**Galar an ghrá** – three poems by Maghnus Ó Domhnaill (ca. 1490-1564)

for baritone and piano

Raymond Deane

Described in the Annals of the Four Masters as "a learned man, skilled in many arts, gifted with a profound intellect, and the knowledge of every science", Maghnus Ó Domhnaill was Lord of Tír Chonaill (Tyrconnell – more or less equivalent to County Donegal) until deposed in 1555 and imprisoned for a time by his son Calvagh. His poetry evokes the continental tradition of 'courtly love', andat its best “reveal[s] a highly individual poetic sensibility” (Seán Ó Tuama).

The three poems that I have chosen are emotional yet tightly formal, and I have attempted to reproduce these traits in my settings which are structurally closely linked, to the point of forming a tripartite unity. I imagined Maghnus writing them in prison (not necessarily historical fact!), with his spirit suddenly taking wing towards the end as he envisages “A bird lifing from clear water, a bright sun put out”.

I. Dar liom, is galar é an grá / Love, I think, is a disease

II. Goirt anocht, deireadh mo scéil / A famished end to my tale this night

III. Croí lán de smaointe / A heart made full of thought

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Raymond Deane (born 1953) spent the first 10 years of his life on Achill Island. Subsequently he studied music in University College Dublin, graduating in 1974. He studied composition in Switzerland and Germany, and lived for a time in Paris. He has composed over 100 musical works in all genres, including concerti for oboe, piano and violin, seven string quartets, and four operas (most recently *Vagabones*, based on a play by Emma Donohue, commissioned by Opera Collective Ireland and premiered in September 2019). He has also published a novel (*Death of a Medium*, 1992) and a memoir (*In my own Light*, 2014), as well as many articles and essays on aesthetic and political matters. He was elected to Aosdána, the Irish academy of artists, in 1987. In 2005 he was awarded a D.Mus degree by NUI Maynooth. Raymond Deane divides his time between Dublin and Fürth (Bavaria).