

Alec Roth – CAT DANCES

four character pieces for solo guitar

first performed by Morgan Szymanski, Royal College of Music, London, 29 April 2003

1. Javanese Cat
2. Egyptian Cat
3. Jeffrey
4. Cheshire Cat

(individual movements may be performed separately)

COMPOSER'S NOTE

On first hearing Morgan Szymanski perform, I was captivated by his playing and immediately wanted to compose something for him. I was also captivated by his grin which put me in mind of the Cheshire Cat. As I worked on this idea the other cats sprang to mind and insisted on being included:

Javanese Cat

Out for a stroll one evening in Java I became fascinated watching a young cat trotting along a wall like a model on a cat-walk. His tail would have been high in the air, except he didn't have one.

Egyptian Cat

The "Gayer-Anderson Cat" lives in the British Museum. This bronze statue from ancient Egypt, complete with silver amulet and gold earrings, has great nobility of bearing. The eyes, however, have lost their original inlay, giving its dark stare an intense melancholy.

Jeffrey

In my student days in Durham I had lodgings with a remarkable lady called Miss Jacka who had an equally remarkable cat, Jeffrey. His favourite game was to run up and down the keyboard of my piano, then leap over to the desk and skid around in circles, scattering all my papers to the floor.

Cheshire Cat

This piece recalls the encounter between Alice and the Cheshire Cat in Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*: "I wish you wouldn't keep appearing and vanishing so suddenly: you make one quite giddy!" "All right", said the cat; and this time it vanished quite slowly, beginning with the end of the tail, and ending with the grin, which remained some time after the rest of it had gone.'

DURATION

ca. 10 minutes

FORCES REQUIRED

Solo Guitar

PERFORMANCE MATERIALS

Score

SCORE SAMPLE

Click here for a sample page of the [Score](#)

RECORDING

The *Cat Dances* are recorded by Morgan Szymanski on the [Sarabande](#) label

The individual track may be sampled and downloaded at: [iTunes](#)

"a delightful set of pieces"

(Classical Guitar News)

"Four delightful movements — together entitled Cat Dances — brought smiles both to guitarist and audience alike"

(South Wales Evening Post, 23 July 2010)