

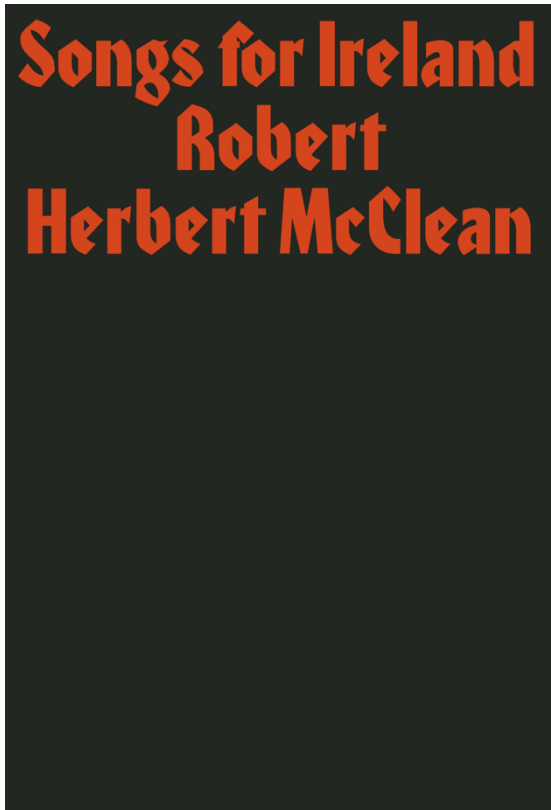
PRESS RELEASE: POETRY / INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS

Songs for Ireland

Robert Herbert McClean

Published: 20 May 2020 | Price: £12.00 paperback | ISBN: 978-1-913513-01-6

'Songs for Ireland is a lesson in sublime discomfort, in what poetry can and (just as importantly) cannot be, and in what we need it to be.' – **Ahren Warner**



Songs for Ireland is the third book from Irish writer and audio-visual artist, Robert Herbert McClean, following his debut poetry collection, *Pangs!* (Test Centre, 2015) and his prose chapbook *Skrubolz Garbillkore* (Book Works, 2018).

Songs for Ireland is an experimental, interdisciplinary work, drawing on McClean's practices as writer and artist film-maker. It is a motley hybrid of voices and modes that satirically styles itself as a cartoonish call and response, a polyvocal tech startup melodrama, a Wi-Fi, Sci-Fi comic hallucination.

Exploding the boundaries of the form and style of traditional poetry collections, *Songs for Ireland* is a radical rethinking of poetic practices, characterised by its energetic humour and McClean's unique, distinctive, idiosyncratic voice.



Robert Herbert McClean, an Irish writer and audio-visual artist, was a finalist for the Arts Foundation Futures Awards Poetry Fellowship, 2019. His debut book, *Pangs!* was published by Test Centre, 2015. His most recent publication, *Skrubolz Garbillkore* was commissioned and edited by Maria Fusco as part of the Dialecty series, published by Book Works, in association with The Common Guild, in 2018.

Praise for *Songs for Ireland*

'McClellan's writing smacks chops, thumps convention and punches form. In his own words, "bone thunder", it is indeed.' – **Maria Fusco**

'*Songs for Ireland* is corrosive. It's corrosive in the way that hydrochloric acid might be if you were lathered up in a dainty smelling hydrochloric pomade that was stripping away at your skin so that you might actually, like, *feel* again. McClellan's beautifully crafted, brutally relentless, lyric declarative invokes both Theodor W. Adorno and Mike Patton, in equal measure. *Songs for Ireland* is a lesson in sublime discomfort, in what poetry can and (just as importantly) cannot be, and in what we need it to be. As McClellan writes: "Poetry belies redemption! Like, give me a fucking break."' – **Ahren Warner**

'*Songs for Ireland* is a mesmeric sump snuck under affective capitalism's leaky house, brimming with competing residua: shamanic data flows mingle with compromised poetic personas, while monstrous and monstereed consciences are put to work overtime. McClellan's language performs its tenancy of content, lulled by the call and response of code and worker, lyric and counterfeit, pleasure and echo. The songs rising from its pages are the desperate, fricative ecstasy of wind blowing through the holes of a perforated ego.' – **Daisy Lafarge**

About Prototype

Prototype was founded in 2019 by Jess Chandler, co-founder of the independent publishing houses Test Centre and House Sparrow Press. Established to continue and develop the work begun by Test Centre, Prototype is committed to creating new possibilities in the publishing of fiction and poetry through a flexible, interdisciplinary approach. Each publication is unique in its form and presentation, and the aesthetic of each object is considered critical to its production.

Through the discovery of high-quality work across genres, Prototype strives to increase audiences for experimental writing, as the home for writers and artists whose work requires a creative vision not offered by mainstream literary publishers.

Prototype/Test Centre's back catalogue includes works by Derek Jarman, Max Porter, Holly Pester, Iain Sinclair, Sam Riviere, Sophie Collins, Chris Petit, Jack Underwood, Rachael Allen, Stephen Watts, Wayne Holloway-Smith and Jonathan Meades. Recent publications include the acclaimed debuts *Fatherhood* by Caleb Klaces, *I'm Afraid That's All We've Got Time For* by Man Booker-shortlisted writer and translator Jen Calleja, and the collaborative anthology *Try To Be Better*. Forthcoming titles include the debut novel by Turner Prize-winning artist Helen Marten, *The Boiled in Between* (September 2020).

For further details, and to view our back catalogue, please visit www.prototypepublishing.co.uk.

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Songs for Ireland is generously supported by Arts Council England and is the 2nd output (following Ahren Warner's *The sea is spread and cleaved and furred*) of a wider project exploring interactions between poetry and film.

