

James MacMillan



James MacMillan Photo © Eric Richmond / ArenaPAL

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

FULL ORCHESTRA 1

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

FULL ORCHESTRA 1

Exsultet

(version for symphonic brass)

1998, arr.2000

8 min

for orchestral brass and percussion

4hn.3tp.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/guero/vibraslap/tam-t-harp-strings

World Premiere: 22 Feb 2008

Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, United Kingdom

BBC Philharmonic

Conductor: James MacMillan

FULL ORCHESTRA 2

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=af), 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 2

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):
cro/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

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

9790060113604 **Cor Anglais, Piano**

World Premiere: 11 Jul 1996

Barbican, London, United Kingdom

Christine Pendrill, cor anglais; London Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Kent Nagano