

# ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

## D. E. Mc CARTHY

### MUSIC COMPOSITION & SCORES

—BEGINS—

David Ernest Mc Carthy is a Modernist, Acoustic Music composer, with a particular interest and focus on scoring for Orchestra. Many of his works have some sort of a gimmick, or extramusical element to them. Early output could be classified as Performance Art and even Avant Garde, very much influenced by American Experimental Music and also the Defastenism movement (painting) and some its members: Alexander Reilly, P. Moore, Gary Farrelly, Sophie Iremonger, David Walter Mc Dermott.

He studied music, orchestration and composition primarily with Donnacha Dennehy, but also with Fergus Johnston, Roger Doyle, Jurgen Simpson, Andrew Johnstone, Gerry Culloty, Edward Holly (of Drogheda Male Voice Choir), Louis Andriessen (by correspondence), and Benoit Granier.

He has received grants and awards from An Chomhairle Ealaíonn (Arts Council), Creative Ireland, the arts offices of Meath County Council, Drogheda Borough Council, Louth County Council, Galway City Council, Roscommon County Council and Mayo County Council, as well as being a recipient of an An Chomhairle Ealaíonn “Projects: New Work” award for a 2007 dance show with video artist Tim Redfern and choreographer Olwen Grindley. The show featured a video-processed choreography with large augmented-reality solution for concert. Real and superimposed processed images of the dancer were overlapped and visible to spectators simultaneously.

In 2021 he won 3rd prize in the Franz Schubert Conservatory (Vienna) “World Championship In Composition” competition, under the Symphonic Wind Ensemble category, for a 2021 revision of “Study For Woodwind Brass And Percussion”.

He is a former committee-member of the Irish Composers Collective, managing website and press.

He has done work as a music promoter, in classical and electronic music, promoting chamber music shows in Dublin’s National Concert Hall Kevin Barry Room, and notable other collaborations included working as a sub-curator for Eamon Doyle of D1 Records as part of the DEAF festival 2003 at the Guinness Storehouse Dublin.

He worked in the Box Office of the National Concert Hall Dublin for a time in his twenties, often attending the concerts. He had gotten the job through Composer Jonathan Nangle whom he studied composition with on the MMT Masters programme at the University of Dublin.

For more info and scores, check out the composer’s website <http://music.mipublishing.ie>

List of performable works:

**String Quartet II** – Tonal work, with influences from Ethnomusicology, specifically Sufi Music devices, juxtaposed with slower, Traditional Irish styles.

**Symphony III** – Modernist symphonic work for orchestra, inspired by Quattro Pezzi Su Una Nota Sola of Giacinto Scelsi, and, the resonance figure-diagrams in Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov’s book Principles of Orchestration. Supported by an award from Meath County Council Arts Office.

**String Quartet** – Premiered by the ConTempo Quartet, a slightly unconventional score with an almost graphic notation, inspired by the tense sound-worlds of the music of Morton Feldman.

**Performance VII** – Avant Garde Experimental Music and a democratisation of the role of Composer towards Electronics Musicians. Terror-strobes and gabba-techno for Concert Hall or Chamber Music settings.

**Symphony II** – Minimalist programme-music score influenced by Spectral and Experimental Music, and, also inspired by a tale from Irish mythology, specifically, Lady Gregory’s rendition of “The Last Of The Great Men”.

**Performance V** – Premiered by Ensemble ICC. Performance art, with actor, inspired by American Experimental Music, specifically the scores of La Monte Young and John Cage. In order to perform it properly, you should fall asleep while listening to it.

**Performance IV** – Premiered by the RIAM Percussion Ensemble, an Arte Povera inspired score for Four Larger Wine Glasses (NON-CRYSTAL GLASSES).

**Study For Woodwind, Brass And Percussion** – A medium-length work for Symphonic Band, done as an orchestration exercise for Dutch composer Louis Andriessen, inspired by lessons with composition teacher Donnacha Dennehy and the fixed-interval harmonies of Jazz such as stacked perfect 4ths, stacked perfect 5ths, etc. In the music, all possible interval stacks are exhibited having no repeated pitch-class, while fitting the range of the orchestra. This score was partially composed at a residency at the Heinrich Böll Cottage on Achill Island, supported by Mayo County Council. A 2021 revision of the score was supported by An Chomhairle Ealaíonn (Irish Arts Council). It won 3rd prize in the Franz Schubert Konservatorium “World Championship In Composition” competition in 2021.

**Performance II “Accelerator Quartet”** – Experimental music graphic score for Four Motorcars, inspired by the Helicopter String Quartet of Karlheinz Stockhausen. The composer briefly met Stockhausen in person at SARC (Queen’s University Belfast) at a concert of Wednesday from the opera entitled Licht, in 2004.

**“Piano Piece”** – Minimalist piano music inspired by Quattro Pezzi Su Una Nota Sola of Giacinto Scelsi. Serves as an étude for dynamics, i.e. crescendo and decrescendo.

**Symphony** – Spectral music avant-garde work inspired by a tale from Irish mythology, specifically, Lady Gregory’s rendition of “The Last Of The Great Men”.

—ENDS—

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