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David BLAKE

(b. 1936)



David Blake was born in London in 1936. He read music at Cambridge, where his teachers included Patrick Hadley and Peter Tranchell. In 1960 he was awarded the Mendelssohn Scholarship and studied with Hanns Eisler in East Berlin. After three years as a school teacher, during which time he composed a highly successful schools musical *It's a Small War* (OUP), he moved to the new University of York as its first Granada Arts Fellow. In 1964 he was a founder member with Wilfrid Mellers and Peter Aston of the York Department of Music. He was made Professor in 1976 and Head of Department from 1980-1983. He retired in 2001.

David Blake's first commission was from the York Festival for his *Chamber Symphony* (1966) and subsequent important ones were from English National Opera for two operas - *Toussaint* (1976) and *The Plumber's Gift* (1988); from the Leeds Festival Lumina (1969); from the BBC for two concertos - for violin (Proms) and for cello (Cheltenham Festival 1993) - and for *Rise Dove* (1983). He has composed several song cycles, five string quartets, works for young performers and

for solo instruments. He has collaborated on three stage works with Keith Warner - *Scoring a Century* (1999), *Fanny and Alexander* (2013) and *Icarus* (2015). He is also published by OUP, Schott, Novello and Josef Weinberger.

One of the hallmarks of Blake's rich and varied output has been its consistent commitment to high technical standards and beliefs which are fundamental to his ethos as an artist, and which transcend passing trends.

PRESS QUOTES

"David Blake is an example of an increasingly rare breed of creator; he has a technical range and command covering every aspect of composition; he is one of the very few contemporary composers who still write powerfully expressive counterpoint and his melodic invention, ability to characterise musical ideas and his gift for music drama combine to make him a very complete artist..."

Robert Saxton

For more information on UYMP and our composers, and for general inquiries, please contact

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LIST OF WORKS OVERLEAF

For sales, hire and administration, please contact Administrator: Claire Irwin

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LIST OF WORKS

THEATRE

Icarus (2015) 90'
an opera for 11 singers/actors and orchestra
1(+picc).1(+ca).2(2nd+bcl).1(=cbsn) / 1.1.1.0 / pf.2perc / strings
text: Keith Warner
ISMN M 57036 693 4 A3 conductor's score: £47.95
ISMN M 57036 695 8 B4 vocal score: £37.95
ISMN M 57036 704 7 libretto: £6.00
ISMN M 57036 694 1 performance materials for hire

Medea's Cell (2018) 30'
A monodrama
For female voice, alto sax (doubling tenor sax), trumpet, violin (doubling viola) and piano
text: Keith Warner
ISMN M 57036 808 2 score: £17.95
ISMN M 57036 309 9 vocal score: £14.95
ISMN M 57036 310 5 parts: £13.95

Scoring a Century (1999) 130'
an entertainment for 10 singers/actors and small orchestra
2(all+picc).1(+ca).2(2nd+bcl).1 / asax / 2.2.1.1 / pf.gtr(+bnj).perc / 4.4.2.2.2 (minimum size)
text: Keith Warner
commissioned by Opera 2000
ISMN M 57020 075 7 score: £59.95
ISMN M 57036 308 7 vocal score: £61.95
ISMN M 57036 869 3 libretto: £10.00
performance materials for hire

The Fabulous Adventures of Alexander the Great (1996) 60'
words by John Birtwhistle (Greek version also available)
for narrator, baritone, bass, various solo children's voices, chorus (SAB)
2.1.2.1 / 2.2.1.0 / pf.5perc / str
first performance: the Castle Theatre, Mitiline, Lesvos on 11 July 1998, conducted by composer
UK premiere: University of York, November 1999
ISMN M 57020 073 3 score: £39.95
vocal score: £24
performance materials for hire

The Lonely Wife (I) (2003) 16'
for soprano, flute (+afl), percussion
concert performance also possible
texts: Chinese poetry, English versions by the composer
ISMN M 57020 731 2 score and parts: £7.95

WIND ORCHESTRA

Winelands (1997) 9'
for symphonic wind ensemble
4(+picc).2.4(+bcl). 2(+cbn) / sax: 1.1.1 / 4.4.3.1, euph / 5perc / bass
composed for the University of Stellenbosch Wind Ensemble, conductor Mervyn Solomon.
first performance: City Hall, Bellville, Cape Town, 15 October 1997, conducted by the composer
ISMN M 57020 081 8 score: £11.95
performance materials for hire

SMALL ENSEMBLE (4-7 PLAYERS)

Piece for Luis and Justin (2006)
for 2 flutes and clarinet
part of 'On Track', UYMP's Grade 4-level Education Volume
ISMN M 57020 908 8 score and parts: £19.95

String Quartet No. 4 (2004) 16'
commissioned by the Northern Aldborough Festival for the Sorrel Quartet
first performance: Aldborough Church on 8 July 2004
ISMN M 57020 742 8 score: £8.95
ISMN M 57020 743 5 parts: £12

String Quartet No. 5 (2009) 7-8'
ISMN M 57036 063 5 score and parts: £9.95

SOLOS, DUOS AND TRIOS

On the Autumn Air (2010)
for oboe
featured in Signals, new music for solo oboe
ISMN M 57036 215 8 score: £12.95

Diversions on Themes of Hanns Eisler (1995) 10'
for alto saxophone and piano
composed for John-Edward Kelly
first performance: Sarah James and Grace Huang at the Royal Academy of Music, London on 22 October 1998
ISMN M 57020 086 3 score & part (version 1): £10.95
ISMN M 57020 085 6 score & part (version 2): £10.95

Four Intermezzi (1995) 10'
for violin and piano
first performance: Adrian Varela and Daniel Vaiman at the Royal Academy of Music, London, 22 October 1998
ISMN M 57020 083 2 score & part: £9.95

VOICE AND 0-3 INSTRUMENTS

A Swallow (2008) 3'
for mezzo soprano and piano
texts: John Birtwhistle
ISMN M 57036 043 7 score: £5.95

Du Bist Mein (2010) 2'
for voice and piano
ISMN M 57036 174 8 score: £5.95

Four Cabaret Songs (2008) 13'
for female voice and piano
texts: Keith Warner
ISMN M 57036 059 8 score: £10.95

Songs and Epigrams (2014) 35'
for voice and piano
composed/compiled in 2014, includes:
A Swallow - John Birtwhistle
Morning Sea - C.P. Cavafy
Voices - Cavafy
Seven Epigrams - Johann Wolfgang Goethe
Comme un dernier Rayon - André Chénier
Wiegenlied - Christian Morgenstern
Two Poems for the Chinese - Juan Chi
Die Ratten - Georg Trakl
Verfall - Trakl
Du bist mein - Goethe
It's the Modern World - Keith Warner
ISMN M 57036 547 0 score: £15.95

Ten Gallows Songs (2010) 20'
for voice and piano
ISMN M 57036 172 4 score: £11.95

The Lonely Wife (II) (2003) 8'
for soprano/mezzo & guitar
texts: Chinese poetry, English versions by the composer
ISMN M 57020 734 3 two performing scores: £6.95

VOICE AND ORCHESTRA

The Griffin's Tale (1994) 32'
legend for baritone and orchestra
2(2nd+picc).1.2(2nd=bcl).1 / 2.1.1.0 / pf.2perc / 6.6.4.4.2
text: John Birtwhistle
commissioned by Northern Sinfonia
first performance: Adrian Clarke and the Northern Sinfonia conducted by Lionel Friend, Central Hall, York, 3 February 1995
ISMN M 57020 077 1 score: £30.95
performance materials for hire

I Skies tis Agapis (The Shades of Love) (2000) 27'

for bass baritone and small orchestra
1.1(+ca).2(2nd=bcl).1 / 1.0.0.0 / 2perc / str
six songs to poems by C P Cavafy (also English version by the composer)
first performance: Akis Lalousis and the Orchestra of the State Conservatoire, Thessaloniki, conducted by the composer, 10 November 2000
UK Premiere by Stephen Varcoe and the University of York Orchestra, conducted by the composer
ISMN M 57020 079 5 score: £26.95
ISMN M 57036 582 1 vocal score: £15.95
performance materials for hire

Rings of Jade (2005) 24'
Poems from the Prison Diary of Ho Chi Minh
for medium voice and orchestra
3(3rd+picc).2.3(3rd=bcl).2 / 4.2.3.1 / hp.3perc / str
English text: John Birtwhistle
first performance: Sally Burgess and the York Symphony Orchestra, Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall, conducted by the composer, 2 July 2005
ISMN M 57020 835 7 score: £17.95
performance materials for hire

CHOIR, ACCOMPANIED

Searching the Skies (1994) 11'
for unison children's voices and strings (or with piano)
six poems of Jessica George (1984-94)
first performance: Jessica's friends, St Olave's Church, York, 22 October 1994
ISMN M 57020 087 0 piano score (with voice): £7.95
ISMN M 57020 088 7 full score (voices & strings): £18
ISMN M 57036 275 2 choral score: £5.95
ISMN M 57036 089 4 parts: £18

ARRANGEMENTS

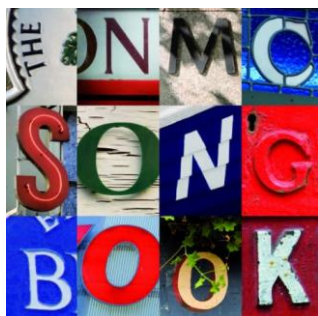
Janáček – On an Overgrown Path (2002) 19'
seven pieces for string orchestra and optional flute, clarinet and horn
ISMN M 57020 870 8 score: £25
performance materials for hire

Mozart – 'Ah taci, ingiusto core!' (1997) 5'
Terzetto – Don Giovanni Act 2 Scene 2
for 12 wind instruments and double bass
0.2.2.2, 2 basset horns / 4.0.0.0 / cb
ISMN M 57020 090 0 score: £6.95
performance materials for hire

MUSIC FOR CHILDREN AND AMATEURS

The Fabulous Adventures of Alexander the Great Theatre
Piece for Luis and Justin Small Ensemble
Searching the Skies Choir, Accompanied

SELECTED RECORDINGS



The NMC Songbook

Includes: *A Swallow*

Jean Rigby, mezzo-soprano

Huw Watkins, piano

Label: NMC Recordings, NMC D150