

James MacMillan



James MacMillan Photo © Boosey & Hawkes/Barry Marsden

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/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/
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

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

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(II=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

SOLO INSTRUMENT(S) AND ORCHESTRA 1

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 2

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... Shamnation 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/xyl/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 brassy textures. 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 2

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

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