

ROBINSON MCCLELLAN, COMPOSER

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Robinson McClellan's music explores fundamental and primal impulses that draw people to music — legend, history, the sacred, memory, melody, and the performance process itself. These interests express themselves in a widely-ranging output: from substantial sacred and secular choral works to hymns and congregational songs designed to be taught by ear; from orchestral and chamber works to music for bagpipes and banjo. Musical and textual inspirations have ranged from Schubert and Janáček to Arabic and Persian mystic poets, Medieval miracle plays, shape-note songs, Gaelic traditional music, Sufi Qawwali, Greek Byzantine chant, Islamic geometry, and more.

An emblematic piece, *This Ravelled Dust: Cantata for a Nuclear Age*, is a 45-minute work for choir, soloists and chamber ensemble that confronts the complexities of nuclear energy. The piece combines a modern poem about nuclear proliferation, filled with Old-Testament imagery, with the ancient words of the liturgical 'O Antiphons.' Drawing from Britten's church operas, Medieval Welsh harp music and Handel's *Messiah*, the work taps a rich palette of allusive meaning.



AMONG THE SIGNS
Three Verses from the Koran, in English
(with American hymn tune: "Resignation")
Robinson McClellan (2003)

Koran: Romans: 20, 24, 25
trans. Thomas Cleary
(used by permission of HarperCollins)

Hymn text by Isaac Watts
(paraphrased Psalm 23)

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 108$

Soprano (S): A - mong the signs
Alto (A): And a - mong the signs
Tenor/Bass (T/B): And a - mong the signs

DREAMING IN DARKNESS
Music and words by Robinson McClellan

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 64$

Soprano: Dream - ing... dream ing... dream-ing in dark -
Alto: dream-ing... dream-ing... dream-ing in dark -
Tenor: dream-ing... dream-ing... dream-ing in dark -
Bass: Dream ing... in dark - ness,
Dark -

Robinson McClellan
They Worship Without Words
for SATB Choir (or SA with Organ or Strings)

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 64$

Kid, for rehearsal

2009

A circular gold medallion or coin featuring a profile of a classical figure, possibly a deity or philosopher, surrounded by a decorative border. The medallion is shown in a close-up, slightly angled view.

ALLELUIA
Robinson McClellan (2003, revised 2005)

$\text{♩} = 85$

PSALM 13 - LAMENT
Robinson McClellan (1997)

Latin Vulgate

Tenor: Us - que - quo Do - mi-ne o - bi -
Baritone: Us - que - quo Do - mi-ne o - bi -
Bass: Us - que - quo Do - mi-ne o - bi -

$\text{♩} = 80$

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Bio and Works List

Audiences have heard Robinson McClellan's music at the Oregon Bach Festival, the Vatican, Windsor Castle, Hungary's Monteverdi Choir Festival, and many other venues. Commissions have come from Yale Schola Cantorum, the Albany Symphony, the Museum of Biblical Art (NYC), the Toronto Choral Artists, and others, and ensembles such as the Chicago Choral Artists and the Fort Worth and Knox-Galesburg Symphonies have presented his music.

Robin's choral music is published in the NCCO Choral Series, *Music by Heart* (a hymnal) and Feniarco's *Choraliter* in Italy. He has received awards and residencies from the MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and ASCAP.

He has spent the past several years immersed in pibroch (*piobaireachd*), an ancient Gaelic bagpiping tradition. His compositions often reference pibroch, and his research on its unique rhythmic style appears in a scholarly anthology from Ashgate. He is founder and director of El Salto, a unique forum for contemporary music heard in a context of broad-minded religious/humanist inquiry, and composer in residence of ActorCor, a NYC-based choir dedicated to bridging religious divides.

He earned his doctorate in composition (DMA) at the Yale School of Music and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music. He is on the faculty at Hunter, Manhattan, Wagner and St. Francis Colleges, Rutgers Arts Online, and the Lucy Moses School (NYC); between them he teaches composition, theory, Western music history, and world music.

SELECTED CHORAL WORKS

SATB

Nunc dimittis (2005) for SATB choir and SATB soloists or semi-chorus
Duration 5:00; Text (in English and Latin): Luke 29-32
**Published in the NCCO Choral Music Series*

Dreaming in Darkness (2005) for SATB choir
Duration 1:30; Text by the composer (about the dreams of children)
also available, with sacred text, as **Lighten Our Darkness** (Evensong Collect)

Alleluia (2002 rev. 2005) for SATB choir
Duration 5:00; Text: "Alleluia" (single word)

Confession (2001) for SATB choir
Duration 4:00; Text: Book of Common Prayer (Episcopal Church USA)

Sweetly Sleeping (2004) a Christmas carol for SATB choir and recorder;
Duration 5:00; Text: Sara Teasdale (also available for SSA and TTB)

Psalm 72: The Generations (2011) for SATB choir and organ
Duration 7:00; Text: from Psalms 72 and 145

When Hafiz Sings (2009) for SATB choir and percussion
Duration 3:00; Text: Hafiz (Persian poet), trans. R.W. Emerson

They Worship Without Words (2009) for SATB choir
Duration 6:00; Text: Robin Muir-Miller (Christmas text, on the three kings)

This Ravelled Dust (2009) cantata for SATB choir, STB soloists, and chamber ensemble (fl, hn, hp, va, cb, perc)
Duration 45:00; Texts: Advent liturgy, Robin Muir-Miller, and Biblical selections

Seven 'O Antiphons' (2009) for SATB choir
Duration 13:00; Text: Advent liturgy

The Passion According to Mark (2006) for SATB choir and organ
Duration 25:00; Text: Gospel of Mark 14:32 - 15:47 (for Anglican use, year B)

SAB, TBB, SSA, etc.

Among the Signs (2003) for SAB choir
Duration 7:00; Texts: Qur'an, Romans: 20-25, trans. Thomas Cleary, and a quoted hymn by Isaac Watts

Psalm 13 – Lament (1997)
for TBarB (chorus or soloists)
Duration 4:00; Text (in Latin): Vulgate Bible

Noorun (arr., 2008) for SAB choir
Duration 5:00; Text: al-Ghazzali (in Arabic)

Sweetly Sleeping (see at left) — arr. SSA and TTB

The Woman Turns Herself into a Fish (2004)
for female vocal trio or SSA choir
Duration 5:00; Text: Eavan Boland

Who is this King of Glory? (2007)
for SSA or SAB, including children's choir
Duration 2:00; Text: Psalm 24: 7-10

Farewell MacCrimmon (2006) for SSA, SST, or SAB
Duration 3:00; Text: Ewart Alan Mackintosh

Sung Morning Prayer Service (2006) for congregation
Duration 30:00; Selected and composed/arranged all material
for a weekly congregational service, using Gaelic sources

For a complete list including
orchestral and chamber music,
please visit www.robinsonmcclellan.com.