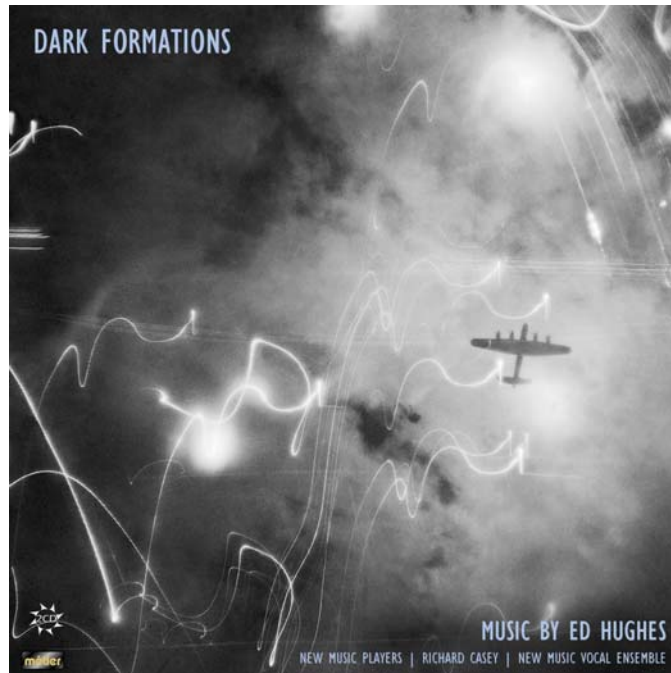




New Release - Press Information



ARTIST(S): New Music Players/Richard Casey/New Music Vocal Ensemble

COMPOSER(S): Ed Hughes

TITLE: Dark Formations

CATALOGUE NUMBER: MSV28530 [Bar Code 0809730853029]

RELEASE DATE: 25th June 2012

PRICE POINT: 2CD Slimline/Special Price/UK Dealer £10.20

Track Listing:

CD1: Quartet¹; Chamber Concerto²; Dark Formations²; Strike! ²; Sextet²; Light Cuts Through Dark Skies² CD2: Orchids³; A Buried Flame^o

¹New Music Players/²New Music Players cond. Patrick Bailey/³Richard Casey (pno)/^o New Music Vocal Ensemble conducted by John Hancorn

Total Playing Time: 139.19



Repertoire/Product Information:

Ed Hughes studied at Cambridge with Robin Holloway and Alexander Goehr, and at Southampton with Michael Finnissy. Commissions include City of London Festival (an opera to a libretto by Glyn Maxwell, *The Birds*, for The Opera Group and I Fagiolini), Brighton Festival, Bath Camerata, Glyndebourne/Photoworks, Tacet Ensemble and London Sinfonietta. Performances include City of London Festival, Buxton Opera House, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Linbury Studio Theatre, Jerusalem Music Centre, Salamanca Festival, Sydney Festival and a number of BBC Radio 3 broadcasts.

Auditorium (2007) for Glyndebourne and Photoworks, an orchestral and electronics score arising from a collaboration with the visual artist Sophy Rickett, was performed live at Glyndebourne in November 2007, and has toured internationally as an audiovisual installation. He has written several ensemble scores for iconic silent films of the early twentieth century including Ivens's *Regen*, Eisenstein's *Battleship Potemkin* and *Strike* (Tartan Video 2007) and a series of scores for the BFI's *Ozu Collection*. His choral work, *A Buried Flame* (2010) was commissioned by the PRS Foundation and subsequently selected by the ISCM for the World Music Days-Flanders 2013. Current work includes *When The Flame Dies*, a chamber opera, in collaboration with the writer Roger Morris.

The Quartet is a single movement for clarinet, violin, cello and piano. The Chamber Concerto started life as a single movement for an ensemble of thirteen instruments. Later Hughes re-scored it for seven players and added three more movements. The inclusion of the horn and bass clarinet, which often form an earthy duet within the texture, gives an extra kind of punch to the work.

'*Dark Formations* is the first result of a collaboration between David Chandler, Professor of Photography at the University of Plymouth, and University of Sussex composer Ed Hughes. Conceived as part of a projected larger project this work reflects on the relentlessly destructive forces of war through sound and music, and rarely seen photographs from the archives of the Imperial War Museum of the intensive bombing campaign waged by the Allies against German cities during the final years of World War II'. *Dark Formations* is an ongoing audiovisual project by David Chandler and Ed Hughes.

Strike! was completed in 2006 as a study for a complete scoring of Eisenstein's film 'Strike', which followed in 2007. The movement was broadcast on BBC Radio 3's Hear and Now programme in 2008. The Sextet is in three movements and is scored for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, marimba/vibraphone and piano.

In 2001 Hughes was commissioned by the Bath International Music Festival to create a new accompaniment to Joris Ivens's 1929 silent film of Amsterdam, *Regen (Rain)*. The music was performed by the New Music Players in a concert which also included Eisler's *Vierzehn Arten den Regen zu beschreiben (Fourteen Ways of describing the Rain)*. The two scores were performed to two successive screenings of the film. Hughes's composition uses repeating patterns and polyphonic techniques.

Orchids for solo piano (1990 – 2002) is a series of works for solo piano, the exotic floral image of the title suggesting common patterns which underlie gradual changes in the music.

A Buried Flame for either chorus or solo voices was commissioned by Bath Camerata directed by Nigel Perrin. Texts are drawn from Psalm 69, and three poems from the collection *Poems from Guantanamo* (University of Iowa Press, 2007) with permission of the book's editor, Marc Falkoff.



Artist Information:

New Music Players was founded by Ed Hughes in 1990. Early projects included commissions from Michael Finnissy and Howard Skempton, and the first UK performance of John Cage's *Europera 5*. The ensemble appeared at Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, the Brighton Festival, ICA, Purcell Room and in many other festivals and venues during the 1990s. In the 2000s NMP held residencies at York, Bristol and Nottingham Universities and broadcast regularly on BBC Radio 3. The ensemble features some of the UK's finest musicians, and draws inspiration from the range and versatility of their collective experience. The ensemble developed major touring projects in 2005 and 2007, the latter funded by Arts Council England. These featured Ed Hughes's scores for Eisenstein's silent films *Battleship Potemkin* and *Strike*, which were taken to venues ranging from the Hove Engineerium to the Atrium of the British Library. In 2010 a concert for the Out Hear series at Kings Place explored music and photography with several film and musical premieres.

Patrick Bailey has conducted concerts with Philharmonia (Music of Today), Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Britten Sinfonia, London Sinfonietta (including the UK premiere of Nono's *Prometeo* at the Royal Festival Hall), ViVA, New Music Players, Endymion and many others. He was Music Director of The Opera Group from 2004-08 and conducted premieres of work by Edward Rushton, Judith Weir, Kenneth Hesketh and others and new productions including *Street Scene* (winner, Best Musical, Evening Standard Awards). He is currently Education & Community Director for the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Richard Casey was born in Manchester in 1966 and started playing the piano at the age of seven. After graduating in Music and Modern Languages at St John's College, Cambridge, he studied piano at the Royal Northern College of Music with Marjorie Clementi and Martin Roscoe, and later with Ronan O'Hora. In 1997 Richard won first prize in the British Contemporary Piano Competition, an achievement which attracted a series of solo engagements in the UK and abroad. Based in Manchester, Richard complements his solo career with a strong commitment to chamber music. He frequently gives 2-piano concerts with his duo partner, Ian Buckle, specialising in repertoire from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Since 1994 he has been pianist with the New Music Players and has performed frequently as a guest with the London Sinfonietta, Lontano and Liverpool-based Ensemble 10:10. Richard is also a founder-member of the Manchester-based contemporary music ensemble Psappha. Since 1991 he has performed over 400 works with the group throughout the UK and in tours extensively. Richard is currently Pianist in Residence with Salford University, and teaches piano at Manchester University.

John Hancorn is a choral director, singer and vocal animateur. He is Music Director of the East Sussex Bach Choir and co-director of The Baroque Collective and BREMF Singers. He directed the world premiere of Orlando Gough's opera, *The Finnish Prisoner* and community cantata *Dead Head*. Other recent projects include Ed Hughes *Song for St Cecilia*, Handel *Acis and Galatea*, Scarlatti *Stabat Mater* and Purcell *The Fairy Queen* at Brighton Theatre Royal. John directed chamber choir courses at Dartington International Summer School for many years and teaches at Trinity College of Music, Christ's Hospital and AIMS International Music School.

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.