AILIS NI RIAIN
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Contemporary Music Centre Ireland
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Music-Theatre + Stage + Opera

Still, life... [2026]
Immersive opera-theatre
Premiere October 2026, Wexford Festival Opera

Hidden Heartache [2026]
Music-Theatre
Premiere May 2026, Munich Biennale

Fáinleoga [2025]
15 mins. Chamber opera 2 Soprano & 1 Mezzo, accordion.
Text by Doireann Ní Ghríofa

Wired [2022]
70 mins. Electroacoustic Dance-theatre music score
Wired tells the story of race, gender, and disability stories of barbed wire in the United States

Break Down De Doom [2017]
Music-theatre 25 mins. Mezzo soprano & string quartet
Text by Mac Wellman

I Used to Feel... [2016]
Music-theatre 30 mins. 1 instrument, 1 deaf performer
Site-specific: hotel room. Text by A Ní Ríain

Skloniste [2015]
55 mins. Accordion, film, fixed audio, verbatim texts
Sklöniste - a reflection on the Siege of Sarajevo [1992-1996] in which 13,952 people lost their lives

Treasured [2012]
80 mins. Trumpet [solo] plus brass quintet, fixed audio, six actors.
Text & music by A Ní Ríain

Brief-Blue-Electric-Bloom [2009]
Music-theatre 60 mins. Two deaf, signing performers
Two guitars, video & fixed audio.
Text by A Ní Ríain

Sawn-off Opera [2006/2009]
Five short chamber operas c. 60 mins. Sop, mezzo, ten, bar
Set in hotel rooms - site specific or staged . Text by David Gaffney

The Falling [2005]
Music-theatre 50 mins. Harp, fixed audio, text.
Text by A Ní Ríain

Orchestral

Scarscape [2025]
15 mins. Symphony orchestra
3.3.3.3.4.3.3.1.1 Timp. 2 Perc.
Harp. Str :14-12-10-8-6

The Land Grows Weary of its Own [2023]
19 mins. Symphony orchestra
3.3.3.3.3.3.3.1.1 Timp.
2 Perc. Str: 14-12-10-8-6

Calling mutely through lipless mouth [2022]
15 mins. Orchestra
2222 222 Perc [x 2] Strings

Flower Scar Road [2021]
14 mins. Orchestra
2222 222 Perc [x 2] Strings

Vocal - Solo voice

Refuse to be Wrecked [2023]
Music-theatre 10 mins. Soprano & fixed audio media
Text by Howard Barker

Watershed [2021]
Song cycle. 25 mins. Any low treble voice & piano
Text by Jessica Brown

A Crow's Wisp/Sop Préacháin [2019]
Song cycle. 12 mins. Soprano and piano
Text by Aifric Mac Aodha

Break Down De Doom [2017]
Music-theatre/Opera. 24 mins. Soprano & string quartet
Text by Mac Wellman

Cimmerian [2015]
5 mins. Solo Mezzo & fixed media
Text by A Ní Ríain
Mourning Bracelet [2012]
6 mins. Baritone & piano
Text by Carole Bromley

End with Words of Hope [2010]
9 mins. Soprano & clarinet
Text by Sappho & A Ní Ríain

In Sleep... [2009]
15 mins. Ms, fl, clar, bsn, tpt, trb, pf, perc
Text by A Ní Ríain

Attrition [2001]
14 mins. Soprano & piano
Text by K Clarke

A Song for My Body [1998]
12 mins. Sop, fl, tpt, vc, pf, perc
Text by Christy Brown

Two Songs (1995/6)
5 mins. Any solo voice
Texts by Eavan Boland

Choral

From the Diary of an Exile [2022]
15 mins. SATB Choir.
3 Movements. Text by Mac Amhlaigh/Iremonger

Eyeless [2012]
14 mins. Folk singer and SATB Choir
Text by A Ní Ríain (in Irish & English)

Stones [2008]
5 mins. Male voices
No text.

Instrumental Solos

Counterweight [2024]
13 mins. Contrabass clarinet, video & sound.
Music, electroacoustic fixed media and video by A Ní Ríain

Contrair [2024]
5 mins. Solo piano.

Oneiric [2024]
6 mins. Solo violin.
Doomed. Damned. Done For. And Still... [2023]
7 mins. Cello & fixed audio

Mascaron [2022]
6 mins. Double-bass & fixed audio

I will see if I can see/Feicfidh mé má thig liom feicsin (2022)
6 mins. Accordion, fixed media

Hiding Out 'Neath the Everything [2021]
6 mins. Violin and fixed audio

Tick (2020)
70 secs. Organ

Our First Lesson in Forgetting (2019)
7 mins. Classical guitar

The Height of Me (2018)
5 mins. Piano. Includes an interpolation of Debussy's Les soirs illuminés par l'ardeur du carbon [2017]

Soberado (2017)
4 mins. Toy piano

Will it be easy? [2017]
Graphic score - any instrument

Sklonište (2015/16) [concert version]*
60 mins. Accordion

Not About Heroes (2014) [concert version]*
20 mins. Cello

When I die, you can do what you want (2014)
12 mins. Violin with video

Treasured (2012) [concert version]*
10 mins. Trumpet & fixed audio/or without

Beautiful Cracked Eyes (2008)
11 mins. Piano

Surrealist Pilgrims (2007)
12 mins. Cello & fixed audio. Text by A Ní Ríain
Into the Sea of Waking Dreams... (2007)
10 mins. Piano with optional texts

2 Steep 4 Sheep (some hills are) (2006)
6 mins. Harpsichord and fixed audio

The Falling (2005)
8 mins. Harp & spoken voice

Fear is (2005)
5 mins. Harp & spoken voice

Rude Boy (2002)
3 mins. Piano

Flat-Footed-Former-Flyer (2002)
Music-theatre 12 mins. Trombone

Dogs in Waiting (1999)
8 mins. Double-bass

The Z Suite [1994]
5 mins. Piano

** refers to a work which was originally composed for a stage or installation context*

Duos

Earthstopper [2025]
6 mins. Trombone & piano

Sour Morning Crimson [2020]
c. 7 mins. Organ & electronics

Parambassis [2019]
10 mins. Bass-clarinet & recorders

Highfalutin [2017]
2 mins. Two flutes

Consent #7 [2017]
7 mins. Bass-flute and Bass-clarinet

The Consequences of Falling [2013]
12 mins. Double-bass & trumpet

Quantitas Speaks [2012]
12 mins. Piano duo & fixed audio

10,000 Deviants [2007]
5 mins. Flute, piano (& optional speaker)

FIRST ABSOLUTE EXECUTION [2004]
11 mins. Bass-clarinet & accordion

DON'T! [2000]
4 mins. Bass-clarinet & cello

The Man Made of Rain [1999]
10 mins. Clarinet/speaker & piano

Trios

...never here and nowhere else... [2025]
9 mins. Violin, viola, cello

Born Unfixed to Bend and Break and Leave Behind [2023]
13 mins. Violin, cello & piano

Soundless [2016]
c. 5 mins. Any 3 treble instruments

Reinventions [2010]
18 mins. Clarinet, viola, piano. Optional texts. Text Inger Christensen [Denmark]
This piece includes an interpolation of seven of J S Bach's Two Part Inventions BWV 772-786

UPTHEWALLS [2007]
5 mins. Trumpet, drumkit, double-bass

The Last Time I Died... [2002]
8 mins. Violin, piano, percussion

Under the Rose... [2000]
10 mins. Flute, violin, piano

Quartets : Quintets : Sextets : Octets +

3.Outside [2026]
10 mins. Piano, violin, clarinet/s, electronics, saxophone and electric guitar

And still it breathes... [2025]
12 mins. Brass quartet

Holocene [2025]
13 mins. Brass quintet, brass ensemble [16-20] & cymbal ensemble [4-6]

Revelling/Reckoning [2021]
In two movements 14 mins. Wind quintet & 1 percussion [non-tuned]

Wait [2020]
20 mins. String quartet

In Sleep... [2009]
15 mins. Mezzo, flute, clarinet, bassoon, trumpet, trombone, piano, percussion
Text by A Ní Ríain

A Song for My Body [1998]
12 mins. Sop, fl, tpt, vc, pf, perc. Text by Christy Brown

Orizzontale [1997]
9 mins. Violin, clarinet, cello, piano

Electroacoustic

Yaw [2024]
11 mins.

Wired [2022]
70 mins. Electroacoustic score for dance-theatre

East West: Where Morning is the Sea [2021]
12 mins.

StreetSong [2006]
5 mins.

Wounds, scars, screams [2005]
6 mins. Text by Ailís Ní Ríain

But Will You? [2004]
Text by Ailís Ní Ríain

Installation

Dendrocopos [2023]

East West: Where Morning is the Sea [2021]

No Other Word for It [2019]

Linger [2015-2016]

Pulse [2013]

Intone [2013]

Taken [2012]

The Hearing Test [2012]

Boy you Turn Me [2011]

Conversations We Wish We'd Had [2010]

Down [2010]

Lighthouse Lullaby [2009]

Missing Persons [2006]

Listen & Watch