

PENELOPE THWAITES AM

Pianist and composer, lecturer and broadcaster, collaborative artist

GRAINGER *exploring the unknown composer*

PENELOPE'S PREMIERE RECORDINGS OF GRAINGER

(most appearing nowhere else)

SOLO PIANO

13

DUO PIANO

39

PIANOS 6-11 HANDS

8

SOLO SONGS as piano partner

55

Live Performances including Grainger in China, India, Japan, USA, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Poland, Turkey, Austria, Zimbabwe, and throughout the UK and Australia.

Featured artist in many international festivals including Japan, Australia and the UK.

Artistic Director of pioneering Grainger Festivals in London

St John's Smith Square (1998) (70 Grainger works)

Kings Place Concert Halls (2011) (300 participated including 100 students from the London Music Colleges)

Work with orchestras involving Grainger includes playing with

London Philharmonic at the Festival Hall

Adelaide Symphony Orchestra in its 2003 2-week Grainger festival

Australia Day 1993 Gala at the **Royal Opera House**

City of London Sinfonia (Chandos recording)

Cheltenham Bach Orchestra

BBC Philharmonic (pre-concert illustrated talk)

Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra

ANAM orchestra

with conductors including Charles Mackerras, Wayne Marshall, James Judd, Geoffrey Simon and Richard Hickox.

Penelope has much enjoyed **adjudicating and working with university and music students** in Grainger projects in such venues as Melbourne University, the Australian National Academy of Music, Chethams School, Manchester and the Stockholm Academy of Music.

For Pearl, Unicorn Kanchana, Hyperion, LIR, Heritage, Cala and Chandos, the number of Grainger tracks she has recorded has reached 260. These include all the solo original works and folk-settings (many for the first time), the 2/3 piano works (with John Lavender, Timothy Young and Wayne Marshall), orchestral recordings and song recordings (as piano partner), working with the singers Stephen Varcoe, Martyn Hill, Mark Padmore, James Gilchrist and Della Jones in many first recordings of Grainger's adventurous song repertoire.

This unique experience of Grainger's music led to **her editorship of *The New Percy Grainger Companion* (Boydell & Brewer 2010)**, which has received much acclaim as the only comprehensive up-to-date survey of Grainger's extraordinary oeuvre. Re-issued in paperback 2016. Many of the contributors have, like Penelope, written out of their own experience of performing Grainger. There is also a comprehensive catalogue by Barry Peter Ould and contextual chapters containing much new material about Grainger's life and ideas. Penelope has also been involved in **editing newly discovered Grainger works** and a number of these piano works are available through Bardic Edition.

She is an experienced and entertaining speaker and her lecture-recitals have brought a new audience for Grainger's music. She wrote and presented **Grainger as BBC Radio 3 Composer of the Week for the first time in 1996**. She has contributed articles to many magazines and newspapers, both as writer and as interviewee and is **regularly heard on the radio** both in the UK, where she makes her home, and in Australia. She was awarded the **International Grainger Society medallion in 1992** and was made a **Member of the Order of Australia in 2001**.

www.impulse-music.co.uk/penelopethwaites for reviews and more information
