

Connor McLean

Composer

"It is with a little genius McLean has an eye for the hidden codes of public space"

- Sune Anderberg, Seismograf



Connor McLean is a composer and performer from Chicago, IL. based in Copenhagen, Denmark. He works with a variety of media, performance practices and musical traditions in dialogue with one another.

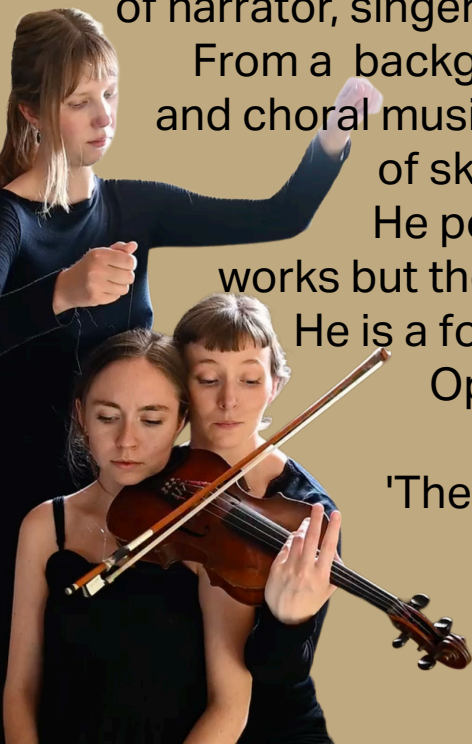
McLean's works are concerned with how to re-enchant the world, how to cast mundane situations in a new light and how to relate our inner worlds to broader social and historical issues.



In his own works, Connor often takes on the role of narrator, singer, guitar player and director.

From a background of theater, rock, folk and choral music, McLean has a varied set of skills applicable to the stage. He performs not only in his own works but those of his contemporaries.

He is a founding member of Munich Operating Theater alongside Nikolaus von Bemberg and 'The Ensemble That Loves You' with James Black.



selected projects

I will give my love an apple is a piece written for the Icelandic string trio, Trio Sol (violin, violin, viola). In this work the three musicians are arranged in a variety of novel sculptural, choreographic positions, focusing on ways that playing might be possible. This piece draws heavily from folklore and folk music, particularly in connection to the fiddle as a bewitched object, granting it's user magical abilities.

I will give my love an apple 2025



Piano Concerto, 2024

Piano Concerto is a concert length piece for a weird, flexible group of instruments with Nikolaus von Bemberg as the soloist playing Piano, Juno-60 synthesizer, Casio CTK-80 and midi keyboard. The piece unfolds like a poem through different video, text and musical mediums telling the story of a plane crash. [Read more about it if you want!](#)

Chort was written for Dutch trumpet player Marco Blauw, as an exploration of the trumpet as an extension of a bodily system beginning at the diaphragm leading to the lips. Blauw's double bell trumpet becomes an interface connecting breath to a series of smaller wind instruments.

Chort, 2024



The neighbors are all asleep, the band is practicing very quietly to not wake them, the front man is a ghost.

take it all home was written for ensemble K!art. In this piece I construct a songish thing, or something that can never quite become a song out of parts of my old songs.



Arlowe is a documentary piece about London. It was made walking around, taking videos and photos with Nikolaus von Bemberg on the 'London Calling' residency with Art Music Denmark in 2022. In particular this piece delves into the desires one encounters in London and how they interact with the housing crisis, the security state and naturally - capitalism.

take it all home, 2023

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Arlowe, 2022



Fragments is a concert length piece developed with Nikolaus von Bemberg. Fragments follows different strands of history, iconography and music, casting light on our relationship to death and its intersections with mythology, private property and friendship. Fragments was premiered at Minu Festival 2022.

Read what Macon Holt wrote about it here.



Complete List of works

Solo :

Dirt - Solo amplified cello with video (2026)
Good Occasionally Poor - solo soprano and electronics (2025)
Chort – Prepared double bell trumpet (2023)
Swallowing My Teeth – Solo Voice (2022)
Scrying – Percussion and electronics (2022)
before, behind, between, above, below – amplified steel string guitar and electronics (2021)
Music For Six Objects – percussion solo (2019)
Wandering The River Of Stars – solo piano (2018)
Call No Answer – solo piano (2016)

Small Ensemble:

I will give my love an apple - String trio (2025)
take it all home – electric guitar, drum set and midi keyboard (2023)
Fragments – Connor McLean and Nikolaus von Bemberg (2022)
Arlowe – Documentary video, narrator and pianist (2022)
this is the record of john – mixed ensemble (2020)
untitled work – chamber ensemble (2020)
six section in two places – mixed ensemble & live electronics (2020)
i am a two hearted animal – chamber ensemble (2019)
Terrible Light – String Quartet (2019)
When The Sky Is Full Of Clouds And The Ground Is Wet With Rain – string quartet (2017)

Large Ensemble:

Piano Concerto - keyboard soloist and mixed ensemble (2024)
Duprass – Sinfonietta (2020)
Funeral Sentences – Trumpet solo and percussion ensemble (2019)
When The Sky Is Full Of Clouds And The Ground Is Wet With Rain – string orchestra (2019)
Still And Still Moving – chamber orchestra (2018)

Orchestra:

one by one, all the things that go by – amplified trumpet and orchestra

Links

[Fragments](#)

[Piano Concerto](#)

[Chort](#)

[Terrible Light](#)

[take it all home](#)

[one by one, all the things that go by](#)

[Homepage](#)

[SONGS](#)