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Encyclopedia of Music in Ireland: Siobhán Cleary

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Cleary, Siobhán (b Dublin,10 May 1970). Composer. She graduated from NUI MAYNOOTH with a joint honours degree in music and Irish. In 1993 she completed a Masters degree in composition at QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST studying under Piers Hellawell and in 2000 received a Masters in Music and Media Technology from TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN. She has also studied privately with KEVIN VOLANS and Tom Johnson. In 1995 her violin duet *Duece!* (1995) was featured in the final of the Yorkshire and Humberside Arts Young Composers Award at the Huddersfield festival of contemporary music. She received the Pepinieres Young European Artists Award in 1996 which facilitated a three month residency in Bologna and in 1997 she was awarded first prize in the Arklow Music Festival's Composers Competition. In addition she has also written the music for the Roger Corman films, *Spacejacked*! and *Dangerous Curves.* She is founder and director of the Ireland Promoting New Music (IPNM) annual series of concerts and in 2008 was elected to AOSDÁNA, Ireland's state-sponsored affiliation of creative artists.

Cleary's music provides a contrast between dynamic, often rhythmically complex, material and a more reflective style of writing. Early works such as the orchestral piece *Threads* and the violin duet *Deuce!* display a predilection towards vibrant isorhythmic and fragmentary textures often contrasted with quiet meditative sections using an expressive lyricism and rich chorale-like writing. Her orchestral work *Alchemy* (2001) perhaps best exemplifies her approach in this regard where the poignant canonic entry of the opening material develops into a rhythmically charged percussion section in the third movement. Since 2000 she has experimented with electronics, both live and recorded, in works such as *Its 'd' Jim, but not as we know it* (revised version) and *Diamorphine*. She is currently working on her first opera based on the story of Jack the Ripper.

Word Count: 302
Word Count (with Work List and Discography): 663

Adrian Smith

Selected Compositions
Hum! 1998 (Galway, 1998). Orch, 2 actors.
Spacejacked! Film Score. (1998). Orch.
Dangerous Curves, Film Score. (1999). Orch.
The Time Traveller, Film Score. (2002) Orch.
Threads, 1992 rev. 1994 (Dublin, 1996). Orch.
Cordes, 1997 (Paris, 1997). Orch.
Alchemy, 2001 (Dublin, 2002). Orch.
Mis, 2008 (Tralee, 2008). Orch, narr.
Arabesque, Scherzo and Chorale, 1995 (Dublin, 1995). fl, cl, vn, pf (4 hands).
Passacaglia, 1995. fl, ob, cl, hn, xyl, vn, vc, db.
Deuce, 1995 (1995 Huddersfield). 2 vn.
Luna, 1996 (1996, Bologna). vn, pf.
Big Changes, 1996 rev. 1998 (1996, Bologna). picc, cl, pf, vn, vc, gui.
Un Chien Andalou, 1997 (Bologna, 1997). vn, pf.
Pipoon, 2000 (Dublin, 2000). vc, hrp.

Its 'd' Jim, but not as we know it, 2000 (Dublin, 2000) vn, vc, db.
Carrowkeel, 2003 (Dublin, 2003). 2vn, va, vc.
Fall and Passion, 2007 (London, 2007) vn, pf.
Conachlann, 2008 (Sligo 2008). ssax, asax, tsax, barsax, pf.
Etudes 1-3, 1994 rev.1995-1996 (Marseilles 1996). pf.
The Andalusian Dog, 1997 (Paris, 1997). vn.
Suantrai, 2003 (Sligo, 2004). pf.
Son of a Red-Haired Man, 2006 (Belfast 2006). pf.
Chaconne, 2007 (Dublin, 2007). pf.
Stabat Mater, 1991. satb.
Nunc Viridant Segetes, 1994 (Dublin, 1998). satb.
Elde, 2006 (Dublin, 2006). satb.
The Dance of the Seven Deadly Sins, 2007. satb.
Sweit Rois of Vertew, 2007. satb.
She Weeps Over Rahoon, 1993. S, pf.
Four Bird Songs by Simon J. Ortiz, 1995 (Dublin, 1995). Mez, cl, vc, pf.
The Dole of the King's Daughter, 2005, Mez, 2vn, va, vc, el-ac.
Petering Out, 2000 (Dublin, 2000). S-rec, live el-ac.
Its 'd' Jim, but not as we know it, 2001 rev. 2003 (Dublin, 2003) vn, vc, db, live el-ac.
Morphine, 2004 (Dublin, 2004) el-ac, ens.
Ringsend Sky with Egret, 2005 (Dublin, 2005). bfl, el-ac.
Diamorphine, 2005 (Dublin, 2005). el-ac.
Eblana Civitas, 2006 (Dublin, 2006). el-ac.
'Non so fair als he was', 2006 (Paris, 2006). el-ac.

Discography

Vienna Modern Masters: *Music from Six Continents* (Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra, cond. Jiri Mikila: CD VMM 3041, 1997)

Contemporary Music Centre: *Contemporary Music from Ireland, Volume 3* (Brona Cahill (vn) Michael Darcy (vn), CD, CMC CD03, 2001)

Contemporary Music Centre: *Contemporary Music from Ireland, Volume 6* (CMC CD06, 2006)