

## ALEC ROTH – chronological list of works with first performances

**Four Garden Songs** – for mezzo-soprano or soprano and strings or keyboard, words by Amy Lowell [ca. 15']  
commissioned by the Leeds Lieder Festival  
Anna Huntley (mezzo-soprano), James Baillieu (piano)  
Howard Assembly Room, Grand Theatre, Leeds, 12 October 2013

**String Quartet No.4** [ca. 20']  
commissioned by the Malvern Concert Club  
Allegrì String Quartet, Forum Theatre, Malvern, 26 September 2013

**String Quartet No.3** [ca. 22']  
commissioned by James and Lis Woods  
Allegrì String Quartet, St Thomas's Church, Salisbury (Salisbury Festival), 4 June 2013

**Song of the Shepherds** – for unaccompanied choir (SATB), words by Richard Crashaw [ca. 5¾']  
commissioned by Little St Mary's, Cambridge in celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> birthday of Richard Crashaw  
The Choir of Little St Mary's, Simon Jackson (director), Little St Mary's, Cambridge, 12 April 2013

**Snowflakes** – for choir and organ or other instruments, words by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow [ca. 2½']  
(adapted from the 'Winter Night' section of the cantata *A Time to Dance*, see below)  
Ex Cathedra, Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor), St John's Smith Square, London, 13 December 2012

**Jubilate** – anthem for unaccompanied choir, words from the Vulgate and the Book of Common Prayer 1662 [ca. 6']  
commissioned by the Musicians Benevolent Fund for the annual Festival of St Cecilia 2012  
The combined Choirs of St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey and Westminster Cathedral, Andrew Carwood (director), St Paul's Cathedral, London, 21 November 2012

**Rough Hawkbit** – for solo oboe [ca. 3']  
commissioned for "Where the Wild Flowers Are", curated by Clare Whistler  
Rebecca Millard (oboe), St Stephen Wallbrook (City of London Festival), 30 June 2012

**Old Earth** – stage work for actor and unaccompanied choir, text by Samuel Beckett [ca. 50']  
(five movements for unaccompanied choir to be performed in conjunction with four monologues by Beckett)  
commissioned jointly by the Spitalfields Festival and The Sixteen  
The Sixteen, Harry Christophers (conductor), Alan Howard (actor), Jonathan Holmes (director), Lucy Wilkinson (designer), Village Underground, London EC2 (Spitalfields Festival), 15/16 June 2012

**A Time to Dance** – cantata for SATB soloists, choir and orchestra, words by various authors [ca. 55']  
(orchestration as for the Bach *Magnificat*, designed to be played on either period or modern instruments)  
commissioned by The Summer Music Society of Dorset in celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
Grace Davidson (soprano), Matthew Venner (alto), Jeremy Budd (tenor), Greg Skidmore (bass), Ex Cathedra,  
Ex Cathedra Baroque Ensemble, Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor), Sherborne Abbey, 9 June 2012

**Hymn to Gaia** – for children's choir, mixed choir and bass drum, words from the Ancient Greek [ca. 16']  
commissioned by Ex Cathedra  
Ex Cathedra with the Ex Cathedra Academy and Junior Academy, Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor), Birmingham Town Hall, 20 November 2011 (recorded by the same forces for Signum, 30 June 2011)

**The Flower** – anthem for unaccompanied choir, words by George Herbert [ca. 3']  
Ex Cathedra, Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor), Birmingham Town Hall, 20 November 2011

**Lights Out** – for voice and guitar, words by Edward Thomas [ca. 4']  
Mark Padmore (tenor), Morgan Szymanski (guitar), recording for Signum CD, 18 November 2011

**My Lute and I** – song cycle for tenor and guitar, words by Thomas Wyatt [ca. 24']  
Mark Padmore (tenor), Morgan Szymanski (guitar), The Chapel, Lulworth Castle, Dorset, 13 July 2011

**Three Night Songs** – for voice and guitar, words by Vikram Seth [ca. 8']  
Mark Padmore (tenor), Morgan Szymanski (guitar), Wilton Church (Salisbury Festival), 1 June 2011

**Autumnal** – for voice and keyboard or guitar or harp, words by John Donne [ca. 4']  
private performance for Lis Woods' birthday: Sally Bradshaw (mezzo-soprano), Andrea Grant (piano), St Iberius Church, Wexford, Ireland, 27 October 2010  
Guitar version: Mark Padmore (tenor), Morgan Szymanski (guitar), recording for Signum CD, 18 November 2011

**Concerto for Guitar and String Orchestra** [ca. 22']  
commissioned jointly by the Young Concert Artists Trust (YCAT) and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields  
Morgan Szymanski (guitar), Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Kenneth Sillito (director),  
Wiltshire Music Centre, Bradford on Avon, 26 September 2010

**Other Earths and Skies** – for tenor and oboe, words by Vikram Seth after Li Bai [ca. 11']  
commissioned by the Brinkburn Music Festival  
Mark Padmore (tenor), Nicholas Daniel (oboe), Brinkburn Priory, Northumberland, 4 July 2010

**String Quartet No.2** [ca. 20']  
commissioned by James and Lis Woods  
Allegri String Quartet, St Thomas's Church, Salisbury (Salisbury Festival), 23 May 2010

**Earthrise** – for 40-part unaccompanied choir, words from the Vulgate [ca. 22']  
commissioned by Ex Cathedra on the occasion of its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary (1969-2009)  
Ex Cathedra, conducted by Jeffrey Skidmore, Birmingham Town Hall, 31 January 2010

**Sol Justitiae** – for choir, words by James Barmby [ca. 4']  
commissioned by Hatfield College, University of Durham  
Hatfield College Choir directed by Alexander Crawford, Durham Cathedral, 15 June 2009

**Seven Elements** – for tenor and piano, words by Vikram Seth [ca. 25']  
commissioned jointly by the Salisbury, Chelsea and Lichfield Festivals  
James Gilchrist (tenor), Rustem Hayroudinoff (piano)  
Wilton Church (Salisbury Festival), 1 June; St Luke's Church, Chelsea, 16 June; Lichfield Cathedral, 15 July, 2009  
Version for string quartet: James Gilchrist (tenor), Allegri Quartet, St Myllin's Church, Llanfyllin, 2 July 2010

**Seven Elements Suite** – for violin and piano [ca. 25']  
commissioned jointly by the Salisbury, Chelsea and Lichfield Festivals  
Philippe Honoré (violin), Rustem Hayroudinoff (piano)  
performed in conjunction with *Seven Elements* (see above)

**The Hermit on the Ice** – for tenor, violin and piano, words by Vikram Seth [ca. 4']  
James Gilchrist (tenor), Philippe Honoré (violin), Rustem Hayroudinoff (piano)  
performed in conjunction with *Seven Elements* (see above)

**Unborn ("Child of Son")** – for tenor, choir and organ (or other instruments), words by Vikram Seth [ca. 5']  
(adapted from Part 1 of the oratorio *The Traveller*, see below)  
Ex Cathedra, Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor), St John's Smith Square, London, 17 December 2008

**English Folk Songs** – for voice and guitar [ca. 11']  
Mark Padmore (tenor), Morgan Szymanski (guitar), Town Hall, Rochdale, 15 November 2008.

**The Traveller** – for tenor, violin, choir, children's choir and orchestra, words by Vikram Seth [ca. 55']  
commissioned jointly by the Salisbury, Chelsea and Lichfield Festivals  
Philippe Honoré (violin), Mark Padmore (tenor), Britten Sinfonia, Alec Roth (conductor), with the Salisbury Festival Chorus and Salisbury Area Young Musicians Junior Choir, Salisbury Cathedral, 31 May; with The Joyful Company of Singers and Redcliffe School Junior Choir, Holy Trinity Church, Chelsea, 18 June; with the Lichfield Festival Chorus, Lichfield Cathedral, 8 July, 2008

**Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis** (Hatfield Service) - for choir and organ or chamber organ [ca. 6']  
The Chapel Choir/Matthew Carlton/Nicholas Arden (organ), Hatfield College Chapel, Durham, 15 June 2008

**Death by Figs** – for flute, clarinet, harp and string quartet [ca. 4']  
commissioned by Mobius on the occasion of its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
Mobius, Wigmore Hall, London, 22 March 2008

**Danza de la Luna** – for solo guitar [ca. 5½']  
Morgan Szymanski (guitar), recording for Signum, 1 November 2007

**Shared Ground** – for 12-part unaccompanied double choir, words by Vikram Seth [ca. 24']  
commissioned jointly by the Salisbury, Chelsea and Lichfield Festivals  
Ex Cathedra, Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor), Wilton Church (Salisbury Festival), 6 June; Holy Trinity Church, Chelsea, 21 June; Lichfield Cathedral, 10 July, 2007

**Ponticelli** – partita for unaccompanied violin [ca. 20']  
commissioned jointly by the Salisbury, Chelsea and Lichfield Festivals  
Philippe Honoré (violin), performed in conjunction with *Shared Ground*, see above

**Kingston Bells** – for carillon or Javanese gamelan slendro [ca. 3']  
commissioned by the City Arts Unit, Hull City Council to celebrate the completion of the Hull Guildhall Bells  
Carillon version: Guildhall Bells (programmed by Smith's of Derby); Gamelan version: Hull Gamelan Players & South Bank Gamelan Players, The Guildhall, Kingston-upon-Hull, 30 September 2006

**Keeper of the Clocks** – for carillon [ca. 3½']  
Guildhall Bells (programmed by Smith's of Derby), The Guildhall, Kingston-upon-Hull, 30 September 2006

**Songs in Time of War** – for tenor, violin, harp & guitar, words by Vikram Seth after the Chinese poet Du Fu [ca. 42']  
commissioned jointly by the Salisbury, Chelsea and Lichfield Festivals  
Mark Padmore (tenor), Philippe Honoré (violin), Alison Nicholls (harp), Morgan Szymanski (guitar), Wilton Church (Salisbury Festival), 8 June; St Luke's Church, Chelsea, 19 June; The Lady Chapel, Lichfield Cathedral, 6 July, 2006

**Concertino Piccolo** – for two groups of young violinists and string orchestra [ca. 10']  
commissioned by the Academy of St Martin in the Fields  
Local young violinists, ASMF/Roth, Theatre by the Lake, Keswick, 30 April 2006

**Quintet for Guitar and String Quartet** [ca. 24']  
commissioned by the Rochdale Music Society and Jane Devaney  
Morgan Szymanski (guitar), Sacconi String Quartet, Gracie Fields Theatre, Rochdale, 29 April 2006

**Lullaby Carol** – for unaccompanied choir [ca. 4']  
The Chapel Choir, Hatfield College Chapel, Durham/Nicholas Edmonds, 11 December 2005

**Dark Night** – for voice and string quartet, words by Vikram Seth [ca. 4½']  
Christopher Maltman (baritone), Sacconi String Quartet, Louth Methodist Church, 17 November 2005  
Version for guitar: Mark Padmore (tenor), Morgan Szymanski (guitar), Town Hall, Rochdale, 15 November, 2008

**Invocation** – for solo guitar [ca. 4½']  
Morgan Szymanski (guitar), Wigmore Hall, London, 11 October 2005

**Skye Boat Song** – arrangement for unison chorus and orchestra [ca. 3']  
commissioned by the BBC Symphony Orchestra  
Islington Music Centre Children's Choir, BBCSO/Jurjen Hempel, Alexandra Palace, London, 15 June 2005

**Canción de la Luna** – for solo guitar [ca. 5½']  
Morgan Szymanski (guitar), Wigmore Hall, London, 8 February 2005

**Ring Dance** – for symphony orchestra [ca. 7½']  
commissioned by the York Guildhall Orchestra to celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
York Guildhall Orchestra/Simon Wright, Central Hall, University of York, 30 October 2004

**Scottish March (Debussy)** – arrangement for string orchestra of *Marche Ecossaise* by Claude Debussy [ca. 5']  
Scottish Ensemble/Clio Gould, Palace Theatre, Kilmarnock, 4 September 2004

**Summer** – for chorus and string orchestra, words by Roth, Blake, Lowell and Tennyson [ca. 16']  
community music project commissioned by 20,000 Voices  
Brinkburn Festival Chorus/Scottish Ensemble/Roth, Brinkburn Priory, Northumberland, 10 July 2004

**Dream Songs** – a song cycle for children to sing, words by the composer [ca. 14']  
commissioned by the Society for the Promotion of New Music  
children from Leaden Hall, The Godolphin Preparatory and St Andrew's schools, Salisbury, conducted by Rachel Leach with Susanna Stranders (piano), Salisbury Methodist Church, 25 June 2004

**Dolphin Dances** – orchestral suite from the opera Arion and the Dolphin [ca. 12']  
commissioned by the Singapore Symphony Orchestra Ladies' League  
BBC Symphony Orchestra/Jason Lai, Maida Vale Studios, 27 February 2004 (studio recording for subsequent Radio3 broadcast); Singapore Symphony Orchestra/Lim Yau, Victoria Concert Hall, Singapore, 20 March 2004

**The Unicorn in the Garden** – for solo guitar [ca. 6']  
Morgan Szymanski (guitar), Wigmore Hall, London, 1 December 2003

**The Bear Hunt** – a musical game for young children to play, for voices and classroom instruments/keyboard [5-10']

**Rondo Burlesco (The Bear Hunt)** – for wind trio (fl, clar, bn), for children to listen to [ca. 9']

commissioned by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Lis Dooner (flute), Alison Green (clarinet), Ruth Ellis (bassoon), Long Niddry Primary School, 10 September 2003

**Romantic Residues** – song cycle for tenor and harp, words by Vikram Seth [ca. 22']

commissioned by the Bury St Edmunds Festival

James Gilchrist (tenor), Alison Nicholls (harp), Athenaeum, Bury St Edmunds, 20 May 2003

Version for baritone: Håken Vramsmo, Lucy Wakeford (harp), Semley Festival, 7 August 2004

**Cat Dances** – for solo guitar [ca. 10']

Morgan Szymanski (guitar), Concert Hall, Royal College of Music, London, 29 April 2003

**Venus Dancing** – for treble recorder and keyboard [ca. 4']

John Turner (recorder), Peter Lawson (keyboard), Concert Hall, University of Manchester, 4 October 2002

**String Quartet No.1 (Klee Pictures)** [ca. 15']

commissioned by the Bath International Music Festival

ConTempo String Quartet, Walcott Methodist Church, Bath, 20 May 2002

Revised version: ConTempo String Quartet, Aula Maxima, NUI, Galway, Ireland, 20 November 2003

**Dolphin Songs** (from Arion and the Dolphin) – for children's chorus, words by Vikram Seth [ca. 12']

Trinity Boys' Choir, David Swinson (conductor), Fairfield Hall, Croydon, 25 April 2002

**Nocturne** – for viola and string orchestra [ca. 11']

commissioned by the Academy of St Martin in the Fields

Robert Smissen (viola), ASMF/Roth, St Martin in the Fields Church, London, 28 September 2000

Revised version: Catherine Marwood, Scottish Ensemble/Clio Gould, Mitchell Hall, Aberdeen, 4 Oct 2001

Version for violin & harp: Philippe Honoré, Alison Nicholls, Athenaeum, Bury St Edmunds, 22 May 2001

Version for violin & piano: Adam & Catherine Summerhayes, Purcell Room, London, 27 November 2002

Version for viola & piano: Jonna Inge, Scott Mitchell, RSAMD, Glasgow, 28 May 2004

**Earth and Sky** – for children's choir, piano and optional percussion quartet, words by Vikram Seth [ca. 10']

commissioned by the BBC for the BBC Proms 2000

Finchley Children's Music Group, Joanna MacGregor (piano), Ensemble Bash, Nicholas Wilks (conductor), Royal Albert Hall, London, 18 July 2000

**Departure of the Queen of Sheba** – for oboe, cor anglais and string orchestra [ca. 10']

commissioned by the Academy of St Martin in the Fields

Celia Nicklin (oboe), Rachel Ingleton (cor anglais), Academy of St Martin in the Fields/Kenneth Sillito, St Martin in the Fields Church, London, 7 October 1999

**Honeyed Thunder** – for Javanese gamelan [ca. 12']

commissioned by the South Bank Gamelan Players for their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary

South Bank Gamelan Players, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre, London, 24 July 1998

**Chinese Gardens** – song cycle for voice and guitar, words by Vikram Seth [ca. 12’]

commissioned by the Chester Summer Music Festival

Claire Bradshaw (mezzo-soprano), Craig Ogden (guitar), Town Hall, Chester, 13 July 1998

Version for tenor: Mark Padmore (tenor), Morgan Szymanski (guitar), CD recording (SIGCD 124), July 2008

**Greek Dances** – for clarinet and piano [ca. 4’]

(arrangement of the Dance Interlude from the opera *Arion and the Dolphin*)

Simon Oakes (clarinet) and Irene Roberts (piano), The Old Gym, Wellington College, 25 June 1997

**Fandangle** – for chamber orchestra [ca. 6’]

commissioned by the Sinfonia of Leeds on the occasion of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Sinfonia of Leeds/David Greed, St Oswald's Church, Sowerby, 19 April 1997

Version for symphony orchestra: Orchestra of Opera North/Simon Wright, Leeds Town Hall, 25 June 1998

Version for brass band: RNCM Brass Band/Christopher Houlding, RNCM, Manchester, 9 March 1999

Version for wind band: Chetham's School of Music Wind Band/John Dickinson, RNCM, Manchester, 28 March 1999

**“HOPE” (a lullaby)** – for medium voice and harp or keyboard, words by Emily Dickinson [ca. 4’]

commissioned by Vanessa Bernstein for the birth of her granddaughter

first sung for a private recording by Susannah Waters, December 1996; first public performance, Marieta Vulkova (mezzo-soprano), Sosie Chifchyan (piano), Municipal Gallery of Art, Sofia, Bulgaria, 18 November 2001

**All Summer in a Day** – a musical drama for children to perform to adults, based on the story by Ray Bradbury,

lyrics by Jo Shapcott [ca. 40’]

commissioned by Opera North

Children from England Lane Primary School, Knottingley, Opera North Ensemble, Martin Fitzpatrick (conductor), Nadia Molinari (director), Knottingley High School, 30 April/1 May 1996

Revised version: Children from Westminster Primary Schools, Imperial College Ensemble, Howard Moody (conductor), Rebecca Meitlis & Ian Spink (directors), Bloomsbury Theatre, London, June 2002

**The Big Wash Cycle (with short spin)** – for voice(s), clarinet, cello and keyboard, or keyboard alone or chamber orchestra, with optional audience participation, words by Jo Shapcott [ca. 25’]

commissioned by the South Bank Centre, London for the "Boom Room" Series of Family Concerts

Geoffrey Dolton & Claire Daniels (vocalists), Chamber Music Company, Purcell Room, 17 December 1994

Catalan version (*La Gran Bugada*), translation by Miquel Desclot: Jordi Ricart (voice), La Caixa, Barcelona 1997

Version for chamber orchestra: Stewart Collins (voice), Bournemouth Sinfonietta/Roth, Wadebridge Sports Centre, Cornwall, 24 May 1997

**Arion and the Dolphin** – opera, libretto by Vikram Seth [ca. 110’]

commissioned by English National Opera

ENO Soloists, Community Chorus, Children's Chorus, Bournemouth Sinfonietta, Nicholas Kok (conductor), Rebecca Meitlis (director), Henk Schut (designer), Denni Sayers (choreographer), the Drill Shed, HMS Drake, Royal Navy Dockyard, Plymouth, 14-19 June 1994

Revised version: Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Victoria Memorial Hall, Singapore, 29 June - 1 July 1996

Dutch version (*Arion en de Dolfijn*), translated by Joris Vermeulen: Nelle-fabriek, Rotterdam, 13-16 March 1999

**The Song Recycle Song** – "windows" piece for primary school children, singer and ensemble [ca. 25’]

commissioned by the London Sinfonietta for the ABO National Education Project 1993

Children from four Haringey Primary Schools/Keel Watson (baritone)/London Sinfonietta/Roth, Tottenham Green Leisure Centre, London, 12 March 1993

**Love and Work; From California; Coast Starlight** – three songs for baritone and chamber orchestra, (from a projected cycle California Songbook), words by Vikram Seth [ca. 15’]

Geoffrey Dolton/London Sinfonietta/Roth, West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge, 2 February 1991

Version of "From California" for tenor, flute and harp: James Gilchrist (tenor), Jaime Martin (flute), Alison Nicholls (harp), recorded 20 November 2008 for Hyperion CD "Romantic Residues" (CDA67725)

**Karawitan Akbar** (chorus part only; co-composer: I Made Pande Sukerta) – for chorus and massed gamelan ensembles, including Gamelan Sekaten and Balinese Gong Gede [ca. 20’]

commissioned for the opening ceremony of the 1990 Borobodur Festival

STSI Surakarta Ensembles and Chorus, Borobodur, Central Java, 2 June 1990

**The Tempest** – version of Shakespeare's play for actors, dancers, chorus and Javanese gamelan [ca. 160']  
commissioned by Simon Fraser Centre for the Arts, Vancouver  
Simon Fraser Centre for the Arts, Vancouver, 8-18 March 1989  
concert extracts: numerous subsequent concert performances of excerpts, including Cheltenham Festival 1986,  
QEH London, 1990 and Royal Albert Hall (BBC Proms) 1998

**Gretel and Hansel** – an opera for young people, libretto by David Sulkin [ca. 55']  
commissioned by English National Opera  
ENO Baylis Programme "Live Culture" Youth Opera Group, ENO Ensemble, Alec Roth (conductor), David Sulkin  
(director), Young Vic Theatre, London, 18-19 June 1987

**Come unto these Yellow Sands; Full Fathom Five** – two songs from Shakespeare's *The Tempest* for voice, chorus  
and Javanese gamelan [ca. 10']  
English Gamelan Orchestra/Neil Sorrell, Bloomsbury Theatre, London, 5 October 1983  
[see also *The Tempest*, above]