



Rhian Samuel

Stainer & Bell

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Further information about the music of Rhian Samuel, including a performance diary and news of recent works, may be found at www.stainer.co.uk/samuel.html
See also www.rhiansamuel.com

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Rhian Samuel

Rhian Samuel was born in Aberdare in 1944 and was educated in Britain and the United States. Her orchestral works span from *Elegy-Symphony* (St Louis Symphony Orchestra, conductor Leonard Slatkin, 1981) and *La belle dame sans merci* for chorus and orchestra (co-winner of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers' Rudolph Nissim Award, 1983) to *Dawnsiau'r Nant (Dances of the Stream)* for the Welsh Proms, Cardiff, 1999, *Tirluniau (Landscapes)* for the BBC Proms, London, 2000 (BBC National Orchestra of Wales), and *Lights in the City*, written for her students at City University and premiered in 2010. Much of her vocal music is concerned with women 'speaking for themselves'; it ranges from *Clytemnestra* for soprano and orchestra, premiered by Della Jones and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales in 1994, to *Cerddi Hynafol*, settings of early Welsh women's poetry, for the Fishguard Festival, 2001. She has collaborated extensively with the Anglo-American poet Anne Stevenson in works such as *Daughters' Letters*, premiered in 1997 by Valdine Anderson with Sinfonia 21, conducted by Martyn Brabbins, and *Nantcol Songs*, 2003, for Gillian Keith, soprano, and Simon Lepper, piano, a work about Snowdonian landscapes. In March 2006 *The Flowing Sand*, a song-cycle to poems by Samuel Beckett, was premiered at the Beckett/Proust/Deleuze conference held at the School of European Studies, Cardiff. Recent performances include *The Path through the Woods*, played by Pamela Thorby, recorder, with the Welsh Sinfonia, conductor Mark Eager, at Cardiff's Temple of Peace in April 2011, and *Mechanical and Fantastical Studies* for solo piano, premiered by Jennifer Lee in Ciboure, France, in August 2011 as part of the 'Les Raveliades' festival. Later in the same month, *Mist on the Hills* for accordion and string quartet received its first performance at the Machynlleth Festival, played by Milos Milivojevic and the Juritz Quartet. New works include *What Cheer?*, a setting of an anonymous 16th-century carol for the Choir of New College Oxford, and *Moon and Birds*, a song-cycle to poems by Anne Stevenson and Emily Dickinson, first performed by Frances Bourne and the Centenary Ensemble, conducted by Andrew Morley, at St James's, Piccadilly, in November 2011. Rhian Samuel has taught at the St Louis Conservatory of Music, USA, and Reading University, and since 1999 has been Professor of Music at City University, London. She is also a tutor in composition at Magdalen College, Oxford. Rhian Samuel co-edited the *Norton/New Grove Dictionary of Women Composers* (1994). A CD of her music, *Light and Water*, is available on the Deux-Elles label.

ORCHESTRAL WORKS

The Path through the Woods (2011)

12'

solo alto recorder – descant recorder group – str

Commissioned by the Welsh Sinfonia with funds from the PRS for Music Foundation

1st perf: Pamela Thorby (recorder), Welsh Sinfonia, Mark Eager (cond), Temple of Peace, Cardiff, 10 April 2011

Score and parts available for rental, ref HL400

A transcription for recorder and piano is available for purchase, ref Y293, price £13.95

Lights in the City (2009)

9'

3.2.3.2. – 4.3.3.1. – timp – perc(3) – pf – str

1st perf: City University Symphony Orchestra, Anthony Weeden (cond), LSO St Luke's, London, 29 April 2010

Score and parts available for rental, ref HL393

Tirluniau (Landscapes) (2000)

24'

3.3.3.3. – 4.3.3.1. – hp – perc – str

- I Cromlech
- II The Old Man of Storr
- III Castell y Bere
- IV Lights in the Bay

Commissioned by the BBC for the BBC Promenade Concerts

1st perf: BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Tadaaki Otaka (cond), Royal Albert Hall, London, 25 July 2000. Simultaneous broadcast on BBC Radio 3

Score and parts available for rental, ref HL345

In the opening movement, 'Cromlech', the piquant combination of xylophone and piccolo hovered over sighing strings that in the second movement ('The Old Man of Storr') seemed to be reassembling shards of Debussy's Pelléas et Mélisande ... the effusive melody that had spread through the orchestra [in the third movement] ... prepared the way for the exuberantly urban, almost minimalist surge of the final section, 'Lights in the Bay'.

Nick Kimberley, The Observer, 30 July 2000

Given the dark portentous visual images expected, Samuel's use of the orchestra is surprisingly crisp and bright-edged. Her melodic and harmonic style is similarly bold, far from pastel impressionism.

Matthew Rye, The Daily Telegraph, 27 July 2000

The orchestra gave the world premiere of Rhian Samuel's colourful Tirluniau or Landscapes. Each of the four movements is inspired by a remote Welsh or Scottish scene. Rhythms are craggy. The largo misterioso breathes druidic solemnity in the lowing of a cool alto flute.

Rick Jones, The Evening Standard, 26 July 2000

Summer Path / Llwybr Hâf (2000)

8'

solo hp – str

Commissioned by the Beaumaris Festival with funds from the Arts Council of Wales

1st perf: Osian Ellis (hp), Welsh Chamber Orchestra, Anthony Hose (cond), Beaumaris Festival, Anglesey, 3 June 2000

Score and parts available for rental, ref HL346

Dawnsiau'r Nant (Dances of the Stream) (1999)

15'

3.3.3.3. – 4.3.3.1. – timp – xyl – mar – vib – hp – pf – perc(3) – str

- 1 Dawns yr haul ar y nant (Dance of the sun on the stream) (I)
- 2 Dawns y cymylau tywyll (Dance of the dark clouds)
- 3 Dawns yr haul ar y nant (Dance of the sun on the stream) (II)
- 4 Dawns y gwlaw ar y nant (Dance of the rain on the stream)
- 5 Dawns yr haul ar y nant (Dance of the sun on the stream) (III)

Commissioned by St David's Hall, Cardiff, with funds provided by the Arts Council of Wales, for the Welsh Proms 1999

1st perf: BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Owain Arwel Hughes (cond), St David's Hall, Cardiff, 15 July 1999

1st broadcast perf: same performers, 9 November 1999 (BBC Radio 3)

Score and parts available for rental, ref HL335

This work of great immediacy made a striking impression in all five sections, which emerge as a cohesive whole. The bright opening with its rippling figure on woodwind and piano, punctuated with rhythmic motifs from the rest of the orchestra, contrasted strongly with the darker, more sinister sections ... Composed in bold colours and strong emotions, this was a splendid performance by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales ... Let's hope it receives many further performances.

Michael Bell, The Western Mail, 17 July 1999

Scenes from an Aria (1996)

12'

solo ob – 2hn – mar – str

Commissioned by the Presteigne Festival with funds from the Arts Council of Wales

1st perf: Ruth Scott (ob), Jane Hanna, Richard Bourn (hns), Christopher Brannick (mar), Presteigne Festival Orchestra, George Vass (cond), St Andrew's Church, Presteigne, 29 August 1996

Score and parts available for rental, ref HL317

... a warmly lyrical piece where a solo oboe gradually succumbs to the blandishments of a persuasive orchestra to combine in a gorgeously sentimental melodic conclusion, no sooner arrived at than tantalisingly left.

Christopher Morley, The Birmingham Post, 31 August 1996

Brass Express (1995)

6'

solo tpt – 3.2.3.2. – 4.2.3.1. – timp – vib – pf – perc(2) – str

75th Anniversary commission, College of Estate Management, Reading University

1st perf: Anne McAneney (tpt), Reading University Orchestra, Graham Treacher (cond), Reading University, 18 March 1995

Score and parts available for rental, ref HL323

... an exhilarating dash with virtuoso trumpet playing ...

Reading Chronicle, 22 March 1995

Elegy-Symphony (1981)

22'

3.3.3.3. – 4.3.3.1. – timp – cel – perc(4) – 2hp – str

I Catena III Scherzo
II Aria IV Finale

Concert commission, St Louis Symphony Orchestra. Broadcast on National Public Radio stations throughout the USA during 1981

1st perf: St Louis Symphony Orchestra, Leonard Slatkin (cond), St Louis, Missouri, USA, 2 October 1981

Score and parts available for rental, ref HL322

SOLO VOICE AND ORCHESTRA

Daughters' Letters (1996) (Anne Stevenson)

22'

solo sop – perc(1) – str

I Marianne Chandler to her mother in New Orleans
II Kathy Chattle, to her mother, from the Good Samaritan Hospital, New York

Commissioned by Sinfonia 21 with funds from the Arts Council of England and support from Glaxo Wellcome for a Contemporary Music Network Tour, February 1997

1st perf: Valdine Anderson (soprano), Sinfonia 21, Martyn Brabbins (cond), St John's, Smith Square, London, 3 February 1997

Score and parts available for rental, ref HL326

To say these poems are poignant understates their absorbing effect, and in setting them to music Samuel has achieved a masterstroke of tracing their fluctuations of tone. They are basically complementary, but within them there are subtle shifts to which the music responds tellingly, and in this performance by the soprano Patricia Rozario they came over as taut, dramatic scenes with a palpable emotional punch.

Geoffrey Norris, The Daily Telegraph, 11 February 2003

continued ...

Daughters' Letters continued ...

This deftly crafted work is a dramatic scena in contrasting parts, each setting a letter by a young American woman to her mother, as imagined by Anne Stevenson in her verse collection Correspondences. The first part, though musically bright and chattery, is a picture of early-19th-century moral sternness; the second is a disguised portrait of the distressed Sylvia Plath, disconsolate tom-toms here being the dominant percussion. Austin's players and his impassioned soloist, Patricia Rozario, brought the novel conception vividly to life.

Paul Driver, *The Sunday Times*, 3 June 2001

... Daughters' Letters delivered [sensitive word-setting and tonal and rhythmic variety] in abundance. The flighty, ingenuous nature of Marianne Chandler, in the first letter, is immediately fixed in the wayward vocal line, set against the dazzling, excitable backdrop of chattering xylophone and pizzicato strings. The second letter (also fictitious) establishes the anguish of Kathy Chattle, whose brutal honesty about the downside of motherhood has landed her in an institution.

Barry Millington, *The Times*, 7 February 1997

Path (1995) (Anne Stevenson)

7'

med voice – str

Commissioned by Sinfonia 21 with funds from South East Arts

1st perf: David James (countertenor), Sinfonia 21, Martyn Brabbins (cond), Michelham Priory, East Sussex, 26 August 1995

Score and parts available for rental, ref HL327

... richly felt and realised. An eloquent line for countertenor soared over the resourceful series of sound images towards a definite 'event', sudden hushed fragments of Lully to encapsulate the poet's evocation of what can never be.

Robert Maycock, *The Independent*, 30 August 1995

Clytemnestra (1994) (after Aeschylus)

27'

solo sop – 3.3.3.3. – 4.3.3.1. – bass guitar – timp – xyl – vib – mar – hp – perc(2) – str

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------------|-----|-----------------|
| I | The Chain of Flame | V | Confession |
| II | Lament for his Absence | VI | Defiance |
| III | Agamemnon's Return | VII | Epilogue: Dirge |
| IV | The Deed | | |

Commissioned by the BBC

1st perf: Della Jones (soprano), BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Tadaaki Otaka (cond), Cardiff, 12 November 1994

1st broadcast perf: same performers, 5 February 1995 (BBC Radio 3)

Score, vocal score and parts available for rental, ref HL328

Clytemnestra has its roots in the emotional conflict of Greek drama, whose spirit it captures in a mode of address that is forthright and suggests the narration of epic events ... A large orchestra is employed, with a widespread and busy percussion section imaginatively used, and the sonority surprisingly deepened at one point by a bass guitar ... The work impresses by its informing practicality. Despite the large instrumental forces, important words are rarely smothered by

either volume or texture ... Samuel exhibits keen judgement of how far dynamics can be pushed without loss of impact. In the Lament it all becomes personal, perhaps the most effective stroke in the score.

Kenneth Loveland, Musical Opinion, Winter 1994

... nothing less than a major work ... There is high drama, brilliant orchestration, sustained intensity. The BBC NOW under Tadaaki Otaka produced a well-prepared account and the singing of soloist Della Jones brought this wonderful piece to vivid life.

South Wales Echo, November 1994

The White Amaryllis (1991) (May Sarton) 23'
med voice – 3.3.3.2. – 4.3.3.1. – timp – perc(3) – str

I Celebration II The Snow Light III Before Dawn

1st perf (complete cycle): Jane Manning (soprano), BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra, Andrew Mogrelia (cond), 17 August 1992 (BBC Radio 3)

1st perf (III): Susan Graham (mezzo-soprano), National Orchestral Association (USA), Jorge Mester (cond), New York, 25 February 1989

1st broadcast perf (III): Jane Manning (soprano), BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra, Grant Llewelyn (cond), 21 February 1991 (BBC Radio 3)

Score, vocal score and parts available for rental, ref HL325

Before Dawn [No. III from The White Amaryllis] is ... emotionally powerful ... it traces the feeling of loss from numb disbelief to searing pain. The vocal setting is straightforward and melodic ... The real power, though, is in the orchestral part, which reflects the shifting emotions with stark clarity.

Allan Kozinn, The New York Times, 27 February 1989

Intimations of Immortality (1978) (William Wordsworth) 8'
solo ten, solo vln, fl, ob, cl, hn, timp, str

Commissioned by the Missouri Music Teachers' Association, 1978

1st perf: Willard Cobb (tenor), St Louis Conservatory Orchestra, Joel Revzen (cond), Branson, Missouri, USA, 28 October 1978

Score, vocal score and parts available for rental, ref HL324

CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA

A Song for the Divine Miss C (1986) (A.D. Hope et al) 15'
SATB with solo sop & ten, orch. 5.2.2.2. – 2.2.2.0. – timp – str

1st perf: Penelope Walmsley-Clark (soprano), Julian Pike (tenor), Reading University Choir and Orchestra, conducted by the composer, Reading University, 14 March 1987

Score, vocal scores and parts available for rental, ref HL329

continued ...

A Song for the Divine Miss C continued ...

Samuel's work opens with a colourful, almost cinematic, orchestral introduction and a whispered spoken chorus ... Penelope Walmsley-Clark and Julian Pike gave convincing renditions of the disturbing words, while the orchestra coped excellently with the adventurous modern sounds of the composer. This was an excellent work, skilfully crafted and fascinatingly scored. It deserves regular performance ...

Reading Evening Post, 18 March 1987

La Belle Dame Sans Merci (1982, rev. 1987) (John Keats) 14'

SATB with orch. 2.2.2.2. – 2.0.0.0. – timp – cel – perc(2) – hp – str

Joint winner, Rudolph Nissim Award, American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, 1983

1st perf: St Louis Conservatory of Music Chorus and Orchestra, Richard Holmes (cond),
St Louis Conservatory of Music, St Louis, Missouri, USA, April 1983

Score, vocal scores and parts available for rental, ref HL321

This is well-integrated, well-shaped music, sensitively tuned to the atmosphere of the poetry that inspired it.

James Wierzbicki, St Louis Globe-Democrat, 2 May 1983

SATB CHOIR

What Cheer? (2011) (Anonymous 16th century) 6'

with organ

1st perf: Choir of New College Oxford, Edward Higginbottom (cond), Stephen Grahl (organ),
New College Chapel, Oxford, 4 December 2011

Copies available for purchase, ref Y287, price £2.65

Opposites (1980, rev. 2010) 6'

I Age and Youth (William Shakespeare) II Sun and Shadow (Thomas Campion)

Copies available for purchase, ref Y280, price £2.50

Pan ddaw ust y nos / When the calm of night (2005) 6'

(Nesta Wyn Jones / English adaptation by the composer)

with organ

Commissioned by the London Welsh Chorale in memory of organist Carys Môn Hughes

1st perf (Welsh text): London Welsh Chorale, Kenneth Bowen (cond), Timothy Noon (org),
St Davids Cathedral, St Davids, Pembrokeshire, 24 September 2005

1st perf (English text): City University Chamber Choir, Tansy Castledine (cond), Steven Grahl
(org), St Marylebone Parish Church, London, 14 March 2006

Performed on the annual summer tour of the National Youth Choir of Wales, Ben Parry (cond),
Huw Williams (org), 2011

Copies available for purchase, ref Y222, price £2.50

Dear Night (1998) (Henry Vaughan) 6'
with organ

Commissioned for the St Peter's Singers, Hammersmith

1st perf: St Peter's Singers, Hammersmith, Michael Emery (cond), St Richard's Church, Chichester (Chichester Festival), 12 July 1998

Copies available for purchase, ref Y163, price £2.65

Lovesongs and Observations (1989) (Emily Dickinson) 9'

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| I Let me not mar | IV The first arbutus |
| II To make a prairie | V Proud of my broken heart |
| III My river runs to thee | VI The rat |

1st perf (nos. I–IV & VI): Reading University Chamber Choir, conducted by the composer, Reading, 9 June 1989

1st perf (complete set): Ithaca College Choir, Laurence Doeblner (cond), Ithaca, NY, USA, 22 February 1990

1st UK perf: Joyful Company of Singers, Peter Broadbent (cond), Purcell Room, London, 17 April 1992

1st broadcast perf: The Britten Singers, Terry Edwards (cond), 18 August 1992

Copies available for purchase, ref W201, price £2.65

So Long Ago (1979) (John Pudney) 5'

First prize, Greenwich Festival, London, 1979

1st perf: Thomas Tallis Choir, Philip Simms (cond), St Alphege's Church, Greenwich, London, 9 December 1979

Performed by the choir of Westminster Abbey, Martin Neary (cond), Evensong, Christmas Eve 1997

Copies available for purchase, ref Y154, price £2.20

Jacobean Lyrics (1979) 6'

- I I got me flowers (George Herbert)
- II Slow, slow, fresh fount (Ben Jonson)
- III Now the lusty Spring (Beaumont and Fletcher)

Finalist, Theo. Presser / Ithaca College Composers Competition, 1979

1st perf: Horseheads High School Choir, Joseph Kruppi (cond), Ithaca, NY, USA, 10 November 1979

Copies available for purchase, ref Y151, price £2.50

Changes (1973, rev. 1978) (Priest Saigyo) 8'
with solo vibraphone

Text translated by Geoffrey Bownas and Anthony Thwaite

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| I The winds of spring | III The cry of crickets |
| II Is it a shower? | IV Every single thing |

continued ...

Changes continued ...

1st perf: Washington University Choir, Orland Johnson (cond), Matthew Furfine (vib), Washington University, St Louis, Missouri, USA, 16 April 1980

Copies available for purchase, ref AC158, price £4.50

Jolly Wat the Shepherd (1970) (Anonymous) 3'

1st perf: Washington University Madrigal Singers, Orland Johnson (cond), Washington University, St Louis, Missouri, USA, December 1971

Copies available for purchase, ref Y155, price £2.20

VOCAL CHAMBER MUSIC

Moon and Birds (2011) 11'

medium voice and piano

- I Blackbird (Anne Stevenson)
- II The moon is distant (Emily Dickinson)
- III Bird in hand (Anne Stevenson)
- IV On not being able to look at the moon (Anne Stevenson)

In preparation

Moon and Birds (2011) 11'

medium voice and chamber ensemble (flute, harp and string quartet)

Commissioned by Contemporary Connections for the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Society of Women Musicians

- I Blackbird (Anne Stevenson)
- II The moon is distant (Emily Dickinson)
- III Bird in hand (Anne Stevenson)
- IV On not being able to look at the moon (Anne Stevenson)

1st perf: Frances Bourne (mezzo-soprano), Centenary Ensemble, Andrew Morley (cond), St James's Church, Piccadilly, London, 4 November 2011

Score and parts available for purchase, ref Y292, price £35.00

Spring Diary (2010) (Anne Stevenson) 3'

baritone and piano

- I Arrival Dream
- II Snow Squalls
- III It Happens
- IV East Wind
- V A Clearer Memory

1st perf: Jonathan Sells (baritone), Ja Yeon Kang (pf), City University, London, 5 February 2010

Copies available for purchase, ref Y272, price £6.50

Yr Alarch (The Swan) (2009) (Anonymous 14th century) 6'
solo baritone

Text translated by the composer

1st perf: Gwion Thomas, St Joseph's Church, Highgate, London, 18 January 2009

Copies available for purchase, ref Y258, price £2.75

A River (2007) (Anne Stevenson) 9'
soprano, baroque or modern oboe, harpsichord and bass viol or cello

Commissioned by 'Music in the Village', Walthamstow, London, with funds provided by the audience of 'Music in the Village' and the Britten-Pears Foundation

1st perf: Natalie Clifton-Griffith (soprano), Gail Hennessy (baroque oboe), Reiko Ichise (bass viol), Terence Charleston (harpsichord), St Mary's Church, Walthamstow, London, 21 February 2008

Score and parts available for purchase, ref Y243, price £15.00

Colours (2007) (Anne Stevenson) 14'
high voice, trumpet and organ

I The Circle II Enough of Green

Commissioned by Deborah Calland

1st perf (I): Sarah Leonard (soprano), Deborah Calland (tpt), Thomas Corns (org), Robinson College, Cambridge, 11 September 2007

Copies available for purchase, ref AC239, price £12.00

The Flowing Sand (2006) (Samuel Beckett) 15'
baritone and piano

I what would I do IV Roundelay
II my way is in the sand V saying again
III Da Tagte Es

Commissioned by Cardiff University with funds from the Arts Council of Wales

1st perf: Adam Green (baritone), Indre Petrauskaite (pf), Temple of Peace, Cardiff, 9 March 2006 (opening concert, Beckett/Proust/Deleuze conference, School of European Studies, Cardiff University)

Copies available for purchase, ref Y230, price £6.95

As always with Rhian Samuel's music there is great craftsmanship and powerful rhetoric ... the simplicity of means is haunting and the writing is supremely effective.

Sue Anderson, Singing, Winter 2006

Trinity (2004) (Anne Stevenson) 9'
high voice, flute and piano

I Trinity at Low Tide II Without Me III Vertigo

Commissioned by Maki Yoneta for the Birmingham Conservatoire International Accompanists' Competition Prizewinner's Concert

continued ...

Trinity continued ...

1st perf: Joana Seara (soprano), Gemma Jukes (fl), Maki Yoneta (pf), Birmingham Conservatoire, 1 March 2005

Copies available for purchase, ref Y220, price £10.50

[Samuel's settings] are dazzlingly inventive, maybe more akin to a flute sonata with added voice, than songs with added flute, but all the more interesting for it. The first song, 'Trinity at Low Tide', toys with the poem's concept of reflection, each of the four lines (the left and right hands of the piano are divided) fading in and out of unison, mirroring each other, overlapping and parting to create a ripple of texture. 'Without Me' is sparse – at times distant, at others harsh, even jarring. In 'Vertigo', the voice interjects between the flute's dizzying pyrotechnics, prevented from falling into Stevenson's 'naked abyss' of the mind by the grounding left hand of the piano. These songs are a virtuoso display for all involved and not least from the composer whose intricate writing matches Stevenson's deep yet concise poetry.

Armin Zanner, Music Teacher, January 2006

Nantcol Songs (2003) (Anne Stevenson)

11'

medium/high voice and piano

I The Wind, the Sun and the Moon II A Perfect View

Commissioned by the Presteigne Festival

1st perf (A Perfect View): Gillian Keith (soprano), Simon Lepper (pf), St Andrew's Church, Presteigne, 25 August 2003, as part of 'A Garland for Presteigne', celebrating the 21st anniversary of the Presteigne Festival

Copies available for purchase, ref Y213, price £6.25

... Rhian Samuel's colourful and appropriately angular portrayal of a Snowdonian peak in 'A Perfect View'...

David Hart, The Birmingham Post, 27 August 2003

Nantcol Songs (2003) (Anne Stevenson)

11'

medium/high voice and harp ensemble

I The Wind, the Sun and the Moon II A Perfect View

Commissioned by the Harp Department, Royal Academy of Music, London

1st perf: Anna Dennis (soprano), Royal Academy of Music Harp Ensemble, Skaila Kanga (dir), Gareth Wood (cond), Duke's Hall, Royal Academy of Music, London, 27 November 2003

Score and parts (six harps) available for purchase, ref AC212, price £26.50

Songs of Earth and Air (1983, rev. 2002)

25'

medium voice and piano

- I April Rise (Laurie Lee)
- II The Kingfisher (W. H. Davies)
- III Snowdrop (Jon Silkin)
- IV A Warm Rain (Kenneth Leslie)

1st perf (I & II, original version): Edmund LeRoy (baritone), Kirt Pavitt (pf), St Louis Conservatory of Music, St Louis, Missouri, USA, 27 February 1983

1st perf (complete cycle, original version): Sharon Mabry (mezzo-soprano), Patsy Wade (pf), King's College, London, 4 October 1984

Copies available for purchase, refs Y204, Y205, Y206 and Y207, price £3.95 each

The texts are set with great sensitivity ... the organisation of musical materials is always in the service of the text, never abstracted from it. ... Finally Miss Samuel has resolved the age-old dilemma of the text-singer-accompaniment relationship by creating a keyboard part which is not so much an accompaniment as an instrumental commentary on the text.

Michael Beckerman, St Louis Globe-Democrat, 1 March 1983

Cerddi Hynafol / Ancient Songs (2001)

11'

mezzo-soprano and piano

- I Hwiangerdd Dinogat (Lullaby for Dinogat)
- II Galarnad Heledd (Heledd's Lament)
- III Crÿs y Mab (The Young Man's Shirt)

Commissioned by the Fishguard Festival

1st perf: Joanne Thomas (mezzo-soprano), Ingrid Surgenor (pf), Fishguard Festival, Fishguard, 21 July 2001

1st broadcast perf: 24 August 2001 (BBC Radio 3)

Copies available for purchase, ref Y183, price £6.25

Trois Chansons de François Villon (1969, rev. 1998)

4½'

soprano and flute/piccolo

- I Ballade 1
- II Ballade 2
- III Epistre

1st perf: Holly Outwin (soprano), Anne Swearingen (fl/picc), Graham Chapel, Washington University, St Louis, Missouri, USA, 13 December 1970

Copies available for purchase, ref Y168, price £5.75

The White Amaryllis (1991) (May Sarton)

23'

medium/high voice and piano

- I Celebration
- II The Snow Light
- III Before Dawn

1st perf: Sharon Mabry (mezzo-soprano), Patsy Wade (pf), Austin Peay University, Clarksville, Tennessee, USA, 17 October 1991

Copies available for purchase, ref AC162, price £12.95

Before Dawn (1988) (May Sarton)

9½'

medium/high voice and piano

No. III from The White Amaryllis (see pages 7 and 13)

1st perf: Sharon Mabry (mezzo-soprano), Patsy Wade (pf), British Music Information Centre, London, 29 June 1988

1st broadcast perf: same performers, 27 October 1988 (WGBH Boston)

Copies available for purchase, ref H406, price £3.50

[Before Dawn is]... a poignant new setting of a May Sarton text about mourning – almost Tristan-esque in its harmony, and with lots of dramatic shifts in volume level before its final resolution on an angry low note.

James Wierzbicki, St Louis Post Dispatch, 15 September 1988

Before Dawn speaks from quiet rage and is set to touching poetry about someone's ability to mourn ... The vocal line is full of anxious crescendos and striking half-spoken melodic lines.

Whitney Smith, Memphis Commercial Appeal, 27 September 1989

The Witch's Manuscript (1985) (Carol Rumens)

10'

soprano and brass quintet (2tpt, tbn, hn, tba)

1st perf: Tamsin Dives (soprano), The Downshire Players: Kate Hill (fl), Nicholas Daniel (ob), Joy Farrell (cl), Peter Williams (bsn), Peter Ash (hn), St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, 4 February 1987

Score and parts available for purchase, ref Y156, price £20.50

A brief work of fantasy and drama for female voice and brass quintet ... Primarily a traditional use of the voice with a wide vocal range, large leaps, great dramatic contrasts, and two sudden outbursts of pitched shouting that encompasses only the head voice range. Requires a voice capable of easily achieving enough vocal power to match the instruments.

Sharon Mabry, Exploring Twentieth-Century Vocal Music (OUP, 2002)

The Hare in the Moon (1978) (Ryōkan)

9'

soprano and piano

Text translated by Geoffrey Bownas and Anthony Thwaite

First prize, 1978 Forum for Composers, St Louis, Missouri, USA

1st perf: Carole Gaspar (soprano), Christine Smith (pf), Forest Park College, St Louis, Missouri, USA, 28 March 1978

Copies available for purchase, ref H412, price £3.75

Samuel has invented a magical atmosphere through angular vocal lines that switch from singing to speaking.

NATS Journal (USA), September/October 2000

Original version (1978, rev. 1979) for soprano, marimba, vibraphone and double bass

1st perf: Carole Gaspar (soprano), Matthew Furfine (vib), Henry Claude (mar), Karen Katzen (db), St Louis Conservatory, St Louis, Missouri, USA, 2 May 1979

Copies available for purchase (four copies supplied), ref AC159, price £21.25

MUSIC FOR KEYBOARD

Mechanical and Fantastical Studies (2011)

15'

solo piano

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| I Mechanical Study I | IV Falling Star |
| II In the Air | V Mechanical Study III |
| III Mechanical Study II | |

1st perf: Jennifer Lee, Eglise de Ciboure, France, 5 August 2011 ('Les Raveliades' festival organised by L'Académie Internationale de Musique Maurice Ravel)

Copies available for purchase, ref Y288, price £9.95

Graves syncopés et aigus cliquetant, entre Scott Joplin et «Jeux d'eau», contemporain mais audible.

Jacques Garay, Journal Sud Ouest, 8 August 2011

Copper Ribbons (2006)

4½'

solo harpsichord

1st perf: Jane Chapman, Fenton House, Hampstead, London, 5 July 2007

Copies available for purchase, ref Y231, price £5.50

In performance, this piece may stand alone or follow Silver Threads ... I will enjoy getting to know these pieces better – no hardship, for they are both quite easy.

Michael Round, Music Teacher, December 2006

Silver Threads (2006)

6'

solo harpsichord

In memory of Gerry Farrell

1st perf: Jane Chapman, Wapping Hydraulic Power Station, London, 13 March 2007

Copies available for purchase, ref Y232, price £6.50

With its companion piece Copper Ribbons ... Silver Threads is the most rewarding keyboard composition this month ... This thoughtful piece is mostly monodic and carefully developed towards a central point that may remind you of Debussy's Les tierces alternées; it lies comfortably under the fingers ... and a suitably coupled two-manual instrument will make light of all the hand-crossing.

Michael Round, Music Teacher, December 2006

Gaslight Square II (2005)

6'

piano duet

1st perf: Piano Duo Antithesis (Dimitris Karydis and Petros Moschos), Rüggländer Wasserschloss, Bavaria, Germany, 10 July 2005

1st broadcast perf: same performers, 5 December 2005 (Radio Bavaria 4)

Copies available for purchase, ref Y223, price £7.50

Gaslight Square I (2004)

1'

solo piano

Commissioned by Surrey University

1st perf: Clive Williamson (pf), Guildford International Music Festival, University of Surrey, 15 March 2005

Published in *One-minute Wonders*, Vol. 1 (with CD), Cadenza Music (www.cadenza-music.com)

Serenade Duo (2004)

5½'

two pianos

1st perf: Piano Duo Antithesis (Dimitris Karydis and Petros Moschos), Steinway Hall, Miami, Florida, USA, 26 January 2005

1st UK perf: same performers, Purcell Room, London, 13 February 2005

Copies available for purchase (two copies supplied), ref Y219, price £9.50

... it's a fascinating, brilliant, full-on, five-minute concert piece ... superbly crafted for a well-matched duo and is a worthy addition to the repertoire.

John York, Piano, July/August 2005

A Garland for Anne (2003)

10'

solo piano

- I The Therapy of Moonlight
- II Vertigo
- III On Going Deaf
- IV Morning
- V Four-and-a-half Dancing Men

Written for the 70th birthday of the poet Anne Stevenson

1st perf (I, II, IV): Chenyin Li, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London, 3 June 2003

Copies available for purchase, ref Y200, price £7.95

Dedicated to poet Anne Stevenson, the five pieces have titles taken from her poems and the piano writing is appropriately colourful and descriptive. Fifths and octaves shared between the hands, in continually changing metre, drive forward the exciting 'Four-and-a-half Dancing Men', whilst sharply contrasting sections in 'The Therapy of Moonlight' seem to evoke in turn its serenity and its shimmering effects.

Pamela Lidiard, Piano Professional, January 2006

Off to Narita (2001)

13'

solo piano

1st perf: Helen Reid, Blackheath Concert Halls, London, 8 October 2002

Copies available for purchase, ref Y194, price £7.95

Ymddiddan (Dialogue) (1998)

13'

two pianos

I Hedfan (Flying) II Galar (Grief) III Igamogam (Zig-Zag)

1st perf: Micallef-Inanga Piano Duo, Purcell Room, London, 8 February 1999

Copies available for purchase (two copies supplied), ref AC166, price £18.50

Dream-Images (1997)

15'

solo piano

I Winding Paths IV Interlude II
II Interlude I V Weeping Trellises
III Distant Fountains

Commissioned for the 1997 Machynlleth Festival by the Machynlleth Tabernacle Trust with funds from the Trust and the Arts Council of Wales

1st perf (V): Gretel Dowdeswell, St Andrew's Church, Presteigne, 28 August 1996

1st complete perf: Martin Roscoe, The Tabernacle, Machynlleth, 30 August 1997

Copies available for purchase, ref H438, price £7.95

Barely four minutes long, Weeping Trellises is an elegantly crafted integration of two clearly contrasted ideas, its crystalline pianism owes something to the later Debussy ...

Christopher Morley, The Birmingham Post, 30 August 1996

Fel Blodeuyn (Like a Flower) (1992, rev. 1993)

10'

solo organ

Commissioned for the Reading University Centenary Concert

1st perf: Martin Souter, St George's Chapel, Windsor, 2 October 1992

Performed in Europe and the USA by Dame Gillian Weir in 1999

Copies available for purchase, ref AC145, price £7.95

INSTRUMENTAL CHAMBER MUSIC

Mist on the Hills (2011)

17'

accordion and string quartet

I Settling II Lingering III Swirling

1st perf: Milos Milivojevic (accordion), Juritz Quartet (David Juritz, Naomi Thomas, vlms; Martin Kegelmann, vla; Rosie Biss, vc), The Tabernacle, Machynlleth, 22 August 2011 (Machynlleth Festival)

Score and parts available for purchase, ref Y279, price £35.00

This work is also available in a version for two accordions. Please contact the composer via Stainer & Bell for details.

Phantasy Trio (2010) 9½'
violin, cello and piano

1st perf: The Inari Ensemble (Clare Hammond, pf; Jenna Sherry, vln; Richard Birchall, vc), St Mary's Church, Cossington, Somerset, 2 April 2011

Score and parts available for purchase, ref Y273, price £14.50

The Last Dance (2009) 7½'
string quartet

1st perf: Darwin Bicentennial Quartet (Edward McCullagh, Takuma Yamaguchi, vlins; Lesley Larkum, vla; Miguel Calvo, vc), Bridewell Hall, London, 11 July 2009

Score and parts available for purchase, ref Y262, price £16.50

Far across the sea (Ymhell dros y môr) (2009) 3½'
solo harp

Written for the 2010 International Harp Festival, Caernarvon, North Wales

Copies available for purchase, ref Y259, price £5.50

Emerging (lightly) (2008) 6'
solo viola and chamber ensemble (flute, clarinet in B flat, two violins, cello, harp)

Commissioned by Mobius for its 'Birthday Candles' project in celebration of its 10th anniversary

1st perf: Vicci Wardman (vla), Mobius, Wigmore Hall, London, 22 March 2008

Score and parts available for purchase, ref Y244, price £20.50

But only Rhian Samuel's Emerging (lightly) struck me as having enough musical argument to grip the brain as well as tickle the ear. Here the viola was the still centre of a quicksilver polyphonic whirl, before intoning a haunting folk-like tune over an oasis of calm G major.

Richard Morrison, The Times, 26 March 2008

Beautifully written, as one has come to expect from this composer, it might be manageable by an advanced school group or could be ideal for performance at a contemporary music festival at a college or university.

Leonie Anderson, ESTA News & Views, Autumn 2008

Dance of the Curlews (2008) 5'
two harps

Commissioned by the Harp Department, Royal Academy of Music

1st perf: Jimin Lee and Nanako Murakami, Duke's Hall, Royal Academy of Music, London, 7 March 2008

Copies available for purchase, ref Y245, price £8.50

Little Duos (2006)

9'

two B flat clarinets

1st perf: George Georgiou and Ona Cardona, College Building, City University, London, 27 February 2007

Copies available for purchase (two copies supplied), ref Y233, price £7.50

The first duet is a fast, punchy canonic piece which, as well as sounding very effective, provides excellent teaching material ... they are welcome additions to the duo repertoire.

David Campbell, Sheet Music Review, March/April 2007

Each movement focuses on a different technical problem ... to play they are witty, imaginative and explore some beautiful harmonies. The interplay between the two instruments is creatively handled with some striking and unusual effects. Definitely for advanced players (Grade 8 plus) but my school-aged students of this standard were very keen to learn and perform them.

Helen Paskins, Music Teacher, December 2006

Shards of Light (2005)

7'

solo violin

Commissioned by György Pauk for his students

1st perf: Chihiro Inda, Royal Academy of Music, London, 27 June 2006

Copies available for purchase, ref Y228, price £6.50

... a definite sympathy and understanding for what is possible in the production of colour and sound on the violin ... Shards of Light is demanding but also intriguing and atmospheric.

Patricia Noall, ESTA News and Views, Winter 2006

Dovey Junction (2005)

4½'

brass quintet (2tp, hn, tbn, tba)

Commissioned by the Fondazione Adkins Chiti: Donne in Musica (Rome)

1st perf: Borealis Brass (Alaska), Nate Holden Performing Arts Center, Los Angeles, California, USA, 3 October 2005 (UNESCO World Forum on Music)

1st UK perf: Academy Brass, James Watson (cond), Duke's Hall, Royal Academy of Music, London, 21 October 2005

Score and parts available for purchase, ref Y224, price £15.00

The music is atmospheric, offering a sense of the place that it was composed for ... Dovey Junction is an excellent piece in miniature form for college players or a group of similar-minded Grade 8 instrumentalists who are confident soloists.

Kevin Street, Music Teacher, February 2007

Little Serenade for Skaila (2004)

5'

solo harp

Commissioned by Skaila Kanga

1st perf: Skaila Kanga, Duke's Hall, Royal Academy of Music, London, 6 May 2004

Copies available for purchase, ref Y217, price £4.75

Every Day Dancing (2003) 10'
clarinet quartet

Written for students at City University, London

1st student perf: City University, London, 19 May 2004

1st professional perf: Liquorice Allsorts, The Garden, Royal London Hospital, 24 June 2004 (Spitalfields Festival)

Score and parts (3 B flat, 1 bass clarinet) available for purchase, ref Y216, price £19.50

Quartet: Light and Water (2003) 15'
piano quartet

I Light through Water III Water above Light
II Light above Water IV Water through Light

1st perf: Fidelio Piano Quartet, St John's Church, Hampstead, London, 15 May 2004 (Hampstead and Highgate Festival)

Score and parts available for purchase, ref AC211, price £26.50

... The titles of her four movements are all variants of the overall title – Light through Water, Light above Water, Water above Light, Water through Light, a spray of prepositions – [and] the shifting, glittering interplay of piano and strings throughout the work, and an idiom of deceptive, challenging transparency, gave those repeated words a reality that lingers in my mind.

Paul Driver, The Sunday Times, 30 May 2004

Songlines (2002) 12'
alto saxophone and piano

I Violets are Blue II Fourteen Angels III The Tree on the Hill

1st perf: Sarah James (sax), Grace Huang (pf), Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, 12 March 2003

Copies available for purchase, ref Y199, price £10.50

... In three movements, the piece travels through many interesting climates often in very tight, angular environments needing much rhythmical security. The composer, obviously well acquainted with the instrument, stretched its and the performer's capabilities.

A. Wilson, Clarinet & Saxophone, Summer 2003

Variations (1988, rev. 2002) 7'
trombone quartet

1st perf: London Trombone Chorale, Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, 9 March 1988

Score and parts available for purchase, ref Y197, price £19.50

...et lamentable joye (1988, rev. 2002) 6'
solo clarinet in B flat

1st perf: Robina Dallmeyer, British Music Information Centre, London, 5 May 1988

1st perf (rev. version): Andrew Mason, Kimbolton Music Club, Cambridgeshire, 1 December 2002

Copies available for purchase, ref Y193, price £5.50

Five Miniatures (2001) 11'
piano quintet

- I Tides
- II Surreptitious Waltz
- III Pines by Moonlight
- IV Distant Hymn
- V Motoring

1st perf: Franke Piano Quintet with students from Benenden School, Cranbrook, 29 April 2001
Score and parts available for purchase, ref Y182, price £15.95

Shaping the Air (2000) 11'
oboe and piano

- I Fretting
- II Silver Ropes
- III Windmills

1st perf: Katherine MacKintosh (ob), Simon Lepper (pf), Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, 22 November 2000
Copies available for purchase, ref Y181, price £10.50

Trio: Stepping Out II (2000) 8'
clarinet, viola and piano

Commissioned by The York Trio

1st perf: Chroma, Cardigan Music Club, Cardigan, Ceredigion, 6 September 2001
Score and parts available for purchase, ref Y179, price £12.95

Naming the Flowers (1999) 12'
solo guitar

- I Sky-Blue Chicory and Purple Angelica
- II The Shell-frail Colour of Harebells
- III Foxglove, Balsam and Pods of Sweet Cicely

Copies available for purchase, ref Y175, price £7.50

Three Pieces for Trumpet and Organ (1999)
trumpet (in C) and organ

- I Eryri 4'
- II Black Mantillas 3'
- III Threnody with Fanfares 5½'

Dedicated to John Wallace, Jonathan Freeman-Attwood and Deborah Calland

1st perf: John Wallace (tpt), Simon Wright (org), Duke's Hall, Royal Academy of Music, London, 15 September 1999

Copies available for purchase, refs AC170, AC171 and AC172, price £7.95 each

Through Windows and the Balustrades Beyond (1998) 8½'
flute, harp and viola

1st perf: Katherine Baker (fl), Suzanne Willison (hp), Cian O'Duill (vla), Royal Academy of Music, London, 30 October 1998

Score and parts available for purchase, ref Y167, price £15.00

One Charming Night (1998) 6'
violin and piano

Commissioned by Joji Hattori

1st perf: Joji Hattori (vln), Joseph Seiger (pf), Wigmore Hall, London, 29 October 1998

Copies available for purchase, ref H423, price £6.75

Fantasy Quintet (1998) 15'
five C flutes

I Dark Journey II Dance in the Light

Score and parts available for purchase, ref Y164, price £31.75

Dance in the Light (1997) 4'
two C flutes

Copies available for purchase (two copies supplied), ref Y157, price £9.50

Preludes and Dances (1997) 13'
string quartet

Commissioned by the 1997 Lower Machen Festival with funds from the Arts Council of Wales

1st perf: Emperor Quartet, St Michael's Church, Lower Machen, 25 June 1997

Score and parts available for purchase, ref Y148, price £20.50

Stepping Out (1996) 9'
clarinet and piano

1st perf: Katherine Spencer (cl), Sam Haywood (pf), Britten Theatre, Royal College of Music, London, 15 August 1997

Copies available for purchase, ref Y144, price £8.50

Blythwood (1996) 10'
viola and piano

I Tangled Webs II Gannets Diving III To become the song

1st perf: Su Zhen (vla), Simon Lepper (pf), Harlow Old Town Hall, Harlow, Essex (1999 Harlow Viola Festival), 20 February 1999

Copies available for purchase, ref H398, price £5.95

... these three pieces could stand individually or would make a welcome addition to a recital programme in their entirety.

Leonie Anderson, ESTA News and Views

Wherever I Go (1995) 5'
solo flute

1st perf: Anna Maria Morini, Castello Caetani, Sermoneta, Italy (Pontino Festival), 9 June 1995
Copies available for purchase, ref Y147, price £5.50

Traquair Music (1989) 7'
solo oboe

1st perf: Cynthia Green, Rocky Mountain College, Billings, Montana, USA, 23 February 1991
Copies available for purchase, ref Y146, price £6.50

Ariel (1988) 7'
flute and piano

1st perf: Nicola Ellis (fl), Sadie Harrison (pf), King's College, London, 27 June 1988
Copies available for purchase, ref Y149, price £8.50

Shadow Dance (1984, rev. 1985) 7'
flute, oboe and piano

1st perf (rev. version): Members of Capricorn: Philippa Davies (fl), Christopher O'Neal (ob), Julian Jacobson (pf), St John's, Smith Square, London, May 1985

1st broadcast perf: same performers, January 1986 (BBC Radio 3)

1st perf (orig. version): Joanne Pitman (fl), Christle Judd (ob), Richard Shaw (pf), King's College, London, February 1984

Score and parts available for purchase, ref AC150, price £13.25

OTHER WORKS BY RHIAN SAMUEL

La Roca Blanca (1996)
harp

1st perf: Elinor Bennett, Criccieth Festival, 21 June 1996

Published in *The Living Harp*, edited Elinor Bennett, Curiad Publications, 1996

Three Songs (1989)
voice and guitar

1st perf: Mateo Palma (baritone), Ana Maria Reyes (guitar), Sala Lessing, Instituto Chileno-Alemán de Cultura, Concepción, Chile, 23 August 1990

Published by Andresier Editions (Bardic Edition), 2003

Rondo Pizzicato (1984)
string quartet

Published in *The String Quartet*, IV, ed. G. Winters, London/Hamburg: N. Simrock, 1986

DISCOGRAPHY

Rhian Samuel: Light and Water

The Hare in the Moon (Lucy Crowe, soprano, and Simon Lepper, piano)
Time out of Time (Gemma Rosefield, cello, and Simon Lepper, piano)
A Garland for Anne (Chenyin Li, piano)
Trinity (Joana Seara, soprano, Adam Walker, flute, and John Reid, piano)
Quartet: Light and Water (Fidelio Piano Quartet: Michael Dussek, piano, Tamás András, violin, Sarah-Jane Bradley, viola, and Gemma Rosefield, cello)
Gaslight Square II (Piano Duo Antithesis: Dimitris Karydis and Petros Moschos)
Deux-Elles DXL 1128 www.deux-elles.co.uk

This recording succeeds on two counts, being both a rounded 'composer portrait' and a show-case for some fine young musicians.

Peter Palmer, Tempo Vol. 62, Issue 244, April 2008

Everywhere a distinctive voice shines through Samuel's craftsmanship.

George Hall, The Independent on Sunday, 9 December 2007

Ariel

Ariel (Catherine Handley, flute, and Andrew Wilson-Dickson, piano)
A0267-CD www.creighton-griffiths.co.uk

Plum Pudding

Jolly Wat the Shepherd (Joyful Company of Singers)
White Line CDWHL2150 www.sanctuaryclassics.com

A Garland for Presteigne

Nantcol Songs: A Perfect View (Gillian Keith, soprano, and Simon Lepper, piano)
Metronome METCD1065 www.metronome.co.uk

British Music for Flute, Oboe and Piano

Shadow Dance (Nancy Ruffer, flute, John Anderson, oboe, and Helen Crayford, piano)
Dutton Epoch CDLX 7181 www.duttonvocalion.co.uk

Music by Women

Songs of Earth and Air: The Kingfisher and April Rise (Sharon Mabry, mezzo-soprano, and Rosemary Platt, piano)
Capstone CPS-8714 (2-CD set) www.capstonerecords.org

North Star

Threnody with Fanfares (Deborah Calland, trumpet, and William Whitehead, organ)
Deux-Elles DXL1097 www.deux-elles.co.uk

Daystream Dances

Traquair Music (Cynthia Green Libby, oboe)
Hester Park CD 7707 www.vivacepress.com

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