

Colin Mawby

(b. 1936)

“My music is approachable. I make great use of sonority and have been much influenced by plainchant. I value the spiritual element in music and have a healthy contempt for musical fashion. I “do my own thing”.”



Photo: Eugene Langan

Born in 1936, Colin Mawby is widely known as a choral conductor and composer. As a conductor, he has worked with the London Mozart Players, the Wren Orchestra, Pro Cantione Antiqua, the Belgian Radio Choir and the BBC Singers. He has been Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral, London, Choral Director at Radio Telefís Éireann (RTE) and artistic director of Ireland’s National Chamber Choir. On his retirement

from the National Chamber Choir in 2001 he was appointed Artistic Director Emeritus to the choir.

As a composer, his extensive output includes twenty-four masses, five song cycles, a large number of settings for choir and two children’s operas. He has received commissions from RTE, Westminster Cathedral, Liverpool Cathedral, the Royal School of Church Music, the Cathedral of the Madeleine, Salt Lake City, and Grace Church, New York, USA. Recent works include a piece written especially for the Requiem of Cardinal Basil Hume and a fanfare for the opening of the Concert Hall in Dublin City University. Awards include Top Honors in the 2002 *Waging Peace Through Singing* competition in Oregon, USA for his *Prayer of Forgiveness*.

His music is published by Kevin Mayhew, Oregon Catholic Press, Carus-Verlag, the Gregorian Institute of America, the Royal School of Church Music, Edizioni Carrara, Dr J. Butz and Edition Ferrimontana. CDs of his music have been released on the Oregon Catholic Press, Warner Classics, Teldec, Hyperion, Black Box, EMI and Kevin Mayhew labels. His setting of Psalm 23 was included on Charlotte Church’s CD, *Voice of an Angel* and *Ave Maria* was recorded on the Celtic Tenor’s CD, *So Strong*.

Selected Works

SOLO INSTRUMENTAL

Organ Sonata No. 1 (2000)

Kevin Mayhew Ltd 20’
Premiere: June 2002. Hiroshima University, Japan. Simon Dearsley (org).

Triptych for Organ (1996)

Kevin Mayhew Ltd 12’
Commissioned by Kevin Mayhew Ltd.
Premiere: June 2001. Hiroshima University, Japan. Simon Dearsley (org).

VOCAL AND CHORAL

Pastoralmesse in G (2006)

S-solo, satb str org
Ausgabe Butz / Verl.-Nr.1988 15’

The Quest (2000)

An Opera for Young People
satb [div. with soli], children’s voices, 2 perc [opt.] pf
Text: Maeve Ingoldsby
National Chamber Choir 120’
Commissioned by the National Chamber Choir with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 19 June 2001. Draiocht Arts Centre, Blanchardstown, Dublin. National Chamber Choir, conductor Colin Mawby.

A Song of Thanksgiving (1998)

satb org
Text: Rabindranath Tagore
MS 5’
Commissioned by Bruce G. McInnes.
Premiere: September 1998. Grace Church, New York, USA.
Grace Church Choir, conductor Bruce G. McInnes.

The Christ-child Lay on Mary’s Lap (1997)

satb [div. with solo]
Text: G. K. Chesterton
Oregon Catholic Press [Trinitas] 3’
Premiere: 19 June 1997. National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin.
National Chamber Choir, conductor Colin Mawby.
Recording: *The National Chamber Choir at the National Gallery*.
National Chamber Choir, conductor Colin Mawby. National Chamber Choir 1997. NCC 5-390712-000487.

Prayer of Forgiveness (1997)

satb [div. with solo]
Text: Anon
MS 6’
Premiere: 5 June 1997. National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin.
National Chamber Choir, conductor Colin Mawby.

A Light Entertainment (1997)

satb, children’s choir, 2 perc, pf
MS 20’
Commissioned by the National Chamber Choir with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 17 February 1998. Ballymun Library, Dublin. National Chamber Choir, Fergal Caulfield (pf), conductor Colin Mawby.

Adam lay ybounden (1997)

satb [div.]
Text: Anon 15th century.
Oregon Catholic Press [Trinitas] 2’
Premiere: December 1997. Dublin City University. National Chamber Choir, conductor Colin Mawby.
Recording: *On Christmas Night*. National Chamber Choir, conductor Colin Mawby. Oregon Catholic Press 1998. OCP 10811.

A Modern Medieval Carol (1997)

sath org
Oregon Catholic Press [Trinitas] 2'
Premiere: December 1997. Dublin City University. National Chamber Choir, conductor Colin Mawby.
Recording: *On Christmas Night*. National Chamber Choir, Fergal Caulfield (org), conductor Colin Mawby. Oregon Catholic Press 1998. OCP 10811.

The Johnstown Choir Book II (1997)

sa [treble voices], org
Oregon Catholic Press [Trinitas] 7'
Premiere: 1996 - 1999. Johnstown Parish Church. Johnstown Junior Choir, conductor Colin Mawby.

Rosc Catha na Mumhan (1996)

S-solo, sath [div.] 2222 4231 timp 3 perc str
Cumann Náisiúnta na gCór 6'
Commissioned by Cumann Náisiúnta na gCór with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: September 2001. Ulster Youth Choir, Ulster Orchestra, conductor Christopher Bell.

The Torc of Gold (1996)

An Opera for Young People
sath [div.], children's choir, 2+ perc [opt.] pf
Text: Maeve Ingoldsbay
National Chamber Choir 60'
Commissioned by National Chamber Choir.
Premiere: 24 June 1997. The Ark, Temple Bar, Dublin. National Chamber Choir, Fergal Caulfield (pf), David Brophy (perc), conductor Colin Mawby. Recording: *The Torc of Gold*. National Chamber Choir, conductor Colin Mawby. Video.

Te Deum II (1996)

S-solo, sath, children's choir, 0000 0200 timp 3 perc org cel str
MS 30'

How far is it to Bethlehem? (1996)

sath org
Text: Frances Chesterton
Oregon Catholic Press [Trinitas] 4'
Premiere: December 1997. Dublin City University. National Chamber Choir, Roy Holmes (pf), conductor Colin Mawby.
Recording: *On Christmas Night*. National Chamber Choir, Fergal Caulfield (org), conductor Colin Mawby. Oregon Catholic Press 1998. OCP 10811.

The Johnstown Choir Book I (1996)

sa [treble voices], org
Oregon Catholic Press [Trinitas] 10'
Premiere: 1996 - 1999. Johnstown Parish Church. Johnstown Junior Choir, conductor Colin Mawby.

The Lord is on High (1996)

sath org
Text: Michael Forster
Oregon Catholic Press [Trinitas] 4'
Commissioned by the Charles Wood Summer School.
Premiere: 1998. Charles Wood Summer School, Armagh. Charles Wood Summer School Choir, conductor Colin Mawby.

Requiem of Hope (1995 - 2002)

S-solo, sath [div.], org
Text: Anon, Henry Vaughan, John Henry Newman.
Kevin Mayhew Ltd

Christus Vincit (1995)

sath, 2 tpt, 3 trb, perc, org
Text: Psalm 67: 29-30; 33-36
Kevin Mayhew Ltd / KM140 5'
Commissioned by James O'Donnell for the Centenary Mass at Westminster Cathedral.
Premiere: 29 June 1995. Westminster Cathedral, London. Westminster Cathedral Choir, members of the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

In memoriam Aloys Fleischmann (1994)

sath [div.]
Text: J. M. Synge, Anon 10th-century, trans. Frank O'Connor.
MS 4'
Commissioned by the Cork International Choral Festival.
Premiere: April 1994. Aula Maxima, University College, Cork. RTE Chamber Choir, conductor Colin Mawby.
Recording: *Cork International Choral Festival 1994 Highlights*. RTE Chamber Choir, conductor Colin Mawby. Corkfest Records 1994. CF94.

Mass of the Holy City (1993)

sath [div.], cntr, cong, org
Text: Ordinary of the Mass
Kevin Mayhew Ltd 20'
Commissioned by the Cathedral of the Madeleine, Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A.
Premiere: 21 February 1993. Cathedral of the Madeleine, Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A. Choir of the Madeleine, Salt Lake City, conductor Gregory Glenn.

Pie Jesu Domine (1993)

sath [div. with solo]
Text: Requiem Mass
Kevin Mayhew Ltd / KM141 4'
Premiere: Unknown date. RTÉ Chamber Choir, conductor Colin Mawby.

The Heavenly Christmas Tree (1992)

sath [div.], sa [children's], fl, 2 perc, pf, audience, speaker
Kevin Mayhew Ltd 40'
Premiere: December 1993. Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin. RTE Chamber Choir, RTE Cór na nÓg, Gillian Smith (pf), William Dowdall (fl), conductor Colin Mawby.

Jubilate Deo (1992)

ssaattbb, org
Text: Psalm 100
Kevin Mayhew Ltd / KM143 3'
Premiere: Unknown date. National Chamber Choir, conductor Colin Mawby.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Songs for Many Seasons (1991)

sath pf
Text: Jeremy Davies
Kevin Mayhew Ltd 36'

Nonsense for Gombeens (1991)

sath [div. with soli]
MS 4'
Commissioned by the Cork International Choral Festival for the 28th Seminar on Contemporary Choral Music.
Premiere: May 1991. Cork. Cantique.

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree (1990)

sath org
Text: Anon
Kevin Mayhew Ltd 5'
Premiere: 1992. St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. National Chamber Choir, John O'Keefe (org), conductor Colin Mawby.

Festival Mass (1987)

S-solo, sath [div.], cntr, cong, org
Kevin Mayhew Ltd 10'
Commissioned by Westminster Cathedral.
Premiere: Whitsun 1987. Westminster Cathedral, London. Westminster Cathedral Choir, conductor David Hill.

Mass for Three Voices and Organ (1986)

ssa [boys' voices], org
Cumann Náisiúnta na gCór / CNC 23 12'
Commissioned by Rev. Gerard Slamon on behalf of the Boy Choristers of St Mel's Cathedral, Longford with funds provided by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
Premiere: 26 April 1987. St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Dublin. St Mel's Boy Choristers, conductor Rev. Gerard Slamon.
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.

Ave Verum Corpus (1978)

sath [div.], org
Text: 14th century
Kevin Mayhew Ltd / KM142 4'
Premiere: 1989. Ad hoc choir, conductor Colin Mawby.

Four Psalm Settings (1963)

ss [children's or adult choir] org
Text: Psalms 95, 101, 137, 148
GIA Publications Inc. / G-4491 9'
Premiere: 1963. Westminster Cathedral. Westminster Cathedral Choir, conductor Colin Mawby.