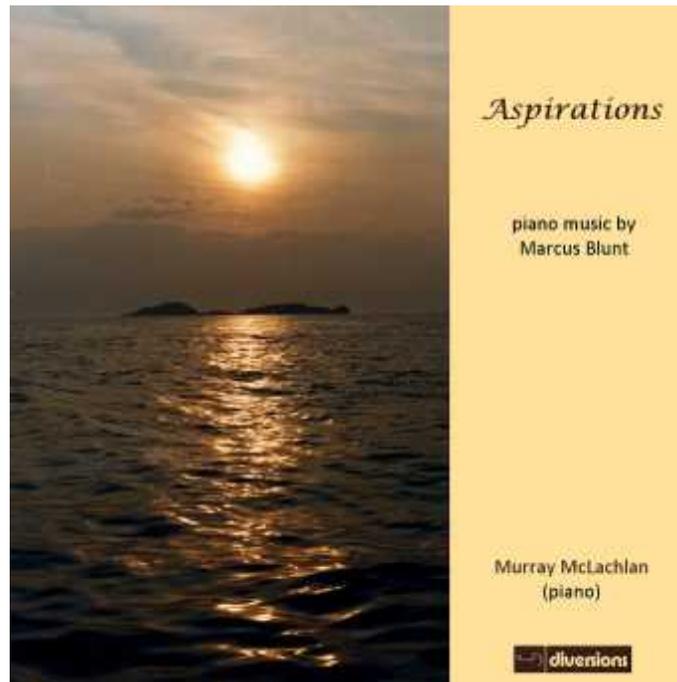




## New Release - Press Information



**ARTIST(S):** Murray McLachlan (pno)  
**COMPOSER(S):** Marcus Blunt (b1947)  
**TITLE:** Aspirations  
**CATALOGUE NUMBER:** Diversions DDV24148 [Bar Code 0809730414824]  
**RELEASE DATE:** 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014  
**PRICE POINT:** Single CD/Mid Price/UK Dealer £5.55

### Track Listing:

The Life Force (Sonata No. 3); Seven Preludes; Iona Prelude; Iona Caprice; Sonata No. 2; Three Nocturnes; Sonata No. 1; Prelude on a fugue theme by J. S. Bach; Three Fantasies

Total Playing Time 65.21



### **Repertoire/Product Information:**

Marcus Blunt was born in Birmingham in 1947. Although around the age of 9 he had piano lessons from his father for a year or more, and made his first attempts at composition, his interest in music did not really take off until he was 14. He went on to study composition at University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, graduating in 1970. He settled in Derby in 1976 as a teacher of woodwind instruments, before later moving to the Scottish Borders.

His output so far is mainly instrumental, for anything from piano solo to large orchestra, and has been performed internationally as well as throughout Britain and on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM.

This recording was originally released on Dunelm Records with limited availability and has been remastered. Of the original release, Jonathan Woolf on MusicWeb stated:

*So a most enjoyable recital, attractively recorded, and played with typical sensitivity by a pianist fully in sympathy with the music's demands and nature-mystic moments.*

### **Artist Information:**

Since making his professional debut in 1986 at the age of 21 under the baton of Sir Alexander Gibson, Murray McLachlan has consistently received outstanding critical acclaim. Educated at Chetham's School of Music and Cambridge University, his mentors included Ronald Stevenson, David Hartigan, Ryszard Bakst, Peter Katin and Norma Fisher. His recording career began in 1988 and immediately attracted international attention. Recordings of contemporary music have won numerous accolades, including full star ratings, as well as 'rosette' and 'key recording' status in the Penguin Guide to CDs, and 'Disc of the month' and 'Record of the month' in 'Music on the web' and 'The Herald'. McLachlan's discography now includes over forty commercial recordings, including the complete sonatas of Beethoven, Myaskovsky and Prokofiev, the six concertos of Alexander Tcherepnin, the 24 Preludes and Fugues of Rodion Shchedrin, Ronald Stevenson's 'Passacaglia on DSCH' the major works of Kabalevsky, Khatchaturian and the complete solo piano music of Erik Chisholm.

McLachlan's repertoire includes over 40 concertos and 25 recital programmes. He has performed the complete Beethoven piano sonata cycle four times, as well as the complete piano music of Brahms. He has given first performances of works by many composers, including Martin Butler, Ronald Stevenson, Charles Camilleri, Michael Parkin and even Beethoven! He has appeared as soloist with most of the leading UK orchestras. His recognition has been far-reaching, bringing invitations to perform on all five continents. At the same time he continues to give numerous concerts and master classes in the UK.

McLachlan teaches at the Royal Northern College of Music and at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester where he has been Head of Keyboard since 1997. He is the



founder of the Manchester International Concerto competition for young pianists as well as the Founder/Artistic Director of the world famous Chetham's International Summer School and Festival for Pianists, Europe's largest summer school devoted exclusively to the piano. As a teacher McLachlan continues to be very busy and in demand. Many of his students have won prizes in competitions and continued with their own successful careers as performers.

Murray McLachlan is editor of 'Piano Professional' Magazine, as well as Chair of the UK section of the European Piano Teachers' Association (EPTA UK). As well as performing and teaching, he is well known internationally for his numerous articles on Piano technique and repertoire. This includes extended columns which have appeared in 'International Piano' 'Pianist' and 'Piano' Magazines. In 2012 he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Dundee for outstanding services to music and education. This follows on from a knighthood awarded in 1997 by the Order of St John of Jerusalem in recognition of his services to music in Malta. More information can be viewed at [www.murraymclachlan.com](http://www.murraymclachlan.com)

**Additional Details & Marketing:**

The CD will be fully serviced to all UK classical music press and radio.

Advertising will include major classical music magazines and publications.

For more details, and to request a review sample, please contact John Cronin at Music & Media Consulting Limited.