

Arlene Sierra



Cecilian Music

London & New York





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Arlene Sierra  
SIERRA

Arlene Sierra is a London-based American composer whose music is lauded for its “highly flexible and distinctive style” (*The Guardian*), ranging from “exquisiteness and restrained power” to “combative and utterly compelling” (*Gramophone*). Her work has been commissioned and performed by the Albany, Alabama, Boston, Detroit, Seattle, and Utah Symphonies, New York Philharmonic, Tokyo Philharmonic, BBC Philharmonic, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, ensembles including Lontano, Psappha, Riot Ensemble, International Contemporary Ensemble, London Sinfonietta, Österreichisches

Ensemble für neue Musik, Chroma, New Juilliard Ensemble, the Carducci, Daedalus, and Mivos Quartets, the Fidelio, Peabody, Bakken, and Horszowski Trios, and New York City Opera VOX. She has worked with conductors including Thierry Fischer, Andris Nelsons, Kevin John Edusei, Susanna Mälkki, Oliver Knussen, Jac Van Steen, Shiyeon Sung, Odaline de la Martinez, Jayce Ogren, Stefan Asbury, Grant Llewellyn, and Ludovic Morlot. Soloists include Claire Booth (soprano), Susan Narucki (soprano), Wendy Richman (viola), Zoe Martlew (cello), Robin Michael (cello), Rowland Sutherland (flute), Eric Lamb (flute), and pianists Sarah Cahill, Clare Hammond, Marilyn Nonken, Xenia Pestova, Kathleen Supové, and Huw Watkins. Her music has been performed at festivals including Aldeburgh, Aspen, Bowdoin, Cheltenham, Fontainebleau, Huddersfield, Dartington, and Tanglewood.

Notable premieres include *Nature Symphony* “memorable for its creation of wonderful sounds from a large orchestra” (*Bachtrack.com*) commissioned by BBC Radio 3 and the BBC Philharmonic, *Butterflies Remember a Mountain* for the Benedetti-Elschenbroich-Grynyuk Trio, described as “precisely and joyously imagined” (*The Times*) and performed in venues including the Concertgebouw and the BBC Proms, and a New York Philharmonic commission for chamber orchestra *Game of Attrition*, described by *Time Out* as “at turns spry, savage, sly and seductive... so enrapturing.” Sierra’s highly individual works have been nominated and awarded on several occasions, including the Takemitsu Composition Prize (for the orchestral work *Aquilo*), a Charles Ives Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, PRS Composers Fund and Women Make Music awards, and a Leverhulme Research Fellowship. Her orchestral showpiece *Moler* was nominated for a Latin GRAMMY for Best Contemporary Classical Composition.

Declared “a name to watch” by BBC Music Magazine, Sierra has been featured in portrait concerts at the Crush Room, Royal Opera House, London, the Yellow Barn Chamber Music Festival, Vermont, Composers Now New York, and the Composer Portraits Series at NYC’s Miller Theatre, among others. Her music is the subject of a series of portrait recordings by the esteemed 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 colour, rhythmic dexterity and playfulness.” The orchestral disc *Game of Attrition: Arlene Sierra, Vol. 2* has been 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.” *Gramophone Magazine* has described Sierra’s most recent release *Butterflies Remember a Mountain - Arlene Sierra, Vol. 3* as “a wonderful chamber music issue that enthralls from first bar to last.” Other labels representing Sierra’s work include NMC, New Focus Recordings, and Coviello Classics.

As Utah Symphony Composer-in-Association in 2021-2022, Arlene Sierra worked closely with musicians and the community, creating a new work for youth orchestra, *Butterfly House*, and her most recent large-scale statement for orchestra, *Bird Symphony*, to audience and critical acclaim. Recent projects include *Birds and Insects, Book 3*, commissioned by the Barbican Centre for pianist Sarah Cahill, and *Kiskadee*, a Toulmin Foundation commission for the Detroit Symphony with further scheduled performances with the Dallas, Illinois, Louisiana, and Wheeling Symphonies.

Born in Miami to a family of New Yorkers, Arlene Sierra holds degrees from Oberlin College-Conservatory (B.A./B.Mus), Yale School of Music (M.Mus), and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (D.Mus.) where she held a Merit Fellowship. Her principal teachers were Martin Bresnick, Michael Daugherty, and Jacob Druckman; she 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. An engaging speaker on composition and contemporary music, invited lectures and presentations include Oxford University, Cambridge University, New England Conservatory, Yale, Eastman, New York University, University of Michigan, Valencia Institute of Performing Arts (VIPA), Universität Mozarteum Salzburg, and Yonsei and Ewha Universities (South Korea). Arlene Sierra currently serves as Professor of Music Composition at Cardiff University School of Music. She lives in London with her husband, British composer Kenneth Hesketh, and their son Elliott.

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Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Trp.

Trbn.

Tuba

Perc.

Harp

Vln.

M

Nature Symphony, I. Mountain of Butterflies (2017)

## ORCHESTRA

### 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

#### **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

#### **Bird Symphony** (2021) – 24'

I. Warblers, II. Hermits and Captives, III. Female  
Birdsong, IV. Utahraptor  
(3. 3. 3. 3. / 4. 3. 3. 1/  
3 Perc. Timp/ Hp. Pno=Cel./ Strings)  
Study score for sale  
Material on hire

#### **Butterfly House** (2022) – 9'

I. O'Keeffe Landscape, II. Butterfly House  
(2. 2. 2. 2. / 3. 2. 2. 1 / 2 Perc. Timp/ Hp./ 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



**Kiskadee (2023) – 8'**

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

2 Perc. Timp/ 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., 1 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., 1 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., 1 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 I**

for Solo Piano (2007) – 15'

I. 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 (2018) – 24'

- I. Painted Bunting, 2. Hermit Thrush, 3. Black and White Warbler,
  4. Thermometer Cricket, 5. Bobolink
- Score for sale

### **Birds and Insects, Book 3**

for Solo Piano with optional recorded birdsong\* (2022) – 18'

- I. Canyon Wren, 2. Lovely Fairywren, 3. Great Grig,
4. Tawny Owls, 5. Troupial

**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., Cymbalom, 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 (2018) – 24'

- I. Painted Bunting, 2. Hermit Thrush, 3. Black and White Warbler,  
4. Thermometer Cricket, 5. Bobolink  
Score for sale

### **Birds and Insects, Book 3**

for Solo Piano with optional recorded birdsong\* (2022) – 18'

- I. Canyon Wren, 2. Lovely Fairywren, 3. Great Grig,  
4. Tawny Owl, 5. Troupial  
Score for sale

**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

**Studies in Choreography** for Flute, Viola, and Harp (2019) - 9'  
Music to accompany two short Maya Deren films  
Study score for sale  
Performing set for sale

### **FILM WORKS & DIGITAL MEDIA**

For works with film, the publisher can provide a download link on request.  
For Books 2 and 3 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**

**Butterflies Remember a Mountain:**  
**Arlene Sierra, Vol. 3**  
**BRIDGE9506**

**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

**Rick Mortensen:** 'Sierra's avian world premiere to take flight with Utah Symphony'  
Utah Arts Review,  
April 2022

**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

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