



Michael Parsons: Compositions

FOR INFORMATION ON THIS
MUSIC, CONTACT THE EMC
(<http://www.experimentalmusic.co.uk>)

Profile

One of the founding members of the Scratch Orchestra, Michael Parsons (b. 1938) has been not only an important composer, but also a writer, critic, and director of workshops and concerts of experimental and minimalist/systemic music in Britain since the 1960s. His music is often informed by the working out of all the possibilities of a single, unitary idea (which may have come from his admiration for the 'experimental' features of Webern), but other music is also warm and delightful. He is not averse to using local influences (such as his Macedonian pieces or rags); his association with the British Systems Art School has also brought an approach to music that is visual.

Compositions

PIANO PIECES (1961-68)

WALK (1969)

for any number of people walking in an open space

MINDFULNESS OF BREATHING

for low male voices

MINDFULNESS OCCUPIED WITH THE BODY (1970)

for untrained voices (at least 40) with percussion, and optional sustaining instruments

RHYTHM STUDIES (1970)

for four drummers

published by Frog Peak Music

RHYTHM STUDIES I & II (1970)

for two pianos

In *Piano Music 1971-74* (EMC: NM0013)

VARIATIONS (1971)

for piano

published by Forward Music and, with their kind permission,

in *Piano Music 1971-74* (EMC: NM0013)

CANON (1973)

for piano (four hands)

In *Piano Music 1971-74* (EMC: NM0013)

RHYTHM STUDIES 3 & 4 (1973)

for piano (No. 4 revised 1976)

In *Piano Music 1971-74* (EMC: NM0013)

PIANO PIECE 5 (1973)

In *Piano Music 1971-74* (EMC: NM0013)

ARCTIC RAG (1974)

for piano

In *Piano Music 1971-74* (EMC: NM0013)

PIECE FOR 4 WOODBLOCKS (1974)

(two players)

published by Forward Music

COUNTERRHYTHM STUDIES 1-6 (1974)

for two drummers



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published by Frog Peak Music

ECHO PIECE (1974, REV. 1976)

for two performers with woodblocks in an open space with natural echo

HIGHLAND VARIATIONS (1972)

for string quartet

published by Forward Music

FOURTHS AND FIFTHS (1977)

for piano

published by Frog Peak Music

CANON IN PROPORTIONAL TEMPI (1978)

for 3 melody instruments and 3 woodblock players

published by Frog Peak Music

THREE PIECES (1980)

for trumpet, horn, trombone

published by Forward Music

CHANGES (1981)

for Javanese gamelan instruments in slendro tuning

LUNA, SIRIAN AIR (1981, 82)

for unaccompanied female voice

FOURTHS AND FIFTHS 2 (1982)

for piano

OCTOBER DANCE (1983)

for accordion (also version for piano)

EPILOGUE (1983)

for accordion (also version for piano)

BAGATELLE (1983)

for piano

published by Forward Music

THREE ARCTIC SONGS (1984)

for baritone and piano

TWO ARCTIC SONGS (1985)

for soprano and piano

ARCTIC INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (1987)

for two clt., 2 vla. (or vln. + vla), marimba, piano

ARCTIC INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC 2 (1987)

for piano duet

EXPEDITION TO THE NORTH POLE (1988)

for mixed chorus and piano

LEVELS I & II (1988)

for computer-controlled electronic sound

TWO MACEDONIAN SONGS (1989)

arranged for clarinet and percussion (also flute and percussion)

published by Forward Music

FOURTHS AND FIFTHS (1990)

for solo flute



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SYZYGY (1991)

for oboe, clarinet, two trombones (or horn and trombone)

SKOPELOS 1-4 (1992)

four piano pieces based on trad. Greek melodies

THREE SONGS FROM SKOPELOS (1992)

for soprano and hurdy-gurdy

FOUR TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH MELODIES (1992-93)

arranged for piano

LEVELS III & IV (1992)

for computer-controlled electronic sound

TRIPTYCH (1993) FOR PIANO

TWO PURCELL FANTAZIAS (1994)

arranged for flute, oboe, trumpet, bass-clarinet

TENEBRIO (1995)

for computer-controlled electronic sound

FOUR OBLIQUE PIECES (1996)

for piano

JIVE, JIVE 2 (1996)

for piano

published by Frog Peak Music

LEVELS IX-XII (1996)

4-channel sound installation, computer-controlled electronic sound

TALEA (1997)

for solo cello

published by Frog Peak Music

TWO CANONS (1997)

for piano

LAMENTATIONS (1997)

for 8 voices (SSAATTBB), oboe, clt, bsn, vln, vla, vc, db.

APARTMENT HOUSE SUITE (1998)

for ensemble of 5-8 instruments (flexible, incl. perc.)

APARTMENT HOUSE SUITE NO. 2 (1999)

for instrumental ensemble (5 or more instruments, partly indeterminate)

TWO CHORAL ODES (1997-99)

from the *Antigone* of Sophocles, for mixed chorus

THAMESPIECE (2000)

any ensemble of sustaining and percussion instruments (verbal score)

KRAPP MUSIC (1999)

for piano and tape

PIANO PIECE

December 2000