

James MacMillan



James MacMillan Photo © Boosey & Hawkes/Barry Marsden

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Cumnock Fair

1999 12 min

for piano sextet, or string orchestra and piano
pft-string quintet or string orchestra (max:8.6.4.4.2)

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

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA 1

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

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA 1

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/gisp/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):gisp/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