

Arlene Sierra



Cecilian Music

London & New York



Arlene Sierra

© 2018 Cecilian Music

All rights reserved for all countries, for all texts, photos and score extracts.

Front cover photo: © Ian Phillips-Mclaren



© photo Ian Phillips-Mclaren. All rights

Arlene
SIERRA

An American composer based in London, Arlene Sierra writes music that takes its impetus from rich sources including military strategy and game theory, Darwinian evolution, and the natural world. Her music has been lauded for its “highly flexible and distinctive style” (The Guardian), “by turns, urgent, poetic, evocative, and witty” (American Academy of Art and Letters). Performers of her work include the Tokyo Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, Alabama Symphony, Albany Symphony, New York City Opera VOX London Sinfonietta, International Contemporary Ensemble, Psappha, Lontano, Österreichisches Ensemble für neue Musik, the Carducci Quartet,

and the Benedetti-Elschenbroich-Grynyuk Trio. Important commissions include Game of Attrition – New York Philharmonic, Art of War – BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Insects in Amber – Carducci Quartet and Cheltenham Music Festival, Neruda Settings – Tanglewood Music Festival, Hand Mit Ringen – Huddersfield Music Festival, Moler – Seattle Symphony, Butterflies Remember a Mountain – Bremen Philharmonic Society, Urban Birds – PRS New Music Biennial, and Nature Symphony – BBC Radio 3 and the BBC Philharmonic.

Declared “a name to watch” by BBC Music Magazine, Arlene Sierra first gained international recognition when her orchestral work Aquilo was awarded the Takemitsu Prize. Subsequent awards have included the Charles Ives Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Classical Recording Foundation Composer of the Year, and fellowships including Aspen, Aldeburgh Britten-Pears, and the MacDowell Colony. She has had the honour of Composer Portrait concerts at the Crush Room, Royal Opera House, London, the Yellow Barn Chamber Music Festival, Vermont, and Columbia University’s Miller Theatre, New York. Sierra’s orchestral showpiece Moler was nominated for a Latin GRAMMY for Best Contemporary Classical Composition.

Her music is the subject of a series of portrait recordings by the prestigious Bridge Records label. Arlene Sierra, Vol. 1, recorded by the International Contemporary Ensemble, received rave reviews internationally and was featured by NPR Classical, which described its “remarkable brilliance of color, rhythmic dexterity and playfulness.” Game of Attrition: Arlene Sierra, Vol. 2 includes world-premiere recordings of recent orchestral works performed by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Jac Van Steen, conductor. It has also met with widespread critical acclaim, praised for “vividly scored, colorful works” by the New York Times and described by The Guardian as “remarkably sure-footed... quirky and individual” and “startlingly fresh and assured.” A new disc of chamber works Arlene Sierra, Vol. 3 will be released by Bridge in 2018, including two critically-acclaimed piano trios, Truel

and *Butterflies Remember a Mountain*. Other labels representing Sierra's work include NMC and Coviello Classics.

Arlene Sierra's catalogue ranges from song cycles *Streets and Rivers* and *Neruda Settings* to operas *Faustine* and *Cuatro Corridos*, the piano album *Birds and Insects*, string quartet *Insects in Amber*, ensemble works *Ballistae*, *Cicada Shell* and *Colmena*, and a series of new scores to Maya Deren films from the 1940's including *Meditation on Violence* and *Ritual in Transfigured Time*. *Urban Birds* was featured by BBC News and toured venues including London's South Bank Centre and the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. *Butterflies Remember a Mountain* has had performances at the BBC Proms, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, the Louvre, and the Frankfurt Alte Oper. *Nature Symphony* was commissioned by BBC Radio 3 and praised in *The Guardian* for its "succession of striking orchestral ideas" while *Bachtrack.com* declared it "memorable for its creation of wonderful sounds from a large orchestra, ever-changing rhythms, ear-catching snatches of melody, contrasts of mood and a feeling that it all came together as a satisfying whole as a symphony should."

Born in Miami to a family of New Yorkers, Dr. Sierra holds degrees from Oberlin College-Conservatory (BA, Bmus), Yale School of Music (MMus) and the University of Michigan (DMA). Her principal teachers were Martin Bresnick, Michael Daugherty and Jacob Druckman; she also worked with Betsy Jolas and Dominique Troncin at Fontainebleau, and Paul-Heinz Dittrich in Berlin. At Tanglewood, Aldeburgh, and Dartington she studied with Louis Andriessen, Magnus Lindberg, Colin Matthews, and Judith Weir.

Dr Sierra is currently Reader in Composition and Deputy Head of School at Cardiff University School of Music. Guest professorships and master classes have included Eastman School of Music, Bowdoin International Music Festival, Yonsei and Ewha Universities (South Korea), Universität Mozarteum Salzburg, and Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

26

M

M

Mural waller

Mural waller

M

Nature Symphony, I. Mountain of Butterflies (2017)

CATALOGUE OF WORKS

Scores and digital media are provided on hire by Cecilian Music • Scores on sale are available via our website. For our works without sale or for hire indications, please contact Cecilian Music.

ORCHESTRA

Aquae (2001) 17'

I. Lacrimae,

II. Aquilo

(3. 3. 3. 3. / 4. 3. 3. 1/

3 Perc. Timp/ Hp. Pno=Cel./ Strings)

Study score for sale

Material on hire

Aquilo (2001) – 10'

(3. 3. 3. 3. / 4. 3. 3. 1/

3 Perc. Timp/ Hp. Pno=Cel./ Strings)

Study score for sale

Material on hire

Ballistae (2000) – 11'

(1.1.2.0 / 1.0.0.0 /

2 Perc. Hp. Pno. / Strings)

Study score for sale

Material on hire

Game of Attrition (2009) – 12'

(2.1.1.1 / 1.1.1.0 /

2 Perc. Hp. Pno. / Strings)

Study score for sale

Material on hire

Mantegna Diptych (2000) – 10'

I. Visage,

II. Painter's Process

(3. 3. 3. 3. / 4. 3. 3. 1/

3 Perc. Timp/ Hp. Pno=Cel./ Strings)

Study score for sale

Material on hire

Moler (2012) – 9'
(3. 3. 3. 3. / 4. 3. 3. 1/
3 Perc. Timp/ Hp. Pno./ Strings)

Study score for sale
Material on hire

Nature Symphony (2017) – 21'
(3. 3. 3. 3. / 4. 3. 3. 1/
3 Perc. Timp/ Hp. Pno./ Strings)

Study score for sale
Material on hire

SOLOIST AND ORCHESTRA

Piano Concerto: Art of War (2010) – 21'
I. Captive Nation,
II. Strategic Siege
(3. 3. 3. 3. / 4. 3. 3. 1/
3 Perc. Timp/ Hp. Cel/ Strings)

Study score for sale
Material on hire

**Trombone Concerto:
Dedication and Dance**
(1994, revised 2003) – 14'
(3. 3. 3. 3. / 4. 3. 3. 1/
3 Perc. Timp/ Hp. Pno=Cel./ Strings)

Study score for sale
Material on hire

WIND ENSEMBLE

**Trombone Concerto:
Dedication and Dance**
(1994, revised 2003) – 14'
(3. 3. 3. 3. / 4. 3. 3. 1/
3 Perc. Timp/ Hp. Pno=Cel./ Strings)

Study score and Performing set for sale

LARGE ENSEMBLE

Ballistae for Thirteen Players (2000) – 11'
(Fl., Ob=Eng. Hn., 2 Cl. (2=Bs. Cl.), Hn.,
2 Perc., Pno., 2 Vln., Vla., Vcl., Db.)

Study score for sale
Material on hire

Cicada Shell for Septet (2006) – 15'
I. Marziale
II. Misterioso, espressivo
(Fl.=Picc., Cl.=Bs.Cl., Hn.,
I Perc., Pno., Vln., Vcl.)

Study score for sale
Material on hire

Colmena for Fourteen Players (2008) – 8'
(2 Fl., Ob=Eng.Hn., Cl., Hn.,
2 Perc., Hp., Pno., 2 Vln., Vla., Vcl., Db.)

Study score for sale
Material on hire

Four Choreographic Studies for Ten Players (2001) – 10'
I. Slingshot,
II. Unravelling,
III. Tango,
IV. Risk
(Fl., Cl., Tpt., I Perc., Pno., 2 Vln., Vla., Vcl., Db.)

Study score for sale
Material on hire

Tiffany Windows for Twelve Players (2002) – 14'
I. Light Through Dark Glass
II. Favriile (Hand Made)
III. Cloud Circle
(Fl.=Picc., Ob., Cl., Bsn., Hn.,
I Perc., Hp., 2 Vln., Vla., Vcl., Db.)

Study score for sale
Material on hire

SOLOIST AND LARGE ENSEMBLE

Neruda Settings for Soprano and Chamber Ensemble (2002-5) – 22'

- I. Oda a la lagartija,
- II. Oda a la alcachofa,
- III. Oda al plato,
- IV. Oda a la mesa
(Fl., Cl., Hn., I Perc., Hp.,
Pno=Cel., Vln., Vla., Vcl., Db.)

Study score for sale
Material on hire

WORKS FOR 2 TO 6 PLAYERS

Avian Mirrors for Violin and Cello (2013) – 10'

- I. Greeting,
- II. Reflection,
- III. Display

Study score for sale
Performing set for sale

Butterflies Remember a Mountain

Piano Trio (2013) – 12'

- I. Butterflies,
- II. Remember
- III. A Mountain

Study score for sale
Performing set for sale

A Conflict of Opposites

for Violin and Piano (2006) – 11'

- I. Feroce,
- II. Leggero

Study score for sale
Performing set for sale

A Conflict of Opposites

for Clarinet and Piano (2005) – 11'

- I. Feroce,
- II. Leggero

Study score for sale
Performing set for sale

Counting-Out Rhyme for Cello and Piano (2002) - 5'
Study score for sale
Performing set for sale

Duo for Violoncelli (1993) - 5'

Study score for sale
Performing set for sale

Four Love Songs for Viola and Piano (1993) - 8'

I. Rage
II. Caress
III. Game
IV. Adieu

Study score for sale
Performing set for sale

Harrow-lines for Piano Quintet (1999) - 7'
(Pno., Vln., Vla., Vcl., Db.)

Study score for sale
Performing set for sale

Insects in Amber String Quartet (2010) - 14'

I. Gryllus Integer
II. Double Viols
III. Figwasps

Study score for sale
Performing set for sale

Le Chai au Quai
(for Elliott Carter's 100th Birthday) (2008) - 3'
for Bass Clarinet and Cello

Study score for sale
Performing set for sale

Meditation on Violence for Five Players (2012) - 12'

*Concert Version - see FILM WORKS AND
DIGITAL MEDIA for film version information.
(Fl. = Alto Fl., Cl., Vln, Vcl, Pno.)

Study score for sale
Performing set for sale

Petite Grue (for Henri Dutilleux) (2008) - 2'
(Ob., Vibe., Hpschd., Db.)

Study score for sale
Performing set for sale

of Risk and Memory for Two Pianos (1997) - 11'
Score for sale

Ritual in Transfigured Time for Five Players (2016) - 14'
*Concert Version - see FILM WORKS AND
DIGITAL MEDIA for film version information.
(Bb Cl.=Eb Cl., 2 Vlns, Vla, Vcl)

Study score for sale
Performing set for sale

Surrounded Ground for Sextet (2008) - 13'
I. Preamble
II. Feigned Retreat
III. Egress
(Cl., 2 Vln., Vla., Vcl., Pno.)

Study score for sale
Performing set for sale

Truel (complete) for Clarinet Trio (2007) - 21'
I. Agitato
II. Lontano ma espressivo
III. Energico et intenso

Study score for sale
Performing set for sale

Truel (complete) for Piano Trio (2004) - 21'
I. Agitato,
II. Lontano ma espressivo,
III. Energico et intenso

Study score for sale
Performing set for sale

Truel I for Clarinet Trio (2003) - 7'

Study score for sale
Performing set for sale

Truel I for Piano Trio (2002) - 7'

Study score for sale
Performing set for sale

Zwei Hühner for Oboe and Trombone (2000) - 3'

Study score for sale
Performing set for sale

SOLO WORKS

Birds and Insects,

Book 1 for Solo Piano (2007) - 15'

1. Sarus Crane,
2. Cornish Bantam,
3. Cicada Sketch,
4. Titmouse,
5. Scarab

Score for sale

Birds and Insects,

Book 2 for Solo Piano with optional
recorded birdsong* (in progress, 2015–)

1. Painted Bunting,
2. Hermit Thrush,
3. Black and White Warbler,
4. Thermometer Cricket

Score for sale

Art of Lightness for Flute (2006) - 7'

Score for sale

Cricket-Viol for Solo Viola / Voice (2010) – 4'

Score for sale

Two Etudes after Mantegna for Cello (1998) – 10'

I. Visage

II. Painter's Process

Score for sale

SOLO VOICE & UP TO 6 PLAYERS

Hand mit Ringen

for Soprano and Three Players (2002) – 7'

(Vln., Cimbalom, Pno.)

Score for voice and piano (in preparation)

Study score for sale

Performing set for sale

Hearing Things

for Soprano and Piano (2008) – 7'

I. Look at Six Eggs

II. Hearing Things

Score for sale

Streets and Rivers

for Baritone and Piano (2007) – 14'

I. Upper Broadway

II. Sudden Collapses in Public Places

III. Diving Girl

IV. Hungry Thames

Score for sale

Streets and Rivers

for Soprano and Harp (2017) – 8'

I. Upper Broadway

II. Sudden Collapses in Public Places

Score for sale

Three Descriptions

for Soprano and Piano (1997) – 7'

I. First Floor

II. Evening

III. Greyhound

Score for sale

Two Neruda Odes for Soprano, Cello and Piano (2004) – 11'
I. Oda al plato, II. Oda a la mesa

Study score for sale
Performing set for sale

ELECTROACOUSTIC WORKS

***Birds and Insects**, Book 2
for Solo Piano with optional recorded birdsong
(in progress, 2015–)
1. Painted Bunting,
2. Hermit Thrush,
3. Black and White Warbler,
4. Thermometer Cricket,
5. Bobolink

Urban Birds for Two Pianos and Disklavier (2014) – 14'
(for three pianists performing with small percussion and electronics)
Study score for sale
Performing set for sale

WORKS WITH FILM

Meditation on Violence for Five Players (2012) – 12'
Music to accompany the Maya Deren film
(Fl. = Alto Fl., Cl., Vln, Vcl, Pno.)

Study score for sale
Performing set for sale

Ritual in Transfigured Time for Five Players (2016) – 14'
Music to accompany the Maya Deren film
(Bb Cl.=Eb Cl., 2 Vlns, Vla, Vcl)

Study score for sale;
Performing set for sale

FILM WORKS & DIGITAL MEDIA

For works with film, the publisher can provide a DVD or download link on request.
For Book 2 of Birds and Insects and Urban Birds sound files and digital media can be provided on request.

DANCE

Four Choreographic Studies for Ten Players (2001) – 10'

I. Slingshot,

II. Unravelling,

III. Tango,

IV. Risk

(Fl., Cl., Tpt., 1 Perc., Pno., 2 Vln., Vla., Vcl., Db.)

Study score for sale

Score and Parts for hire

OPERA AND MUSIC THEATRE

Faustine (in progress, 2011–) - ca. 75'

Opera in one act for Six Voices and Orchestra

(3. 3. 3. 3. / 4. 2. 2. 1 / 2 Perc. Timp/ Hp. Pno./ Strings)

Contact publisher for further information

Cuatro Corridos: Dalia (2013) – 13'

Chamber Opera Scena for Soprano and Three Players

(Guitar / 1 Perc./ Pno.)

Study score for sale

Score and Parts for hire

CHORUS

Alike Dissolving for SATB, Children's Choir

and String Orchestra (2001) – 14'

I. Weathers,

II. The Lizard,

III. Waiting Both,

IV. Going and Staying

Orchestral Score and Parts for hire

Alike Dissolving for Unaccompanied SATB (2001) – 14'

I. Weathers, II. The Lizard, III. Waiting Both, IV. Going and Staying

Score for sale

Alleluya (Bitter-Sweet)
for Unaccompanied SATB or
four men's voices (2000) – 3'

Score for sale

DISCOGRAPHY

Arlene Sierra, Vol. 1
BRIDGE9343

Game of Attrition:
Arlene Sierra, Vol. 2
BRIDGE9414

Urban Birds
NMC
DL201401

Lounge Lizards
of Risk and Memory
Quattro Mani:
Steven Beck and Susan Grace, pianos
BRIDGE9486

Approaching Dutilleux
Petite Grue
The Riot Ensemble
COV91503

Cuatro Corridos: a chamber opera
Dalia
Susan Narucki, Soprano
BRIDGE9473

One Minute Wonders
Titmouse from Birds and Insects, Book 1
Clive Williamson, piano
CACD0612



SELECTED WRITINGS

Katy Wright: 'Premieres: November's new music'
Classical Music Magazine,
Issue 1038
November 2017

Xenia Pestova: 'Conversation with Arlene Sierra'
I Care If You Listen Magazine
June/July 2012

Robert Schulslaper: 'Composer Arlene Sierra:
Process, Strategy, Evolution'
Fanfare Magazine
Nov/Dec 2011



CONTACT

Elizabeth Thornton
cecilianmusic@mac.com
www.cecilianmusic.com
@CecilianMusic