

## **Ailbhe McDonagh composer biography**

Ailbhe McDonagh is an acclaimed composer with over 250 published works and commissions to her name. She has released several collections of her music through London-based publishers Boosey & Hawkes, notably the popular pedagogical book series '*It's a Piano Thing*' (2017) and '*It's a Cello Thing*' (2021).

She made her orchestral composition debut in 2022 with the violin concerto '*The Irish Four Seasons*', a 22 minute work in four movements. This piece was commissioned by violinist Lynda O'Connor as a companion piece to the Vivaldi Four Seasons. This album was recorded at Windmill Lane Studios in the same year.

In 2023, Ailbhe wrote her second orchestral work the '*Irish Isles Suite*' which was recorded by the RTÉ Concert Orchestra with conductor David Brophy. This is a 13 minute work in three movements based on Achill Island, the Blasket Islands and Tory Island which are situated off the west coast of Ireland.

Ailbhe has received chamber music commissions from prestigious festivals and organisations. Her first string quartet, '*Appalachian String Quartet*' was commissioned by the Appalachian Chamber Music Festival, USA in 2021. A second string quartet has been commissioned by the National String Quartet Foundation of Ireland and will be premiered in 2023. She has also been commissioned by the The Dublin International Chamber Music Festival, Ireland, and the Hamburg Chamber Music Festival, Germany.

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