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Robert SAXTON

(b. 1953)



Robert Saxton was born in London in 1953 and started composing at the age of six. Guidance in early years from Benjamin Britten and four years' study with Elisabeth Lutyens was followed by periods of study in both Cambridge and Oxford Universities with Robin Holloway and Robert Sherlaw Johnson, and also with Luciano Berio. He quickly came to public attention, gaining his first public performance before he was twenty and winning the Gaudeamus International Composers prize at the age of twenty two.

Saxton has written works for the London Sinfonietta, London Symphony, English Chamber and London Philharmonic Orchestras, and received commissions from the BBC Proms, Cheltenham, Aldeburgh and Huddersfield Festivals. His music has been recorded by Collins Classics, EMI, Sony Classical, Hyperion and most recently NMC.

In 1986 he was awarded the Fulbright Arts Fellowship to the USA, where he was in residence at Princeton and was assistant to Oliver Knussen at Tanglewood. In 1995 he co-directed the composers' course on Hoy, with Sir Peter Maxell

Davies. He has directed the composers' course at Dartington International Music Festival on several occasions and was artistic director of Opera Lab.

Robert Saxton was Head of Composition at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (1990-97) and the Royal Academy of Music (1997-99). He is currently Professor of Composition at the University of Oxford, where he is Fellow and Tutor in Music at Worcester College.

His radio opera, *The Legend of the Wandering Jew*, has now been recorded by the BBC Symphony Orchestra and will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on Wednesday 7 July 2010. He is currently writing a new string quartet for the Arditti Quartet which will be premiered as part of the South Bank Centre's International Chamber Music Season in May 2011.

PRESS QUOTES

"Drawing on a wide range of influences from his Jewish roots to the relationship between mathematical and music principles... his considerable technique and imagination make for writing of compelling melody (though not always in the conventional sense) and of richly organic background texture.' *The Observer*

LIST OF WORKS OVERLEAF

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LIST OF WORKS

SOLOS, DUOS AND TRIOS

'...from a distant shore...' (2001) 5'
for solo oboe
commissioned by Melinda Maxwell
first performance: Dartington Summer School, August 2001
ISMN M 57020 190 7 score: £7

Miniature Dance for a Marionette Rabbi (1999) 2'
for solo guitar
first performance: David Starobin, Wigmore Hall, December 1999
ISMN M 57020 187 7 score: £7

Music for St. Catharine (1998) 10'
for solo organ
commissioned by Lester Hillman
first performance: Max Pappenheim, St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, 25 September 1998
ISMN M 57020 186 0 score: £21

Sonata for Solo Cello on a Theme of Sir William Walton (1999) 10'
for solo cello
commissioned by Steven Isserlis with funds from the John S Cohen Foundation
first performance: Steven Isserlis, Aldeburgh Festival, 10 June 2000
ISMN M 57020 188 4 score: £13

Song Without Words (2004) 2'
for clarinet and piano
commissioned by Ian Mitchell for inclusion in the Associated Board's Spectrum Volume for Clarinet
ISMN M 57020 771 8 score and part: £10

There and Back (2006)
for three variable instruments
part of 'On Track', UYMP's Grade 4-level Education Volume
ISMN M 57020 908 8 score and parts: £19.95

CHORAL, ACCOMPANIED

Locus Iste (2004) 3'
for choir (SSATB) and organ
commissioned by St Catharine's College Cambridge for the 300th anniversary of the consecration of the chapel
first performance: Dr Edward Wickham, Max Pappenheim (organ scholar) and the St Catharine's chapel choir, 25 November 2004
ISMN M 57020 770 1 conducting and organ score: £10
choral score: £3

O Living Love (2006) 5'
for choir (SATB) and organ
words by WH Auden
commissioned by Dr Stephen Darlington, Christ Church Oxford
first performed as part of a service celebrating the centenary (2007) of WH Auden
ISMN M 57036 003 1 conducting and organ score: £17
choral score: £6

CHORAL, UNACCOMPANIED

Cantate Domino and Deus Misereatur (2002) 8'
for unaccompanied SSATB choir
texts Psalm 98 and Psalm 67 — alternative canticles
commissioned by Christ Church Cathedral Choir
first performance: November 2002
ISMN M 57020 703 9 conducting score: £17
choral score: £5

The Dialogue of Zion and God (2000) 5'
for 8 solo voices
texts in Hebrew by Eleazar ben Kallir
commissioned by The Clerks' Group with funds from the Jerwood Foundation
first performance: The Clerks' Group, Wigmore Hall, 31 May 2000
ISMN M 57020 189 1 conducting score: £17
choral score: £5

Five Motets (2003) 15'
for unaccompanied SSAATTBBB choir
texts: Bible (Latin) and Saxton (English)
commissioned by the BBC
first performance: The Clerks' Group, BBC Henry Wood Prom, Royal Albert Hall, 5 September 2003
ISMN M 57020 724 4 conducting score: £32
choral score: £10

VOICE, ACCOMPANIED

The beach in winter: Scratby [for Tess] (2007) 2'30"

for baritone voice and piano
for the 20th anniversary of NMC
poem by Robert Saxton, 1998
ISMN M 57036 018 5

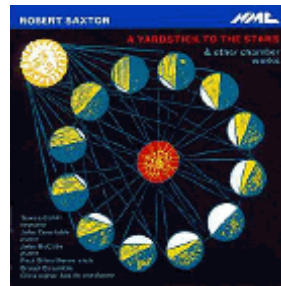
score: £7

MUSIC FOR CHILDREN AND AMATEURS

Song Without Words
There and Back

Solos, Duos and Trios
Solos, Duos and Trios

RECENT RECORDINGS



A Yardstick to the Stars

Processions and Dances; Chacony; Fantazia;
Invocation, Dance and Meditation; Eloge; Arias; A
Yardstick to the Stars

Performed by Teresa Cahill (soprano); John Constable,
John McCabe and Ian Pace (piano), Paul Silverthorne
(viola), Brunel Ensemble, Christopher Austin (conductor)



Music to Celebrate the Resurrection

I Will Awake the Dawn; Violin Concerto; In the
Beginning; Caritas

Performed by Tasmin Little (violin) and the BBC
Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Matthias Bamert.
Soloists: English Northern Philharmonia, Diego Masson
(conductor)



The NMC Songbook

The Beach in Winter, Scratby (For Tess)

Stephen Loges, baritone
Iain Burnside, piano
NMC D150