

BERNARD STEVENS

Catalogue of works

BERNARD STEVENS 1916 - 1983

Bernard Stevens was born in London in 1916. His musical talent was first revealed as a pianist in his early teens when the late Harold Samuel, the great Bach exponent, showed great interest in him and gave him much free help. Composition, however, became more and more his prime concern, and at eighteen he went to Cambridge to study with E.J. Dent and Cyril Rootham, graduating in English Literature and Music. His preoccupation with English poetry which developed in this period greatly influenced the character of his music.

At twenty-one he went to the Royal College of Music where he studied Composition with R.O. Morris (who had taught many other leading composers), piano with Arthur Benjamin and Frank Merrick, orchestration with Gordon Jacob and conducting with Constant Lambert, gaining the highest awards for composition - the Leverhulme Scholarship and the Parry Prize. He left in 1940 to serve in the army for six years, but found time to compose. The Piano Trio (Clements Memorial Fund prize in 1942), Violin Concerto (first performed by Max Rostal, 1946), the Symphony of Liberation (first prize in the *Daily Express* Victory Competition in 1946) and the Ricercare for strings all belong to this period.

On demobilisation he lived for a few years in London, his compositions including music for feature films starring such actors as James Mason and Dirk Bogarde. He was also active conducting and composing for choirs, and working for the promotion of contemporary music. In 1951 he moved to an Essex village, seeking a peaceful environment in which to compose.

He was a senior Professor of the Royal College of Music from 1948 to 1981 when he resigned to devote his time and energy to composition, having fought cancer since 1977. He held the Collard Fellowship of the Worshipful Company of Musicians from 1956 to 1958, became a Fellow of the Royal College of Music in 1966, joined the Board of Studies of London University in 1967, gained a Cambridge Doctorate in 1969, was elected a member of the Royal Society of Musicians in 1974 and an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music in 1977. He was awarded an Arts Council Bursary to write his opera *The Shadow of the Glen*, and many of his works originated in commissions from well-known musicians and organisations such as the BBC and the Cheltenham and Harlow Festivals and have been performed world-wide.

Some opinions expressed about Stevens' music:-

Cello Concerto and Symphony No. 'Symphony of Liberation'

"This is impressive music, beautifully written and thoughtfully scored, thematically memorable and serious without sounding oppressive."

Robert Cowan, CD Review

Violin Concerto

"Successive listenings have persuaded me that this is one of the great English Violin Concertos."

Lehman, American Record Guide

From Bernard Stevens and his Music - a Symposium

*"The balance he sought between the rational and spiritual formed the essence of his sensibility - this is especially evident in his **Symphony of Liberation** Op. 7."*

"To place [the 2nd Symphony] in the context of the time when it was composed, makes it an outstanding statement of individualism . . . the result is a major achievement and an important contribution to the symphonic repertoire."

Edwin Roxburgh

Variations for Orchestra Op.36

"The Variations are quite simply a masterpiece. In them Stevens concluded his personalised synthesis of serialism within tonal structures to invigorating effect, the music closely argued and tellingly orchestrated."

Guy Rickards, The Gramophone

*"This disc [Chamber Music 'Pick of the Year' Classic CD] which includes the '**Lyric Suite for String Trio**' and '**String Quartets 1 & 2**' is unanswerable argument for hailing Stevens not as somebody worth attention, but as a major British Composer of the order of Britten and Tippett."*

Edward Pearce, Classic CD

"His works are emerging with an untarnished strength, rivalled by few of his contemporaries."

Malcolm Macdonald, Music & Musicians International

*"**The True Dark**, a song cycle of poems by Randall Swingler, is warm and intensely lyrical, a bit like Britten's **Serenade** in its nocturnal enchantment. Stevens was a master at developing attractive, endlessly expanding ideas from small cells. As **The True Dark** shows, he was also skilful at sustaining an unified, seductive atmosphere."*

American Record Review

*"This excellent and vividly dramatic recording of the first BBC broadcast performance [of **The Shadow of the Glen**] in 1983 provides eloquent testimony to the composer's fluid and highly expressive vocal writing."*

Eric Levi, BBC Music Magazine

A considerable number of Stevens' works are accessible for performance by amateurs and students of reasonable ability

ORCHESTRAL WORKS

FULL ORCHESTRA

Approx. timing

- Symphony No.1** (Symphony of Liberation) Op.7 1945 c. 20'
 To the memory of Clive Branson, killed on Arakan front 1944
 2 2 2 2/4 2 3 1/ timp/1 perc/stings (also arr. piano duet)
 1st perf. LPO/Malcolm Sargent/RAH London/1946
 Lengnick
- Symphony No.2** Op.35 1964 c. 32'
 2 2 2 2/4 2 3 1/ timp/2 perc/strings (also arr. piano duet)
 1st perf. BBC Northern SO/Harry Newstone/1977
 Lengnick
- Fugal Overture** Op.9 1947 c. 9'
 2 2 2 2/4 2 3 1/ timp/1 perc/strings
 1st perf. BBCSO/Malcolm Sargent/London/1948
 Lengnick
- Dance Suite** Op.28 1957 c. 18'
 2 2 2 2/4 2 3 1/ timp/1 perc/strings
 1st perf. BBC Northern SO/George Hurst/1961
 Lengnick
- Variations for Orchestra** Op.36 1964 c. 19'
 2 +1 2 +1 2+1 2 +1/5 3 3 1/ timp/2 perc/harp/strings (also arr. piano duet)
 1st perf. BBC Northern SO/Bryden Thompson/1972
 Lengnick
- Choriamb** Op.41 1968 c. 12'
 2 2 2 2/4 2 3 1/ timp/1 perc/strings
 1st perf. Essex Youth Orchestra/Graham Treacher/Harlow/1969
 Novello [Commissioned by Harlow Festival]
- 'The Upturned Glass'** c. 12'
 Orchestral sequence from the film 1947 arr. Adrian Williams
 2 (2nd dbl picc.) 2(2nd dbl cor.) 2 2/4 3 3 1/ timp/2 perc/harp/strings
 Bardic
- 'The Mark of Cain'** c.10'
 Orchestral sequence from the film 1947 arr. Adrian Williams
 2(2nd dbl picc.) 2(2nd dbl cor.) 2 2/4 3 3 1/ timp/2 perc/harp/strings
 1st perf. BBC CO/ Carl Davis/1995
 Bardic
- ### SMALL ORCHESTRA
- Eclogue**, Op.8 1946 c. 8'
 1 1 1 1/2 0 0 0/ timp/strings
 1st perf. London International Orchestra/Anatole Fistoulari/RAH London/1947
 Lengnick
- Prelude and Finale** (for amateur orchestra) Op.31b 1960 c. 6'
 2 1 2 1/2 0 0 0/ timp/1 perc/strings
 1st perf. Northern School of Music/Meredith Davies/Manchester /1962
 Novello
- Introduction, Variations and Fugue on a theme of** c. 13'
Giles Farnaby, Op.47 1972
 2 2 2 2/2 2 0 0/ timp/strings
 1st perf. RCM Chamber Orchestra/Harvey Phillips/1972
 Lengnick

STRING ORCHESTRA

- Ricercare Op.6 1944** c. 12'
1st perf. London String Orchestra/Alan Bush/Warwick/1946
Lengnick
- Sinfonietta Op.10 1948** c.14'
1st perf. Welbeck String Orchestra/Maurice Miles/BBC London(BBC Commission)/1948
Lengnick

CONCERTOS

- Concerto for Violin and Orchestra Op.4 1943** c. 31'
2 2 2 2/4 2 3 0/timp/strings
1st perf. Max Rostal/BBC SO/Anatole Fistoulari/concert perf. BBC Maida Vale London/1946
Lengnick
- Concerto for Cello and Orchestra Op.18 1952** c. 23'
2 2 2 2/4 2 3 1/timp/1 perc/strings
1st perf. William Pleeth/RPO/John Pritchard/concert perf. BBC London/ 1952
Lengnick
- Concerto for Piano and Orchestra Op.26 1955** c. 27'
2 2 2 2/4 2 3 1/timp/1 perc/strings (Also arranged for two pianos)
Recorded Martin Roscoe/National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland/Adrian Leaper/Dublin/1993
Lengnick
- Concerto for Piano and Orchestra Op.54 1981** c.18'
Revised version of Op.26 (Also arranged for two pianos.)
2 2 2 2/4 2 3 1/timp/1 perc/strings
Orchestral material available BS

OPERA

- The Shadow of the Glen (J.M. Synge) Op. 50 1979** c.45'
(in one act)
mezzo-soprano, tenor, baritone and bass soloists (no chorus)
1 1 1 1/1 1 1 0/timp/1 perc/ strings
1st perf. Della Jones/Neil Mackie/John Gibbs/Paul Hudson/Divertimenti, cond. Howard Williams/
BBCR3 prod. Chris de Souza /1983
Lengnick

CHORAL MUSIC

- Mass for Double Choir Op.post 1939** c.20'
(unaccompanied)
1st perf. Finzi Singers/1992
Bardic (Sale or hire)
- Cantata 'The Harvest of Peace' (Randall Swingler) Op.19 1952** c.20'
Soprano/Baritone/SATB chorus/narrator
String orchestra (or string quartet and piano)
1st perf. Pauline Lewis/Reginald Wassell/Swingler/cond. Bernard Stevens/
New London String Quartet/Celia Arieli/Shrewsbury/1952
Lengnick
- Cantata 'The Pilgrims of Hope' (William Morris) Op.27 1956** c.27'
(Revised 1968)
Soprano/Baritone/SATB chorus
2 horns/2 trumpets/timp/1 perc/harp/strings
1st perf. Elizabeth Davies/Ranken Bushby/Sudbury Choral Society/cond. Bernard Stevens/1968
Lengnick

- Two Poetical Sketches** (William Blake) Op. 32 1961 c.9'
 Women's chorus and string orchestra or piano
 1st perf. Sudbury Choral Society/James Sargent/1963
 Bardic
- Motet '**Thanksgiving**' (Rabindranath Tagore) Op.37 1965 c.9'
 SATB chorus/string orchestra or organ
 1st perf. Tilford Bach Festival Chorus and Orchestra/Bernard Stevens/
 London/1966
 Lengnick
- Cantata '**Et Resurrexit**' (Randall Swingler and Ecclesiastes) Op.43 1969 c.27'
In Memorium Randall Swingler
 contralto/tenor/SATB chorus/orchestra
 2 2 2 2/2 2 0 0/ timp
 1st perf. Tilford Bach Festival Chorus and Orchestra/Denys Darlow/London/1972
 Lengnick *Commissioned by Peter Morrison*
- Anthem '**Hymn to Light**' (Rabindranath Tagore) Op.44 1970 c.4'
 SATB chorus/organ/3 trumpets/3 trombones/ timp/2 perc (or organ only)
 1st perf. Leeds Parish Church Choir/ Donald Hunt 1971
 Lengnick
- Motet '**The Turning World**' (Randall Swingler) Op.46 1971 c.7'
 baritone/SATB chorus/orchestra
 1 1 1 1/1 1 1 1/ timp/piano
 1st perf W.M.A. Summer School/Richard Wood/Sheffield/1971

PART SONGS

- '**One Day**' (David Martin) 1943 c.4'
 SATB chorus and piano
 WMA
- '**The Password**' (Montague Slater) 1946 c.3'
 SATB chorus and piano
 Bardic
- Colliers' Song** (Kathleen Nott) 1947 c.3'
 For Male voices and piano
 WMA
- '**Take all of Man**' (Randall Swingler) 1950 c.4
 Ode for mixed choir unaccompanied
For Alan Bush on his fiftieth birthday.
 Bardic
- '**Song of the Waking World**' (Randall Swingler) 1953 c.3'
 SATB and piano
 Bardic
- '**Running to Paradise**' (Yeats) 1968 c.4'
 SATB and piano
 Bardic
- Arrangements in '**The Singing Englishman**' 1951 (compiled by A.L. Lloyd)
Dives and Lazarus
The Dalghety Ploughboy
 WMA
- Arrangements in '**Coal Dust Ballads**' 1952 (compiled by A.L. Lloyd)
The Coal Owner and the Pitman's Wife
The Gresford Disaster
The Trimdon Grange Explosion
 WMA

SOLO SONGS

- Two Beddoes Songs** Op.post 1937 c.6'
Dream Pedlary/Song from the Ship
Tenor or baritone and piano
Bardic
- The Palatine Coast** Three Folkish Songs (Montague Slater) c.8'
Op.21 1952
High voice and piano
1st perf. Sophie Wyss/Kenneth Baker/1953
Lengnick
- 'If We Die'** (Ethel Rosenberg) 1953 c.4'
High voice and piano
1st perf. Kay Molinari/ Bernard Stevens/London/1953
Bardic
- 'The True Dark'** Song Cycle (Randall Swingler) Op.49 1974 c.20'
Baritone and piano
1st perf. Graham Titus/Eric Levi/BBC/1978
Roberton/Good Music
- Four John Donne Songs** Op.5 1943 & Op.53 1981 (published together) c.15'
High voice and piano
1st perf Op.5 Rene Soames/Ernest Lush/London/1949
1st perf Op.53 Jane Fairfield/Helen Woodgate/London/1981
Stainer and Bell

WIND

- Overture 'East and West'** (for Wind Band), Op.16 1950 c.8'
2(2pic).1.2.bcl.1.-asax.barsax.-0.3.4.1.-timp.-perc{cymb., s.d., b.d.}
1st perf WMA Orchestra/London/Bernard Stevens/1950
Bardic
- Adagio and Fugue** (for Wind Band) Op.31a 1959 c.10'
pic.1.1.ca.Ebcl.3.acl.bcl.1.cbn.-2asax.tsax.barsax.bsax.-4.3cnt.2.flghn.bar.3.1.-timp
.-perc{cymb., s.d., b.d., glock., trgl., xyl.}
1st perf. Royal Northern College of Music/Clark Rundell/1985
Bardic
- Four Canons for Two Oboes and Bassoon** Op.post. 1938 c.6'
Bardic
- Two Fanfares for 4 Natural Trumpets**, Op.12 1949 c.3'
1st perf. Household Cavalry/Cambridge/1949
Lengnick
- Two Improvisations on Folk Songs** (for Brass Quintet) Op.24 1954 c.6'
2 trumpets/3 trombones or 2 trumpets/horn/2 trombones
1st perf. Philip Jones Brass Ensemble/London/1954
Bardic

CHAMBER MUSIC

- Theme and Variations for String Quartet** Op.11 1949 c.19'
1st perf. Hurwitz Quartet/Cheltenham/1949
Lengnick
- String Quartet No.2** Op.34 1962 c.27'
1st perf. English String Quartet/London/1963
Bardic
- Violin Sonata in One Movement** Op.1 1940 c.10'
1st perf. Max Rostal/Bernard Stevens/London/1943
Bardic
- Piano Trio** Op.3 1942 c.20'
violin, cello, piano
1st perf. Marjorie Lavers/Norina Semino/Eiluned Davies/London/1943
Lengnick
- Fantasia for Two Violins and Piano**, Op.20 1952 c. 10'
1st perf. Jack Glickman/Sybil Copeland/Arvon Davies/London/1952
Legnick
- Fantasia on a Theme of Dowland for violin and piano** Op.23 1953 c.14'
1st perf. Suzanne Rosza/Paul Hamburger/London/1953
Lengnick
- Lyric Suite for String Trio**, Op.30 1958 c.19'
violin, viola, cello
1st perf. London String Trio/London/1959
Bardic
- Horn Trio**, Op.38 1966 c.17'
horn, violin, piano
1st perf. Music Group of London/Reading/1967
Lengnick
- Suite for Six Instruments**, Op.40 1967 c.19'
flute, oboe, violin, viola da gamba or viola, cello, harpsichord or piano
1st perf. Tilford Bach Festival Ensemble/London/1968
Lengnick
- Autumn Sequence** for Guitar and Harpsichord, Op.52 1980 c.9'
1st perf. Raymond Burley and Stephen Bell/London/1983/BBC
Berben
- SOLO INSTRUMENTS**
- Two Chorale Preludes for Organ** 1937 c.4'
also arr. for solo piano by Michael Finnissy
Bardic
- Fantasia for Organ** Op.39 1966 c.12'
1st perf. Nicholas Danby/London/1966
Bardic
- Fugetta for Organ on one manual - Bardic** c.3 ½'
- Ballad 'The Bramble Briar' for Guitar** Op.45 1970 c.9'
1st perf. Carlos Bonell/London/1974
Berben
- Improvisation for Solo Viola**, Op.48 1973 c.11'
1st perf. Catherine Stevens/BBC/1978
Roberton/Good Music
- Improvisation for Solo Violin** Op.48a c.11'
1st perf. Eric Gruenberg/BBC/1988
Roberton/Good Music

PIANO SOLO

- Toccatà** 1936 Op.post. c.5'
1st perf. Michael Finnissy/New Shoreham/2002
Bardic
- Invention for Piano** 1937 Op.post c.3'
1st perf. Michael Finnissy/New Shoreham/2002
Bardic
- Fugue à 3** Op.post c.2½'
Bardic
- Theme and Variations** Op.2 1941 c.13'
1st perf Eiluned Davies/London/1941
Bardic
- Three Pieces from the James Mason film** c.6'
'The Upturned Glass' 1947
Bardic
- Five Inventions** Op.14 1950 c.10'
(suggested Harpsichord registration available)
1st perf. James Gibb/ London/1950
Lengnick
- Ballad No.1** Op.17 1951 c.12'
1st perf. Leonard Cassini/London/1953
Lengnick
- Barcarolle** Op. post 1952 c.2'
1st . perf James Gibb/London/1989
Bardic
- 'Five by Ten' Piano Pieces 1952
contributed to 'Five Albums for Study and Recreation'
Lengnick
- Fantasia on 'Giles Farnaby's Dreame'** Op.22 1953 c.13'
1st perf. Denis Matthews/Cheltenham/1953
Lengnick
- Sonata in One Movement** Op.25 1954 c.15'
1st perf. Clive Lythgoe/Cheltenham/1954
Lengnick
- Ballad No.2** Op.42 1969 c.7'
1st perf. Ronald Stevenson/BBC/1969
Roberton/Good Music
- *Nocturne on a note-row of Ronald Stevenson** Op.51 1979 c.6'
1st perf. Ronald Stevenson/BBC/1982
Roberton/Good Music
- Aria** (original version) Op.post. 1960 c.3'
1st perf. Jeremy Filsell (Guild Music GM CD 7119 1996)
Roberton/Good Music
- *Aria** (second version) Op.post 1962 c.3'
1st perf. Freda Swain/London/1962
Roberton/Good Music
- 'Canto di Compleanno'
Transcription by Ronald Stevenson from 'A Birthday Song' duet c.5'
1st perf. Ronald Stevenson/BBC/1982
Bardic
- *Fuga Alla Sarabanda** Op.post. 1980 c.3'
Roberton/Good Music

***Elegiac Fugue on the name Geraldine** Op.post 1981 c.5'
1st perf Bernard Stevens/London/1981
Roberton/Good Music

* these are published as '**Four Concert Pieces**' Roberton/Good Music

PIANO (FOUR HANDS)

Fantasia on 'The Irish Ho-Hoane' Op.13 1949 c.10'
Piano Duet
1st perf. Paul Hamburger and Helen Pyke/1949
Lengnick

Two Dances Op.33 1962 c.6'
Piano Duet
1st perf. Isabel Beyer and Harvey Dagul/London/1978
Bardic

A Birthday Song Op.post. 1963 c.5'
Piano Duet
1st perf. Mary and Geraldine Peppin/Folkestone/1963
Bardic

Introduction and Allegro Op.29 1957 c.9'
Two Pianos
1st perf. Mary and Geraldine Peppin/London/1957
Bardic

Concertante for Two Pianos Op.55 Op.post 1982 c.14'
1st perf Isabel Beyer and Harvey Dagul/BBC London/1987
Lengnick

DISCOGRAPHY

Most of these recordings can be obtained from www.tutti.co.uk

Birthday Song (for Piano Duet)

Isabel Beyer and Harvey Dagul

On *Parlour Pieces*

On *Four Hands Favourites*

FHMD 8045 CD

Cello Concerto

Meridian CDE 84124

Symphony No.1 'Symphony Of Liberation'

Alexander Baillie/Edward Downes

BBC Philharmonic, Meridien

Sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Musicians

Violin Concerto and Symphony No.2

Meridian CDE 84174

Ernst Kovacic/Edward Downes

BBC Philharmonic, Meridien

Sponsored by the Rex Foundation

Theme and Variations for String Quartet

TROY 455

String Quartet No.2

Lyric Suite for String Trio

Delmé String Quartet

✕ *Chamber Music CD of the Year, Classic CD 1991*

Reissued on Albany Records 2002

Mass For Double Choir

CHAN 9021

The Finzi Singers/Paul Spicer

Chandos 1992

Max Rostal In Memorium

Stevens: Violin Concerto

(Remastered Concerto Performances:

also includes concertos by Bartock, Berg and Shostakovich)

Symposium Records 1993

Symposium 1142-3
(2 CDs)

Piano Concerto, Op.26

8.223480CD

Dance Suite

Variations For Orchestra

Martin Roscoe/Adrian Leaper

The National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland

Marco Polo 1994

Sponsored by the Rex Foundation

Classic Widows

CHAN 7008

(Xenia Frankel, Fiona Searle, Bertha Stevens and Susanna Walton)

Stevens: **The Mark Of Cain** Film Music

Liberation Symphony, 2nd Movement

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra/Hickox

Chandos 1995

Howells and Stevens Piano Music

GM CD 7119

Jeremy Filsell - Piano

Stevens: **Fantasia on 'Giles Farnaby's Dreame'**

Sonata in One Movement for Piano, Op.25

Aria (Original Version 1960)

Guild Music 1996

Autumn Sequence (works for guitar/piano)

RK97-017-09

Duo Con Delizia

Stevens: **Autumn Sequence**, Op.52

The True Dark Song Cycle

TROY418

Richard Jackson/ Igor Kennaway

The Shadow Of The Glen Opera

Della Jones/John Gibbs/Paul Hudson/Neil Mackie/Divertimenti Orchestra cond. Howard Williams

✕ *Listed in Best CD's of 2001, BBC Music Magazine*

Piano Trio, Op.3 (1942)

Sonata for Violin and Piano in one movement Op.1 (1940)

Trio for horn, violin and piano, Op.38 (1966)

Fantasia on a Theme of Dowland for Violin and Piano, Op.23 (1953)

Improvisation for Solo Violin, Op.48a (1973)

The Academy of St Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble

(Kenneth Sillito, violin; Stephen Orton, celb; Hamish Milne, piano; Timothy Brown, horn)

A2-CD recording of the complete piano works performed by Florian Uhlig (major solo works), Michael Finnissy (smaller solo works) and Isabel Beyer and Harvey Dagul (works for four hands) has been issued on Dutton Epoch CDLX 7160.

BERNARD STEVENS AND HIS MUSIC - A SYMPOSIUM

Ed. Bertha Stevens (ISBN 1-87-1082-03-X)

is published by Kahn & Averill, (01494 725525) is available at www.centralbooks.com (020 8525 8800)

and can be obtained from www.impulse-music.co.uk and www.tutti.co.uk

PUBLISHERS

For detailed catalogues and further information about the works of Bernard Stevens,
contact esc.cathy.stevens@gmail.com 00 49-1520-5397405

Other Contacts

The British Library www.bl.uk

Sound and Music www.thecollection.soundandmusic.org

Bardic Edition www.schott-music.com/shop info@bardic-music.com

Lengnick www.dehaske.com www.musicsalesclassical.com
020-7908-5310 (Faber Music Ltd) 020-7835-5200 (Universal Music Publishing)

Roberton www.goodmusicpublishing.co.uk

Stainer&Bell www.stainer.co.uk

Novello www.musicsalesclassical.com

Berben www.alle-noten.eu www.alle-noten.de www.berben.it

WMA Tel 01883 346 690

The Bernard Stevens Trust Schuetzenstrasse 7 83475 Kirchdorf am Inn Germany
