

Ailbhe McDonagh composer bio c. 300 words

Ailbhe McDonagh is an established composer with over 250 published works and commissions to her name. Her debut orchestral work 'Irish Isles Suite' was recorded and released by the RTÉ Concert Orchestra in 2023. Her much anticipated violin concerto the 'Irish Four Seasons' is due to be released in 2024.

Ailbhe is a widely commissioned and celebrated composer with a breadth of works written for orchestra, chamber music and solo instruments. Some notable commissions include her String Quartet No.1 for the Appalachian Chamber Music Festival, USA, an eight hand piano work for the opening of the Whyte Recital Hall at the RIAM, Dublin, a piano trio for the Via Columbani, a piano duet for the Dublin International Chamber Music Festival, and a solo cello suite supported by the Arts Council of Ireland.

String Quartet No.2 was commissioned by the National String Quartet Foundation of Ireland and premiered by the Ficino Ensemble in 2023. The work was featured in The Strad magazine as their "Premiere of the Month".

Other works include her very popular cello and piano piece Skellig from the album of the same name released in 2020. Valentia for cello and piano was composed for her 2022 national tour of Ireland with pianist John O'Connor. The cello quartet Cellango was recorded for a Music Network cello quartet tour in 2021. Her violin and cello piece Calary Tango was composed for Music in Calary series and was premiered by violinist Lynda O'Connor.

She has released several collections of her pedagogical music through London-based publishers Boosey & Hawkes, notably the popular book series 'It's a Piano Thing' (2017) and 'It's a Cello Thing' (2021). Ailbhe has also composed pieces for violin, viola, double bass, guitar, harp and ukulele which feature in the Boosey & Hawkes 'Grade by Grade' series.

Her compositions have been featured in the syllabi of leading music institutions worldwide including ABRSM, Hal Leonard, RCM Canada, London College of Music and RIAM Local Centre Examinations.

You can browse Ailbhe's compositions directly from her website www.ailbhemcdonagh.com.