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JOHN SIMON SOUND RECORDINGS

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Compiled
by
John Simon

MUSIC DEPARTMENT
STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

2008

Collection Summary

Title: John Simon Sound Recordings

Dates of creation: 1984–2004

Level of description: Item

Extent: 45 items

Repository: Documentation Centre for Music (DOMUS), Music Library, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Creator: John Simon

Call No.: PKV1

Biographical History¹

John Simon (Cape Town, 1944) studied composition at Trinity College of Music and the Royal College of Music, London, where his teachers included James Patten and John Lambert. His works have been widely performed and broadcast in South Africa (many performances with the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra of the SABC, Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra, Cape Philharmonic Orchestra, National Arts Orchestra of Pretoria, Kwa-Zulu Natal Philharmonic Orchestra, Capab Orchestra and University of Stellenbosch Orchestra) as well as performances and broadcasts of his work in the UK and Europe. His UK activities have included significant work with the BBC. He has written extensively for piano -an area of his work that has been neglected in recent years in favour of other types of composition- having five piano sonatas to his credit. His orchestral output includes a Symphony, two Piano Concertos, a Violin Concerto (BBC premiere), a 'Requiem for Orchestra' (BBC premiere with Sir Edward Downes, the work having been recommended to the BBC by Sir Simon Rattle), the symphonic suite 'Children of the Sun' (premiered by the CTSO under Omri Hadari in 1992) and the much broadcast orchestral song cycle 'Portrait of Emily' - settings of Emily Dickinson for soprano and orchestra (first sung by Andrea Catzel).

A number of his more important works were written in response to the situation that prevailed in South Africa during the apartheid years. As a consequence Threnody 2 for strings, clarinet and timpani, which was composed in 1981 and dedicated to Steve Biko, was under embargo at the SABC until as late as 1993 (it was the first work ever to include the South African national anthem as a theme). Threnody 2 has since been widely broadcast and performed, including performances at the Edinburgh International Festival in 1998.

His vocal works include settings of John Masefield, Wilfred Owen, Shelley and Byron. He has written an a cappella choral work - a setting of Matthew Arnold's 'Dover Beach'.

John Simon was until 2005 Composer in Residence to the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra (the first such appointment in South Africa) and lecturer in orchestration at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's School of Music. He was charged with the KZNPO's New Music Initiative, which had the aim of bringing orchestral skills to KwaZulu-Natal-based composers and arrangers.

¹ Biographical information compiled by the composer, 8 November 2008.

He was most recently engaged in orchestrating 'Zizi Lethu' ('Our Hope') by the KZN composer Phelelani Mnomiya. These orchestral realisations featured in the KZN Philharmonic's joint London concert schedule with the London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican, and elsewhere in the UK and Europe (November 2004), and led to a new composition of his own for concert orchestra entitled 'Dance to Freedom' premiered at the Cape Town International Festival in November 2007. His most recent work is entitled 'A Peal of Bells', written for string orchestra, tubular bells and celesta, together with an alternative version for cello and piano.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The John Simon sound recordings were donated to the University of Stellenbosch on 2 February 2009 by the composer.

Content

Abstract

The John Simon collection consists of sound recordings (CDs, sound cassettes and videos).

Accruals

No further additions.

Access conditions

Open. Make an appointment in advance to view material from the John Simon Collection. Please contact the Centre at:

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Language of Material

English.

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Creation information

Compiled by John Simon, 9 December 2008.

No alterations to date.

CASSETTE TAPES, CDS AND VIDEO FEATURING ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS OF JOHN SIMON

K Cassette Tapes

KA Symphony (opus 45)

- KA1 Movt 1 NSO/Simkine 28.5.98
- KA2 Movt 1 NSO/Simkine 28.5.98 (replacement tape)
- KA3 Movts 1&2 CTPO/Gueller 14.1.99
- KA4 Movts 3&4 NAPOP/Scarr 5.11.99
- KA5 Movts 3&4 CTPO/Francis 25.5.00 (parts of movement 4 accidentally deleted)

KB Children of the Sun (opus 44)

- KB1 CTSO/Hadari 30.5.91 (abridged version)
- KB2 CTSO/Hadari 16.1.92 (SABC tape)
- KB3 CTSO/Hadari 16.1.92 (Donald Graham tape)

KC Requiem of 1984 (opus 42)

- KC1 BBC PO/ Downes (recording 12.12.88 & live performance 13.12.88)
- KC2 BBC PO/ Downes (recording 12.12.88)
- KC3 BBC PO/ Downes (BBC Radio 3 broadcast 18.9.89)
- KC4 NSO/Stephenson 8.88 (for second tape of this performance see Antipodean Overture)
- KC5 CAPAB/Capasso 22.10.87
- KC6 CTSO/Mester 3.96

KD Dover Beach (opus 41)

- KD1 St Georges Singers/Smith 25.4.84 (SABC tape)
- KD2 St Georges Singers/Smith 25.4.84 (Master tape)

KE Violin Concerto (opus 40)

- KE1 BBC PO/Milanova/Gayford 17.1.92

KF Threnody 2 (opus 39)

- KF1 CTSO/Priestman 20.1.83

KG Antipodean Overture/New Azania Overture (opus 38)

- KG1 NSO/Stephenson 8.88 (tape also contains a performance of Requiem of 1984)
- KG2 NSO/Lane 19.6.97
- KG3 UCT Symphonic Wind Orchestra/Kierman (wind arrangement by Sean Kierman)

KH Threnody 1 (opus 37)

- KH1 Stellenbosch String Ensemble/Rycroft 17.5.92 (Endler Hall)
- KH2 Stellenbosch String Ensemble/Rycroft 26.8.92 (Nico Malan)
- KH3 NSO/Lane 24.6.93

KJ Sonata for Bassoon and Piano (opus 36)

KJ1 Holland/Crowson 6.80

KK Piano Concerto No 2 (opus 31)

KK1 NSO/Rajna/Tadeka 14.1.85

KK2 CTSO/Rajna/Asensio 10.2.85

KL Wind Quintet (opus 23)

KL1 Capab Wind Quintet 20.11.84

KL2 Vega Wind Quintet 11.87 (BBC tape)

KL3 Vega Wind Quintet 11.87 (BBC Radio 3 broadcast 1988)

KM Commercially released cassettes

KM1 **GSE 608** 1987 Piano Concerto No 2/Dover Beach/Wind Quintet/Threnody 2

KM2 **GSE 608R** 1987 Piano Concerto No 2/Dover Beach/Wind Quintet/Allegro for Flute &
Piano

KM3 **GSE 1504** 1988 Threnody 2

KM4 **GSE 1518** 1991 Portrait of Emily

CD **CDs**

CDA Commercially released CDs

CDA1 **GSE1504** 1988 Threnody 2

CDA2 **GSE 1518** 1991 Portrait of Emily

CDA3 **GSE 1556** 1998 Violin Concerto

CDB Non commercial CDs

CDB1 **Verbatim** Symphony Movts 3 & 4 5.11.99 NAOPOP/Scarr

CDB2 **Verbatim** Symphony Movts 3 & 4 25.5.00 CTPO/Francis

CDB3 **Intenso** Symphony (compiled performance by Keith Davies) July 2000

CDB4 John Simon Musical Scores and Parts/Programme Notes/Vocal Texts/ Poems 17.1.09 x2

CDC Late Gothic Overture (4th Movement Symphony) (opus 45d)

CDC1 KZNPO/Russman 28.10.04

CDD Portrait of Emily (opus 43)

CDD1 JPO/Sally Silver/Jeremy Silver 25.8.05

CDE Piano Concerto No 1 (opus 15)

CDE1 CPO/Schumann/Scarr 18.11.04

V **Video**

VA1 Threnody 1 NSO/Lane 24.6.93

Altogether **45** items D.J.S. 9.12.08