

Reflective Allies



Max Goldberg
SAXOPHONES

Annabel Thwaite
PIANO

As In Stained Light

Leonard Mark Lewis

Leonard Mark Lewis (b. 1973) is of English birth and American residency. He is a composer, conductor, and pianist specialising in new music. His organic approach to composition combines the minimalistic technique as well as various textual permeations that create a continuous stream of musical ideas without repetitiveness.

As In Stained Light was premiered by Kenneth Tse with the composer as the piano accompanist in 2002.

The work begins with a simple motif based on an oscillating major second which is developed and recurring throughout in a rondo-style form and is displaced by lyrical flourishes that soar through the full range of the saxophone. A reflective coda feels as though the entire piece is being projected through stained glass.



Ballad in Memory of Shirley Horn

Richard Rodney Bennett

Sir Richard Rodney Bennett, (1936-2012), was a prolific and highly versatile British composer and pianist known for his innovative approach to 12-tone and serial composition—particularly in his concert works. He also won acclaim for his film scores (notably *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Four Weddings and a Funeral*) and was widely recognized for his solo and collaborative work as a jazz musician.

Ballad in Memory of Shirley Horn was written in tribute to the great American jazz singer and pianist. Horn was known for her lush voice, a smoky contralto, described by noted producer and arranger Quincy Jones as “like clothing, as she seduces you with her voice”. During his time in New York City, Bennett asked British saxophonist Andy Scott to play his new piece for clarinet and piano. Following this run through it was suggested the clarinet part be edited to enable a saxophone edition.

Scott premiered the rewritten work in 2008.



And Everything Is Still...

Andy Scott



British saxophonist Andy Scott (b.1966) is a highly versatile contemporary musician, with a distinctive saxophonic and compositional voice that encompasses elements of jazz, world and contemporary classical styles.

And Everything Is Still... is inspired by a poem written by Lemn Sissay (taken from his children's book *The Emperor's Watchmaker*). The work was commissioned by the Royal Northern College of Music & was premiered by Carla Sousa (flute) & Lucy Colquhoun (piano) on 22nd June 2008 in a concert that marked the retirement of the College Principal Edward Gregson.

A simple melody unravels alongside delicate harmonic statements, creating a calm and gentle atmosphere.





The Ballad of Lady Barham

Edward-Rhys Harry

Welsh composer Edward-Rhys Harry (b.1973) is primarily a tonal composer whose work is influenced by the topography, geography, Welsh language and culture found in his Gower Peninsula roots, South Wales, UK. He is regularly commissioned to write both instrumental vocal music for the concert hall, stage and TV/film. He is represented by Val Withams (www.choralconnections.com) in the UK and Universal Edition in Vienna (<https://www.universaledition.com/edward-harry-7861>). For more information or direct contact: www.edwardrhysarry.com



Lady Diana Barham (1762-1823) was a philanthropist who established schools and churches on the Gower peninsula through her own personal funding. A visit to Bristol, to stay with her daughter was delayed just as she arrived at the Somerset border and so she contrived a visit to Swansea, Wales, after looking at a map. On her arrival at the North coast of Gower, she was troubled by the lack of education. She felt the need to see free schools and churches built and after returning to England, she could not rest until her vision was made a reality.



She returned to the Gower peninsula, to live at Fairy Hill, Reynoldston and built free schools and churches with her own money. She was responsible for changing and impacting on thousands of lives over several generations. This concerto for saxophone (written for Max Goldberg in 2021) attempts to create a musical narrative in four parts:

- I. The Sands - Barham's first arrival at Penclawdd, North Gower.
- II. Beach Road - a first sojourn through village life, where she encounters children running and playing, cockle women and labourers.
- III. Copper Works - the filthy industrial hard labour centres.
- IV. Lady Barham's Mission - the moment in which she is inspired to help create schools and churches.







Poetry

Adrienne Albert

American composer Adrienne Albert (b. 1941) has had her chamber, choral, vocal, orchestral and wind band works performed throughout the United States and across the globe. Before beginning composing her own music in the 1990s, Albert enjoyed a long career as a singer.

Poetry was originally written for baritone saxophone and harp in 2011. It was inspired by the poems of Edgar Allan Poe, specifically "Annabel Lee". The cadence of the words seemed to work well as a musical line, and the baritone sound of the saxophone spoke to the darkness and depth of love and despair of the poetry. Combining the textures of the saxophone and harp was a challenge as she pondered these two distinct textural sounds that may not have been combined before in duet form. The work begins with the harp evocative of the love and the sea so eloquently described in Poe's writing. The saxophone is the lover despairing of losing his love, the beautiful Annabel Lee.



Aeolian Song

Warren Benson

Warren Benson (1924-2005) is best known for his innovative and expressive music for wind ensemble and his finely wrought song cycles.

From his early days as a percussionist and timpanist for the Detroit Symphony, Benson was captivated by the variety of sounds percussion instruments can produce and used these in compositions for wind ensembles and a wide variety of music for chamber ensembles.

Aeolian Song was written for legendary saxophonist Sigurd Rascher in 1953. With the exception of Debussy's *Rhapsodie* (1904), every concerto in his repertoire was written for and dedicated to him. Originally written as a recital piece, *Aeolian Song* became the central jewel in Benson's three-movement *Concertino for Alto Saxophone and Band Instruments* two years later.

The piece effectively explores all registers of the horn including altissimo. There are two major themes in the piece that intertwine between the saxophone and piano with simple accompaniment and an Eb pedal.



Sonata for Saxophone and Piano Movement II Very Slow

David Maslanka

American David Maslanka (1943-2017) was especially known for his music for winds and ensemble. Among his more than 150 works are over 50 pieces for wind ensemble, including eight symphonies, seventeen concertos, a Mass, and many concert pieces. His chamber music includes four wind quintets, five saxophone quartets, and many works for solo instrument and piano. In addition, he has written a variety of orchestral and choral pieces.

Commissioned by the North American Saxophone alliance for its 1989 convention the Sonata is Strongly influenced by music of the past - Franz Liszt, Francis Poulenc, Allan Pettersson alternating between an innocent stroll in the park, and a fierce breaking of tonal and formal boundaries. The three movements are personal adaptations of old forms - the first a sonata, the second an ABA song form, and the third a rondo.



Each movement has a turbulent, eruptive quality that takes this music away from its historical models and makes it very much a music of our time. Written without a brief or true knowledge of the range, capabilities and challenges of the saxophone, Maslanka wrote with total freedom.

The song-like and soulful second movement is a broad soliloquy with its roots in the expressive madrigal style of the sixteenth century.

Autumn Song

Katy Abbott

The music of Australian Katy Abbott (b. 1971) leads the listener through a narrative of sound, exploring concepts of home, place, connection, and human nature, frequently exhibiting a cheeky humour and cleverly juxtaposing contemporary flavours on traditional settings. Autumn Song was written in 2001, originally for flute and piano.



Thank You

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For all Goldbergs past and present

WHRO78.

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