



www.uymp.co.uk

# David BLAKE

(b. 1936)



David Blake was born in London in 1936. He read music at Cambridge, where his teachers included Patrick Hadley and Peter Tranchell. In 1960 he was awarded the Mendelssohn Scholarship and studied with Hanns Eisler in East Berlin. After three years as a school teacher, during which time he composed a highly successful schools musical *It's a Small War* (OUP), he moved to the new University of York as its first Granada Arts Fellow. In 1964 he was a founder member with Wilfrid Mellers and Peter Aston of the York Department of Music. He was made Professor in 1976 and Head of Department from 1980-1983. He retired in 2001.

David Blake's first commission was from the York Festival for his Chamber Symphony (1966) and subsequent important ones were from English National Opera for two operas – *Toussaint* (1976) and *The Plumber's Gift* (1988); from the Leeds Festival *Lumina* (1969); from the BBC for two concertos – for violin (Proms) and for cello (Cheltenham Festival 1993) – and for *Rise Dove* (1983). He is also published by OUP, Schott and Novello.

"One of the hallmarks of Blake's rich and varied output has been its consistent commitment to high technical standards and beliefs which are fundamental to his ethos as an artist, and which transcend passing trends..."

## PRESS QUOTES

"David Blake is an example of an increasingly rare breed of creator; he has a technical range and command covering every aspect of composition; he is one of the very few contemporary composers who still write powerfully expressive counterpoint and his melodic invention, ability to characterise musical ideas and his gift for music drama combine to make him a very complete artist..."

*Robert Saxton*

## LIST OF WORKS OVERLEAF

**For information about UYMP and our composers:**

**Promotions: Michael Hooper**

Tel/Fax: 07516 132 628

e-mail: michael@uymp.co.uk

**For sales, hire and administration:**

**Administrator: Claire Irwin**

Tel: 01904 432434 Fax: 01904 432450

e-mail: info@uymp.co.uk

## LIST OF WORKS

### THEATRE

#### **The Fabulous Adventures of Alexander the Great (1996) 60'**

words by John Birtwhistle (Greek version also available)  
for narrator, baritone, bass, various solo children's voices,  
chorus (SAB)  
2.1.2.1 / 2.2.1.0 / pf.5perc / str  
first performance: the Castle Theatre, Mitiline, Lesvos on  
11 July 1998, conducted by composer  
UK premiere: University of York, November 1999  
ISMN M 57020 073 3 score: £64  
vocal score: £24  
performance materials for hire

#### **The Lonely Wife (I) (2003) 16'**

for soprano, flute (+ afl), percussion  
concert performance also possible  
texts: Chinese poetry, English versions by the composer  
ISMN M 57020 731 2 score and parts: £22

#### **Scoring a Century (1999) 130'**

an entertainment for ten singers/actors and small  
orchestra  
2(all+picc).1(+ca).2(2<sup>nd</sup>+bcl).1 / asax / 2.2.1.1 /  
pf.gtr(+bnj).perc / 4.4.2.2.2 (minimum size)  
text: Keith Warner  
commissioned by Opera 2000  
ISMN M 57020 075 7 vocal score: £64  
performance materials for hire

### WIND ORCHESTRA

#### **Winelands (1997) 9'**

for symphonic wind ensemble  
4(+picc).2.4(+bcl). 2(+cbn) / sax: 1.1.1 / 4.4.3.1, euph / 5perc  
/ bass  
composed for the University of Stellenbosch Wind  
Ensemble, conductor Mervyn Solomon.  
first performance: City Hall, Bellville, Cape Town, 15  
October 1997, conducted by the composer  
ISMN M 57020 081 8 score: £25  
performance materials for hire

### SMALL ENSEMBLE (4-7 PLAYERS)

#### **Piece for Luis and Justin (2006)**

for 2 flutes and clarinet  
part of 'On Track', UYMP's Grade 4-level Education  
Volume  
ISMN M 57020 908 8 score and parts: £19.95

#### **String Quartet No. 4 (2004) 16'**

commissioned by the Northern Aldborough Festival for  
the Sorrel Quartet  
first performance: Aldborough Church on 8 July 2004  
ISMN M 57020 742 8 score: £18  
score and parts: £30

#### **String Quartet No. 5 (2009) 7-8'**

ISMN M 57036 063 5 score and parts: £34

### SOLOS, DUOS AND TRIOS

#### **Diversions on Themes of Hanns Eisler (1995) 10'**

for alto saxophone and piano  
composed for John-Edward Kelly  
first performance: Sarah James and Grace Huang at the  
Royal Academy of Music, London on 22 October 1998  
ISMN M 57020 085 6 score & part: £24

#### **Four Intermezzi (1995) 10'**

for violin and piano  
first performance: Adrian Varela and Daniel Vaiman at  
the Royal Academy of Music, London, 22 October 1998  
ISMN M 57020 083 2 score & part: £24

### VOICE AND 0-3 INSTRUMENTS

#### **Four Cabaret Songs (2008) 13'**

for female voice and piano  
texts: Keith Warner  
ISMN M 57036 059 8 score: £17

#### **The Lonely Wife (I) (2003) 16'**

for soprano, flute (+ afl), percussion  
concert performance also possible  
texts: Chinese poetry, English versions by the composer  
ISMN M 57020 731 2 score and parts: £22

#### **The Lonely Wife (II) (2003) 8'**

for soprano/mezzo & guitar  
texts: Chinese poetry, English versions by the composer  
ISMN M 57020 734 3 score: £13

#### **A Swallow (2008) 3'**

for mezzo soprano and piano  
texts: John Birtwhistle  
ISMN M 57036 043 7 score: £7

## VOICE AND ORCHESTRA

### **The Griffin's Tale (1994) 32'**

legend for baritone and orchestra  
2(2<sup>nd</sup>+picc).1.2(2<sup>nd</sup>=bcl).1 / 2.1.1.0 / pf.2perc / 6.6.4.4.2  
text: John Birtwhistle  
commissioned by Northern Sinfonia  
first performance: Adrian Clarke and the Northern Sinfonia conducted by Lionel Friend, Central Hall, York, 3 February 1995  
ISMN M 57020 077 1 score: £50  
performance materials for hire

### **I Skies tis Agapis (The Shades of Love) (2000) 27'**

for bass baritone and small orchestra  
1.1(+ca).2(2<sup>nd</sup>=bcl).1 / 1.0.0.0 / 2perc / str  
six songs to poems by C P Cavafy (also English version by the composer)  
first performance: Akis Lalousis and the Orchestra of the State Conservatoire, Thessaloniki, conducted by the composer, 10 November 2000  
UK Premiere by Stephen Varcoe and the University of York Orchestra, conducted by the composer  
ISMN M 57020 079 5 score: £45  
performance materials for hire

### **Rings of Jade (2005) 24'**

Poems from the Prison Diary of Ho Chi Minh  
for medium voice and orchestra  
3(3<sup>rd</sup>+picc).2.3(3<sup>rd</sup>=bcl).2 / 4.2.3.1 / hp.3perc / str  
English text: John Birtwhistle  
first performance: Sally Burgess and the York Symphony Orchestra, Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall, conducted by the composer, 2 July 2005  
ISMN M 57020 835 7 score: £30  
performance materials for hire

## CHOIR, ACCOMPANIED

### **Searching the Skies (1994) 11'**

for unison children's voices and strings (or with piano)  
six poems of Jessica George (1984-94)  
first performance: Jessica's friends, St Olave's Church, York, 22 October 1994  
ISMN M 57020 087 0 score: £18  
vocal score: £5

## ARRANGEMENTS

### **Janáček – On an Overgrown Path (2002) 19'**

seven pieces for string orchestra and optional flute, clarinet and horn  
ISMN M 57020 870 8 score: £25  
performance materials for hire

### **Mozart – 'Ah taci, ingiusto core!' (1997) 5'**

Terzetto – Don Giovanni Act 2 Scene 2  
for 13 wind instruments  
0.2.2.2, 2 basset horns / 4.0.0.0 / cb  
ISMN M 57020 090 0 score: £13  
performance materials for hire

## MUSIC FOR CHILDREN AND AMATEURS

**The Fabulous Adventures of Alexander the Great Theatre Piece for Luis and Justin** Small Ensemble  
**Searching the Skies** Choir, Accompanied

## RECORDINGS



### **The NMC Songbook**

#### **A Swallow**

Jean Rigby, mezzo-soprano  
Huw Watkins, piano  
NMC D150