

signum
CLASSICS



FLIGHT

OLIVER DAVIS

Kerenza Peacock *violin*
London Symphony Orchestra
Paul Bateman *conductor*

FLIGHT

OLIVER DAVIS (B. 1972)

Flight, Concerto for Violin and Strings

1	I	[3.44]
2	II	[3.12]
3	III	[2.03]
4	IV	[2.32]
5	V	[3.57]

6 Skyward [3.01]

Voyager, Concerto for Violin, Piano and Strings

7	I	[4.06]
8	II	[2.45]
9	III	[2.38]
10	IV	[3.02]
11	V	[2.47]

Huw Watkins *piano*

World Premiere Recordings

12 Air Waltz [2.34]

Airborne Dances *

13	I	[2.04]
14	II	[2.09]
15	III	[2.34]
16	IV	[2.07]
17	V	[3.01]

Kerenza Peacock *violins*
 Dorothea Vogel & Alex Gale *viola*
 Philip Higham *cello*
 Ben Russell *double bass*

18 Epilogue [1.33]

Total timings: [50.03]

* LSO perform on all works except *Airborne Dances*

KERENZA PEACOCK VIOLIN
 LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
 PAUL BATEMAN CONDUCTOR

www.signumrecords.com

THE JOURNEY OF FLIGHT

I first met Kerenza in October 2012 at the premiere of a work I had written for piano called *The Calm, The Storm*. Kerenza mentioned that she played regularly with London-based string groups and asked whether I would be interested in writing a piece for violin and strings. I agreed and the following week set about composing some ideas. My initial sketch was a combination of a flowing violin melody combined with syncopated string arpeggios which gave it an airborne feel. This short idea became the opening of the first movement of *Flight*.

It was important to both of us that I didn't simply present the final piece as completed manuscript; she needed to be involved from the outset. So we met regularly to review sections that I had written and I had the opportunity to discover what Kerenza preferred musically, which helped ensure that the piece was specifically suited to her sound. Tailoring a piece for a musician gives an added depth when the work is performed. Movement by movement the work grew until the five movements were formed by Spring 2013.

Kerenza suggested to Ivor Setterfield that his group, Trafalgar Sinfonia, should perform the premiere, which took place the following November at St Martin-in-the-Fields. The response from the audience encouraged me to turn the concerto into a concept album based around solo violin accompanied by strings whilst maintaining the theme of flight. I commenced composing a second large scale five-movement work, *Voyager*, based on the extraordinary journey of the NASA probe. After writing some additional shorter works the music was completed in January 2014. I contacted the London Symphony Orchestra and managed to find a day they were available in their hectic schedule. I arranged the recording to take place at Air Lyndhurst in London, conducted by Paul Bateman and engineered by Jake Jackson. We were very fortunate in that Kerenza had been loaned a Stradivarius violin for the sessions. And for the *Voyager* recording we were joined by pianist Huw Watkins. Owing to the way I had orchestrated the pieces I had to arrange the orchestra in a unique fashion: the principals of first and second violins and cello sections needed their own desk in front of their section as they would have to be partially isolated in the movements where they played their own part separately

from the rest of the section. This would create a chamber group within a chamber orchestra and thus build the multi-layered texture that forms much of my string writing.

The penultimate work on the album is *Airborne Dances*. This was written in Spring 2014 and we decided as a novelty to multitrack Kerenza on different violins to create the string section (with the added help of four additional musicians on violas, cello and double bass). The experiment took place at Air Edel studios where we set out the studio as if to record a live string section. Kerenza played every single violin line on a different seat, playing a different violin for each part, thereby creating a totally unique sound. She was kindly loaned a Stradavari, a Guadagnini, a Goffriller, a Grancino and a Fendt by violin dealers Ingles and Hayday.

Oliver Davis

OLIVER DAVIS

Oliver studied under Justin Connolly at the Royal Academy of Music graduating in 1994. He has since composed and produced numerous albums, soundtracks, concertos and television scores working with all the major London orchestras.



Oliver's interest in ballet has led to a collaboration with choreographer and First Artist with the Royal Ballet, Erico Montes. His work *Within the Hours* was performed by the Royal Ballet and reviewed by Debra Craine in The Times as "beautiful new music by Oliver Davis". Recent works include the music to Chris Shepherd's film *The Ringer* for Canal Plus and working with Oscar nominated director Sylvain Chomet on the opening 'couch gag' sequence for The Simpsons – reaching over 6 million views on YouTube!

He is regularly commissioned to write solo piano repertoire for pianists such as Sam Haywood and Virginia Black; his piano music was also chosen for the TV promo for Sky Go and is often heard accompanying films in the UK and USA.

Soundtracks include 12 television series, 15 short films, 2 Playhouse films for Sky Arts – *City Hall* (Dir. Richard Loncraine) and *Nelly & Melba* (Dir. Christine Gernon) and feature film *Seaview Knights*. Works for stage encompass *TV22* with words by Paul Gambaccini and collaborating on a musical with Penguin author Felix Riley. Due for release is *Song for Malala* co written with Sandi Toksvig. Awards

include Best Music at the SanGio Digital Film awards for his score to the film *A to Z* by Sally Arthur. Other collaborations include creating the music and sound design for Tate Britain art installation *AnnLee You Proposes* by Turner Prize nominee Liam Gillick.

Oliver's studios are based in the heart of Soho where he has been writing and recording since 1998. He is published by Music Sales, London.

KERENZA PEACOCK

As leader of the Pavão Quartet for 15 years, Kerenza recorded multiple CDs with them and performed across the world. She is a regular concerto soloist with the Trafalgar Sinfonia in St Martin-in-the-Fields. She recorded the world premiere of the Holbrooke Violin Concerto. Kerenza's solo and chamber discs have received 5-star reviews, and her collaborations with artists in the classical and pop worlds, have led to her playing on Grammy-Award winning discs, and many No. 1 albums in the Classical and Pop Charts. When travelling abroad for her concerts, she has heard her recordings in such unlikely places as a canal boat in Amsterdam, a casino in Las Vegas and a souk in Syria.

Kerenza studied at the Royal Academy of Music with Howard Davis, and was a Leverhulme Chamber Music Fellow for two years. It was at the Academy that the Pavão Quartet's impressive 15-year journey began in 1998, leading to a successful recording career and extensive radio play on Classic FM, BBC Radio 3 and BBC Radio 2. Their disc of Elgar and Bax Quartets was followed by their album 'Dreaming', which was described as "Chamber



music for a new century" on BBC Radio 2. Their Christmas CD became the soundtrack of Christmas for many people, on disc and on radio. The 'Light and Gold' CD they recorded with Eric Whitacre reached No. 1 in the Classical Charts on both sides of the Atlantic simultaneously, and won a Grammy award in 2012. The Quartet toured extensively with the Henri Oguike Contemporary Dance Company, and collaborated with singers including Sir Willard White, Andrew Kennedy and Elaine Paige, jazz musicians Dom Alldis, Guy Barker and Iain Ballamy, and enjoyed performing in Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club.

You are just as likely to hear Kerenza playing on Radio 1 as on Classic FM. At one point she was playing on all Top 3 albums in the Pop Charts, as well as on the Classical No. 1. Artists she has recorded with include Adele, Noel Gallagher, the Spice Girls, Cee-Lo Green, Sir Paul McCartney, The Script, Pink, Celine Dion and Emeli Sandé. Kerenza's extensive experience in the recording studio has also led to her recording for several films and also for TV. Highlights of her career so far have included performing on over 15 different Stradivari instruments, and once during an encore, tap-dancing down the aisle of St. Martin-in-the-Fields.

HUW WATKINS

Huw Watkins was born in Wales in 1976. Studied piano with Peter Lawson at Chetham's School of Music and composition with Robin Holloway, Alexander Goehr and Julian Anderson at Cambridge and the Royal College of Music. He was awarded the RCM's Constant and Kit Lambert Junior Fellowship in 2001 and he is currently Professor of Composition at the Royal Academy of Music and has been appointed as the Royal Philharmonic Society and PRS for Music Foundation's Composer in

the House with Orchestra of the Swan from 2012 until 2014 during which he will be writing a number of new works.

Huw Watkins is in great demand as composer and pianist. He is regularly heard on BBC Radio 3 both as a soloist and chamber musician. He has a strong commitment to the performance of new music, and has given many premieres. He was Featured Composer at the 2009 Presteigne Festival of Music and the Arts, and Composer in Residence at both the 2011 Heimbach Festival (at the invitation of Lars Vogt) and Nürnberg Festival. Watkins was named winner of the Vocal Award at the 2011 British Composer Awards for his *Five Larkin Songs* which he premiered with Carolyn Sampson at the 2010 Weekend of English Song in Ludlow. A disc of his music was released by NMC in 2012. Huw has also recorded for Chandos and Signum.

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

First Violins

Roman Simovic *leader*
Tomo Keller
Maxine Kwok-Adams
Elizabeth Pigram
Sylvain Vasseur
Gerald Gregory

Second Violins

Thomas Norris
David Ballesteros
Richard Blayden
Belinda McFarlane
Iwona Muszynska
Rhys Watkins

Violas

Gillianne Hadow
Lander Echevarria
Anna Green
Richard Holttum

Cellos

Timothy Hugh
Alastair Blayden
Eve-Marie Caravassilis

Double Basses

Colin Paris
Nicholas Worters



© Igor Emmerich

The London Symphony Orchestra is widely regarded as one of the world's leading orchestras. The LSO has an enviable family of artists, including LSO Principal Conductor Valery Gergiev, Michael Tilson Thomas and Daniel Harding as Principal Guest Conductors, and long-standing relationships with some of the leading musicians in the world – Leonidas Kavakos, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Mitsuko Uchida and Maria João Pires amongst others.

The LSO is proud to be Resident Orchestra at the Barbican, where it performs around 70 concerts a year. Joint projects between the Orchestra and the Barbican place us at the heart of the Centre's programme. The LSO also enjoys successful residencies in New York, Paris and Tokyo. Other regular tour destinations include the Far East, North America and all the major European cities.

The LSO is set apart from other international orchestras by the depth of its commitment to music education, reaching over 60,000 people each year. LSO Discovery enables the Orchestra to offer people of all ages opportunities to get involved in music-making. LSO On Track, a long-standing project involving young musicians from across East London, has given

a platform to talented teenagers to appear in the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games, at outdoor concerts in Trafalgar Square, and also on Abbey Road recordings side-by-side with LSO musicians. LSO St Luke's, the UBS and LSO Music Education Centre, is the home of LSO Discovery; it also hosts chamber and solo recitals, dance, folk music and more.

The Orchestra is a world-leader in recording music for CD, film and events. LSO Live is the most successful label of its kind and recently celebrated its hundredth release – the Sir Colin Davis Anthology – in memory of the Orchestra's late President. Recordings are available globally on CD, SACD and online. The LSO was the official Orchestra of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Ceremonies, memorably performing *Chariots of Fire* with Rowan Atkinson conducted by Sir Simon Rattle. The LSO has also recorded music for hundreds of films, including *Philomena*, *The Monuments Men*, four of the *Harry Potter* films, *Superman* and all six *Star Wars* movies.

PAUL BATEMAN

Paul Bateman studied piano, organ, singing and 'cello at the Guildhall School of Music in London, and began his musical life as an accompanist, chamber musician and opera repetiteur. He conducts film music concerts all over the world and has recorded many film music albums for Silva Screen Records. His total discography now includes over 70 recordings, many of which feature daily on Classic FM.

Paul first appeared at Bryn Terfel's Faenol Festival in 2000 and was invited to return in 2002. He has conducted the Norwegian Radio Orchestra for the Nobel Peace Prize concerts in Oslo, accompanying a dazzling array of international artists including Bryn Terfel, Barbara Hendricks, Sumi Jo, Jessye Norman, Santana and Sir Paul McCartney.

Paul's association with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra goes back several years, having conducted their 'Film Music Gala' concerts at the Royal Albert Hall for nine consecutive years, many concerts around the UK and a tour of Korea. For Sarah Brightman he has conducted recordings of his own arrangements



© Terry Crouch

with the LSO and RPO and gives concerts with her all over the world.

He is also a regular guest conductor in Malta for tenor Joseph Calleja's annual summer concerts, most recently with Bryn Terfel as guest soloist. In 2013 he conducted for José Carreras in Japan, having written many new arrangements for his latest album.

2013 also saw the beginning of a fruitful relationship with Deutsche Grammophon and Decca, working as arranger on albums for Piotr Beczala, Joseph Calleja and Daniel Hope, who also commissioned Paul to write a new suite for violin and orchestra based on the songs of Kurt Weill.

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Engineered by Jake Jackson

Except *Airborne Dances* recorded at Air Edel, London, on 20th August 2014.
Engineered by Nick Taylor

Produced by Oliver Davis
Assistant Producer - Sophia Pagoni

Edited and Mixed by Oliver Davis at the We Write Music studios, Soho, London
Sibelius editing by Sophia Pagoni
Airborne Dances mixed by Ross Gregory at Aardvark Sound

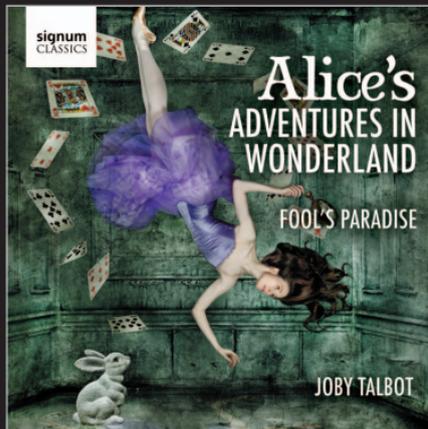
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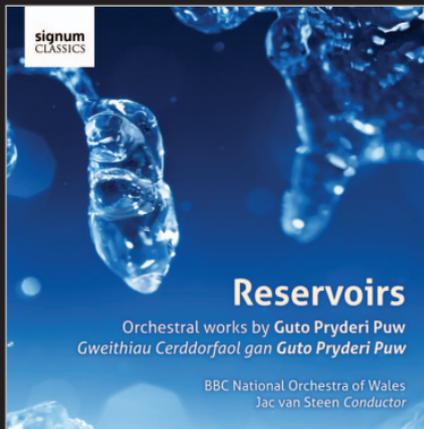
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