

Simon Mawhinney

Simon Mawhinney was born in 1976 and is currently Head of Area (Music) at Queen's University Belfast. His catalogue of compositions runs to over 75 works, for a wide range of media, from instrumental works to electronic compositions. The timescale of the works is likewise highly varied, ranging from ephemeral miniatures to single movements that last almost an hour. Forthcoming works include a chamber concerto for Ensemble Caput (Iceland), a concertante work for cellist Chrichan Larson (Sweden) and a large-scale piano work entitled *The Garden of Light*.

Daniel Josiah is sleeping for solo piano

The composer writes:

As a teacher of composition I began to envy my students, who I noticed kept winning lots of composition prizes. I therefore decided it might be fun to enter one myself – my first such effort since winning a Royal Philharmonic Society Composition Prize in 2002. I saw the advert for William Howard's Love Songs Competition, but it was only when I looked at my two year old sleeping that I had a sensation of a kind of music that might make a suitable entry. He looked so tender and luminous. In writing this piece I set upon the task of creating harmony that was delicate, transparent and replete with warmth.