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# Sadie HARRISON

(b. 1965)



Sadie Harrison was born in Adelaide, Australia and moved to England in 1970. She gained her Masters and Doctorate in Composition at Kings College, London studying under Nicola LeFanu and David Lumsdaine. Performances of Sadie's works have been given by Lontano, London Chamber Symphony, Music Projects/London, Ixion, Bournemouth Sinfonietta, Gemini, also the Kreutzer Quartet, Kaskados Trio, Double Image, Endymion Ensemble, Capricorn, the Tate Ensemble, New Music Players, Sarah Leonard, Stephen Gutman, Composers Ensemble, Kokoro and the St. Christopherus Chamber Orchestra, Vilnius.

Sadie's music has been released to critical acclaim on Sargasso, BML, Metier and Clarinet Classics. 'Taking Flight' (MSV CD92053) was chosen as Classical London's CD of the Month, February 2001. Her music has been broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and in Eastern Europe, Canada, Japan, Australia, America, Lithuania, The Netherlands and elsewhere and has been selected for several international festival performances. She was the only composer chosen to represent Australia at the ISCM World Music Days 2002 and her clarinet concerto 'The Fourteenth Terrace' was selected by the ISCM Australian Reading Panel this year to go forward to the World Music Days Zagreb 2005.

Recent projects include 'The Bride's Journey in Three Songs and a Memory' for the Kaskados Trio, premiered in May 2005 in Vilnius and broadcast live on European Radio; 'Bell Music for St. Casimir' for the ABRSM Spectrum Clarinet Series 2005 and 'Scathach (Lady of Shadows)' for the Scottish Clarinet Quartet commissioned for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2005. She is currently working on an opera based on the life of St. Christina the Astonishing with librettists Lesley Saunders and Jane Draycott. Her song cycle 'with what do winter's summers sing?' won the International Greig Memorial Composition Competition 2005.

A CD of Sadie's violin concerto 'An Unexpected Light' and other works related to the traditional music of the Northern Caucasus and the Near East was released on NMC in 2006.

Sadie has recently been appointed the Artistic Director of the Semley Music Festival. Her music is represented by the Australian Music Centre.

## PRESS QUOTES

'Rhythm and lyricism held in perfect balance'  
*Gramophone*

'a compelling, distinctive, and passionate compositional voice.'  
*Tempo*

'this is distinctive, pungent music that demands close attention.'  
*Guardian*

'music of a uniquely physical and spiritual presence.'  
*Dansk Musik Tidsskrift*

"Intense concentration is the first concept to come to mind when listening to this music. Not so much the concentration required of the listener, though there is undoubtedly such a requirement, as this is not 'easy listening' by a distance, but the sense of distillation, of the concentration of the essence of a musical argument. Sometimes the textures are exceedingly open and deceptively simple; sometimes a good deal of surface activity serves to illuminate the emotional intensity flowing just beneath. The combination of surface sensuality and intense and rigorous content produces tensions that constantly fluctuate and flow, drawing the listener into a slightly uneasy sound world, individual and unusual."  
*Records International*

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## LIST OF WORKS

### ORCHESTRA

**Hoploits and Anthems (1993) 14'**  
for string orchestra  
commissioned for the East Sussex County Music School by the Society for the Promotion of New Music  
first performance: East Sussex County String Orchestra, conductor Alan Davies, Christ Church, Spitalfields, 1993  
ISMN M 57020 147 1 score: £30  
performance materials for hire

**An Unexpected Light (2003) 19'**  
for solo violin with string orchestra and percussion (1)  
first performance: St. Christopher Orchestra with violinist Rusne Mataityte and conducted by Donatas Katkus, City Hall, Vilnius, 20 February 2004  
ISMN M 57020 722 0 score: £45  
performance materials for hire

### LARGE ENSEMBLE (8 OR MORE PLAYERS)

**Architechtonia (1986) 12'**  
for cello and ensemble  
1.1.1.1 / 0.1.1.0 / pn.cel.perc(2), mnd, 1.1.1.0.1  
first performance: Music Projects/London, conducted by Richard Bernas, St. John's, Smith Square, November 1987  
ISMN M 57020 151 8 score: £25  
performance materials for hire

### SMALL ENSEMBLE (4-7 PLAYERS)

**'...and who now will wake the dead?..' (2004) 16'**  
for fl, cl, vn, va, vc, pn  
finalist in the Concours International du Festival Pablo Casals de Prades 2005  
ISMN M 57020 841 8 study score: £30  
score and parts: £45

**The Fourteenth Terrace (2002) 12'**  
for solo clarinet (Eb/A), 2 vn, va, vc, db, perc & voice  
first performance: Lontano, with clarinettist Andrew Sparling and conducted by Odaline de la Martinez, Purcell Room, London, 30 September 2002  
recorded on Metier Records MSV CD 92084  
ISMN M 57020 701 5 study score: £37  
score and parts: £62

**Geda's Weavings (2004) 24'**  
for string quartet  
ISMN M 57020 808 1 study score: £20  
score and parts: £28

**'..it will pass..' (2003) 6'**  
for cl (Eb/A), ob(+ca), va, hp  
commissioned by Okeanos  
first performance: Okeanos, BMIC Cutting Edge Series, Warehouse, London, 16 October 2003  
ISMN M 57020 733 6 study score: £21  
score and parts: £29

**The Light Garden (2002) 12'**  
for cl, vn, va, vc, pn  
commissioned by the Tate Ensemble with funds from The Holst Foundation  
first performance: The Tate Ensemble, Carnegie Hall, New York, USA, June 2002  
recorded on Metier Records MSV CD 92084  
ISMN M 57020 680 3 study score: £21  
score and parts: £46

**On the Run! (2006)**  
for cl, vn, vc, pn  
part of 'On Track', UYMP's Grade 4-level Education Volume  
ISMN M 57020 908 8 score and parts: £19.95

**Quintet: "No Title Required" (1995/rev 99) 14'**  
for fl, cl, vn, vc, pn  
commissioned by Double Image  
first performance: Double Image, University of Surrey, 1994  
recorded on Metier Records MSV CD 92056  
ISMN M 57020 157 0 score: £25  
score and parts: £50

**Scathach (2005) 6'**  
for 4 bass clarinets  
commissioned with funds from the Hope Scott Trust, Scottish Arts Council, and RVW Trust  
first performance: Scottish Clarinet Quartet, St. Andrew's and St George's, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, 28 August 2005  
ISMN M 57020 849 4 study score: £13  
score and parts: £21

**Sextet: "in divers knottes.." (1998) 16'**  
for cl, perc(1), pn, vn, va, vc  
first performance: Gemini, Goldsmiths College, London, September 1998  
ISMN M 57020 155 6 study score: £20  
score and parts: £50

**Taking Flight (2000)** 21'  
for string quartet  
first performance: Kreutzer Quartet, Newcastle  
International Chamber Music Festival, 1999  
recorded on Metier Records MSV CD92053  
ISMN M 57020 159 4 study score: £17  
score and parts: £37

## SOLOS, DUOS AND TRIOS

**Accidental Flight (2000)** 8'  
for solo marimba  
first performance: Simon Limbrick, Warehouse, London,  
November 2000  
ISMN M 57020 173 0 score: £10

**After Colonna (2001)** 12'  
for cello and piano  
first performance: Double Image, Hampstead Town Hall,  
March 2001  
recorded on Metier Records MSV CD 92056  
ISMN M 57020 177 8 score and part: £26

**'an angel reads my open book...' (2004)** 8'  
four pieces for solo piano (Version I)  
ISMN M 57020 764 0 score: £13

**'an angel reads my open book...' (2004)** 10'  
five pieces for violin and piano (Version II)  
first performance: Violinist Peter Sheppard Skaerved and  
pianist Aaron Shorr, Marco Gallery, Monterray, Mexico,  
12 January 2005  
ISMN M 57020 763 3 score and part: £12

**Arcosolia (1999)** 8'  
for violin and piano  
first performance: Adam Summerhayes and Alan Brown,  
Purcell Room, 12 December 2000  
Finalist in UK and Eire Composition Platform 2000  
recorded on Metier Records MSV CD92053 and Sargasso  
SCD 28036  
ISMN M 57020 175 4 score and part: £15

**Bavad khair baqi! (2001)** 12'  
for solo violin  
first performance: Peter Peter Sheppard Skærved,  
Glyptothek Museum, Munich, 6 December 2002  
recorded on Metier Records MSV CD 92084  
ISMN M 57020 706 0 score: £13

**The Bride's Journey in Three Songs and a  
Memory (2005)** 9'  
for violin, violoncello and piano  
commissioned by Rusne Mataityte  
first performance: Kaskados Trio, Vilnius Philharmonic  
Hall, Vilnius, Lithuania, 12 May 2005  
ISMN M 57020 834 0 score and parts: £21

**A Hidden Light (2003)** 7'  
for violin and piano  
first performance: violinist Joanna West and pianist Maria  
Krivenski, Purcell Room, London, 12 May 2003  
ISMN M 57020 706 0 score and part: £15

**Impresa Amorosa (1995)** 16'  
for solo piano  
first performance: Ludger Hofman-Engl, The Braithwaite  
Concert Hall, Croydon, September 1995  
recorded on Metier Records MSV CD92053  
ISMN M 57020 171 6 score: £20  
also available as part in the solo piano volume *Pianthology* £12

**Jinny's Haiku (2006)** 5'  
for solo oboe d'amore  
Commissioned by Jinny Shaw  
first performance: Jinny Shaw, Oxford Contemporary  
Music Festival, 18 November 2006  
ISMN M 57020 933 0 score: £14

**Owl of the Hazels (Lazdynn Peleda) (2005)** 7'  
for bass clarinet and piano  
first performance: clarinetist Ian Mitchell and pianist Tim  
Jones, International Bass Clarinet Convention, De Doelen  
Concert Hall, Rotterdam, 21 October 2005  
ISMN M 57020 865 4 score and part: £21

**sleeping with the fishes (2005)** 1'  
for solo piano  
first performance: Clive Williamson, Guildford  
International Music Festival, 21 March 2005  
ISMN M 57020 857 9 score: £9

**Songs for Rusne (2004)** 12'  
Seven Lithuanian Folk Songs for solo violin  
first performance: Rusne Mataityte, Munich Festival,  
February 2005  
ISMN M 57020 749 7 score: £13

**Times for Flying (2000)** 9'  
for 2 clarinets  
commissioned by Colin Lawson and Ian Mitchell  
first performance: Goldsmiths College, May 2000  
recorded on Clarinet Classics CC0032  
ISMN M 57020 176 1 score: £10

**Three Expositions (1997) 8'**

for solo flute  
ISMN M 57020 176 1 score: £9

**Three Songs and a Memory from the Bride's Journey (2005) 9'**

for flute and piano  
ISMN M 57020 866 1 score and part: £19

**Traceries (1997) 8'**

for violin and piano  
first performance: violinist Peter Sheppard-Skaerved and pianist Aaron Shorr, Purcell Room, London, May 1997  
recorded on Metier Records MSV CD92053  
ISMN M 57020 172 3 score and part: £20

**...under the circle of the moon (Book I) (2004) 8'**

for two violins  
first performance: Peter Sheppard Skaerved and Phillipa Mo, Leighton House, London, May 2004  
ISMN M 57020 748 0 score: £14

**VOICE AND 0-3 INSTRUMENTS**

**'an angel reads my open book...' (2004) 12'**

five pieces for voice, violin and piano (Version III)  
first performance: Trio Finch, Bluthner Showrooms, London, 30 June 2005  
ISMN M 57020 776 3 score and parts: £21

**Angels of Pompeii: The Moon (2006) 20'**

for soprano and piano  
ISMN M 57020 918 7 score: £24

**Easter Zunday (2008) 3'30"**

for tenor and piano  
text by William Barnes  
commissioned for the 20th Anniversary of NMC recordings  
ISMN M 57036 048 2 score: £10

**'...issu stellaire...' (2002) 12'**

for soprano and piano  
texts by Stéphane Mallarmé  
commissioned by Katharine Durran and Alison Smart from The New French Song Project  
first performance: Purcell Room, London, July 2004  
recorded on Metier Records MSV CD 92100  
ISMN M 57020 715 2 score: £9

**Ja sam izgubljen u svijetu... (2002) 12'**

for mezzo-soprano and piano  
texts by Rückert *Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen*  
translated into Croatian  
commissioned by Katharine Durran with funds from Yorkshire Arts  
first performance: Alison Wells and Katharine Durran, Hull University, 6 December 2002  
ISMN M 57020 682 7 score: £14

**Little Gifts (1998) 7'**

for voice and clarinet  
first performance: Alison Wells and Ian Mitchell, ICA, London, November 1998  
ISMN M 57020 170 9 score: £18

**Naming the Dead (2005) 12'**

for mezzo-soprano, piano, percussion  
commissioned by Costas Kafouras  
first performance: Alison Wells, Dominic Saunders and Joby Burgess, Hellenic Centre, London, 6 December 2005  
ISMN M 57020 884 5 score and parts: £27

**Nani ka itou (1993) 10'**

for soprano, clarinet, piano  
first performance: Tapestry, St Giles Cripplegate, London, January 1994  
recorded on British Music Label BML 012  
ISMN M 57020 163 1 score and part: £23

**Two Songs (1997) 18'**

for soprano and piano  
first performance: Sarah Leonard and Steven Gutman, The Warehouse, London, BMIC Cutting Edge Series, November 2004  
ISMN M 57020 169 3 score: £21

**'with what do winter's summers sing?' (2004) 12' or 16'**

for female voice and piano  
winner of the Edvard Grieg Memorial Competition for Composers 2005  
first performance: soprano Mari Eriksmoen and pianist Sebastian Wemmerløv, Oslo National Museum, Norway, 31 July 2005  
ISMN M 57020 856 2 score: £20

**VOICE AND 4-7 INSTRUMENTS**

**Aster (1995) 21'**

six epigrams for soprano, fl(+afl), vn, va, vc  
commissioned by the Greenhouse Ensemble  
first performance: The Braithwaite Concert Hall, Croydon, 1995  
recorded on Metier Records MSV CD92053  
ISMN M 57020 167 9 study score: £30

score and parts: £50

**Atoms-Lotus-Thorns-Fire  
(Songs from the Gardens of Paradise) (2004) 22'**

for counter tenor, fl(+picc,af1,bfl), vc, pn  
ISMN M 57020 744 2 study score: £20  
score and parts: £35

**The Long Gallery (2006) 11'**

A Cabinet & Seven Drawers for voice, vn, hpscd, descent,  
treble, tenor recorders  
commissioned by the Vigani Project 2007  
first performance: Lesley-Jane Rogers, Farran Scott and  
members of the Cambridge Music Faculty, The Long  
Gallery of Queen's College, Cambridge, 17 March 2007.  
ISMN M 57020 929 3 study score: £25

**Vigani's Others (2006) 10'**

for voice, percussion and strings  
commissioned by the Vigani Project 2007  
first performance: Lesley-Jane Rogers, Farran Scott and  
members of the Cambridge Music Faculty, The Long  
Gallery of Queen's College, Cambridge, 17 March 2007.  
ISMN M 57020 957 6 study score: £17

**VOICE AND 8 OR MORE INSTRUMENTS**

**Ring the Bells of St Leonards (2004) 10'**

for children's voices and ensemble  
4 children violinists, 10 children percussionists, 1 child  
trumpeter, adult quintet (fl, cl, vn, vc, pf)  
ISMN M 57020 765 7 score: £7  
performance materials for hire

**Three Pictures of Elmet (1988) 9'**

for 2 sopranos, alto, baritone and chamber ensemble  
1(+picc).1.1.1 / 1.0.0.0 / pn.perc(1) / 0.0.0.1.1  
first performance: Lontano with Alison Wells, Richard  
Jackson, conducted by Odaline de la Martinez, Almeida  
Theatre, London, November 1992  
ISMN M 57020 178 5 study score: £21  
performance materials for hire

**MUSIC FOR CHILDREN AND AMATEURS**

**Bell Music for St Casimir** Solos, Duos and Trios  
**Hoploits and Anthems** Orchestra  
**On the Run!** Small Ensemble  
**Ring the Bells of St Leonards** Voice and 8+ Instruments

**RECORDINGS**



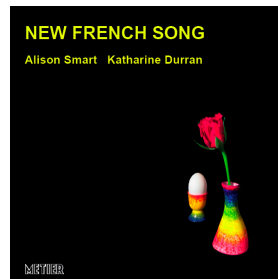
**The Light Garden Trilogy**

The Light Garden; The Fourteenth Terrace; Bavad Khair  
Baqi!

Performed by Lontano / Odaline de la Martinez  
Andrew Sparling (clarinet)  
Tate Ensemble  
Peter Sheppard Skaerved (violin)  
Ensemble Bakhtar (traditional Afghan music)  
Metier Records MSV CD 92084 (2003)

'The Light Garden is an offering of the highest quality,  
with no compromise for popular taste... This is without  
question one of my top recordings of the year, a  
ground-breaking release' *Musical Pointers (UK)*

'METIER offers a catalogue of consistently impressive  
discs. In such lofty company, this one still stands out.'  
*La Folia (USA)*



**'...issu stellaire...'**

Performed by Alison Smart and Katherine Durrant  
Metier Records MSV CD 92100 (2005)

'standing out as one of the most innovative scores is  
"...issu stellaire..."' *Tempo*



### Times for Flying

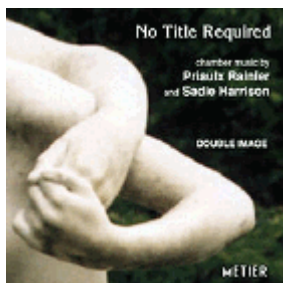
Performed by Colin Lawson and Victoria Soames  
Clarinet Classics CC0032 (2001)



### Taking Flight; Traceries; Impresa Amoroso; Arcosolia; Aster

Performed by Kreutzer Quartet, Aaron Shorr et al.  
Metier Records MSV CD92053 (2001)

"For those who feel that contemporary music often lacks a heart, but who are also uncomfortable with a return to overtly tonal structures, this disc is definitely worth exploring." *Classical London, Disc of the Month*



### No Title Required; Three Expositions; After Colonna

Performed by Double Image  
Metier Records MSV CD 92056 (2002)

"Three Expositions... expert flautists could do worse than add this beautifully constructed and fascinating work to their repertoire; it should rank alongside Debussy and Varèse ... a composer of considerable potential and power." *Music Web*



### Arcosolia

Performed by Adam Summerhayes and Alan Brown  
Sargasso SCD 28036 (2000)

'Arcosolia is a lament finding consolation in proliferating lines which reinforce the relevance of Harrison's impressionist heritage...a versatile and accomplished composer.' *Gramophone*

'...a profounder kind of utterance...' *The Wire*



### Nani ka itou

Performed by Tapestry  
British Music Label BML 012

'Sadie Harrison brings to poignant life the fate of Japanese geishas more than a millennium ago.' *MusicWeb*



### The NMC Songbook

#### Easter Zunday

Benjamin Hulett, tenor  
Andrew Ball, piano  
NMC D150