Kenneth Hesketh



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Kenneth Hesketh has been described as "one of the UK's most vibrant voices, having a brand of modernism that reveals true love for sound itself" (International Piano) and as "a composer who both has something to say and the means to say it" (Tempo magazine).

He has received numerous national and international commissions, including the Fromm Foundation, the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group premiered under Sir Simon Rattle, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic orchestra conducted by Vasily Petrenko, the BBC Philharmonic conducted by Vasilly Sinaisky,

Hans Werner Henze and the Endymion Ensemble (in honour of Henze's 75th birthday), the Munich Biennale, the Seattle Symphony Orchestra, the Michael Vyner Trust for the London Sinfonietta, the Göttinger Symphonie Orchester, the Asko ensmble, ensemble Psappha, The Continuum Ensemble, The Opera Group, Britten Sinfonia, Ensemble Contemporain de Montréal, and Kissinger Sommer Internationales Musikfestival. Notable soloists include Nicholas Daniel, Hansjorg Schellenberger, Hans Christoph Begeman, Jan Philip Schulze, Sarah Leonard, Rodney Clarke, Sarah Nichols, Christopher Redgate, Daragh Morgan, Janet Sung, Mary Dullea and Clare Hammond. Between 2007 to 2009 Hesketh was Composer in the House (Royal Philharmonic Society/ PRS Foundation scheme) with the RLPO. He has been represented at festivals from London (Proms) to the USA (Tanglewood/Bowdoin) to China (Beijing Modern Music Festival).

Kenneth

Hesketh's early interest in other artforms, be they classical architecture, medieval iconography, poetry or Bauhaus constructivism, have more recently included a fascination with entropy, mutation and existentialism. His work has been described as "pure music, in possessing – because the notes seem to be creating their own harmonic and rhythmic forces and processes – a great freshness." (Paul Griffiths). Intrigued by sinister or melancholy children's literature (in works such as *Small Tales, tall tales* and *Netsuke*), the concept of 'unreliable machines' also proliferates throughout Hesketh's work: short bursts of mechanistic material that attempt metamorphosis but achieve only a more rapid burn-out are principle concerns in works including *Theatre of Attractions* and *Wunderkammer[konzert]*. A strong compositional determinate for many of Hesketh's works is a formal design through the use of transient and fixed group materials. "The considerable surface complexity

of his elaborate rhythmic invention is unfailingly refracted through a remarkably acute ear for sonority and colour allied with an obsessive preoccupation with textural transparency." (Christopher Thomas)

Hesketh has worked with an array of important conductors including Sir Simon Rattle, Vasilly Sinaisky, Vasily Petrenko, Susanna Malkki, Martyn Brabbins, Ludovic Morlot and Pascal Rophé. Oliver Knussen was an important early champion of Hesketh's music, conducting works with the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group and the London Sinfonietta. Susanna Malkki featured Hesketh's work in her opening concert as Music Director of Ensemble intercontemporain in Paris. Christoph-Mathias Mueller and Clark Rundell have also championed Hesketh's music in Britain and Europe with orchestras including the Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana, SWR Sinfonie Orchester Baden-Baden and Ensemble 10/10.

A professor of composition and orchestration at the Royal College of Music, honorary professor at Liverpool University and active as a guest lecturer and visiting professor, Hesketh has taught at the Summer Academy of the Ionian University, the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, Bowdoin International Music Festival USA, and Cheltenham Composer Academy, England. He is a co-director of the composition course at the Aberystwyth MusicFest in Wales.

Awards include the André Chevillion-Yvonne Bonnaud Foundation Prize, France, a British Composer Award in 2017 for his work In Ictu Oculi and shortlisted for an Ivors Academy Award in 2020 (Uncoiling the River). His orchestrations of Ravel and Dutilleux have been critically acclaimed, with his versions of Dutilleux's pieces de concours for flute, oboe and bassoon, performed by the Sinfonia of London being cited in a BBC Music Magazine award in 2022. His orchestration of Ravel's Sites Auriculaires will be performed throughout the Ravel centenary year (2025).

His work has been recorded by NMC, BIS, Paladino Music, Somm Records, Prima Facie, and Chandos labels. The first NMC recording dedicated to solely to Hesketh's work (Wunderkammer(konzert), 2013) was devoted to large ensemble and orchestral works. A disc of Hesketh's piano music (Clare Hammond) was released by BIS in 2016 to great acclaim; In Ictu Oculi (Paladino Music) was judged one of the Top 100 disc releases in 2018 (The Times) and described as 'An exhilarating and beautiful synergy of form and expression" from "a composer at the height of his considerable powers"

(BBC Music Magazine). A Britten Sinfonia release (Somm Records, 2019) spotlighted original and orchestrated works.

American Record Guide called Hesketh's music "beautiful, complex and restless ... His response to musical form is particularly remarkable ... The colorful orchestration and palpable verve in the individual gestures and large-scale construction make me want to return to them again and again".



Along Dark Paths (2022)

ORCHESTRA

Knotted Tongues (2012 rev. 2014) 14 Commissioned by the Seattle Symphony as part of its Sonic Evolution project.

3(2 = pic., 3 = Alto Flt). 2. Cor Ang. 2 (2 = Bs Clt in) Bs Clt (= Clt in A). 2 Cbsn (= Bassoon)/ 4. 3. 3.1/ Timp.; 3 Perc./ Piano (=celesta); Harp/ Strings (12.10.8.6.4 preferable. NB. DBs should have 5th string or C extension) Premiere: 26 October 2012 Seattle Symphony Orchestra, Ludovic Morlot, conductor, Benaroya Hall, Seattle, USA

> Study score for sale Material on hire

Of Time and Disillusionment

for Chamber Orchestra (2016) 19' 3 (2 = pic.) 2. 2. 2. / 2. 2. 0. 0. / Timp. (= Tub. Bells)/ Cel./ Harp/ Strings Recorded by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, conducted by Christoph Mathias Mueller, September 2017

> Study score for sale Material on hire

In Ictu Oculi - Three Meditations

for Orchestra (2017) 17' pic. 3. 2. Cor Ang. 3. Bs Clt. 2. Cbsn/ Sop. Sax, Alto Sax, Ten. Sax, Bari. Sax/ 4. 3. 3.1/ Timp.; 3 Perc./ Piano (=celesta); Harp/ Strings (12.10.8.6.4 preferable. NB. DBs should have 5th string tuned to B) Recorded by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, conducted by Christoph Mathias Mueller, September 2017

> Study score for sale Material on hire

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CATALOGUE

OF WORKS

Lullaby of the Land Beyond

Orchestral version (2018/2023) c.3'

Picc. 2. 2. Cor Ang. 2. CB Clt. 2 Cbsn/ 4. 2. 3. 1/ Timp. 3 Perc/ Celesta; Harp/ Strings (10.8.6.5.3. NB. DBs should have 5th string or C extension)

> Study score for sale Material on hire

Concerto Salmigondis

for Chamber Orchestra (2015) 15' Commissioned by the Britten Sinfonia For the Britten Sinfonia Academy

I. Intrada 2. Lento 3. Leggiero – The Charming Brute 4. Musette 5. Hop Jig

2. (2 = picc). 2. 2. 2/ 2. 2. 0. 0/Timps; Harpsichord; Harp/ Strings Premiere: 30 June 2016 St Andrew's Hall, Norwich Britten Sinfonia Academy and members of the Britten Sinfonia

> Study score for sale Material on hire

SOLOIST AND ORCHESTRA

Inscription-Transformation

for Violin and Orchestra (2015) 13'30" Commissioned by the Göttinger Symphonie Orchester

> Picc. (=flt). 2. 2. 2. Bs Clt. 2 (2=Cbsn)/
> 2. 2. 2 (1 Tenor, 1 Bass). 0/ Timp.; 3 Perc/ Celesta; Harp/ Strings (10.8.6.5.3. NB. DBs should have 5th string or C extension) Premiere: 29 January 2016 Göttingen, Stadthalle, Germany · Violin: Janet Sung · Conductor: Christoph Mueller · Göttinger Symphonie Orchester

> > Study score for sale Material on hire

'Uncoiling the river'

for Piano and Orchestra (2018) 24' Co-commissioned by BBC Radio 3 and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra

Picc. (=flt). 2. 2. Cor Ang. 2. Bs Clt. 2 Cbsn)/ 4. 3. 3. 1/ Timp.; 3 Perc/ Harp/ Strings (10.8.6.5.3. NB. DBs must have C extension, half tuned to low B)

Solo piano required to play desk bells (available on hire from the publisher)

Premiere: 25 January 2019 Hoddinott Hall, Cardiff. Piano: Clare Hammond Conductor: Martyn Brabbins BBC National Orchestra of Wales

> Study score for sale Material on hire

WIND ORCHESTRA – WIND ENSEMBLE

In Ictu Oculi - Three Meditations for Wind Ensemble (2015) 17' Commissioned by Phillip Scott for the National Youth Wind Ensemble of Great Britain

3.3.Eb Clt,3, Bs Clt. 2, Cbsn/4.4.3.Euph.2/ Harp; Piano (=Celesta) Timp. 3 Perc./ String Bass Premiere: 9 April 2016 Royal College of Music, London · Conductor: Phillip Scott · National Youth Wind Ensemble of Great Britain

Full score and materials for sale

Along Dark Paths (Per Opaca Viarum)

for Wind Orchestra (2021) c.22' Commissioned by the Koninklijk Harmonieorkest Vooruit Harelbeke; co-commissioned by Landesblasorchester Baden-Württemberg Skyline Communications, Nationale Loterij - Loterie Nationale, and the City of Harelbeke.

Picc.2.2.C.Ang. EbClt, 3.Bs Clt. Cntr-alto Clt; Cntrbass Clt.2.Cbsn/ 4.6.3.Euph.Tba/ Harp; Piano; Celesta (5 octave); Timp. 6 Perc./ Violoncelli (6) String Bass (4)

> Premiere: 31 July 2022 De Bijloke, Ghent · Conductor: Erik Desimpelaere · Koninklijk Harmonieorkest Vooruit Harelbeke

> > Full score and materials for sale

KEYBOARD INSTRUMENTS

PIANO SOLO

Horae (pro Clara) Breviary for Clare (2011-12) c.38' for Solo Piano Commissioned by Clare Hammond with assistance from the RVW Trust Dedication: For Clare Hammond Premiere of complete version: 6 July 2013 Cheltenham Music Festival, Cheltenham, UK

Score for sale

Hände: Das Leben und die Liebe eines Zärtlichen Geschlechts

for Solo Piano (and hand percussion) & Film (2015) 14'30"

Commissioned by Clare Hammond with assistance from the Britten-Pears Foundation, the Hinrichsen Foundation and the RVW Trust Dedication: For Clare Hammond Premiere: 23 November 2015 Cornerstone Festival, Liverpool, UK Piano: Clare Hammond

Score for sale - hand percussion and film available for hire

Pour Henri (2011) 1'

Written for Henri Dutilleux on the occasion of his 95th birthday.

Score for sale

The Lullaby of the Land Beyond (2018) c.2.30' Dedication: In memory of Oliver Knussen (1952-2018)

Premiere: 27 April 2019 Clare Hammond, piano Hebden Bridge Piano Festival 2019 UK Recorded by composer on the Prima Facie disc DIATOMS, released February 2019

Score for sale

Chorales and Kolam (derivata) (2019) c.5.45' Premiere: 30 March 2019 Atelier Stephen Paulello, Villethierry, France · Piano: Clare Hammond Dedication: for Clare

Score for sale

Auszüge aus einem kleinen Totenbuch (2023) 16' for piano solo (with Ebow and Tibetan prayer bowl) Dedication: for Clare Hammond

Score for sale

TWO PIANOS

DIATOMS (I - IV) The Four Horsemen for Two Pianos (2011) 16' I. Diatom I (to RD) 2. Diatom II (to SH) 3. Diatom III (to DD) - (skyhooks and cranes) 4. Diatom IV (to CH in memoriam) Commissioned by the Francoise-Green piano duo

> Premiere: 14 September 2012 Biennale Bern Festival Konservatorium Bern Switzerland · Francoise-Green piano duo

> > Score for sale

CHAMBER MUSIC

STRING QUARTET

Sisyphus' Punishment Die Bestrafung des Sisyphos for String Quartet (2011) 7' Commissioned with funding from the Britten-Pears Foundation Premiere: 17 May 2014 Concert Hall of Central Conservatory of Music (CCOM) · The Haba Quartet · 2014 Beijing Modern Music Festival, Beijing, China.

Score and parts for sale

CELLO

IMMH for Solo Cello (2013) 6' Premiere: 16 February 2014, Kettle's Yard, Cambridge · Cello: Anton Lukoszevieze This work is recorded on the Prima Facie label by the cellist Joseph Spooner.

Score for sale

WIND INSTRUMENTS

FLUTE

Entanglements (Dance scenes) for Alto Flute 10' Premiere: 14 February 2014, Royal Northern College of Music Flute: Helen Wilson

Score for sale

OBOE

Nox ruit... Hic locus est (derivata) for solo oboe (2021) 7' Dedication: to Heather Roche, in gratitude

Score for sale

BASS CLARINET

Barbiglio (derivato) for Solo Bass Clarinet (2014/rev. 2020) 6' Dedication: to Heather Roche, in gratitude

Score for sale

SOPRANO SAXOPHONE

Subtle Ayres (derivato) (2023) 8' for Soprano Saxophone Dedication: for Valentijn Lievens

Score for sale

DUO

Interludio e Nube Lontana (Derivato) (2019) 6

Version for Oboe and Harp

Dedication: for James Turnbull

Score and parts for sale

Interludio e Nube Lontana (Derivato) (2019) 6 Version for Flute and Harp

> Dedication: for the Aquilae Duo, Lisa Nelsen & Eleanor Turner

> > Score and parts for sale

BRASS

Fanfares for St Bartholomew (2023) 9' for Brass Quintet and (optional)Percussion

Score and parts for sale

STRING AND WIND INSTRUMENTS WITH PIANO

VIOLIN AND PIANO

Inscrizione (derivata) (A lie to the Dying) (2018) 6.30' Commissioned by the Foyle-Štšura Duo Premiere: 27 June 2018 Michael Foyle, violin, Maksim Štšura, piano 2018 St Magnus Festival, Orkney, Scotland

Score and parts for sale

TRIO

SPIKE (1&11) for Violin, Bass Clarinet & Piano (2015) 12' Score and parts for sale Violin, Cello and Piano Version available

MIXED QUARTET

What if ...? (op[f]er)

for flute, clarinet, violoncello and piano (2009) 3' For the London Contemporary Music Group Premiere: 5th November 2008 Oxford · Conductor: John Traill · London Contemporary Music Group

Score and parts for sale

VOCAL MUSIC - VOICE AND KEYBOARD INSTRUMENT

La Morte Meditate (Death meditated upon) (2009) 16' for Baritone and Piano Four settings of Giuseppe Ungaretti Commissioned by Jeremy Huw Williams with the assistance of the Britten-Pears Foundation

> I. Sirene (Sirens) 2. Variazioni sulla nulla (Variations on nothing) 3. Non gridate più (Shout no more) 4. Per sempre (Forever)

Premiere: 11 January 2011, St David's Hall, Cardiff Baritone: Jeremy Huw Williams Piano: Nigel Foster Score for sale

CHOIR

Because I could not stop for Death (2015) 5.30' for Unaccompanied Chorus (with divisi)

Score for sale

All ye that pass by (2019) 6

for SATB (with divisions) & Organ

4 November 2019, Worcester College Chapel, Thomas Allery, conductor Worcester College Chapel Choir, Oxford.

Score for sale

Missa brevis (2022) 14' for Upper voices and organ

Score for sale

Preces and responses (2022) 7' for SATB (unaccompanied)

Score for sale Sweet babe that wrapped in twilight (2022) 4' for SATB (unaccompanied)

Score for sale

Sweet babe that wrapped in twilight (2022) 4' for Upper voices and organ

Score for sale

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Head in the Clouds 3 Songs of Nature (2009-2012) 6' 3 Songs of Nature for Children's voices and piano Dedication: To my son Elliott

On A Fly Drinking Out Of His Cup (William Oldys)
 2. A Swing Song (William Allingham)
 3. Who has seen the wind? (After Christina Rossetti)

Premiere: New London Children's Choir, Conductor: Ronald Corp Score for sale

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CHOIR WITH INSTRUMENT(S)

Carmina Tempore Viri (Songs in Time of Virus) (2021) 22' for Upper voices, Harp, Organ and Desk bells Commissioned by Temple Church with text by Thomas Guthrie, devised with the help of the boys and their parents, for Roger Sayer and The Boy Choristers of Temple Church Choir.

> Parados I I.Co-migration 2.Osmosis 3.Vicissitude/Violence Interiacio 4.Impasse 5.Determination Parados II

Premiere: 11 June 2021, Temple Church, London Roger Sayer, conductor, Anne Denholm, Harp, Charles Andrews, Organ, The Boy Choristers of Temple Church Choir.

Full Score and parts/vocal score for sale

SOLO VOICE WITH ORCHESTRA OR INSTRUMENTS

Ungaretti Settings for Baritone and Chamber Orchestra (2010) 18' Commissioned by the Welsh Chamber Orchestra with the assistance of the Arts Council of Wales I. Sirene (Sirens) 2. Variazioni sulla nulla (Variations on nothing) 3. Non gridate più (Shout no more) 4. Per sempre (Forever)

2 (2= Picc.). 2. Clt in Bb, Bs Clt in Bb. 1, Cbsn/ 2. 2. 0. 0 / Harp Piano (= celesta) 2 Perc./ Strings 6.4.3.2.1 (DB with C extension) Premiere: 8th October 2010 William Aston Hall Glyndwr University Wrexham · Baritone: Jeremy Huw Williams · Conductor: Anthony Hose · Welsh Chamber Orchestra

Study score for sale (material on hire)

ORCHESTRATIONS – ARRANGEMENTS

Lili Boulanger (1893-1918)

(Orch. Kenneth Hesketh 2023)

Trois Morceaux (1914) c.7'

Pour Orchestre 2. 2. (2 = C.Ang). 2. Bass Clt. 2/ 2. 2. 0. 0/ Timps; Perc. (1); Harp Cel. Strings (with Low B)

Study score for sale (material on hire)

Lili Boulanger (1893-1918)

(Orch. Kenneth Hesketh 2023)

Thème et Variations(1914) c.10' Pour Orchestre 2. (2 = Picc.) 2. C.Ang 2. Bass Clt. 2 CBsn/ 4. 3. 3. 1/ Timps; Perc. (2); Harp Pno= Cel. Strings (with Low B)

Study score for sale (material on hire)

Henri Dutilleux

(arr. Kenneth Hesketh) **Mini-prélude en éventail** (1987 arr. 2016) 2' pour le 100ème numéro du Monde de la Musique Dedication: In memory of Henri Dutilleux Instrumentation: Oboe, Harpsichord, Doublebass, Percussion

For materials contact Cecilian Music

attr. Johann Sebastian Bach (BWV 591) OR Johann David Heinichen (1683-1729) (arr. Kenneth Hesketh) Kleines Harmonisches Labyrinth for Recorder, Violin, Violoncello, Harpsichord (2021) 4.30' attr. Johann Sebastian Bach (BWV 591) OR Johann David Heinichen (1683-1729) Dedication: for Thomas Allery and Ensemble Hesperi

For materials contact Cecilian Music

CAROL ARRANGEMENTS

God rest ye, merry gentlemen

for Chorus and Orchestra (2011) c.3'30" SATB Chorus 2. 2. 2. 2/ 4. 3. 3. 1/ Timp.; 2 Perc./Organ (optional)/ Harp/ Strings Premiere: 18 December 2011, Symphony Hall, Birmingham City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Chorus · Simon Halsey, conductor

> Study score for sale Material on hire

Gabriel's Message

for Chorus and Orchestra (2011) c.3'30" SATB Chorus 2. 1. 2. 2/ 2. 1. 0. 0/ Harp Celesta/ 2 Perc./ Strings

Material on hire

Away in a manger

for Chorus and Orchestra (2011) c.3'30" SATB Chorus 2. 1. 2. 2/ 1. 0. 0. 0/ Harp Celesta/ Strings

> Study score for sale Material on hire

The deeper the blue...

Janet Sung/Britten Sinfonia/ Jac van Steen SOMM Recordings SOMMCD 275

In Ictu Oculi: Orchestral Works

BBC National Orchestra of Wales/ Christoph-Mathias Mueller Paladino Music **PMR0092**



A Land so Luminous

The Continuum Ensemble & Philip Headlam. Prima Facie B01JHNT33K

Horae (pro Clara)

Works for solo piano Clare Hammond. BIS BIS 2913

Wunderkammer(konzert)

Works for large ensemble & orchestra Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Christoph-Mathias Mueller (conductor), Ensemble 10/10, Clark Rundell (conductor) NMC Recordings B00AQZU9SC

Theatre of Attractions

Works for chamber ensemble Psappha, Nicholas Kok (conductor) Psappha **B00AUKGH0M**

Three Japanese Miniatures

Clare Hammond Prima Facie B006JFZU3W

Notte Oscura

Peter O'Hagan UHR 020011021

Point Forms (after Kandinsky)

Mark Simpson/ Ian Buckle. NMC NMC DI 39

Detail from the Record

London Sinfonietta/ Knussen. London Sinfonietta SINF CD2-2009

Polygon Window

London Sinfonietta Warp Works & Twentieth Century Masters (2006) Aphex Twin arr. Kenneth Hesketh Warp Records WARPCD144

Caroline Potter: 'Unreliable machines: an interview with Kenneth Hesketh', The Musical Times, vol.149 no.1905 (Winter 2008), pp.15–24.

Philip Davis: 'On the nature of things' Philip Davis talks to Kenneth Hesketh The Reader, pp.33–41.

Guy Rickards: 'A New Acceptance of Time' 50th Birthday Tribute Musical Opinion Issue number 1517; 20-23 (October-December 2018)

Thomas Metcalf: Labyrinths, Liminality And Ekphrasis: The Graphical Impetus in the music of Kenneth Hesketh Tempo 75 (295) 45–71 Cambridge University Press





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