

University of Adelaide

Elder Conservatorium of Music

**PORTFOLIO OF COMPOSITIONS AND EXEGESIS;
EXPLORING FORM, TONALITY AND THEMATIC
DEVELOPMENT – A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE**

**VOLUME I
PORTFOLIO OF COMPOSITIONS**

**VOLUME II
EXEGESIS**

submitted in fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

by

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PORTFOLIO OF COMPOSITIONS

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EXEGESIS

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ABSTRACT

This portfolio submission for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, undertaken at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, University of Adelaide, composes nine original compositions, and an exegesis. The latter explains the various research issues that have been investigated and explored through the medium of composition and through these particular works. The compositions are grouped in five categories: chamber works; piano works; ensemble work; orchestral works; and vocal work.

Several of the works presented here have been performed, professionally, prior to the date of submission, and others are presented as computer realisations. A list of recordings is provided in the exegesis and three Compact Discs are appended to the submission.

DECLARATION

This submission contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where reference has been made in the text.

I give consent to this copy of my exegesis, when deposited in the University of Adelaide Library being available for loan and photocopy.

Recorded performances on the accompanying Compact Discs were made by ABC Classic FM with the exception of the *Variations on a Theme of Béla Bartók* which was recorded by Radio 5MBS. None can be duplicated or broadcast without the consent of ABC Classic FM or Radio 5MBS.

John Polglase

November 2009

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Particular thanks go to my supervisors in this endeavour; Professor Graeme Koehne and Professor Charles Bodman Rae (who talked me into it in the first place) as well as a number of colleagues from the Elder Conservatorium; Associate Professor Kimi Coaldrake, Associate Professor Mark Carroll and Steven Knopoff for their advice on technical matters of presentation and the aforementioned encouragement. Also to past teachers who, through their enthusiasm, knowledge and intellectual rigour have passed to me skills which have served me to reach this level. Of these, three in particular I need to acknowledge; Richard Meale, Bozidar Kos and Doctor Geoffrey Moon.

Others not directly associated with academia cannot go unrecognised. My Mother, who has been a constant source of strength and encouragement, and two friends in particular whose love and knowledge of music is a continual pleasure; Tom Sankey and Doctor Graham Strahle.

In this I am also indebted to those students who, through the act of teaching them, have helped me to clarify my ideas and extend my technical craft. To those performers both present on the accompanying CDs and others who have, through their professionalism and dedication to their craft, given me the opportunity to have my works performed and further increase my abilities.

LIST OF WORKS

Name	Instrumentation	Movements	Duration	
CHAMBER MUSIC				
1	Trio no. 6	horn, violin, piano	3	20:33
2	Oboe Quartet	oboe, violin, viola, cello	3	18:31
SOLO				
3	Preludes and Sonatas	piano solo		
	no. 1		2	4:57
	no. 2		2	6:56
	no. 3		2	6:19
	no. 4		2	6:40
	no. 5		2	9:49
	no. 6		2	9:33
4	Variations on a Theme of Béla Bartók	piano solo	9	20:50
5	With Bells and Bright Steel	piano solo	3	21:15
LARGE ENSEMBLE				
6	'untitled' for piano and strings	piano solo, 12 violins, 4 violas, 4 cellos 2 basses	1	14:38
ORCHESTRA				
7	Symphony	3 fl (3 picc), 3 oboe (3 cor anglais) 3 cl (3 bass cl), 3 bsn (3 contra bsn) 4 hn, 3 tpt, 3 tbn, tuba 3 percussion, timpani, harp, strings	5	39:40
8	Capriccio	violin solo 2 fl, 2 ob, 2 cl, 2 bsn, 2 hn, 1 percussion, timpani, harp, strings.	1	14:35
VOCAL				
9	6 Songs in 3 Parts	3 sopranos (a capella)	6	13:50
TOTAL TIME				2.45:35

CONTENTS FOR COMPACT DISCS

Recordings on the accompanying CDs are made from ‘real’ performances, with the exception of the ‘untitled’ work for piano and string orchestra, the Oboe Quartet and *With Bells and Bright Steel* which were realised on a computer. Other works in this submission are available as ‘machine’ performances but have not been included on the CDs.

Recorded performances on the accompanying Compact Discs were made by ABC Classic FM with the exception of the *Variations on a Theme of Béla Bartók* which was recorded by Radio 5MBS. None can be duplicated or broadcast without the consent of ABC Classic FM or Radio 5MBS.

CD 1	Track	Title	Duration
		<i>Preludes & Sonatas for solo piano</i>	
	1	Prelude & Sonata no.1	4.57
	2	Prelude & Sonata no.2	6.56
	3	Prelude & Sonata no.3	6.19
	4	Prelude & Sonata no.4	6.40
	5	Prelude & Sonata no.5	9.44
	6	Prelude & Sonata no.6	9.33
		<i>Variations on a Theme of Béla Bartók for solo piano</i>	
	7	Theme (Bagatelle no.6)	1.18
	8	Variation 1	0.57
	9	Variation 2	2.21
	10	Variation 3	2.03
	11	Variation 4	2.35
	12	Variation 5	1.50
	13	Variation 6	3.39
	14	Variation 7	3.33
	15	Variation 8	2.21
CD 2	Track	Title	Duration
		<i>With Bells and Bright Steel for solo piano</i>	
	1	I Poco allegro, con gioia selvaggia	7.27
	2	II Adagio espressivo	7.51
	3	III Scherzo fantasie	7.23

CD 2 (continued)	Track	Title	Duration
		<i>Trio no.6 – Horn Trio</i>	
	4	I Poco andante, Allegro energico	8.58
	5	II Adagietto	6.26
	6	III Animato brioso	5.31
		<i>Oboe Quartet</i>	
	7	I Allegro ardente	7.26
	8	II Adagio semplice	5.03
	9	III Allegro moderato, vivente	7.32
CD 3	Track	Title	Duration
		<i>Capriccio for violin and orchestra</i>	
	1	Andante con moto, Piu movimento, poco scherzando, tempo giusto	16.00
		<i>'untitled' for piano and string orchestra</i>	
	2	Andante comodo, poco tristo Allegremente, giocoso	14.39

Performers:

Preludes & Sonatas nos 1-3	Anna Goldsworthy – piano
Preludes & Sonatas nos 4-6	Leigh Harrald – piano
Variations on a Theme of Béla Bartók	Alexander Hanysz – piano
Trio no. 6	Sarah Galbraith – horn Michael Milton – violin Leigh Harrald – piano
Capriccio for violin and orchestra	Margaret Blades – violin Adelaide Symphony Orchestra David Sharp – conductor