

John Wolf Brennan

(b. 1954)

• *Klang (Sound). Zeit (Time). Raum (Space).*
To open the doors to this magic realm is an enigma which never ceases to puzzle me. Between the two poles of composition and improvisation there is a whole universe of exciting new tonalities, timbres, textures and timescapes: the polyrhythmical pulse of the galaxies of improvisation.



Pianist and composer John Wolf Brennan was born in Dublin. He studied music at the University of Fribourg, and piano, conducting and organ at the Musikhochschule Lucerne in Switzerland. He also attended composition masterclasses with Edison Denisov, Klaus Huber, Heinz Holliger, Hanspeter Kyburz and Ennio

Morricone. His compositions cover a wide spectrum of musical concepts and methods ranging from music for solo piano to chamber pieces and choral settings. He has also written numerous works for theatre, dance and multi-media performances.

John Wolf Brennan recently completed his second opera *Night Shift*, based on W.H. Auden's *The Age of Anxiety*. Current projects include *SILK/ST/RINGS* for pipa and guitar trio, *platzDADA!* (slam poetry by Hans Arp, Kurt Schwitters & Daniil Charms) and *Wurzelklänge*, a comprehensive collection of children's pieces with a Celtic theme. His discography lists more than fifty CDs. He lives in Weggis, Lake Lucerne, Switzerland with his wife, pianist Beatrice Wolf, and three girls Moreen, Enya and Jayne.

Selected Works

ENSEMBLE

Triple Stipple (2006)

3 gui
MS

Commissioned by the Concert Guitar Trio. Premiere: 28 April 2006. Festival International de la Guitare, Fribourg, Switzerland.

Klanggang (2003)

pf perc tape
tape 35' 35'

Commissioned by Peter Fischer.

Premiere: 15 March 2003. Art Museum Lucerne, Switzerland.

Recording: *klanggang*. John Wolf Brennan (pf). Creative Works Records 2003. MiWi Art Edition 2017.

N-gl (1999)

ca, bn, va
MS 12'

Commissioned by MDR Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk.

Premiere: 28 June 1999. Museum der Bildenden Künste, Leipzig, Germany. Ensemble Sortisatio.

Zigfing (1998)

2 pf [8 hands]
MS 10'

Premiere: 5 December 1998. Lucerne International Music Festival, Switzerland.

for ED (i) S on ly (1997)

ob, asax, vib, vn, vc
MS 3'

Commissioned by Thüring Bräm with funds provided by Studio für Zeitgenössische Musik.

Premiere: 3 December 1997. Lucerne Conservatory, Lucerne, Switzerland. Sabine Novak (ob), Mario Venuti (asax), Christoff Stöckli (vib), Christian Weidmann (vn), Justine Pelhena (vc).

Nearly Charming (1997)

cl, bn, hn, 2 vn, va, vc, db
MS 10'

Commissioned by Hindemith Foundation.

Premiere: 4 July 1997. Blonay, Aula de Bahyse. Moscow Contemporary Music Ensemble, conductor Jean-Luc Darbellay.

Rhap.s.odie (1996)

vn pf
MS 8'

Premiere: 3 March 1996. Zentrum Mutschellen, Zürich, Switzerland. Katharina Schamboeck (vn), Tomas Dratva (pf). Recording: *Groupe Lacroix: The Composer Group*. Moscow Rachmaninov Trio: Mikhail Tsinman (vn), Viktor Yampolsky (pf). Creative Works 1997. CW 1030.

Alef Bet (1996)

vn vc pf
MS 10'

Premiere: 7 December 1996. Moscow Autumn Festival. Trio Rachmaninoff.

A Golly Gal's Way to Galway Bay (1995)

picc, fl, afl, bfl, sub contra bfl [8 - 55 instr. ,variable]
 Pyramid Music Ltd 8'
 Commissioned by James Galway.
 Premiere: 12 August 1995. Seventh International Flute Seminar, Weggis, Switzerland. Flute Ensemble of the Seventh International Flute Seminar, conductor James Galway.

Epithalamium (1994)

fl+bfl, ob+ca, cl+bcl, perc, pf, vn, va, vc, db
 MS 18'
 Commissioned by International Music Festival, Lucerne.
 Premiere: 26 May 1995. Alternativa Festival, Moscow, Russia. Moscow Contemporary Music Ensemble, conductor Alexej Vinogradov.
 Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Diálogos (1994)

2 vc
 MS 8'
 Commissioned by Christine Lacoste and Mark Varshavsky.

Frictions (1993)

fl, bcl, vib vn va vc
 MS 10'
 Premiere: 5 September 1993. Lucerne Conservatory, Lucerne, Switzerland. Ad hoc student ensemble.

Atanos (1993)

asax, pf, db
 Edition Pan 13'
 Commissioned by Andrea Formenti.
 Premiere: 27 November 1995. Moscow Autumn Festival. Marc Sieffert (asax), Christine Sieffert (pf), Igor Solokhine (db).

Twelfth Night (1992)

2 asax, tsax, barsax
 Edition Pan 15'

SOLO INSTRUMENTAL

Pictures in a Gallery (2006)

pf
 tape 5'
 Commissioned by Musikedition Nepomuk.
 Recording: Pictures in a Gallery. John Wolf Brennan (pf). Leo Records CD LR 464.

Olos (1996)

cl
 Musikedition Nepomuk 5'
 Commissioned by Musikedition Nepomuk.
 Premiere: 15 June 1996. Basel, Freie Musikschule, Switzerland. Sibylle Bucher (cl). Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Leave it in Limbo (1996)

hn
 MS 4'
 Commissioned by Groupe Lacroix.
 Premiere: 20 February 1997. 'Mostly Modern' series, Bank of Ireland Arts Centre, Dublin. Olivier Darbellay.

Asikudaphari (1995 - 1996)

vn
 MS 4'
 Premiere: 3 March 1996. Zentrum Mutschellen, Zürich, Switzerland. Katharina Schamboeck (vn).

Pandämonium (1995)

org
 Edition Pan / pan 36 8'
 Premiere: 7 June 1995. Parish Church, Weggis, Switzerland. Olivier Eisenmann (org).

Happy Birthday Variationen (1992)

pf
 Edition Pan / Schauer and May Ltd 10'

Sonata Pentatonica (1992)

pf
 Edition Pan / Pan 35 15'
 Premiere: 19 September 1993. Peter Waters (pf).

Capriccio (1990)

pf
 Edition Pan 4'
 Premiere: 15 September 1990. Musiksommer, Weggis, Switzerland. David Meacock (pf).
 Recording: *Bestiarium*. David Meacock (pf). Swiss Pan 1991. 510 046.

Treiblinge (1982)

pf
 Edition Pan 20'
 Recording: *Bestiarium*. John Wolf Brennan (pf). Swiss Pan 1991. 510 046.

Drei ver-flix-te Stücke (1980 - 1992)

fl
 Edition Pan 9'
 Premiere: 14 November 1999. Berkeley Arts Center, California, USA. Diane Grubbe.

VOCAL AND CHORAL

Sculpted Sound (2003)

S-solo, euph perc pf va
 Text: Ernst Jandl, Gerhard Ruhm.
 tape 3'
 Recording: *Sculpted Sound*. Magda Vogel (s-solo), Shirley Anne Hofmann (euph), Charlotte Hug (va), John Wolf Brennan (pf), Christian Wolfarth (perc). Altrisuoni 2002. AS 165.

Der Letzte Ketzler (1999)

Incidental music to the play by Paul Steinmann
 satb
 Text: Paul Steinmann
 MS 24'
 Premiere: 1 September 1999. Auf der Sulzig, Werthenstein, Lucerne, Switzerland.

Arpiade (1999)

Mez-solo, pf
 Text: Hans Arp
 MS 3'
 Premiere: 8 August 1999. Hotel Albana, Weggis, Switzerland. Barbara Sutter (Mez-solo), Béatrice Wolf (pf).

Fraeschber's Traum (1997)

S-solo, bcl, vn, va, vc
 MS 8'
 Premiere: 20 September 1997. FRI-ART, Fribourg, Switzerland. Sylvia Nopper (S-solo), Colla Parte Quartet: Reto Wildeisen (bcl), Georg Jacobi (vn), Friedemann Jahnig (va), Erich Plüss (vc).

SprüchGägeSprüch (1991)

satb [2 choirs], 2 vn, va, vc, perc
 Text: Heinrich Ineichen
 Edition Pan / pan 1006 26'
 Premiere: 30 November 1991. Ballwil, Switzerland. Kirchenchor Ballwil, conductor Josef Estermann.

Morgenstern hat Gold im Mund (1987 - 1994)

satb+perc
 Edition Pan / pan 1007 22'
 Premiere: 21 May 1995. Musiksommer, Weggis, Switzerland. Pro Musica, conductor Pierre Sarbach.

Bestiarium (1983 - 1990)

high voice, pf
 Edition Pan 23'
 Recording: *Bestiarium*. Kurt Müller (T-solo), Peter Baur (pf). Swiss Pan 1991. 510 046.