

Alec Roth – DOLPHIN DANCES

orchestral suite from the opera *Arion and the Dolphin*

commissioned by the Singapore Symphony Orchestra Ladies' League

first performed in a studio recording by the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Jason Lai, BBC Maida Vale Studios, London, 27 February 2004 for a BBC Radio 3 broadcast on 9 March 2004

first public performance given by the Singapore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lim Yau, Victoria Concert Hall, Singapore, 20 March 2004

Arion and the Dolphin (libretto by Vikram Seth) was commissioned by English National Opera and first performed at the Royal Navy Dockyard in Plymouth in 1994; the revised version was premiered in Singapore in 1996.

The opera tells the story of the young musician Arion who travels to Sicily for a music festival where he wins all the prizes. On the return voyage the sailors, greedy for his gold, plot to kill him. He asks to sing one last song then leaps into the sea.

The music of *Dolphin Dances* is taken from the scene which follows: a dark underwater world. Arion believes that this experience is death; but, attracted by his singing, a pod of music-loving dolphins has arrived to rescue him. They invite him to supper and present an entertainment which reveals to him some of the joys and mysteries of dolphin life.

The suite begins with Arion's plunge into the sea, followed by four sections: (1) Rescue Dance; (2) Communication Dance; (3) Mystery Dance; (4) Dance of the Young Dolphins.

DURATION

ca. 12 minutes

FORCES REQUIRED

Symphony Orchestra

3(3=Picc) 2 3(3=Bass) 2 – 4 3 3 1 – Timpani, 4 Percussion, Keyboard (Piano/Celesta), Harp – Strings

Percussion 1: Vibraphone, Lion's Roar, Small Suspended Cymbal

Percussion 2: Marimba, Small Suspended Cymbal

Percussion 3: Small Tam-Tam, Small Bass Drum, Suspended Cymbal, Medium Nipple-Gong, Small Nipple-Gong, Cowbell, 2 Temple-Blocks

Percussion 4: Tomtom, Large Suspended Cymbal, Hi-Hat, Large Bass Drum, Large Tam-Tam, Medium Tamtam, Guiro, Swanee Whistle

PERFORMANCE MATERIALS

Full Score

Orchestral Parts

SCORE SAMPLE

Click here to see sample pages of the [Full Score](#)