

James MacMillan



James MacMillan Photo © Eric Richmond / ArenaPAL

SOLO INSTRUMENT(S) AND ORCHESTRA

The Berserking

1990

33 min

Concerto for piano and orchestra

2.picc.3(III=corA),3(II=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/f.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/
cyms/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

SOLO INSTRUMENT(S) AND ORCHESTRA 1

9790060107047 Cello, Piano

World Premiere: 03 Oct 1996

Barbican, London, United Kingdom
Mstislav Rostropovich, cello; London Symphony Orchestra
Conductor: Colin Davis CBE

Cumnock Fair

1999

12 min

version for string orchestra and piano

pft-strings (max:8.6.4.4.2)

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;
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

SOLO INSTRUMENT(S) AND ORCHESTRA 1

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/gisp/
cyms/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 Score1362

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

Oboe Concerto

2009-10

23 min

for oboe and orchestra

2.0.corA.2.1.dbn-2.2.0.0-timp-strings

World Premiere: 15 Oct 2010

Birmingham Town Hall, Birmingham, United Kingdom

Nicholas Daniel, oboe; Britten Sinfonia

Conductor: James MacMillan

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

New York City Ballet / Christopher Wheeldon, choreographer / Cameron Grant, piano

Conductor: James MacMillan

Piano Concerto No.3

The Mysteries of Light

2007-08

25 min

for piano and orchestra

3(III=picc).2.corA.3(III=bcl).2.dbn-4.3.3(I&II=tenor, III=bass).1-timp.perc(3):vib/mark tree/4 wdbl/4 brake dr/BD/glock/tuned gongs/metal bar/tamb/water gong/tam-t/t.bells/güiro/vibraslap/4 tom-t/SD/susp.cym-harp-strings

"...a wild ride, overflowing with color and incident - turbulent, incantatory and, at moments, luminous."

- Larry Fuchsberg, Star Tribune

"...there's no doubt that MacMillan knows his way around an orchestra. His score is a cascade of instrumental coloration. There were times, for instance, when the performance shimmered in a tingling shower of ethereal voices... the piano's voice is often eerily doubled by chimes, vibraphone or other instruments, creating a sonority that is at times tingling. In all, it's a masterfully challenging piece for performers and listeners."

- David Hawley, St. Paul Pioneer Press

World Premiere: 14 Apr 2011

Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis, MN, USA

Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano; Minnesota Orchestra

Conductor: Osmo Vänskä

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/xyl/2wdbl/5tpl.bl/tamb/tuned
gongs/susp.cym/tam-t/glsp/2tgl/Herdenglocken*/vibraslap/lg güiro/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

Seraph

2010

15 min

for trumpet and string orchestra

World Premiere: 17 Feb 2011

Wigmore Hall, London, United Kingdom

Alison Balsom, trumpet; Scottish Ensemble

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.

*"...a compendium of song and dance digging deep into the primitivism of the distant past to
unlock memories much closer to the present. There are dizzying, spinning reels, dirges and
sentimental plaints with the violin often hauntingly evoking the "vocal" melismas of Celtic folk
singers."*

The Independent

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