

SYNOPSIS

PENELOPE THWAITES is acknowledged internationally for her unique knowledge and experience of Grainger's music - as concert pianist, lecturer, researcher, broadcaster, festival curator, editor and prolific recording artist (notably in the landmark **Chandos Grainger Edition**). She has given countless performances of his music – solo, duo, chamber and orchestral – as well as appearing in festivals world-wide and directing two major festivals in London. Her Grainger recordings amount to over 260 tracks. They include a multitude of first recordings, and she has edited a selection of these works for Bardic/Schott. She curated and presented Grainger for the first time as 'Composer of the Week' for Radio 3 in 1996 and has contributed articles on the composer for Gramophone, Limelight, BBC Music magazine, Musical Opinion and International Piano amongst others.

Born in the UK and then growing up in Melbourne, Penelope has made her home in London since 1972. But her Australian experience has enabled an understanding of Grainger's own Australian background. It has been particularly special to get to know some of his family in Adelaide and the UK. She has participated in the ongoing development of Grainger's amazing Museum at the University of Melbourne - (her own alma mater) - contributing performances, lecture-recitals and master-classes. On regular tours back to Australia, she has featured as soloist in Grainger festivals across Australia, as well as the UK, the USA and Japan. She has made a point of including his music in recital tours in over 30 countries. She has greatly enjoyed working with students and young professional musicians, exploring and performing Grainger's uniquely varied repertoire.

Her editorship of **The New Percy Grainger Companion** (2010) with contributions from scholars and performers experienced in Grainger's music, has been praised as "*an invaluable – and essential – contribution towards a fuller understanding of a composer on the cusp of overdue rediscovery*" (**Classical Music**). The book appeared in paperback in 2016, and continues to sell world-wide as the go-to reference book on exploring and performing Grainger's music. Penelope was awarded the International Grainger Society's Medallion in 1991. Grainger is by no means the only aspect of her musical life, but his life and music have been continuing and deeply rewarding musical themes.