

## James MacMillan



James MacMillan Photo © Boosey & Hawkes/Barry Marsden

### 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; cyms/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.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/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=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 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