

The image is a monochromatic blue-toned landscape painting. It depicts a wide valley with a dense forest of evergreen trees. In the far distance, a white mountain peak rises above the treeline. The foreground shows a field or meadow, and the overall scene is rendered with soft, painterly textures. The text 'fusions¹' is positioned in the bottom right corner, set against a darker blue background.

fusions¹

Fusions: Earth, Water, Wind, Fire - Y Ddaear, Dŵr, Gwynt a Tân

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1. Earth | 2:29 |
| 2. Water | 5:04 |
| 3. Wind | 3:40 |
| 4. Fire | 2:24 |
| Matthew Jones <i>viola</i> · Annabel Thwaite <i>piano</i> | |
| 5. Tŷ Ddewi | 3:08 |
| Matthew Jones <i>viola</i> · Steffan Morris <i>cello</i> · Annabel Thwaite <i>piano</i> | |
| 6. Notes from The Railway | 3:29 |
| Annabel Thwaite <i>piano</i> | |
| 7. Prayer on A Clear Day | 3:41 |
| Steffan Morris <i>cello</i> · Annabel Thwaite <i>piano</i> | |
| 8. Suo Gân | 4:38 |
| Annabel Thwaite <i>piano</i> | |
| 9. In Fair Verona | 2:48 |
| Matthew Jones <i>viola</i> · Annabel Thwaite <i>piano</i> | |
| 10. Afterwards | 3:08 |
| Annabel Thwaite <i>piano</i> | |
| 11. Doris and Ted's Musical Overture | 4:32 |
| Annabel Thwaite <i>piano</i> | |
| 12. Hippy and The Dancer | 3:02 |
| Annabel Thwaite <i>piano</i> | |

Variations on a theme by William Jenkins

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|-------------------|------|
| 13. Variation I | 2:27 |
| 14. Variation II | 1:02 |
| 15. Variation III | 1:13 |
| 16. Variation IV | 0:48 |
| 17. Variation V | 1:23 |
| 18. Variation VI | 1:27 |

Annabel Thwaite *piano*

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|-------------------------------|------|
| 19. Iter Sine Caritate | 3:17 |
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Annabel Thwaite *piano*

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| 20. (Before) Myfanwy | 7:47 |
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Steffan Morris *cello* · Annabel Thwaite *piano*

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|--------------------|------|
| 21. Wernbwl | 3:33 |
|--------------------|------|

Annabel Thwaite *piano*

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| 22. When You Are Old | 8:31 |
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Rhodri Prys Jones *solo tenor* · Osian Wyn Bowen *tenor*

Jack Parry *tenor* · Edward-Rhys Harry *baritone* · Gareth James *bass*

Matthew Jones *viola* · Annabel Thwaite *piano*

cyfanswm / total 1:13:31



Dr Edward-Rhys Harry Ph.D, MA, MMus, PGCHE, PGDipMus.Tech, FRSA, MISM

Edward works across the UK and internationally as a voice coach, adjudicator, composer, arranger and choral conductor. He is represented by Katie Beardsworth at Polyphony Arts Management. He is also Artistic Director of Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod.

He comes from Penclawdd, on the north coast of the Gower Peninsula. Aged 14 he was employed as an organist and also began conducting rehearsals for choirs in local chapels and churches.

Undergraduate studies in composition (with Dilys Elwyn-Edwards and William Mathias amongst others) and voice at University of Wales Bangor (through the medium of Welsh) were followed with postgraduate study in Music Technology and Sound Recording, his PGCE and an MMus degree in composition from the London College of Music, where he studied with Francis Pott, Terry Davies and Laurence Roman.

In 2006 he became a member of the Gorsedd Y Beirdd.

He left full time teaching to study Choral Conducting with Simon Halsey (LSO), Adrian Partington (BBCNOW) and Neil Ferris (BBC Symphony Chorus) at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, in Cardiff. There he was the first (and second) recipient of the RWCMD Glynne Jones Conducting Scholarship and graduated with an MA degree. Edward was the first Welshman to receive a recognized qualification in Choral Conducting.

Having been the first recipient of an Elphinstone Scholarship, along with a Derek Ogston scholarship in composition, Edward studied for a PhD in choral composition with Phillip Cooke and Paul Mealar – at the University of Aberdeen – and was tutored by Morten Lauridsen, Judith Bingham and Sir James MacMillan. The University Chamber Choirs' latest recording, *Immortal Memory*, reached No3 in the national classical music charts in January 2017, it includes music arranged by Edward which was broadcast on Classic FM and BBC Radio 3.

His music is published widely and is performed regularly around the world.

Following his work as vocal coach for Volgograd Opera House Chorus in Russia, Edward worked with the '10 Sopranos International Tour' acting as musical director and arranger of over two hours of rock and popular music in 10 distinct parts which toured nationally across Germany and then continental Europe. Presently, Edward has the honour of being the Artistic Director of Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, in North Wales – an international event bringing musical competition and a message of peace and friendship to the world.

No stranger to media work, Edward has directed performances for S4C (Channel 4 Wales), Sky Sports, ITV advertisements, 'ident' music for BBC 1, 2, 3, 4 and all radio channels, as well as appearing on programmes such as BBC 1's 'The Apprentice – You've Been Fired', 'Dr Who', the Rob Brydon Christmas Show (conducting Bryn Terfel), Euro Express (part of the Football Euros 2016) and 'Sports Relief', along with comedian Jack Whitehall. He also provided the choral music for the 2019 Disney/FOXTV/BBC television adaptation of 'A Christmas Carol' which is regularly broadcast across global territories. He is currently working with Minim UK Productions Ltd and providing choral arrangements for a BBC 1 period drama to be broadcast over Christmas 2019.

Edward is the Artistic Director of Côr Siambr Cymru/Chamber Choir Wales, a professional chamber choir, as well as 'The Harry Ensemble' – his own chamber choir who, through performances and recordings, promote British choral music overseas. Their album 'Remember' is available to download now.

He thrives on working with singers and choirs of all ages, numbers and experience, and directed the 1000 strong London Welsh Festival of Male Choirs at the Royal Albert Hall in 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2018. He has conducted singing festivals in Melbourne Australia, Trevelin in Patagonia, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia and New York City in the US.

Edward is currently Musical Director of the London Welsh Chorale, Harlow Chorus, City of Canterbury Chamber Choir, as well as the musical director and principal conductor of the famous London Welsh Male Voice Choir. He is also Honorary Conductor of Sandgrenska Manskören – a male choir in Karlskrona, Sweden, with whom he works regularly.

A keen advocate of education for conductors, Edward works regularly with the Association of British Choral Directors, leading workshops in singing and conducting across the UK, runs an apprentice conductor scheme through The Harry Ensemble choir and is the Conductor-in-Residence of the British Sinfonietta orchestra.

In 2020 Edward was recognized for his commitment to the music of Wales by being awarded the 'Glanville Jones award for outstanding contribution to music in Wales', by the Welsh Music Guild.

For further information please visit www.edwardrhysarry.com

Programme Notes

1-4. Fusions: Earth, Water, Wind, Fire : Y Ddaear, Dŵr, Gwynt a Thôn

A four-movement work for viola and piano which fuses Welsh and English folk tunes. Each of the folk songs bear a relation to the four elements: Earth, Wind, Water and Fire and this acts as its central inspiration. The track features Annabel with guest violist Matthew Jones.

5. Tŷ Ddewi

This is the hymn tune by John Francis named after the village in West Wales, often sung to the hymn words 'Mi Dafla 'Maich Oddi Ar Fy Ngwar', by the famous hymnodist William Williams (Pantycelyn). Here it is re-arranged for piano, viola and cello and featuring Annabel with Matthew Jones (viola) and Steffan Morris (cello).

6. Notes from The Railway

A solo piano piece which creates a musical description of a train journey which was written somewhere on the GWR network. All of life can be found on the rail network and much of the country flashes by through the train windows. The main theme depicts the scenery rolling by and the ever-changing vista as a result.

7. Prayer on A Clear Day

This work, for solo cello and piano, was written as I reflected on the days of my childhood growing up in and around the goings on in our local chapel. Cymanfaoedd Ganu, Sunday School, Band of Hope, Whitsun Walks, Sunday School 'trips' to far flung places on a coach, oratorios, male voice choirs, brass bands, school concerts and of course Sunday services. And the prayer is that future generations might know the blessing of growing up in that environment. With Steffan Morris (cello).

8. Suo Gân

The famous Welsh lullaby arranged and interwoven with new material in a reflective arrangement for solo piano.

9. In Fair Verona

Originally a work for three-part chorus, this version is for solo viola and piano and uses the opening text of Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet' to shape the musical phrases. It aims to capture the drama

of the feuding families whilst interweaving this with the inevitably tragic love theme for Romeo and Juliet.

10. Afterwards

A reflective nocturne-type work for solo piano. The piece attempts to capture the feelings and atmosphere of that rarely talked about situation – the days immediately following a funeral, from the perspective of the one closest to the person who has gone.

11. Doris and Ted's Musical Overture

This is an exuberant celebration of musical theatre, written for piano (four hands) it has an 'over the top' love theme and an upbeat mood worthy of acting as an overture for a musical theatre show. But who are Doris and Ted? And what adventures will they go on?!

12. Hippy and The Dancer

I believe that love in all its forms should be shared and celebrated. This work for solo piano is in dedication to friendship everywhere; it tries to layer more than one musical theme, used to depict both the fragility and the inner strength or self-confidence which can develop through being loved.

13-18. Variations on a theme by William Jenkins

William Jenkins, the grandfather of Sir Karl Jenkins, was a prolific writer of hymns, anthems and choruses. The hymn tune 'Credo' was an instant favourite for me from the first time I heard it, aged 8. It was regularly featured in Cymanfaoedd Ganu in our village. This set of variations for solo piano celebrates that hymn and the influence its writer continues to have on me.

19. Iter Sine Caritate

The work, for solo piano, captures the excitement and then inner turmoil, described to me, of someone who falls head over heels in love at first sight and then has to stand by and watch as the unsuspecting subject of love falls in love with someone else! The title may be translated as 'Life Without Love' or 'A Loveless Journey'.

20. (Before) Myfanwy

This is a work for solo cello and piano which attempts to depict the story of how the famous Welsh love song 'Myfanwy' came to be written by Dr. Joseph Parry. The music describes Parry arriving

back in Aberystwyth after a long stint away (possibly in the US) and his looking forward to seeing his beloved, Myfanwy, again. On a busy street he spots her rounding a corner and runs after her, abandoning all decorum. On rounding the corner, he catches up with her and calls her name, only for Myfanwy to nod politely and walk away... with her arm in the arm of another. The track features guest cellist Steffan Morris.

21. Wernbwll

On the 28th November, 1929, Wernbwll Colliery, in the North Gower village of Penclawdd, suffered an explosion and the death of seven miners who were working that shift. My great-grandfather, Edwin Harry and my great uncle, Thomas Harry, were two of the victims. Following the explosion, the bodies of the deceased were removed and transported home by van. Ceinwen Rees (aged 12), who would later become my beloved grandmother, and her older sister (aunt) Morfydd watched through the window of their home 'Isfryn', a little way from the colliery, as the vans and the workers began the task of recovering the site and working out what had happened. The irony of the fact that my grandmother, as a young girl, would have watched, as the person who would have been her father-in-law was taken away from the site, is something I have always found to be remarkable. This work for solo piano acts as a soundtrack to those young girls watching the devastation from their window.

22. When You Are Old

This setting was originally written for Annabel Thwaite and Matthew Jones to accompany the massed male choir present at the Royal Albert Hall in October 2016 for the 25th London Welsh Festival of Male Choirs. It takes the famous poem by WB Yeats and sets it with a simple choral theme which hides a more complex harmonic language. The verses are segmented by sections of music for the piano and viola which serve to underline the narrative of the poem itself, before joining with the voices at the end. This version is a more intimate vocal setting with just a vocal quartet.

I remain grateful to Colin Jones and David 'Cochyn' Williams of the London Welsh Male Voice Choir for choosing to support such an unusual new work for the male voice repertoire, on such a special occasion.

Annabel Thwaite, piano

Recognised as one of the most versatile and charismatic pianists, Annabel won all the major accompanying prizes, including the prestigious Kathleen Ferrier, Gold Medal, and Richard Tauber piano prizes. As a soloist and chamber musician, she has toured throughout the world, in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Royal Festival and Albert Halls and recitals in The Bordeaux and Zurich Opera Houses. She has collaborated with renowned artists including Sir Bryn Terfel, Roberto Alagna, Rebecca Evans, BBC singers, performed chamber music with the Danish Ensemble Midtvest and also recorded music for the Michael Clarke Dance Company at the Barbican. She has also been the accompanist to the London Welsh Male Voice choir for over 16 years and with them has performed all over the world.

Annabel's discography includes The Scottish Tenor for Universal Records, which was nominated for a Classical Brit Award, a world premiere recording of music by Hilary Tann, a disc of romantic violin and piano works with Matthew Jones, and the complete Violin and Viola works of Benjamin Britten and William Walton for Naxos, named Chamber CD of the Month by BBC Music Magazine. As a film session pianist, she has recorded the music for the Hollywood movie Awake, the BBC Jane Austen series Emma, The Secret Diaries of Miss Anne Lister and the Spanish film De tu Ventana. Five times the accompanist for the Festival of Welsh Male voice choirs, her performances at the Royal Albert Hall were recorded and released by Sain and have been aired on UK television. Further TV appearances include Blue Peter, The Rob Brydon Show and a documentary following a day in the life of Sir Bryn Terfel for BBC 4.

Annabel's extensive teaching experience has included writing a regular column for "Pianist" magazine, being Director of the Core courses at the Pro Corda International Chamber Music Academy and adjudicating at numerous festivals and competitions, including the National Chamber Music Festival. In addition to being an Associated Board Music examiner, Annabel is extremely committed to outreach projects, having been a member of the "Live Music Now!" and "Lost Chord" schemes.

In addition to all her performing, Annabel is a mother to two young children so to keep herself grounded she is also a qualified Vinyasa Flow yoga teacher and gives classes and workshops specializing in the benefits of yoga for musicians.



