

# Alec Roth – RING DANCE

commissioned by the York Guildhall Orchestra in celebration of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
first performed by the York Guildhall Orchestra conducted by Simon Wright, Central Hall, University of York, 30 October 2004

The dance has a rather Latin-American flavour. The four sections of the orchestra – percussion, wind, brass, strings – take it in turn to present their own version. They do their best to ignore the occasional interruptions from the harp (sitting in the middle of the orchestra), whose enigmatic musings seem to belong to another world. After a certain amount of jostling, all four sections come together in a big, brash statement of the dance. The harp muses on to the end.

The form of the piece was suggested by Robert Frost's two-line poem *The Secret Sits*, which is quoted at the head of the score:

*We dance round in a ring and suppose,  
But the Secret sits in the middle and knows.*

## DURATION

ca. 7½ minutes

## FORCES REQUIRED

Symphony Orchestra:

3(3=Picc) 2 3(3=Bass) 2 – 4 3 3 1 – Timpani (+ Rototoms), 4 Percussion, Celesta, Harp – Strings

Percussion 1: Desk Bell; Claves

Percussion 2: Bongos; Small Gong in B flat; 5 Small Suspended Cymbals

Percussion 3: Bass Drum 1

Percussion 4: Bass Drum 2, pitched slightly higher (approximately a minor third) than Bass Drum 1

N.B. The Harp should be positioned as near as possible to the middle of the orchestra  
The two Bass Drums should be widely separated at opposite sides of the orchestra

## PERFORMANCE MATERIALS

Full Score

Orchestral Parts

## SCORE SAMPLE

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