suns and stars turn into metaphors... The whole settled upon the ears like magic..."

Indiana Herald-Times

World Premiere: 06 Aug 2006

Auer Hall, Bloomington, Indiana, United States
Indiana University Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
Conductor: Carmen Téllez

Te Deum

2001

15 min

for SATB choir and organ

Text: 1662 Book of Common Prayer (E)

9790060114267 **SATB**

World Premiere: 03 Feb 2002

Tower of London, London, United Kingdom
Colm Carey, organ; Choir of the Chapel Royal, Her Majesty's Tower of London
Conductor: Stephen Tilton

Tenebrae Responsories

2006

20 min

for chorus a cappella

Text: from the Roman Breviary (L)

SATB vocal ensemble, with divisi up to SSAATTBB (eight singers on stage)

"This is a great work... The Tenebrae settings are complex and highly dramatic. MacMillan employs contrapuntal and chromatic lines, ornamentation derived from Jewish cantillation, glossalia and humming..."

Church Times

9790060119545 **SSAATTBB (Vocal Score)**

World Premiere: 04 Apr 2007

St. Andrews in the Square, Glasgow, United Kingdom
Cappella Nova
Conductor: Alan Tavener

To My Successor

2002

3 min

for SATB chorus a cappella

Text: George Herbert (E)

9790060115493 **SSAATB**

World Premiere: 27 Feb 2003

Canterbury Cathedral, Canterbury, United Kingdom
Choir of Canterbury Cathedral
Conductor: David Flood

Tremunt videntes angeli

2001

8 min

for SATB choir a cappella

Text: 5th Century Latin hymn 'Aeterne rex altissime' (L)

9790060114373 **SSAA, TTBB**

World Premiere: 09 May 2002

St.Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Choir of St.Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh
Conductor: Matthew Owens

When he calls to me, I will answer

2005

30 sec

Entrance antiphon, unaccompanied chant

Text: Liturgical (E)

Who Are These Angels?

2009

5 min

version for SATBB chorus and string quartet

Text: Anon, attributed to St Augustine (L); Anon (E)

Who Are These Angels?

2009

5 min

for male vocal ensemble (T,T,Bar,B,B) and string quartet

Text: Anon, attributed to St Augustine (L); Anon (E)

World Premiere: 28 Apr 2009

Laurenskerk, Rotterdam, Netherlands
DoelenKwartet / Ensemble Amarcord

BAND

Festival Fanfares

1986 4 min

for brass band

soprano cornet.solo cornets.repiano cornet.flugel horn.2nd cornets.3rd cornets-solo horn.1st horn.2nd horn-1st baritone.2nd baritone-1st trombones.2nd trombones.bass trombone-euphoniums.Eb bass.Bb bass-timp.perc:SD/cyms

Jebel

2007 3 min 30 sec

for brass band

2 Soprano Cornet in Eb, 1 Solo Cornet in Eb, 3 Repiano Cornet in Eb, 2 2nd Cornet in Bb, 2 3rd Cornet in Bb, 2 Flugelhorn, 1 Solo Horn in Eb, 2 1st Horn in Eb, 2 2nd Horn in Eb, 2 Baritone in Bb, 2 1st Trombone, 2 2nd Trombone, 2 Bass Trombone, 2 Euphonium, 3 Eb bass, 2 Bb bass, 1 Timp, 3 Perc

World Premiere: 01 Sep 2008

Jordanhill School, Glasgow, United Kingdom
Pupils of Jordanhill School

Sowetan Spring

1990 11 min

for wind band

3fl(III=picc).ob.CorA.Ebcl.3Bbcl.Eb alto cl.Bb bcl.2bn.2Eb asax.
2Bb tsax.Eb barsax-4hn.6tp.2trbn.bass tbn.2tuba.2tuba.db-timp.
perc(4):4congas/SD/cyms/metal wind chimes/2timbales/tam-t/2tom-t/3susp/cym/BD

9790051660254 **Symphonic Band (score & parts)**

9790051658329 **Symphonic Band (full score)**

World Premiere: 23 Sep 1990

Glasgow, United Kingdom
Winds of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra
Conductor: John Paynter

They saw the stone had been rolled away

1993 6 min

Fanfare for brass and percussion (alternative scoring)

2tpt.hn.2trbn.tuba-perc(2):2timbales/2bongos/5tpl.bl/2wdbl/2cowbells/t.bells/
lg tam-t/BD/4tom-t