Ann Cleare is from county Offaly. In 2005, she graduated with a B.mus from University College Cork where she was awarded the Mary V. Harte Memorial Prize. In 2008, she received an M.Phil in Composition from UCC, where she studied with John Godfrey and Jesse Ronneau, and also worked as a tutor for two years. She is currently undertaking a PhD in Composition at Harvard University under the supervision of Chaya Czernowin and Hans Tutschku.

Her music has been performed in various venues across Europe, Australia, and America, and has been featured in festivals such as The Gaudeamus Week (Holland, 2010), The Wittenertage fur Neue Kammermusik (WDR, Germany 2012), Horizons (Ireland, 2013), International Music Institute Darmstadt (Germany, 2014), Bludenzer Tage zeitgemäßer Musik (Austria, 2014) and IMATRONIC Festival of Electronic Music (ZKM, Germany, 2014). She has worked with ensembles such as Ensemble SurPlus, 175 East, Crash Ensemble, The Callithumpian Consort, Quatuor Diotima, The International Contemporary Ensemble, The Chiara String Quartet, Collegium Novum Zürich, ELISION, RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, JACK Quartet, Divertimento Ensemble, Ensemble Apparat, Ensemble Nikel, +/- ,The Curious Chamber Players, Yarn/Wire, ensemble mosaik, The Experimental Ensemble (SWR Studios, Freiburg), and soloists such as Carol McGonnell, Richard Craig, Heather Roche, Bill Schimmel, Benjamin Marks and Patrick Stadler.

Current and future projects include a new piece for The Talea Ensemble (MATA Festival, New York, 2015), a chamber opera for Taschenopernfestival (Salzburg, 2015), and new works for The RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, clarinettist Carol McGonnell and The Argento Chamber Ensemble, flutist Richard Craig, ELISION, Dal Niente, Duo Meißner/Skjølstrup Larsen, and a solo horn piece for Samuel Stoll.

Honours and awards include The IMRO/Feis Ceoil Composition Competition (2007), The West Cork Chamber Music Festival Composer Awards (2008), Bank of Ireland Millennium Scholar (2009), a research grant at The EXPERIMENTALSTUDIO Freiburg des SWR, various grants and bursaries from the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon, a Gaudeamus Prize Nomination (2010), The Blodgett Composition Prize (Harvard, 2010), The Adelbert W. Sprague Prize (Harvard 2013), The Staubach Honoraria for Darmstadt 2014 and a MATA commission for 2015.

In 2007, she attended The International Summer Course for Composers at Akademie Schloss Solitude, where she worked with Chaya Czernowin, Steven Kazuo Takasugi, and Ole Ludwig Holm. From 2008 to 2009, she attended the Cursus for Composition and Music Technologies at IRCAM. She worked as a resident composer with The Cork International Choral Festival from 2005 to 2008.

Ann Cleare's pieces are published by Project Schott New York.

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