

Piers Hellawell

(b. 1956)

‘Since the mid-1980s I’ve reacted strongly against the ornate surfaces of much instrumental music of our time. I seek in my work a more direct expression, particularly in my rhythmic and harmonic materials, yet I welcome the diversity that comes from uniting disparate, even dangerous, elements under one roof.’



Piers Hellawell was born in England and studied with James Wood and Nicholas Maw. At the age of twenty-four he was appointed composer-in-residence at Queen’s University, Belfast, where he is now Professor of Composition. His works have been commissioned, broadcast and performed around the world, including at several ISCM festivals and

the Helsinki Biennale. He has collaborated with the Hilliard Ensemble, the Schubert Ensemble of London, the Scottish Ensemble and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra.

Major commissions of recent years include those from the BBC Proms, the Philharmonia Orchestra and Stockholm Chamber Brass, with performances at numerous international festivals. The CD of the 1999 BBC Proms commission *Inside Story* and other recent major works appeared in 2002 on the Metronome label, when it was a BBC Music Magazine CD of the Month. This year sees the release of the next Hellawell disc in Metronome’s series, *Dogs and Wolves*, which presents more recent large-scale orchestral and chamber works. Following *Sound Carvings from the Bell Foundry*, commissioned for Stockholm Chamber Brass by festivals in Norway and Northern Ireland, Hellawell’s current projects include a clarinet concerto for Robert Plane and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Piers Hellawell is published by Peter’s Edition Ltd.

Selected Works

ORCHESTRAL

Dogs and Wolves (2005)

2222 4321 3 perc hrp str

Peters Edition 9’

Commissioned by BBC Radio 3 for the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra’s first season at City Halls, Glasgow.

Premiere: 20 April 2006. City Halls, Glasgow.

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, conductor Martyn Brabbins. Recording: Metronome 2008. Met CD 1076.

Degrees of Separation (2003-04)

str [3.3.2.2.1] / vn-solo, 2222 2200 perc str / tsax-solo, db-solo,

2222 2200 perc

Peters Edition 22’

Commissioned by The Sage, Gateshead with funds from North Music Trust. Premiere: 18 December 2004. The Sage, Newcastle Upon Tyne, England. Northern Sinfonia, conductor Peter Wiegold.

Cors de chasse (2003)

tpt-solo, trb-solo, 2222 4231 3 perc hrp str

Peters Edition 15’

Commissioned by the Philharmonia Orchestra and the Brighton Festival. Premiere: 2 May 2004. Brighton Festival. Hakan Hardenberger (tpt-solo), Jonas Bylund (trb-solo), Philharmonia Orchestra, conductor Thierry Fischer.

Recording: Metronome 2008. Met CD 1076.

Inside Story (1999)

vn-solo, va-solo, 2223 4231 3 perc str

Peters Edition 23’

Commissioned by BBC for the 1999 BBC Promenade Concerts.

Premiere: 3 August 1999. BBC Promenade Concerts, Royal Albert Hall, London. Clio Gould (vn), Philip Dukes (va), BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, conductor Martyn Brabbins.

Recording: *Inside Story*. Metronome 2002. Met CD 1059.

Drum of the Nâjîd (1997)

rec-solo, perc-solo, 2223 2200 str

Peters Edition 22’

Commissioned by Northern Sinfonia. Premiere: 3 November 1997. North Wales Conference Centre, Llandudno, Wales.

Michala Petri (recs), Evelyn Glennie (perc), Northern Sinfonia, conductor David Haslam.

Memorial Cairns (1992)

str [5.4.3.2.1]

Peters Edition 7’

Commissioned by Ulster Orchestra Society for the Ulster Orchestra Sinfonia with funds provided by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Premiere: 11 December 1992. Guildhall, Derry. Ulster Orchestra Sinfonia, conductor John Finucane.

Recording: *Sound Carvings*. Metronome 1998. Met CD 1029.

Quadruple Elegy (in the time of freedom) (1990)

vn-solo, 2222 2200 perc str [8.8.6.4.3]

Peters Edition 25’

Premiere: 16 April 1992. Queen Elizabeth Hall, London.

Madeleine Mitchell (vn), City of London Chamber Orchestra, conductor Chris Zimmerman.

Recording: *Inside Story*. Metronome 2002. Met CD 1059.

ENSEMBLE

Sound Carvings from the Bell Foundry(2006)

2 tpt hn trb tuba

Peters Edition 18’

Commissioned by Kristianand Festival, Norway and Belfast Festival at Queen’s University. Co-premieres: 26 October 2006. Belfast Festival at Queen’s University. 28 October 2006.

Kristianand Festival, Norway. Stockholm Chamber Brass

Landscape with Portraits (2004)

vn va vc
Peters Edition 9'
Commissioned by Chamber Domaine.
Premiere: 4 July 2004. Cheltenham International Festival of Music. Chamber Domaine.

Maquette (2004)

variable [2 woodwind, 2 brass, perc, pf, str]
Peters Edition 6'
Commissioned by COMA.
Premiere: 18 June 2005. Spitalfields Festival, Christ Church, London. COMA London, conductor Gregory Rose.

Weaver of Grass (2002)

vn va vc db pf
Peters Edition
Commissioned by the Brighton International Festival, the Schubert Ensemble Trust and the Steel Foundation.
Premiere: 7 May 2003. Brighton International Festival. Scubert Ensemble of London
Recording: Metronome 2008. Met CD 1076.

Litholatry (2001)

fl+picc, cl+ecl, ob, bn+cbn, tpt+picc tpt, hn, btrb, perc, hrp, pf,
2 vn, va, vc, db
Peters Edition 10'
Commissioned by Bournemouth Orchestras with funds provided by the David James Trust
Premiere: 30 October 2002. Bournemouth. Kokoro Ensemble.

Driftwood on Sand (2000)

2 vn va vc
Peters Edition 22'
Commissioned by the Londonderry Music Society with funds from the National Lottery.
Premiere: 29 March 2001. The Nerve Centre, Derry. Medici String Quartet. Recording: Metronome 2008. Met CD 1076.

The Building of Curves (1998)

vn va vc pf
Peters Edition 12'
Commissioned by the Schubert Ensemble of London with funds provided by the Schubert Ensemble Trust.
Premiere: 18 June 1998. Spitalfields Festival, London. Schubert Ensemble of London.
Recording: Metronome 2008. Met CD 1076.

Sound Carvings from the Water's Edge (1996)

6 vn, 2 va, 2 vc, db
Peters Edition 10'
Commissioned by The Highland Festival with funds provided by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.
Premiere: 31 May 1996. Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland. BT Scottish Ensemble. Recording: *Sound Carvings*. BT Scottish Ensemble. Metronome 1998. Met CD 1029.

High Citadels (1994)

cl pf
Peters Edition 11'
Commissioned by Jörg Vogel with funds provided by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.
Premiere: 2 September 1994. Meerbusch, Germany. Jörg Vogel (cl). Recording: *Twentieth Century Music for Clarinet and Piano from the British Isles*. Metier 1998. MSV CD92013.

Sound Carvings from the Ice Wall (1994)

fl+picc, cl+bcl, perc, pf, va, vc, db
Peters Edition 17'
Commissioned by BBC.
Premiere: 19 September 1995. Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester. Psappha, conductor Christopher Gayford.
Recording: *Sound Carvings*. Metronome 1998. Met CD 1029.

The Still Dancers (1992)

2 vn va vc
Peters Edition 22'
Commissioned by Britten String Quartet with funds provided by the Arts Council of Great Britain.
Premiere: 6 March 1992. St. George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. The Britten String Quartet.
Recording: *Inside Story*. Metronome 2002. Met CD 1059.

Truth or Consequences (1991)

cl vc pf
Peters Edition 16'
Commissioned by Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts with funds provided by British Telecom.
Premiere: February 1992. Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts Award Ceremony, Belfast. Sequenza. Recording: *Sound Carvings*. Psappha. Metronome 1998. Met CD 1029.

Sound Carvings from Rano Raraku (1988 rev. 1992)

fl perc pf db
Peters Edition 18'
Commissioned by Newry and Mourne Arts Centre with funds provided by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.
Premiere: 28 May 1988. Newry and Mourne Arts Centre, Newry, Co. Down. Martin Feinstein Ensemble.
Recording: *Sound Carvings*. Psappha. Metronome 1998. Met CD 1029.

Dance Paragraphs (1983)

cl+bcl, pf
Contemporary Music Centre Editions / CMC 3101 8'
Commissioned by Richard Hosford.
Premiere: 10 January 1984. Park Lane Group Young Artists Series, Purcell Room, South Bank Centre, London. Richard Hosford (cl+bcl), Eoh Ean Mei (pf).

SOLO INSTRUMENTAL

Basho (1996)

pf
Peters Edition 6'
Premiere: 12 December 1997. Salle Cortot, Paris, France. Herbert du Plessis (pf).

Airs, Waters and Floating Islands (1995)

pf
Peters Edition 20'
Commissioned by The Holst Foundation.
Premiere: 15 February 1996. Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, England. Susan Tomes (pf).

Das Leonora Notenbuch (1988)

pf
Peters Edition 14'
Commissioned by Buxton Festival for William Howard with funds provided by North West Arts.
Premiere: 12 July 1988. Buxton Festival, England. William Howard (pf).

VOCAL AND CHORAL

The Pear Tree of Nicostratus (2001)

Ct-solo, 2 T-solo, B-solo, str
Text: Piers Hellawell, Boccaccio
Peters Edition 18'
Commissioned by Kaustinen Chamber Music Days, Finland.
Premiere: 29 January 2002. Folk Arts Centre, Kaustinen, Finland. Hilliard Ensemble, Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra, conductor Juha Kangas.

Do Not Disturb (1997)

ssaa, 2222 4230 2 perc str
Text: Thomas A. Clark
Peters Edition 12'
Commissioned by London Symphony Orchestra.
Premiere: 6 May 1997. Barbican Hall, London. Finchley Children's Music Group, London Symphony Orchestra, conductor Sir Colin Davis.

Quem Quaeritis (1995 rev. 1998)

S-solo, cl, bcl, va, vc, db
Text: Sacred
Peters Edition 8'
Commissioned by Sinfonia 21. Premiere: 22 August 1995. Old Stones New Fires Festival, Michelham Priory, England. Alison Wells (S-solo), Sinfonia 21, conductor Martyn Brabbins.

The Hilliard Songbook (1995)

Volume One and two
Text: Nicholas Hilliard
Peters Edition
Commissioned by the 1995 Hilliard Summer Festival.
Premiere: 12 August 1995. Emmanuel Reformed Church, Cambridge, England. Recording: *A Hilliard Songbook*. The Hilliard Ensemble: ECM 1996. 1614/15 453 259-2.

River and Shadow (1993)

Ct-solo, 2 T-solo, B-solo
Text: John Donne, Guillaume Apollinaire.
Peters Edition 15'
Commissioned by the Hilliard Ensemble with funds provided by the Arts Council of Great Britain.
Premiere: 13 June 1993. European City of Culture Celebrations, Antwerp. Hilliard Ensemble.

Fatal Harmony (1993)

S-solo
Text: Andrew Marvell
Peters Edition 6'
Premiere: 27 April 1995. British Music Information Centre, London. Jane Manning (S-solo).
Recording: CMC Sound Archive.