



SYMON CLARKE

Concerto for Violoncello and Orchestra

(Tupaia's Map)

A major new work, Symon Clarke's *Concerto for Violoncello and Orchestra (Tupaia's Map)*, marries his trademark organicism of form and technicolor orchestral palette with the highlighted solo voice of virtuoso cellist Alexander Baillie's searing interpretation of this bold new work. Partnered by the faultlessly musical Royal Scottish National Orchestra, this new work is a must hear addition to the concerto repertory.

Three Orbits

Three Orbits is essentially a three movement symphony of Symon Clarke's exhibiting his distinctive orchestral voice characterized by sensuous textures, superb orchestral coloration and rich fluidity of musical line. A tremendously satisfying conclusion to an impressive new disc. www.symonclarke.com

TRACKS

Concerto for Violoncello and Orchestra (Tupaia's Map)

Alexander Baillie, cello
Royal Scottish National Orchestra
Mikel Toms, conductor

- | | | |
|---|------------|-------|
| 1 | Movement 1 | 15:01 |
| 2 | Movement 2 | 17:02 |

Three Orbits

Brno Philharmonic Orchestra
Mikel Toms, conductor

- | | | |
|---|--------------|------|
| 3 | I. Iapetus | 9:13 |
| 4 | II. Hyperion | 6:35 |
| 5 | III. Tethys | 8:57 |

What Critics Say

"This is a fabulous, well-recorded introduction to a composer who fully deserves more exposure."

—Colin Clarke, Fanfare Magazine

"... the music is very well-written, thoughtful, and beautifully performed."

—Geoffrey Pearce, Classical Daily

"Everything here is filled with shimmering colors."

—Henry Fogel, Fanfare Magazine

"Stunning and complex, glittering and sensually textural music from master composer Symon Clarke."

—Presto Music



Symon Clarke is a British composer whose work encompasses orchestral, chamber, vocal, electroacoustic, and gamelan music. He is known for his richly textured and imaginative sound world that bridges Western and non-Western traditions.

Clarke's early career saw rapid success. His orchestral work *The Place of the Solitaires* was performed at Fairfield Halls in 1980, and the following year he won first prize in the Greater London Arts Association's Young Composers Competition. Commissions soon followed, including works for Andrew Ball (*Ouvrage en Mosaïque*), Lontano (*Perihelion*), and *Divertimenti* (*Cepheid Variables*).

In the 1990s, Clarke focused on Javanese gamelan, creating original works and arrangements that were widely performed and critically praised. Highlights include *The Dissolving Tree* and *The Magic Mirror*, and gamelan arrangements of Ives' *The Unanswered Question* and Adams' *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*, performed by major UK orchestras. He also taught gamelan composition at the South Bank Centre and Kingston University.

Returning to Western concert music in the 2000s, Clarke composed *Midnight Verses* (clarinet and marimba), *Endgame* (percussion quartet), and the song cycle *Time's Eye*, premiered at the Samuel Beckett Festival. His orchestral and chamber works—*Three Orbits*, *Pour Finir*, *Encore*, *Dead Voices*, and *Silentium*—have been recorded by the Brno Philharmonic under Mikel Toms.

His chamber cycle—...if not, winter..., *Shadow Songs*, *In the Circle of the White Moon*, and *The Brightness of Shadows*—was released in 2017. His 2020 album *Secret Diversion* and 2022's *Echo's Dream* received strong reviews, praised for their sonic beauty and originality.

A forthcoming recording of his *Concerto for Violoncello and Orchestra*, with Alexander Baillie and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, is anticipated. Clarke's music has been featured on BBC Radio 3, RTI Ireland, and internationally.



Internationally acclaimed cellist Alexander Baillie continues to captivate audiences around the globe with his profound artistry and dynamic programming.

A late starter inspired by Jacqueline du Pré, Baillie began playing cello at age twelve, going on to study at London's Royal College of Music with Joan Dickson and Anna Shuttleworth, and later with André Navarra in Vienna.

He has since appeared with many of Britain's premier orchestras. Highlights include performances of the Elgar *Concerto* with the London Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Litton, Schumann with the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the Proms under Marek Janowski, Walton with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and Dvořák with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Sir Simon Rattle. He has also led performances of Haydn and Boccherini concertos with the English Chamber Orchestra.

A staunch advocate for contemporary music, Baillie has given Canadian premieres of works by Penderecki, H.K. Gruber, and Andrew MacDonald. At the BBC Proms, he premiered Colin Matthews' *Concerto*, Henze's *Sieben Liebeslieder* under the composer's baton, and Takemitsu's *Orion* and *Pleiades*. International appearances include tours in Germany, performances in Oman, Boston, France, and the UK.

His discography includes acclaimed recordings of Elgar, Tippett, Crosse, and Britten, with *The New York Times* hailing him as "perhaps the most successful" interpreter of Britten's cello suites. Baillie also appears in Jan Harlan's film *Dvořák ... Who?*, and premiered Jan Vriend's *The Anatomy of Passion* and Schmidt-Kowalski's *Atlantis Sonata* with pianist James Lisney.

Currently Professor of Cello at the Hochschule für Künste Bremen and Guest Visiting Professor at the Australian National Academy of Music, Baillie continues to inspire a new generation through teaching, performance, and innovative outreach, including the launch of *The Red Hedgehog*—a series of informal music cafés celebrating the spirit of intimate live performance.