



New Release - Press Information



ARTIST(S): Mary Dullea
COMPOSER(S): Eric Craven
TITLE: Set for Piano
CATALOGUE NUMBER: MSV28525 [Bar Code 0809730852527]
RELEASE DATE: 22nd October 2012
PRICE POINT: Single CD/Full Price (UK Dealer £7.95)

Track Listing:

One; Two; Three; Four; Five; Six; Seven; Eight; Nine; Ten; Eleven; Twelve

Total Playing Time: 68.41



Repertoire/Product Information:

This collection of 12 pieces by Eric Craven maps out a journey from the known to the unknown, from the familiar to the experimental, from the directly linear to the serpentine twists and turns embodied in new discovery. At the end of the journey only the essentials are manifested; conventional melody and harmony, dynamics, articulation and phrasing distil into pure, refined pitch and, at this point, the music is completely stripped down enabling notes to float freely.

Craven's compositional method bucks the trend for works where the tiniest nuance of every performance gesture is written into the score, producing incredible complexity and huge challenges for the performer. *Set for Piano* challenges performers in different ways, eventually drawing them right into the note to note procedure and inviting them to contribute to the form.

Craven writes:

"The twelve pieces of the Set for Piano are in a compositional technique which I describe as Non-Prescriptive. The objective of this process is to realign the historical relationships of the composer, the performer and the performance.

This is achieved by allowing the performer licence to determine how the parameters that have been omitted by the composer should be executed. The performer thus assumes a greater responsibility in determining the outcome of the music, at the same time becoming an essential component of the compositional process."

Eric Craven spent his childhood in Moston, a part of Manchester disadvantaged by the epithet 'disadvantaged' like so many inner city areas where expectations and opportunities were (and in some cases still are) extremely limited. The sad truth is that for most of the 20th century, family traditions in industrial areas of going to work in coal mines, shipyards or other heavy industry – or of having no work – were still prevalent, and often prevented young people with aspirations from realising their ambitions. In Eric Craven's case the life journey that he has undergone demonstrates just what can be achieved given the qualities of determination, originality of thought and talent he so obviously possesses. His triumph over adversity, his unassuming, quiet long-term progress and ultimate success can only serve as an inspirational and motivational example for others to emulate.

He spent over 25 years teaching mathematics and music in Manchester and during this period he achieved a postgraduate degree with distinction. He was noted throughout the city for his original ideas in the area of music curriculum development, introduced West Indian steel bands to Manchester's schools and, for ten years, conducted the very successful and popular Manchester Showband. He now spends six days a week in solitude honing, without disruption, the skills which make him a special and valuable contributor to modern music. He has preferred to immerse himself completely in his work, occasionally (as he puts it) emerging into the sunlight to play clarinet in an experimental music ensemble, and as a member of the Yorkshire CoMA Composers' Group.

Eric has not actively sought much public performance of his work; however, on the rare occasions that his music has been performed, it has been received with great appreciation by the audiences and artists involved. There is now a growing interest from both amateur and professional musicians and in academia with regard to the distinctiveness of the concept of his Non-Prescriptive music, and the associated techniques which include elements of aleatorism, optional phrasing, improvisation and open interpretation. None of these are in themselves new but they are here presented in a particular fashion which is Eric Craven's own.



Artist Information:

Mary Dullea is from Cork, Ireland and studied at the Royal College of Music, London on the Edith Best Scholarship. She has performed throughout Ireland, England, Europe, USA, Hong Kong, China and South Africa as soloist and chamber musician. She has appeared at Brighton, Huddersfield, Corsham, Aldeburgh, Petworth, Chichester, Fuse Leeds and Sound Scotland Festivals as well as Belfast Festival at Queens, West Cork Music, Reggello International Festival, Lodi Festival and Palazzo Albrizzi, Venice (Italy), Casa da Musica (Porto), Shanghai Oriental Arts Centre, London's Wigmore Hall and National Arts Festival (South Africa). Her many broadcasts include BBC Radio 3, Radio 4, RTHK, RTÉ Lyric FM, WNYC, Radio New Zealand and Sky Arts, Irish, French, Austrian and Italian television. She was the Irish pianist at EU 12 and 15 piano extravaganza concerts in Paris, Brussels and Luxembourg. Concerto appearances include RTÉ Concert Orchestra, KZNPO (South Africa) and the BBC commissioned piano concerto by Rob Keeley.

A sought-after interpreter of new music, Mary's expansive repertoire covers the standard piano literature as well as an ever-increasing amount of 20th- and 21st- century compositions, many of which are dedicated to her, through extensive commissions and premieres, also notably with The Fidelio Trio. CD releases include on NMC, Delphian Records, Altarus and Divine Art labels. Forthcoming releases include a Piers Hellawell portrait CD on Delphian Records, the complete Michael Nyman trios for MN Records and the complete music for violin and piano by Michael Finnissy (with Darragh Morgan). She has been the curator of Soundings (annual new music festival) at the Austrian Cultural Forum London since 2008.

Mary acknowledges the support of The Department of Tourism, Culture and Sport, The Arts Council and Music Network through the Music Capital Scheme 2010. She holds a Masters degree in Contemporary Music Studies from Goldsmiths College, University of London and her PhD in Performance from the University of Ulster focused on repertoire incorporating the use of the inside and the outside of the piano.

Mary is the Director of Performance at The University of Sheffield and is also on the teaching staff of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

www.marydullea.com

Additional Details & Marketing:

The score of Eric Craven's "Set for Piano" will also be published in the autumn by Divine Art associate company, Brandon Music.

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 of the disc or an interview with Eric Craven or Mary Dullea, please contact John Cronin at Music & Media Consulting Limited.