

DAVID ELLIS

David C F Wright, DMus

David Ellis, was born in Liverpool on 10 March 1933 and after junior school he became a pupil at the Liverpool Institute before continuing his studies, following army service, at the Royal Manchester College of Music from 1953-1957 - a significant period in British contemporary music.

Among his fellow students were Peter Maxwell Davies, Harrison Birtwistle, Elgar Howarth, Alexander Goehr, Rodney Friend and John Ogdon, who together formed the Manchester New Music Group giving concerts in their home base and in Liverpool, before their ground-breaking London debut.

David's parents were not actively musical but both could sing in tune and enjoyed music. There were two older sisters whose diverse musical preferences, in the composer's earlier days, helped to encourage his wider listening boundaries.

During his school years and his subsequent RMCM studies his early compositions gained recognition, not only through broadcasts and performances, but also in the form of commissions and awards, which included the Royal Philharmonic Prize, the Royal College of Music Patrons' Award, the Theodore Holland Award, the Royal Manchester Institution Silver Medal, the Ricordi Prize, and a Gulbenkian Award.

He was an organ scholar at the Royal Manchester College of Music, but never regarded himself as a solo performer - he was more at home earning a living playing in Workmen's Clubs and pubs in the North West, supplementing his income with work at the developing TV companies, and as a copyist and orchestrator of pre-London musicals in Manchester's theatreland.

His earliest mature work may be "Dewpoint" for soprano, clarinet and piano from 1955 with words by Douglas Rawlinson, a life-long friend from school days. The final song has very telling words and the composer captures the emotions well. People do not always realise how difficult it can be to put music to words, although Brahms, Liszt and Tchaikovsky were excellent at this.

David Ellis married fellow-student Patricia Cunliffe after both had graduated from the RMCM. Their wedding in St. Helens was attended by many of their musicianly colleagues - a particular highlight, at the post-church celebration in the town's only hotel (with suitable facilities), was the memorable impromptu recital given by close friend John Ogdon on an upright piano which had not been tuned for some time. Despite this problem, not only the wedding families and guests, but also the hard-drinking regulars, were silenced by an hour of unexpected and much-appreciated musical magic.

From 1964 David Ellis began a long association with the BBC as a Music Producer, initially having the responsibility for programme planning and daily administration of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, and subsequently also for the development of the orchestra's international profile. In 1977 he became Head of Music (BBC North), leaving in 1986, after the first of two bouts of major heart surgery, when he was appointed Composer-in-Residence and Artistic Director with the Northern Chamber Orchestra.

Earlier, in 1973, the premiere of his impressive Symphony No 1 was given a compelling performance by the BBC Philharmonic conducted by Bryden Thomson. It is a fine work with drama and tension, and an enviable coherence with excellent contrasts. Ellis told me that any composer who has a new work performed under the guidance of Thomson would be extremely fortunate, as he was a superb advocate of contemporary music.

There are two more symphonies. Symphony No. 2 of 1995 was premiered in a broadcast by the BBC Philharmonic in January 2004 under Jason Lai, and the Symphony no 3 entitled “Images from Beyond Infinity” of 1998, which has yet to be performed.

In 1994 he moved to Portugal to work with the newly-established Orquestra Sinfonica Portuguesa in Lisbon as Assistant to the Director of Music and Chief Conductor, Alvaro Cassuto. He returned to the UK to devote himself exclusively to composition with time set aside for CD production work in a variety of interesting repertoire, both contemporary and classical - the result of his association initially with Naxos and ASC Records and, later, with several other important independent international labels.

The String Quartet no 2 of 1996, whose first movement is a solemn procession marked Largo, is somewhat tense but very personal. The following movement is an energetic scherzo with two trios. The finale begins and ends with an adagio but has a central vivace. It is basically a passacaglia and variations over a pizzicato bass.

A Sonata for piano appeared in 1998 entitled “Three- note Variables” [Five studies for piano]. It is fundamentally a set of variations on a three note motif with sections marked Exposition, Interlude, Fugue, Fantasy-Scherzo, and Procession with bells.

This same year also saw the premiere of “A Little Cantata” for soprano and recorder (plus bell), premiered by Alison Wells and John Turner. It was written to celebrate Sir John Maundell’s 70th birthday. The composer’s texts indicate and describe Maundell’s service to music.

Apart from performances by many organisations in the U.K., his music has been played and broadcast with considerable success in Canada, the U.S.A., Israel, Portugal, Denmark, Brazil, Australia, China, and throughout Europe in more recent years.

A recent orchestral work “Desinent” has been completed, together with some shorter pieces such as “Four Journeys and an Arrival” for double bass and piano, “Concerto Corto e Dolce” for recorder, viola and harp, “Distant Dreams - Forgotten Memories” for violin and double bass, and “Parallel Shadows” for double bass and piano, continuing his fruitful association with the publisher Recital Music.

Several of his recent scores have been recorded commercially, including the “Vale Royal Suite” for strings, and “Autumn Light” a newly-commissioned choral work with words by Phoebe Hesketh, for Alteri and David Jones, plus the Sonata for solo violin, the Sonata for violin & piano written for Wu Zheng-Yu, and the Quartet for saxophones “Two for Six”.

The Evelyn Barbirolli Memorial Concert at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, included “Arioso Aperto, The Open Air” – with words by Richard Jeffries. This work was written for James Bowman with ensemble accompaniment, which project was generously supported by the RVW Trust.

Leon Bosch and Alison Rhind gave the premiere of “Parallel Shadows” for double bass and piano on 14 March 2009 at the Riverhouse Arts Centre, Walton-on-Thames, UK. It was repeated in the USA during June 2009 and performed again at the Lake District Summer Music Festival on 5 August 2009.

Ellis’s wife died of cancer in September 2009. For some years she had been a piano teacher at the RNCM, and later privately at home in Cheshire. There are three children and four grand-children.

The 2009 RNCM/University of Manchester ‘New Music North West Festival’ included the premiere of “Pitfield Pumphoom” on 26 November, played by the RNCM Wind Collective conducted by Mark Heron.

The University of Salford music series in April 2010 included the premiere of “Contra-Partita” in a version prepared especially for the Fell Clarinet Quartet. This will be released on CD, together with the Wind Quintet and the quartet for saxophones “Two for Six”, during 2014, following its premiere at the 2012 RNCM/University of Manchester ‘New Music North West Festival’.

During Malcolm Arnold’s later years the sadly ailing composer sanctioned David Ellis to rewrite his Cello Concerto. In earlier times Ellis had re-fashioned the youthful Arnold’s Piano Sonata as a Saxophone Concerto, as well as orchestrating the Flute Sonatina – all with the composer’s blessing. In 2001, Ellis composed “Attleborough Tuckets” as a tribute for Arnold’s 80th birthday.

Prima Facie has issued a CD of solo piano music including three works by David Ellis, performed by Panayiotis Demopoulos: Seventeen or eighteen inaudible canons, Moto non perpetuo, and Four Studies in Six Parts.

Later in 2014 a CD of recently recorded works written by David Ellis for strings and for chamber orchestra will be issued on the Divine Art label.

In the list of works that follows, details of awards and earlier performances are given - which hopefully should help to generate more interest in his music.

STAGE WORKS

CRITO Op.21 (50 mins) Ms 1957

Scena drammatica for mezzo soprano, 2 tenors, baritone, bass (no chorus)

2(picc) 1(c/a) 2(alto sax/bass clar) 2 - 2200 - timp/2 percs - harp - strings[6.6.4.4.2.]

Libretto by Douglas Rawlinson.

The revised version was completed during December 2006.

Morley College Opera Prize & Gulbenkian Award 1964

ORCHESTRAL

SINFONIETTA Op.13 (23 mins) Ms 1949/50 rev. 1965

3333/4331/timp/3 perc/hp/cel/strings

First performed by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra
conducted by Sir John Pritchard, 1957.

Royal Philharmonic Prize 1956.

VIOLIN CONCERTO Op.22 (27 mins) JW 1958/60

solo violin/3333/4331/timp/4 perc/hp/cel/strings

First performed by the Halle Orchestra (soloist Martin Milner)
conducted by Maurice Handford, 1962.

Study score on sale.

PIANO CONCERTO Op.27 (23 mins) Ms 1962

solo piano/1211/2110/timp (perc)/strings

DANCE RHAPSODY (in memoriam Paul Hindemith) Op.28 (7 mins) Ms 1963

orchestral version - 3333/4331/timp/3 perc/hp/strings

Commissioned by Manchester Education Committee for the Halle Orchestra who gave the first performance conducted by Maurice Handford, 1964.

also

wind orch. version - 3333/4331/timp/3 perc/hp (or piano)/5 sax (2alt/2ten/1bari) /db.1998

Commissioned by Timothy Reynish and first performed during the 1998 BASBWE Festival in

Manchester Cathedral by Chetham's School of Music Wind Orchestra conducted by John Dickinson.
ELEGY Op.30 (11 mins) JW 1966
3333/4331/timp/3 perc/hp/cel/strings
First performed by the BBC Philharmonic conducted by George Hurst, 1967.
Study Score on sale.

FANFARES AND CADENZAS Op.31 (12 mins) JW 1969
3333/4331/timp/3perc/hp/piano (cel)/strings
First performed by the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, in Denver, conducted by Brian Priestman, 1973.
Study score on sale.

SYMPHONY NO.1 Op.38 (26 mins) JW 1972/73
3333/4431/timp/4 perc/hp/piano(cel)/strings
Commissioned by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society and first performed by the BBC Philharmonic conducted by Bryden Thomson, 1973.
Study score on sale.

L Op.41 (14 mins) JW 1977
3333/4331/timp/3 perc/hp/cel/strings
First performed by the BBC Philharmonic conducted by Raymond Leppard, 1977.
Study score on sale.

CONTRAPROVISATIONS (on a theme of John McCabe) Op.51 (14 mins) Ms 1994
3333/4331/timp/3perc/hp/cel/strings.

SYMPHONY No. 2 Op.52 (37 mins) Ms 1995
3343/4441/timp/4 perc/2 hps/piano (cel)/strings + 6 extra trumpets (optional)
First performance: 22 October 2003 - BBC Philharmonic conducted by Jason Lai
(Concert Hall BBC Manchester) and broadcast by BBC Radio 3 on 20 January 2004.

FANTASIA (QUASI UNA SONATA) Op.53 (14 mins) Ms 1996
(for double wind ensemble)
I - 3333/4002/timp/2 perc
II - 5 saxes (2 alto, 2 tenor, 1 baritone)/0440/timp/2 perc/drums/bass guitar
First performed by the RNCM Wind Orchestra & Big Band (Carl Raven - solo tenor sax) conducted by Clark Rundell, October 1996.

SYMPHONY No. 3 (Images from beyond Infinity) Op.59 (28 mins) Ms 1998
4443/4432/timp/6 perc./hp./cel./(organ - optional)/strings

ATTLEBOROUGH TUCKETS Op.65 (4 mins) Ms 2001
3343/4432/timp/6percs/harp/strings
An 80th birthday tribute for Malcolm Arnold (October 2001)

DESINENT Op. 79 (13 mins) Ms 2005
3333/4331/timp/5percs/harp/pno+celesta/strings

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

IN NOMINE Op.29a (4 mins) Ms 1963
1121/2100/strings.

CANZONI (sopra Sequentia per Natali Sancti) Op.29b (10 mins) Ms 1964

1011/1000/viola, cello/percussion

First performed by the Nash Ensemble London 1966

SEQUENTIA III (“Tenebrae”) Op.32 (19 mins) Ms 1970

1111/1000/strings

Commissioned and first performed by the New London Ensemble conducted by Richard Bradshaw, 1971.

DIVERSIONS Op.39 (13 mins) Ms 1974

1202/2000/strings

Commissioned by Warrington New Town Development Corporation and first performed by Manchester Camerata conducted by Frank Cliff, 1974.

CELLO CONCERTO (February Music) Op.43 (23 mins) Ms 1977

solo cello/1(picc)022/2000/strings

Commissioned and first performed by the New London Ensemble (soloist Rohan de Saram) conducted by Richard Bradshaw, 1978. The concerto was revised and restructured in 2004.

TRILOGY Op.44 (22 mins) Ms 1979/80

Circles (strings) - commissioned by the North West Youth Chamber Orchestra

Centerings (wind) 2222/2200

Celebration 2222/2200/timp/strings - commissioned by the RNCM

First complete performance: Liverpool Mozart Orchestra conducted by Mark Heron in the Pacific Road Arts Centre, Birkenhead, Merseyside, November 2003

CAPRICCIO Op.46 (6 mins) Ms 1981

1111/1110/2 perc/piano/strings

Commissioned and first performed as part of the 1981 Bowdon Festival.

DIVERTIMENTO ELEGIACO Op.54a (10 mins) Forsyth 2003

recorders, harp, marimba and strings.

An adaptation by the composer of the original score for baroque trio.

*Dutton Digital CDLX 7154 (John Turner/Camerata Ensemble/Philip McKenzie)

STRING ORCHESTRA

DEWPOINT Op.10 (9 mins) Ms 1955

soprano/clarinet/harp/strings

Settings of poems by Douglas Rawlinson.

Premiere of the version for soprano, clarinet and piano at Cheltenham Festival, 1968.

*ASC Records CS CD6 (Alison Wells/Joanna Patton/Keith Swallow)

“...Ellis’ music is richly varied and at times warmly lyrical...and the result is a very fine work indeed...”

DIVERSIONS ON A THEME OF PURCELL Op.16 (7 mins) Galliard 1956

First performed by the Liverpool Mozart Orchestra conducted by David Jordan, 1957. On hire.

MAGNIFICAT AND NUNC DIMITTIS (8 mins) Ms 2002

double SATB choir/strings.

(An arrangement of the original 1964 version with organ)

CONCERT MUSIC Op.24 (19 mins) Ms 959

First performed by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales conducted by Bryden Thomson, 1972.

SOLUS Op.37 (10 mins) JW 1973

Commissioned by BBC Radio Manchester. First performed in their inaugural concert at the Royal Northern College of Music - Manchester Camerata conducted by Frank Cliff, 1973.

SUITE FRANCAISE Op.48 (d'apres Claude Gervais) (8 mins) Recital 1950 rev.1987

First performed by the Northern Chamber Orchestra directed by Nicholas Ward in 1987.

*ASC Records CD86 (Manchester Camerata Ensemble/Richard Howarth)

SINFONIA CON VARIAZIONI Op.49a (8 mins) Ms 1992

solo bass tuba/strings

First performed by Kevin Norbury and the Northern Chamber Orchestra directed by Nicholas Ward, 1992.

TWO FANTASIAS Op.50 (12 mins) Recital 1993

(i) Upon one note

(ii) On a ground

First performed by the Northern Chamber Orchestra directed by Nicholas Ward in 1994.

*ASC Records CD86 (Manchester Camerata Ensemble/ Richard Howarth).

CONCERTO FOR BASSOON & STRINGS Op.71 (20 mins) Ms 2002

(See 'Epiphany Nocturne' under Ensemble and Solo).

VALE ROYAL SUITE Op.77 (12 mins) Ms 2007

- five movements for string orchestra, from "Music in a Bottle": written for Richard Howarth and the Vale Royal Orchestra.

Premiered by the Vale Royal Orchestra, conducted by Richard Howarth on 17 May 2009.

FANTAISIE EPIGRAMMATIQUE Op.87 (9 mins) Ms 2009

flute (or recorder) and strings.

SEPTEMBER THRENODY Op.91 (11 mins) Ms #2011

strings

Premiered by the Northern Chamber Orchestra/Nicholas Ward, on 9 March 2013.

CHORAL WORKS

MAGNIFICAT AND NUNC DIMITTIS (8 mins) Galliard 1964

double SATB choir/organ. On sale.

Commissioned by Derrick Cantrell for the Manchester Cathedral Choir, 1965.

(A version is available with string orchestra accompaniment).

CRUX FIDELIS (Sequentia I) Op.26 (27 mins) Ms 1962/63

tenor solo/SATB chorus/2222/4331/2 perc/organ/strings

First performed by Peter Bingham, the BBC Northern Singers & BBC Philharmonic conducted by Sir Charles Groves, 1970.

(A version accompanied by organ, plus flute, 3 trumpets and 2 percs is available).

SEQUENTIA IN TEMPORE NATALI SANCTI Op.29 (7 mins) Ms 1964/65

SATB chorus

First performed by the BBC Northern Singers and Stephen Wilkinson, 1971.

*ASC Records CS CD6 (William Byrd Singers/Stephen Wilkinson)

“This is one of the finest works in this collection, a minor masterpiece and a real gem that deserves to be more widely known”

PSALM CXV Op.33 (7 mins) Ms 1970

SATB chorus/organ - plus strings [optional]

Commissioned and first performed by the William Byrd Singers of Manchester conducted by Stephen Wilkinson, 1970. It was revised in 2009.

CAROLS FOR AN ISLAND CHRISTMAS Op.34 (6 mins) Novello 1971

SATB chorus/boys' choir/1111/0200/timp/1 perc/piano/strings

Commissioned and first performed by the Manx Festival Chorus conducted by John Bethell. Chorus parts on sale. Orchestral parts on hire.

AN IMAGE OF TRUTH Op.35 (25 mins) Ms 1974/75

bass solo/SATB chorus/2120/2230/3 perc/piano/string quintet

Words from the Liturgy and by William Blake (“The Marriage of Heaven and Hell”).

Commissioned and first performed by the Harrogate Choral Society (soloist Jolyon Dodgson) conducted by Ian Linford, 1975.

SEQUENTIA IV (“Visions”) Op.36 (14 mins) Ms 1971/72

tenor & baritone solos/double SATB choir/organ/2 percussion/3 trumpets/3 trombones/tuba (the brass parts are optional).

Commissioned by the New London Ensemble and first performed with the Saltarello Choir conducted by Richard Bradshaw, 1972.

SEQUENTIA V (“Genesis”) Op.40 (6 mins) Ms 1975

SATB chorus/boys' choir/2223/4331/timp/2 perc/organ/strings

Commissioned by the Three Choirs Festival and first performed by the Festival Chorus, Cathedral Choir and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in Worcester Cathedral, conducted by Donald Hunt, 1975.

(A version for mixed choir and organ is also available)

JUBILATE (Festival Introit) (4 mins) Ms 1978

SATB choir/organ/bells

Commissioned by the Manchester International Organ Festival and first performed by the Manchester Cathedral Choir & Robert Vincent, 1978.

ANTIPHON and AN EASTER ANTIPHON (4 mins) Ms 1977

Settings of the New English Liturgy for congregation and organ, with optional parts for SATB choir, or for 3-part male voice choir.

A DISTANT HORIZON Op.58 (6 mins) Ms 1997

mixed choir and organ (or piano), plus brass quintet and bells.

[Also available in a version for choir and organ - plus bells (optional)].

Commissioned and first performed by Oldham Choral Society, conducted by the composer, March 1998.

AUTUMN LIGHT Op 83 (12 mins) Ms 2007

mixed choir and organ (or small string ensemble).

Commissioned and first performed by Alteri and David Jones with funds generously provided by the Ida Carroll Trust.

Words by Phoebe Hesketh, used with permission.

ENSEMBLE AND SOLO

SONATINA Op.2 (7 mins) Ms 1953/54

solo piano

First performed by John Ogdon, Manchester, 1954.

TRIO Op.9 (14 mins) Lengnick 1954

violin / viola / cello

First performed by the Homi Kanga Trio, London, 12 April 1955. On sale.

*Campion Records Cameo 2027 (Camerata Ensemble)

PIANO SONATA NO.1 Op.12 (10 mins) Lengnick 1954/55

First performed by Patricia Cunliffe, Wigmore Hall London, 1956. On sale.

ASC Records CS CD3 (John McCabe)

SONATA FOR SOLO VIOLIN Op.15 (6 mins) Ms 1955

First performed by Rodney Friend, Liverpool Contemporary Music Society, 1956.

QUINTET Op.17 (12 mins) Ms 1956

fl (picc) / ob / cl / fg / hn

First performed by the Geoffrey Gilbert Ensemble, Wigmore Hall London, 1956.

AN IMAGE OF TRUTH Op.35a (4 mins) Ms 1972

soprano / flute(or recorder) / piano

An episode from Op.35 [see above]

ASC Records CS CD6 (Alison Wells/John Turner/Keith Swallow)

SONATA Op.42 (6 mins) Yorke 1977

solo double bass

Commissioned by John Bethell for the 1978 Isle of Man International Double Bass Competition.
On sale.

*Meridian Records CDE 84550 (Leon Bosch)

STRING QUARTET NO.1 Op.45 (21 mins) Lengnick 1980

Commissioned by Alun Hoddinott for the 1980 Cardiff Festival of Music and first performed by the Brodsky String Quartet in Cardiff, 1980. On sale.

Campion Records Cameo 2027 (Camerata Ensemble)

BERCEUSE Op.47 No.1 (4 mins) Forsyth 1981

clarinet and piano. On sale.

ASC Records CS CD6 (Joanna Patton/Keith Swallow)

AUBADE Op.47 No.2 (4 mins) Forsyth 1981

french horn and piano. On sale.

Premiered by Anthony Halstead and Harvey Davies: Thomas Pitfield Celebration Concert, Bowdon Festival - 16 March 2013.

DIVERTIMENTO ELEGIAICO Op.54 (10 mins) Forsyth. 1996

for baroque trio - recorders (or flutes), cello and harpsichord.

First performed by the Legrand Ensemble, January 1997.

ASC Records CS CD6 (The Legrand Ensemble)

- also available in a version for recorders with harp, marimba and strings.

*Dutton Digital CDLX7154 (John Turner/Camerata Ensemble/Philip McKenzie)

“It is really superb.....”

TWO FOR SIX Op.55 (8 mins) Ms 1996
for saxophone quartet
First performed by Absolution Quartet, University of Manchester, March 2012.

STRING QUARTET No. 2 Op.56 (16 mins) Lengnick. 1996
First performed by the Coull Quartet at the Warwick University Arts Centre, March 1998.
*ASC Records CS CD11 (Coull String Quartet)
“This may be the the finest work in this collection.”

FOUR SONGS (of Hope and Desire) Op.57 (8 mins) Ms 1996
Soprano and piano. Words by the composer.
First performed by Alison Wells (soprano) and Keith Swallow (piano) in the Concert Hall of Manchester University, April 1997.
*ASC Records CS CD6 1999.(Alison Wells/Keith Swallow)
“A fine piece on all accounts”.

THREE-NOTE VARIABLES Op.60 (16 mins) Ms 1998
Sonata for solo piano
First performed by Peter Lawson, RNCM November 2001
*ASC Records CS CD6 (Peter Lawson)
“....yet another major achievement”.

SHADOWS IN BLUE Op.61 (6 mins) Forsyth 1998
recorders and piano
First performed by John Turner and Peter Lawson.
Forsyth Records FS 001/002 (John & Peter’s Whistling Book)

A LITTLE CANTATA (2 mins) Ms 1998
Soprano (or Tenor) with small bell (or crotales) and Treble Recorder (or Flute).
Words by the composer.
Premiered by Alison Wells and John Turner, Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, September 1998.
*ASC Records CS CD6.

EPIPHANY NOCTURNE Op.62 (7 mins) Ms 1999
trumpet, bassoon and piano.
[An arrangement of the slow movement from the Concerto for bassoon & strings, op.71].
First performed by Giles Rimmer, Benjamin Hudson & Adam Johnson, RNCM April 1999

OLD WILLOWS Op.64 (7 mins) Ms 2000
solo piano
Premiered by Keith Swallow at the Thomas Pitfield Memorial Concert, given in the Royal Northern College of Music, November 2000.

ELEGIAC VARIATIONS Op.66 (4 mins) Ms 2001
recorders, viola and cello
*Olympia Records OCD 710 (John Turner & Camerata Ensemble)

SAFRANSKI’S HEROIC LEAPS Op.67 (5 mins) Recital 2001
double bass and piano
- also available with solo double bass accompanied by strings.
Commissioned by David Heyes for the 2001 Bass weekend at Wells in Somerset, UK.

CONTRA PARTITA PER BASSI Op.69 (11 mins) Recital 2001

trio for double basses

Commissioned by David Heyes for the 2002 Downe House Festival, Newbury.

First complete performance: Wells International Festival, October 2003

also

a version adapted by the composer for tuba quartet (2 Euphoniums and 2 Bass Tubas) written for Tubalate in 2004 and premiered by them at the RNCM Manchester in June 2005.

also

a version adapted by the composer for clarinets (Eb/A; A; A/Bass Cl; Bass Cl.)

written for the Fell Clarinet Quartet in 2009, who gave the first performance of this version on 13 April 2010 at Salford University.

STRING QUARTET No.3 Op.70 (28 mins) Ms 2002

Premiere given on 7 April 2004 by the Camerata Ensemble at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester.

*Campion Records Cameo 2046 (Manchester Camerata Ensemble)

“As with the composer’s symphonies the result is a powerful work vigorously argued, and given a reading of equally impressive substance by the Manchester Camerata Ensemble”.

FRED’S BLUE GINGER STAIRCASE MUSIC Op.72 (6 mins) Peacock Press 2002

recorder and guitar, or recorder and piano.

First performed by John Turner and Neil Smith: Llandudno Festival, June 2002.

*Campion Records Cameo 2020 (John Turner/Neil Smith)

VETRARE DI RICERCATA Op.73 (15 mins) Ms 2002

organ solo

Commissioned by Ronald Frost for St Ann’s Church, Manchester, the 3rd movement was premiered by the dedicatee on 29 October 2002.

*Dunelm Records DRD 0244 - complete performance (Ronald Frost)

LOW PRIORITY Op 74 (7 mins) Recital 2002

a sonata for double bass (or cello) and piano

Commissioned for the 2003 Wells International Music Festival by David Heyes (double bass) who gave the first performance with Mark Cracknell (piano) in the Wells Cathedral School Concert Hall on 5 October

FOR ONE WHO LISTENS IN SECRET Op 75 (16 mins) Ms 2003

for jazz ensemble with cello and bass clarinet

Written for Mike Hall.

Scored for soprano saxophone, flugelhorn, keyboard, bass guitar and percussion - all of whom are required to improvise jazz choruses.

The cello and bass clarinet act as a kind of ‘ripieno’ - opportunities (optional) for improvisation are included in their parts.

FIPPLE-BAGUETTE Op 76 (6 mins) Peacock 2003

three encores for solo recorder (treble & descant) and trunk road

Written for John Turner on his 60th birthday (2003)

1) Round Dance 2) Saraband with Doubles 3) Endpiece

First performance: Winchester Cathedral on 29 June 2004.

MUSIC IN A BOTTLE Op 77 Ms

No 1: Seventeen or Eighteen Inaudible Canons for solo piano (2 mins) 2004

Written for Anthony Gilbert’s 70th birthday and premiered by John McCabe in the

Bridgewater Hall Manchester on 16 October 2004.
No 2: The Song of Songs for voice and single-line instrument (1 min) 2006
Written for Ian Parrott's 90th birthday.
No 3: Berceuse for strings with violin (or flute) solo (2 mins) 2007#
No 4: Aubade for strings (2 mins) 2007
No 5: Afternoon Polka for strings (2 mins) 2007
No 6: Tatiana's Midnight Waltz for strings (2 mins) 2007
No 8: Sunrise Chorale for strings (3 mins) 2007
Five pieces written for Richard Howarth and the Vale Royal String Orchestra.
Manchester Sinfonia/Richard Howarth
No 7: Aedas Fanfares for wind quartet (30") 2003
Written for the RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park, Cheshire.
No 9: Moto non Perpetuo for solo piano (2') 1983
Written for T B Pitfield on his 80th birthday.
No. 10: Happy Birthday (Malcolm Arnold at 70) 1991
Brass Band.
No 11: Spem ex Petribus for solo instrument and piano (1'20") 2010
Written for the 80th birthday celebration of Peter Hope.
[Scored for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Treble Recorder, or Violin - with Piano].
No 12: Head Music for solo instrument & piano (4'00) 2011
Written for the 90th birthday of Anthony Hopkins.

CONCERTANTE Op 78 (11 mins) Ms 2004
for violin, horn and harp

*Richard Howarth, Rebecca Goldberg, Louise Thomson/Bridgewater Hall, Manchester
Composed for John Stobart and members of the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra.

CONCERTO CORTO E DOLCE Op 80 (10 mins) Ms 2006
for recorder, viola and harp
Composed for John and Margaret Turner.

FOUR JOURNEYS AND AN ARRIVAL Op 81 (10 mins) Recital 2006
for double bass & piano

DISTANT DREAMS - FORGOTTEN MEMORIES Op 82 (9 mins) Recital 2007
Five two-part inventions for violin & double bass [orchestral tuning].
Also, versions for piano & bass [solo tuning], and for guitar & bass [solo tuning].

PARALLEL SHADOWS Op 84 (8 mins) Recital 2008
Four short pieces for double bass & piano composed for Leon Bosch.
Star-shine and candlelight - Cloud-fall and morning rain - Tree-shade and summerglow - Night-sound and meadowdance.
Premiere: 14 March 2009, Riverhouse Arts Centre, Walton-on-Thames, UK - Leon Bosch and Alison Rhind, and repeated in the USA during June 2009.

ARIOSO APERTO (THE OPEN AIR) Op 85 (5 mins) Ms 2008
Baritone, Oboe, Cello, and Pianoforte.
Words by Richard Jeffries.

Composed for the Evelyn Barbirolli Memorial concert, given on 6 June 2009 at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, this commission has been generously supported with funds provided by the RVW Trust.

SONATA FOR VIOLIN & PIANO Op 86 (10 mins) Ms 2008
Written for Wu Zheng-Yu.

FANTAISIE EPIGRAMMATIQUE Op 87 (9 mins) Ms 2009
for recorder (or flute) and harpsichord (or piano)
- also a version for flute and strings.

Premiered on 3 October 2009 at Stockport Grammar School by John Turner (recorders) and Ian Thompson (harpsichord).

*Prima Facie PFCD 010

John Turner & Ian Thompson

PITFIELD PUMPROOM Op 89 (10 mins) Ms 2009

Flute/2 Oboes/2 Clarinets/2 Horns/2 Bassoons.

Premiere - RNCM Wind Collective conducted by Mark Heron: University of Manchester/RNCM New Music Festival 26 November 2009.

FOR ONE WHO HEARS DIFFERENT COLOURS [Op 90] (7 mins) Ms 2010
solo piano

*Prima Facie PFCD 013

Premiere: Panayiotis Demopoulos/RNCM 5 May 2011

BRASS BAND

CONCERT OVERTURE AND CHACONNE Op.23 (11 mins) Ms 1959

Winner of the 1959 BBC "New Music for Brass Band" Competition.

First performed in a BBC broadcast by Fodens Band, conducted by Harry Mortimer, in the Royal Festival Hall, London, 1959.

The material for this work has been lost and is no longer available.

VARIATIONS Op.49b (8 mins) Ms 1993

solo tuba/brass band - arrangement of Op.49a.

First performed in a BBC broadcast by Sean Crowther and Williams Fairey's Band conducted by Peter Parkes, February 1995.

ISLAND SEASCAPE Op.63 (12 mins) Ms 1999

Commissioned by the Isle of Man Arts Council for the millennium and first performed by the Massed Brass Bands of the Isle of Man conducted by the composer in May 2000.

RONDO IN BLUE MINOR Op.68 (8 mins) Ms 2001

First performed by the Brighthouse and Rastrick Brass Band, conducted by James Gourlay, as part of the "Sonic Skylines" New Music Festival - RNCM, Manchester, 7 May 2006.

ARRANGEMENTS AND EDITIONS

RAPSODIE (Debussy) 1955 Ms

solo alto saxophone/2211/2100/1 perc/hp/strings

CANZONAS (Giovanni Gabrieli) 1960 (each 5 mins) Galliard

(i) Canzona duodecimi toni a 8 (1597)

(ii) Canzona IV a 8 (1597)

(iii) Canzona a 12 (1597)

brass ensemble or mixed wind ensemble

QUEM VIDISTIS PASTORES (Andrea Gabrieli) 1961 Ms
double choir: SSAT/AATB

THE SECONDE GROWNDE (William Byrd) 1968 (7 mins) Ms
3 trpts/3 tromps/strings

FUGUE IN B MINOR AFTER CORELLI (Bach) 1987 Ms
strings

WALTZ-SUITE (Schubert) 1987 Ms
strings

PRELUDE IN B FLAT MAJOR [op 17 no 6] (Scriabin) 1987 Ms
strings

“ET LA LUNE DESCEND SUR LE TEMPLE...” (Debussy) 1987 Ms
(Images Series 2, No.2)
strings

ARIANNA A NAXOS (Haydn) 1987 Ms
soprano solo and strings/hp/chd

A SHROPSHIRE LAD (George Butterworth) 1990 Ms
solo baritone/strings

FOUR EARLY SONGS (Schoenberg, Op.2) 1991 Birnbach
solo soprano/strings
Erhebung
Waldsonne
Schenk mir deinen goldenen Kamm
Erwartung

CONTRASTS - Studies in Sonority 1992 Ms
1.2.0.2.- 2.0.0.0.- strings

Developed as part of a student composition project led by music student Anna Foster at Ridge College, Marple, the work was edited and realised by David Ellis for its first public performance by the Northern Chamber Orchestra directed by Nicholas Ward in 1992.

FIVE SONGS (Gabriel Faure) 1994 Ms
solo soprano/strings

Chanson d'amour Op.27 No.1
Le Secret Op.23 No.3
Aurore Op.39 No.1
Notre amour Op.23 No.2
Automne Op.18 No.3

SAXOPHONE CONCERTO (Malcolm Arnold) Goodmusic 1994
alto saxophone and strings

An arrangement made at the request of the composer of his Piano Sonata (1942): premiered by Gerard McChrystal and the Milton Keynes Orchestra/Hilary Davan Wetton.

*Naxos 8.572640 Carl Raven and the Manchester Sinfonia, directed by Richard Howarth – January 2006.

CONCERTINO Op.19a (Malcolm Arnold)

Lengnick 2000

flute and strings

An orchestration of the composer's Sonata (op 19), first performed by Nichola Hunter with the Northern Chamber Orchestra directed by Nicholas Ward, October 2001.

*Naxos 8.572640 Esther Ingham and the Manchester Sinfonia, directed by Richard Howarth – January 2006.

CELLO CONCERTO Op.136 (Malcolm Arnold) Novello 2001

2222/2231/timp/perc/strings

A reworked and revised performing edition of the original 1988 version. Edited with the composer's approval.

Premiere of this new version - St Marcus Church, Schneppenbaum, Germany, with soloist Stoian Razhkov and the Musica Art Orchestra of Sofia, conductor Martin Pantelev: June 2003.

*Recorded for CD by Raphael Wallfisch and the Northern Chamber Orchestra, directed by Nicholas Ward, February 2011.

*Naxos 8.572640

FANTASY FOR RECORDER AND STRING QUARTET Op.140 (Malcolm Arnold) Ms 2001

A reworked and revised performing edition of the composer's 1990 score.

Premiere of this version - St John's, Smith Square, London, given by John Turner and the Camerata Ensemble: 18 April 2004.

*Naxos 8.572640 (John Turner & Camerata Ensemble).

LULLABY FOR VIOLIN AND STRINGS (Peter Crossley-Holland) Ms 2002

An orchestration of the original piano accompaniment version.

This version was premiered by Richard Howarth & the Manchester Camerata Ensemble: RNCM, Manchester 24 September 2005.

THE SEASONS (Eric Fogg) Elkin & Co. Ltd. 2003

2222/42(31)/timp/1(or 2) perc/harp/strings.

Preparation of a new orchestral score to mark the Centenary of the composer's birth - the original material having been lost or destroyed - and commissioned for the Broadheath Singers' 2003 concert programme, it was performed with the Windsor Sinfonia conducted by Garry Humphreys at St Mary's Parish Church, Slough, on 13 September 2003.

This major work for chorus and orchestra was originally commissioned and first performed at the 1931 Leeds Triennial Festival. It was conducted by the composer on that occasion.

On 25th March 2006 the Leeds Festival Chorus and the BBC Philharmonic, conducted by Simon Wright, recorded a further performance for BBC Radio 3.

HAMLET (Alan Rawsthorne) 2005 (8 mins) Peacock

recorder and piano

A revised version of the music written for the 1961 production at Stratford upon Avon using the composer's original wind band score as the basis for this collection of interludes.

also

- an edited concert performance version (8' 30") for small orchestra using the composer's original instrumentation: 2 (p).2.1.2.- 2.2.0.0.- timp. perc.- harp.

PERVIGILIUM VENERIS (Frederic Austin) 2005 (26 mins) Novello

3233/4331/timp/3 Perc/Harp/Celesta/Strings

Another major work for chorus and orchestra, commissioned by, and premiered as part of the 1931 Leeds Triennial Festival conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham (see Eric Fogg: "The

Seasons”); the orchestral material was subsequently thought to have been lost or destroyed. A re-construction of the full score, pending clarification of the situation, was completed by David Ellis in November 2005.

CONCERTINO for piano and strings, with harp and percussion (Frederic Austin) 2008

Another work by Frederic Austin, his “Concertino for piano and orchestra” has been recorded (2008) in a new version prepared by David Ellis with revised accompaniment for string orchestra, harp and percussion.

*SommCD241 Mark Bebbington/City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra/Howard Williams

(5352)

© COPYRIGHT David C F Wright DMus 1966 revised 2014 – This article or any part of it, however small, must not be copied, quoted, reproduced, downloaded or altered in any way whatsoever nor stored in any retrieval system. Failure to comply is in breach of International Copyright Law and will render any offender liable to action at law.