

SELECTED PIANO MUSIC

BY **M**ICHAEL **P**ARSONS

1971 ^{TO} **2006**

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These pieces represent a continuing interest in writing piano music, much of it fairly easy or of moderate technical difficulty, which has developed along with more experimental and indeterminate activities since the 1970s. These pieces reflect diverse approaches, particularly to the transcription and arrangement of traditional melodies from different parts of the world.

Transcription for the piano often involves a degree of alteration, distortion or loss of flexibility of the original melodies. The harmonic and textural resources of the instrument can to some extent make up for this loss. The effect of transcription is to transform the original material, even when the modal character of the melody is respected (as in Oran Fogarraich, which is entirely pentatonic). Sometimes the melodic material is treated freely, chromatically altered or set against an alien harmonic landscape (eg. Tha Mo Dhuil), as if to emphasise the distance from its former context.

Variations, Piano Piece 5, Fourths and Fifths are concerned with the systematic ordering and permutation of more abstract pitch material. Fourths and Fifths (1982) is based on a strict change-ringing sequence of 12 fixed elements. Some pieces are dedicated to musical colleagues, one to a visual artist (Jeffrey Steele) with whom I have worked closely. October Dance was originally written as an accordion piece for Howard Skempton. Usk, Virginia and Luna are based on the vocal lines of songs written for Janet Sherbourne.

Michael Parsons

Five Piano Pieces:

Variations (1971)

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Piano Piece 5 (1973)

(from Six Piano Pieces)

1112

Romanesca (1977)

1113

October Dance (1983)

(original and Phrygian versions)

1114

Arctic Prelude (1990)

1115

Fourths and Fifths:

Fourths and Fifths (1977)

(to Jeffrey Steele)

1211

Fourths and Fifths (1982)

(for John White)

1212

Three Song Arrangements:

Usk (1982)

1311

Virginia (1982)

1312

Luna (1986)

1313

Four Bagatelles:

First Bagatelle (1983)

(for Howard Skempton)

1411

Second Bagatelle (1990)

(to Laurence Crane)

1412

Third Bagatelle (1991)

(to Jamie Crofts)

1413

Fourth Bagatelle (1996)

(for John Tilbury)

1414

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Traditional Scottish Melodies:

Oran Fogarraich (Song of Exile) (1992)

1511

Fail ò ro mar dh'fhàg Sinn (1993)

1512

Moladh Uibhist (In Praise of Uist) (2004)

1513

Tha mo Dhuil (1993)

1514

Traditional Jamaican Songs:

Blackbird Come From Black Rock (1988)

1611

Hossanna! (1990)

1612

Fire Burn (1990)

1613

Doktor Bud (2006)

1614