

Gráinne Mulvey

Aeolus

Christopher Fox

untouch

new music for electronics



Gráinne Mulvey: *Aeolus* (2017)

In the *Odyssey*, Aeolus was king of the floating island of Aeolia and “Keeper of the Winds”. Though a mortal according to Homer, later classical writers portray him as a god. He gave his name to the Aeolian harp, an ancient Greek instrument which produces sound by the wind passing through a set of tuned strings. The different tensions of the strings produce a series of fluctuating harmonic sweeps as the wind varies in strength.

Aeolus was written for an installation by the sculptor Mark Garry at the Dublin Institute of Technology campus at Grangegorman as part of the *Sounding Out The Space* conference in November 2017. Mark has long been interested in building and developing Aeolian harps and incorporating them in his work. The piece for DIT was no exception, so using the sound of one of his harps was the ideal starting point for the music, much of my recent work being based on the natural harmonic series. All the source material is derived from recordings of one of Mark’s harps, along with the ambient sounds of wind and birdsong captured by chance when making the field recordings. Percussive sounds that appear in the middle section are derived from the strings being plucked and struck.

The piece starts quietly with just the sound of the wind, pitched material gradually appearing as the strings start to vibrate. As the piece develops, the birdsong emerges into the foreground and a three-way dialogue ensues between the nature sounds, the unprocessed harp and electronically manipulated recordings treated in the manner of *musique concrète*. This builds to a peak about halfway through the piece before dissolving back into faint echoes of the opening material, eventually receding into silence.

Aeolus was commissioned by Dr. Adrian Smith of Dublin Institute of Technology as part of an installation with funding generously provided by Professor Noel Fitzpatrick and under the auspices of DIT.

Gráinne Mulvey

Christopher Fox: *untouch* (2017)

untouch is the first part of a work in two parts, *untouch—touch*, that I wrote for the percussionist Serge Vuille. He premiered it at the 2017 Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival. In the second part, *touch*, the percussionist plays six Thai gongs, suspended around him, striking them with his hands in slow, almost ritualised, repeating patterns.

In *untouch*, as its title suggests, the percussionist performs the same series of movements, but without striking the gongs. Instead, each hand movement triggers a sine-tone, gradually introducing the six strongest overtones of each of the six gongs: ‘untouch’ as an abstraction of ‘touch’.

Christopher Fox

Christopher Fox

Christopher Fox is a composer who sometimes writes about music too. Often working at a tangent to the musical mainstream he has based his compositional career around close collaborations with particular performers, including Roger Heaton, Ian Pace, Anton Lukoszevieve, the instrumental groups the Ives Ensemble, KNM Berlin and Apartment House, and the vocal ensembles The Clerks and EXAUDI.

His work is the subject of the book *Perspectives on the music of Christopher Fox: Straight lines in broken times* (Ashgate-Routledge, 2016). CDs of his music are available on the Ergodos, HatHut, Métier and NMC labels. He is editor of *TEMPO* and professor of music at Brunel University London.



Gráinne Mulvey

Christopher Fox



Gráinne Mulvey

Gráinne Mulvey was born in Dublin. She studied under Professor Nicola LeFanu and was awarded a DPhil in Composition from the University of York in 1999. She also holds an MA in Composition from Queen's University, Belfast and a BA(Hons) degree from Waterford Institute of Technology, under Dr. Eric Sweeney.

She was appointed Head of Composition at Dublin Institute of Technology Conservatory of Music and Drama in 2001 and has wide experience of teaching from beginners to doctoral level. She has acted as external examiner for both undergraduate and postgraduate composition at Trinity College Dublin, the Royal Irish Academy of Music and WIT. She has also been involved with composition outreach educational workshops and advanced composers' composition projects during 2012, 2013. She was appointed as one of the Course Directors of the IMRO Summer School of Composition in 2014 and 2016. In 2001, 2010 and 2011, she was on the adjudicator's panel for the Guido d'Arezzo Composers' Composition Competition in Italy. She has curated concerts for the Contemporary Music Centre, Ireland in 2011, 2012, the Association of Irish Composers in May 2016 and a retrospective concert of her work at The Carlow Arts Festival in June 2016. She has also been on many discussion panels involving composition.

Her cello and tape piece *Syzygy* has been reviewed in *Musicology Review* Vol 6 and her *Trinity Fanfare* for two trumpets and organ is published by Prairie Dawg Press, New York. Her two choral works *Dead Earth* and *Sanctus* are due to be published by Sulasol Press. Several of her works are now published by the French company, Babel Scores Online. Her trio bassoon piece *Rí Rá* is also due to be published by Prairie Dawg Press. She is listed in *The Encyclopaedia of Music in Ireland* UCD Press.

Her music has been widely performed both in Ireland and abroad and she has received many broadcasts of her work by radio stations across the globe. One of her earliest works *Étude*, for piano (1994), was selected for that year's International Rostrum of Composers in Paris, an honour that was to be repeated with 2004's orchestral work *Scorched Earth*, and in 2015 with *Diffractions* for orchestra, in Slovenia.

She was a featured composer in the 2007 *Horizons* concert series, with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, conductor Robert Houlihan, performing three of her orchestral works. She has the distinction of being selected for the ISCM World Music Days in consecutive years with *Akanos*, for orchestra (Lithuania, 2008) and *Stabat Mater*, for 17 voices a cappella (Växjö, Sweden, 2009).

She has won various prestigious competitions, notably the RTE Musician Of The Future (Composers' class) in 1994, the Sligo International Festival Composers' Competition, in 1999 and the St. John's Memorial University Award, Waterford and Newfoundland in 2003. She received a "most distinguished musician and special mention" at the IBLA International Foundation Competition in 2016.

She is a joint winner with visual artist Mihai Cucu, in the Music Video category of The Cutting Edge Film Festival 2016, in the USA, for her electronic piece *Proclamation*.

She has received commissions and performances, notably from Concorde and Jane O'Leary, (who have championed her music both in Ireland and abroad, receiving four commissions from this ensemble), the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, the Ulster Orchestra, the Northern Sinfonia (UK), the Romanian Radio Chamber Orchestra, the Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra, the Hradec Králové Philharmonic Orchestra (Czech Republic), Orchestre De Lorraine, France, pianists Cheryl Pauls (Canada) and Slawomir Zubrzycki (Poland), Matthew Schellhorn, (UK), David Bremner, (UK), soprano Elizabeth Hilliard, the Chamber Choir Ireland, the Bruce Gbur Bassoon Ensemble (USA), the TampereRaw Ensemble (Finland), trombonist Barrie Webb, BlackHair (UK), the Sepia Ensemble (Poland), flautist Joe O'Farrell, cellist Martin Johnson, (principal, RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra), Palomar Ensemble (USA) with both *Arachnid*, and then *Interstices* performed in Feb. 2013, among others.

She has attended many composition courses over the years, studying with Peter Maxwell Davies, Jonathan Harvey, Louis Andriessen, Kaija Saariaho and Boguslaw Schaeffer to name but a few.

Both *Scorched Earth* and *Akanos* have been broadcast widely throughout the world, and she was the subject of an in-depth profile on Swiss Radio in 2008 and a programme of her major orchestral pieces was aired by Slovenian Radio in 2009 and by Bernard Clarke of Nova, RTE Lyric FM in 2015.

Horizons Series 2015 featured two orchestral works: *Diffractions* (2014) and *Excursions and Ascents*, (2014), a cello concerto for Martin Johnson, which were performed by the RTE NSO, conductor, Gavin Maloney.

Two of her pieces: *Sextet Uno* and *Rational Option Insanity*, have been recorded by the Concorde Ensemble, on the Black Box label in 1999. Her *Soundscape* for violin, cello, percussion and tape, was issued by the Avantgarde Akademie in Schwaz, Austria in 1996. *Akanos* was included on *Contemporary Music from Ireland, Vol 7* (CMC). Her piece *Calorescence*, (2013), for piano is released on the new CMC label: *New Music: New Ireland Vol. 2*. The Métier album *Gothic* released by the pianist Mary Dullea includes her piece *Étude*.

Phonology Garden and *Eternity Is Now*, recorded by soprano Elizabeth Hilliard, were included in *Sea To The West* on the Métier Label. Her portrait album *Akanos* on the Navona label Cat: NV5943 by PARMA Recordings llc, was released in February 2014. Another new work will be released on the Audior 5 volume of electronic music in Italy, May 2018.

Her music has been performed in the UK, Poland, France, and Japan and Canada, and Germany during 2015, 2016 and 2017. Other performances are due to take place in Ireland, France, Italy, Denmark and the US during 2018.

She is represented by the CMC Ireland, AIC, IMRO, IAWM, (International Alliance for Women in Music), Donne In Musica and is a member of *Aosdána*, Ireland's organisation of creative artists.

www.grainnemulvey.com

Collaborators

Adrian Smith is lecturer in musicology at the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama. In November 2017 he organised an international conference entitled 'Sounding Out the Space' which explored the spatiality of sound across the disciplines of sound art, contemporary music, architecture and the visual arts. As part of the conference he commissioned the composer Gráinne Mulvey and the artist Mark Garry to collaborate on a sonic sculptural project which subsequently became *Aeolus*.

Mark Garry is an Irish visual artist. His practice stems from and is informed by a number of diverse fields of research. They inform my interest in observing and engaging with the many mechanisms that influence and effect how one navigates the world – in particular the complexity and subjectivity inherent in these navigations. His practice is multifaceted and incorporates a variety of media and mechanisms including installations, sonic sculptures and collaborative music projects. This practice is both research based and process driven.

Mark has held exhibitions at museums and art venues in France, Germany, Italy Lithuania, North America, Australia and Asia and was one of the artists who represented Ireland at the 2005 Venice Biennale.

Mark has made Aeolian (wind) Harps for a number of sites and contexts, as permanent public artworks located in the Shannon river in a number of off-site exhibitions and he has transformed sail boats into floating Aeolian harps and has structured live performances around these harps in collaboration with Sean Carpio in Detroit and on Sherkin Island off the coast of West Cork. Subsequent to these performances Mark and Sean were commissioned by Ireland's Music Network to make a series of records that related to these performances.

Also from Métier



'Gothic' – new piano music from Ireland
Includes *Étude* by Grainne Mulvey
Mary Dullea (piano)
Métier MSV 28549



'Hohler Fels' - new music for flute
Includes *stone.wind.rain.sun*³
by Christopher Fox
Karin de Fleyt (flutes)
Métier MSV 28555



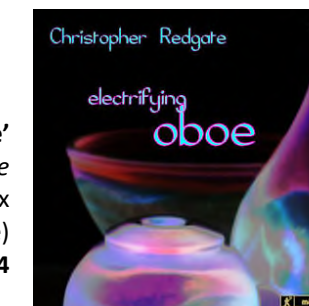
'Contours'
Includes *Generic Composition #7*
by Christopher Fox
Kate Romano (clarinet)
Métier MSVCD 92074



'Sea to the West'
Includes *Phonology Garden* and
Eternity is Now by Grainne Mulvey
and *Sea to the West* and
Magnification by Christopher Fox
Elizabeth Hilliard (soprano)
Métier MSV 28551



'Greatest Hits of All Time':
New music for oboe
Includes *Oboe Quintet*
by Christopher Fox
Christopher Redgate (oboe)
Métier MSV 28513

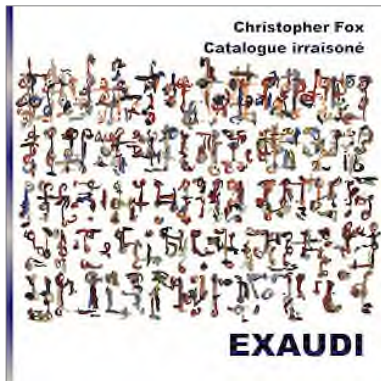


'Electrifying Oboe'
Includes *Headlong* and *Broadway Boogie*
by Christopher Fox
Christopher Redgate (oboe)
Métier MSV 77204

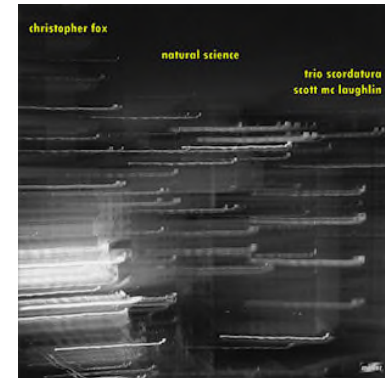
The Métier Fox collection



'Headlong'
Heather Roche (clarinets)
Métier MSV 28573



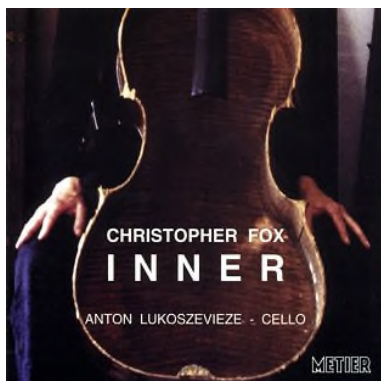
'Catalogue irraisonné'
EXAUDI
Métier MSVCD 92103



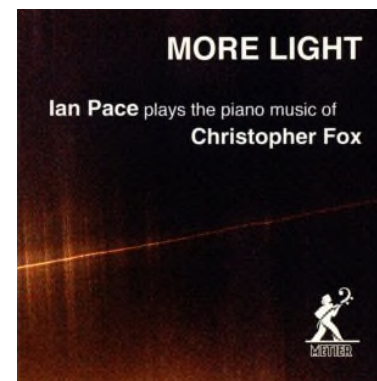
'Natural Science'
Trio Scordatura
Scott Mc Laughlin (guitar)
Métier MSV 28526



'Straight lines in broken times'
Ives Ensemble
Métier MSVCD 92081



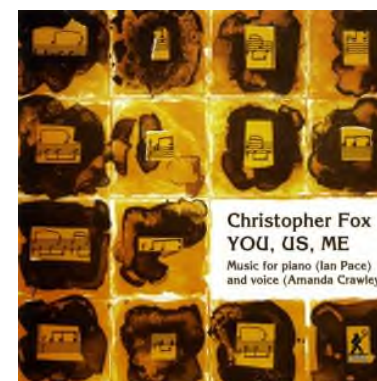
'Inner'
Anton Lukoszevieve (cello)
Métier MSV 92059



'More Light'
Ian Pace (piano)
Métier MSV 92022



'Fox and Feldman Clarinet Quintets'
Roger Heaton (clarinet) & ensemble
Métier MSVCD 92082



'You, Us, Me'
Amanda Crawley (soprano),
Ian Pace (piano)
Métier MSVCD 92031

Aeolus was realised by Gráinne Mulvey in 2017
untouch was realised by Christopher Fox in 2017
Booklet and packaging design: Stephen Sutton (Divine Art)
Cover photo: Mark Garry
Photo of Gráinne Mulvey by Rory Moran
Photo of Christopher Fox by Sally Trussler
All texts photographs and graphic devices are copyright and used with permission.
All rights reserved.
©+© 2018 Divine Art Ltd (Diversions LLC in USA/Canada)



DIVINE ART RECORDINGS GROUP

INNOVATIVE | ECLECTIC | FASCINATING | INSPIRATIONAL



A full list of over 500 titles, with full track details, reviews, artist profiles and audio samples, is on our website. Our recordings are available on disc or download at all good dealers or direct from us. Direct customers get discount vouchers and rapid shipment.

The Divine Art store offers all titles in lossless flac and high quality mp3; all new titles are also available in 24-bit studio HD quality.

Diversions LLC (Divine Art USA) email: sales@divineartrecords.com
Divine Art Ltd (UK) email: uksales@divineartrecords.com

www.divineartrecords.com

Samples from every album can be accessed on the Divine Art Records YouTube channel



<https://www.facebook.com/DivineArtRecordingsGroup>



<https://www.youtube.com/divineartrecords>

WARNING: Copyright subsists in all recordings issued under this label. Any unauthorised broadcasting, public performance, copying or re-recording thereof in any manner whatsoever will constitute an infringement of such copyright. In the United Kingdom, licences for the use of recordings for public performance may be obtained from Phonographic Performance Ltd, 1, Upper James Street, London W1R 3HG.





mds 29006

0809730900624



Gráinne Mulvey (b.1966)

1 **Aeolus** 14:16

Christopher Fox (b. 1955)

2 **untouch** 10:04



métier

mds 29006



DDD



Gráinne Mulvey

Christopher Fox

Aeolus

(14:16)

untouch

(10:04)

Total duration 24:20

