

Orchestral Works of R.Nelson

Compositions

Old MacDonald's Orchestra – A Young Person's Introduction to the Musical Barnyard

3-2-2-2; 4-3-4; Timp.-3; Hp.; Str.

(Variations on "Old MacDonald Had a Farm")

Commissioned by the Houston Symphony

An American Anthem – Chorus/Orchestra

3-2-3-3; 4-3-4; Timp.-3; Hp.; Str.

A medley celebrating the American spirit and the contributions of all ethnic groups; orchestral version commissioned by the Houston Symphony and premiered with Newton Wayland, conductor

*A Nyw Werke is Come on Honde – Soloist/Chorus/Orchestra**

2-2-2-2; 2; 3; Hp.-Pno.; Str.

A cantata for Advent or Christmas; written for the Moores School Choruses and Orchestra

This work appears on the CD *An American Voice*, Troy 381, from Albany Records

*The Little Match Girl – Narrator and Orchestra**

3-3-2-2; 4-3-4; Timp.-3; Hp.; Chorus; Str.

Commissioned by the Houston Symphony

*Casey at the Bat – Narrator and Orchestra**

2-2-2-2; 2-3-4; Timp.-2; Hp.; Str.

Commissioned by the Houston Symphony

Symphony: East of Eden 3-2-3-2; 4-3-4; Timp.-4; Hp.; Str.

Commissioned by the Monterey Bay Symphony

*Concertino – Solo Baritone Saxophone and Orchestra**

3-2-3-2; 4-3-4; Timp.-2; Pno.; Str.

*Elegy: The Finest School – Tenor and String Orchestra**

Written for Joseph Evans

*A Little Symphony for Strings – String Orchestra**

Allegro Festivo – String Orchestra

Up South – Jazz Ensemble and Orchestra*

3-2-2-2; 4 Horns; 5 Saxes, 4 Tpts, 5 Tbns; Timp, Set, 2 Perc.; Pno.;

Strings

Commissioned by the Moores School Symphony Orchestra

This is a three movement symphony/ tone poem that blends the drama of the history of the northern migration of American blacks with the development of jazz music. The three movements are titled “Roots”, “Renaissance”, and “Revolution”. The work appears on the CD *Shadows and Music*, Troy 845, from Albany Records

Transformations: Out of the Cool - solo jazz quartet and orchestra

Commissioned by the University of Houston Orchestra

Concerto Africano – solo percussion and orchestra

Commissioned by the Scott Joplin Chamber Orchestra

The Boy Who Hated Christmas – solo brass quintet and orchestra

Original story by Kate Pogue

Commissioned by the Chicago Chamber Brass

Arrangements and Orchestrations

Suite Joplin (“Pineapple Rag”, “Solace”, “Ragtime Dance”)

3-2-3-2; 4-3-4; Timp.-3; Hp.; Str.

Commissioned by the Houston Symphony

Selections can be played separately or as a medley

The Lone Star Pageant (Medley of “Dallas”, “El Paso”, “Streets of Laredo”, “Rose of San Anton’ ”, “Galveston”)*

3-2-3*-2; 4-3-4; Timp.-3; Hp.; Str.

*Bs. Clar. doubles Tenor and Sop. Sax

Commissioned by the Texas Music Festival Orchestra

Vive La France (Medley of “Under Paris Skies”, “La Vie En Rose”, and “The Bicycles of Belsize”)*

3-2-2-2; 2-2-1 (Tbn.); Timp, Perc.; Harp; Strings

Commissioned by the Virtuosi of Houston

A Norwegian Rhapsody (Medley of traditional Norwegian music)*

3-2-2-2; 2-2; 1 Perc.; Harp; Strings

Commissioned by the Virtuosi of Houston

*Virtuosi Variations on a Texas Anthem**

3-3-3-3; 2-2-4; 1 perc.; Strings

Commissioned by the Virtuosi of Houston

Three Shades of Blue – Jazz septet and orchestra

(Medley of “Blues in the Night”, “Mood Indigo”, and “C Jam Blues”)

Jazz septet: trumpet, alto sax, trombone, tenor sax, rhythm

3-2-3-2; 4-3-4; Timp., Perc.; Strings

Jointly commissioned by the Monterey Bay Symphony Orchestra and the Orquesta Sinfonica U.N.T., Tucuman, Argentina

Gershwin Medley - solo trumpet and orchestra*

(Medley of “Summertime”, “It Ain’t Necessarily So”, “Someone to Watch Over Me”, “Fascinatin’ Rhythm”, and “Strike Up the Band”)

Written for John DeWitt

Scenes from West Side Story - solo trumpet and trombone and orchestra*

Written for John DeWitt and Mike Warny

Shades of Blue (Medley of “Serenade in Blue”, “Deep Purple”, “Bluesette”, “Mood Indigo”, and “Beyond the Blue Horizon”)

3-2-3-2; 4-4-4; 2 Perc.; Piano; Strings

Commissioned by the Orchestra Sinfonica Città di Grosseto

The Exotic Ellington (Medley of “Caravan”, “Prelude to a Kiss”, and “African Flower”)

3-2-3-2; 4-4-4; 2 Perc.; Piano; Strings

Commissioned by the Orchestra Sinfonica Città di Grosseto

A Christmas Memory (medley of popular Christmas selections including “I’ll Be Home for Christmas”, “Here Comes Santa Claus”, “Up On the Housetop”, “The Wonderful Toy”, and “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”)

3-2-3-2; 4-3-4; Timp.-4; Hp.; Str.

Commissioned by the Houston Symphony

Los Pastores (a Christmas Mystery Play)

I. Pedimento de las posadas

II. No Le Devemos Dormir

- III. Vamos todos a Belen
- IV. Niño Divino
- V. A la ru

Soprano solo, chorus, and orchestra 3-2-2-2; 2-2-4; Perc.; Harp; Strings
Commissioned by the San Angelo Symphony

- “Mama Mia Medley”, 2003
- “The Charleston”
- “Wide World of Sports Theme”
- “Mister Touchdown”
- “Sweet Georgia Brown”
- “Theme from *Rocky*”
- “All My Rowdy Friends”
- “Take the A Train”
- “Twist and Shout”
- “Mexican Hat Dance”
- “The Christmas Song”
- “1940s Jingle Bells” – solo Girls Trio
- “Do You Hear What I Hear?” – Chorus/Orchestra
- “It’s Christmastime!” – Chorus/Orchestra

Christmas music for Orchestra or for Sing-along

- “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer”
- “Frosty the Snowman”
- “Santa Claus is Coming to Town”
- “Home for the Holidays”
- “Joy to the World”
- "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"
- "Adeste Fideles"
- “Silver Bells”
- “Deck the Halls” – Brass only
- “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” – Brass only
- "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas"
- "Winter Wonderland"

All 3-2-3-2; 4-3-4; Timp.-2; Hp.; Str.

Spirituals for Mezzo-soprano and Orchestra*

“A City Called Heaven” 2-2-3-2; 4-3-4; Timp.-1; Hp., Str.

“My Soul is Anchored in the Lord”

3-2-3-2; 4-3-4; Timp.-3; Str.

Commissioned by the Texas Music Festival

This work appears on the CD *An American Voice*, Troy 381, from Albany Records

“Joshua Fit De Battle Ob Jericho”

“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”

“Amazing Grace” – with Clarinet obligato

3-2-3-2; 4-3-4; Timp.-2; Hp.; Str.

Commissioned by the Houston Symphony

Creole Songs for Mezzo-soprano and Orchestra*

“Gué Gué Solingaie” 3-2-3-2; Tpt.; 4 Perc.; Str.

“Pauv’ Piti Mom’zelle Zizi” 3-2-2-2; 4 Hn.; 2 Perc.; Hp.; Str.

“Zozo Mokeur” 3-2-2-2; 4 Hn.; 2 Perc.; Hp.; Str.

“O Mu’sieu Banjo” 3-2-3*-2; 4-3-4; Timp.-4; Hp.; Str.

*Bs. Cl. doubles Sop. Sax

Commissioned by the Texas Music Festival

This work appears on the CD *Shadows and Music*, Troy 845, from Albany Records

Selections from *Kaleidoscope*: I-Good Morning, II-Promenade, III-The Hurdy-Gurdy Man, IV-March of the Wooden Soldiers, V-The Punch and Judy Show, VI-The Clockwork Dancer, VII-Lament for a Departed Doll, VIII-Good Night.

3-2-3-2; 4-3-4; Timp-3; Hp.; Str.

Orchestrations of piano music of Eugene Goossens, written in the post-impressionist style, depicting the day of a child. These would be quite appropriate for children’s concerts.

*Recordings are available for selections marked with the asterisk.

Works for Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble

Compositions

*Symphony for Band: East of Eden**

Commissioned by Hartnell College on the occasion of its 70th anniversary

*Prism** – for jazz ensemble and wind ensemble

Commissioned by the University of Houston Wind Ensemble

*Images** – suite for jazz soloist and jazz ensemble

Commissioned by Tony Campise

Gil – for jazz ensemble

Commissioned by the jazz ensemble of the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston, TX

Aspects – solo tenor saxophone and jazz ensemble

Commissioned by the Moores School Jazz Orchestra for the grand opening of the Moores Opera House and featuring tenor sax soloists George Coleman, Joe Henderson, and Joe Levano

Arrangements

“The People’s Choice” – Alto and Tenor sax solo and Jazz Ensemble

Written for the Moores School Jazz Orchestra

"Moon and Mind"

Written for Noe Marmolejo and the UH Jazz Ensemble

"I Remember Clifford"

"African Flower"

Studio orchestra arrangements written for the UH Jazz Ensemble

Works for Theater and Film

Dark Ponies – extended dramatic song cycle, text and lyrics by Sidney Berger

*Wings** – musical drama

Book and lyrics by Sidney Berger

*The Caucasian Chalk Circle** – songs and incidental music

Play by Bertolt Brecht

Commissioned by the UH School of Theatre

Androcles and the Lion, new songs

Commissioned by the Children's Theater Festival

Snow White, a new adaptation by Sidney Berger

Commissioned by the Children's Theater Festival

Pinnocchio, a musical adaptation in collaboration with David Larson

Commissioned by the UH Drama Children's Theater

Incidental Music

*The Glass Menagerie**, UH School of Theatre

Major Barbara, UH Drama Department

The Indian Wants the Bronx, UH Drama Dept.

Shapes, Sadness and the Witch, Children's Theatre Festival

*Alfred Stieglitz Loves O'Keeffe**, Alley Theater

Music composed for the Festivals Mime Troupe:

The Tell-tale Heart

The Legend of the Dead Soldier

The Magician (Homage to Magritte)

Out of our Mimes (Video tape - title music)

Duels

Facade

Darkness*

The Uniform

Communion*

Return

Visions on the World of M.C. Escher

The Diamond*

The Nose

Rapaccini's Garden

Original scores composed for the Houston Shakespeare Festival:

King Lear*

The Merchant of Venice*

A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Love's Labors Lost*

The Tempest*

A Comedy of Errors*

A Winter's Tale*

Hamlet*

Two Gentlemen of Verona*

Richard III*

Measure for Measure*

Othello*

All's Well That Ends Well*
Julius Caesar
The Taming of the Shrew
Richard II
Twelfth Night
As You Like It
Coriolanus*
Troilus and Cressida
The Merry Wives of Windsor
Much Ado About Nothing

Scores for film and multi-media

The Uncle Ben's Story
produced by Vella Springer, for Uncle Ben's Inc.
P.O.G.O.
produced by A.I.E. Studios for Pennzoil, Inc.
Carolina Heritage
commissioned by the Wachovia National Bank, Charlotte, N.C., for
presentation at the Carowinds Theme Park, and produced by Ed Henderson
Search for Survival
produced by A.I.E. Studios for the American Petroleum Institute
Great Adventure
produced by Cineventure for Great Adventure Theme Park
Houston
produced by Pearlman Associates for the City of Houston
*The Apollo File**
produced by Kinderfilm
Gold Medal Winner, Houston International Film Festival, 1979
Wyoming Adventure
produced by Cineventure
The Pied Piper
produced by FGH, Inc. for Ciba-Geigy Chemical Corp.

*Centerstage I: Duets for Cannibals**
"Eve of the Trial" and "Was It a Dream?"
*Centerstage II: Old Secrets**
"Cornflower Blue" and "End of the Line"
*Centerstage III**
"Hailstorm in a Doublewide" and "The Pear Tree"
*Centerstage IV**
"Wakefield" and "Underground"
*Centerstage V**
"Dream Chamber" and "Alamo Dream"
*Centerstage VI**
"One Wish" and "virTual rOse"

The Centerstage series was co-produced by KUHT and the UH School of Theatre

Instrumental and Chamber Music Catalog

*Rondo Concertante** – for chamber ensemble

Commissioned by the Houston Symphony for *The Magical Musical Time Tour*,
an educational videotape

*Music for a Celebration** – for chamber ensemble

Commissioned by KUHF Radio for the occasion of their 50th anniversary
Included on the CD *Classic Innovation* available from KUHF Radio

Visions: A Musical Offering to M.C.Escher – triple quartet

*Suite of Characteristic Dances** – clarinet and piano

Commissioned by Duo Con Fuoco

Impressions/Expressions – for two pianos*

Commissioned by Ruth Tomfohrde and Timothy Hester

This work appears on the CD *Shadows and Music*, Troy 845, from Albany
Records

Duo Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Double Bass

Commissioned by Richard Nunemaker

This work appears on the CD *Between Silence and Darkness*, AUR CD 3119

Evocations: Eschatos, Eos, Chorea – for trumpet ensemble

Hip Fables – for harp and double bass

Improv #1 –solo flute*

Improv #2 –solo flute*

Ceremonial Music for Organ and Brass: Fanfares and Processional

Commissioned by Dr. Robert Jones and the Symphonic Brass

Ceremonial Music for Organ and Brass: Intonation and Canzona

Serenade on C-B, piano solo

Music for Wind Instruments and Percussion

Passacaglia and Fugue – string bass and piano

Variations – for two pianos

Choral Works of Robert Nelson

Large Works

Nicholas of Myra: A Choral Triptych – SATB, soloists, and piano or orchestra; dramatic choral piece with libretto by Sharon Shepley based on the legends of Saint Nicholas. (Approximately one hour in duration.)

- I. Antiphon I
- II. Panel One: Introduction and Miracle of the Three Maidens
- III. Antiphon II
- IV. Panel Two: Miracle at Sea
- V. Antiphon III
- VI. Panel Three: Redemption of the Three Generals

(The closing *Festival Benedicite* is published for chorus, brass, and organ by Roger Dean. *Gloria in Excelsis*, *A Hymn of Thanksgiving*, and *Occasional Graces and Meditations* have also been excerpted from the larger work.)

An American Anthem – SATB/accompanied

A medley of music to original texts reflecting the immigrant experiences of the various ethnic groups. There is a shorter version for chorus, brass, and percussion and an extended version for chorus and orchestra. (A version of the latter also exists with piano four-hands and percussion.)

A Nyw Werke is Come on Honde - SATB/orchestra

A cantata for Advent or Christmas consisting of five choral pieces for various ensembles separated by solo recitatives.

- I. A Nyw Werke is Come on Honde – SATB
- II. Recitative
- III. No La Devemos Dormir – SATB (in Spanish)
- IV. Recitative
- V. Sweet Was the Song – SSAA
- VI. Recitative
- VII. An Hymne – SATB *a capella*
- VIII. Gloria Tibi Domine – SATB

“Sweet Was the Song” is published with piano accompaniment by Alliance. The other selections are also available with piano accompaniments. The entire cantata appears on the CD *An American Voice*, Troy 381, from Albany Records

*The Things We Have— In Memoriam: September 11, 2001**

SATB with flute, timpani, and strings

Cantata in four movements incorporating the hymn tune *Erhalt uns, Herr* by Martin Luther; texts from the Bible and new hymn texts by Patricia B. Clark; commissioned by the Houston Bach Choir

The Christ Hymn – Cantata for SATB/organ

Smaller Works

Madrigals for a New Age – SSATB unaccompanied*

Six pieces with original texts by Lynda Lacy; written for the HSPVA Madrigal Singers and published by Roger Dean Publishing as part of the Charles Bruffy series

“Spirit Moving Over Chaos” – SATB *a capella**

Text by Patricia B. Clark; commissioned by the Bering Memorial United Methodist Church
Chancel Choir, Rob Seible, director

“We Sing of Spring” – SATB/piano, triangle, finger cymbals
Original text by Anna Louise Bruner; commissioned by the Lanier Junior High Mixed Chorus,
Judy McEnany, director; published by Alliance

“Quiet Snow” – SATB unaccompanied
Original lyrics by Lynda Lacy

“The Dove in Spring” – treble voices, TTBB/ piano*
Poem by Wallace Stevens

“Divine Musician” – treble voices, TTBB/piano*
Original text by Patricia B. Clark

Three Songs for Girls – SSA
Original lyrics by Lynda Lacy

More Questions Than Answers: a set of songs for boys – TBB
Original lyrics by Lynda Lacy

Psalm XXIII – SAB/piano or organ

The Songs of Autolycus – TTBB/piano*
Texts from Shakespeare’s *A Winter’s Tale*
I. Three Ballads
II. First Song of the Peddler
III. Courting Song
IV. Second Song of the Peddler

“White Bird, Silver Bird” – treble voices and piano
Original text by Sidney Berger; published by Alliance

“A Christmas Soliloquy” – treble voices and piano
Original text by Lynda Lacy; published by Alliance

“Music for the Baby” – treble voices and piano or orchestra
Original text by Lynda Lacy, written for the Houston Boychoir

Arrangements

Texas, Our Texas: a Revue of Texas and Western Songs -
For treble voices/piano, written for the Houston Boychoir

- I. “Beautiful Texas”
- II. “I’m and Old Cowhand”
- III. “The Gunfighter’s Lament” (published by Shawnee, also for TBB)
- IV. “Long Tall Texan”
- V. “Ghost Riders in the Sky” (also for TBB)
- VI. “Saturday Heroes” (“I’m Back in the Saddle Again”, “Tumbling Tumbleweeds”, “Happy Trails”)
- VII. “Red River Valley” (published by AMC)
- VIII. “Deep in the Heart of Texas”
- IX. “Pecos Bill”
- X. “The Yellow Rose of Texas”
- XI. “The Old Chisholm Trail” (published by Shawnee)
- XII. “Whoopee Ti Yi Yo” (published by Shawnee)

XIII. "Texas, Our Texas"

Medley from *Paint Your Wagon* – TTBB/piano

"Soldier Son" – TTBB unaccompanied (barbershop)

Spirituals arranged for treble voices and piano

Steal Away

Little David Play on Your Harp

King Jesus is A-listening

I Want to Be Ready

Joshua Fit De Battle Ob Jericho

Deep River

Patriotic Medley – treble voices/piano

"This is My Country", "America the Beautiful", and "God Bless America"

"Good King Wenceslas" – SSA unaccompanied

"Lo, How a Rose" - SSA unaccompanied

"Bring a Torch Jeannette Isabella" – treble voices/strings, piano

"Passing By" – SAB/piano

Songs of the Rails – medley for SATB/piano

"Wabash Cannonball", "Rock Island Line", "Atchison Topeka and the Santa Fe", and "City of New Orleans".

"Swinging on a Star" – SSA/piano

Moonlight Becoming – medley for SSAA unaccompanied

"By the Light of the Silvery Moon", "Shine On Harvest Moon", and "Moonface, Starry Eyes"
(from Kurt Weill's *Street Scene*)

Rogers and Hart Medley – SSA/piano

"Dancing on the Ceiling", "My Heart Stood Still", "This Can't Be Love"

"Bear Necessities" – SSA with obligato Tuba

"Down By the Riverside" – SSA unaccompanied

"Over the Rainbow" – SSAA/piano

"Nature Boy" – SATB unaccompanied

*Recordings are available for those selections marked with the asterisk.

Opera Catalog

1. Tickets, Please - commissioned by The Texas Opera Theatre
Opera in One Act
Adapted from the story by D.H. Lawrence
Libretto by Sidney L. Berger
Cast: Nora – soprano
Annie – mezzo-soprano
Laura – mezzo-soprano
Emmy – alto
Polly – alto
Cissy – alto
John Thomas – tenor or lyric baritone
Orchestration: Flute (doubling Piccolo), Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn, Trumpet,
Trombone, Percussion (one or two players), Guitar, Piano, Violins, Celli, Bass.

Video tape of the Des Moines Metro production available
2. The Demon Lover – commissioned by the Lyric Arts Festival in honor of the Texas
Sesquicentennial
Awarded Honorable Mention in the One-act Opera competition sponsored by the
National Opera Association
Opera in One Act
Original story and libretto by Sidney L. Berger
Cast: Lucinda Givens – soprano
Simon Price - tenor
D.K., a cowhand – tenor
Roy, a cowhand – Baritone
Dessie Glover – mezzo-soprano
Jennie Piersall – speaking role
Preacher – bass
Small chorus
Orchestration: Clarinet, Violin, Cello, Piano.
3. The Man Who Corrupted Hadleyville
Opera in Two Acts
Adapted from a short story by Mark Twain
Libretto by Kate Pogue
Cast: Edward Richards, a minister – tenor
Mary, his wife – soprano
Mother Richards – mezzo-soprano
Burgess, a photographer – baritone

Pinkerton, the mayor – baritone
Mrs. Pinkerton – mezzo-soprano
Mr. Billson – tenor
Mr. Wilson – tenor
Dr. Ramsey – bass
Mrs. Billson – mezzo-soprano
Mrs. Wilson – soprano
Mrs. Ramsey – soprano
Chorus of townspeople, children, and reporters

4. The Selfish Giant – commissioned by the Children’s Chorus of Victoria and the Houston Boychoir
Opera in One Act
Adapted from the Oscar Wilde fairy tale
Libretto by Sharon Shepley-Fink
Cast: The Giant – bass-baritone
The Little Boy – treble
Many small roles, treble chorus
Optional orchestra: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn, Percussion (one player), Piano, Harp, Two Violins, Viola, Cello, Bass.
5. A Room With a View
Opera in Two Acts, fifteen scenes
Based on the novel by E. M. Forster
Libretto by Buck Ross
Cast: Lucy Honeychurch – soprano
Charlotte Bartlett, her spinster cousin – mezzo-soprano
Mr. Emerson – bass-baritone
George Emerson, his son – baritone
Miss Lavish, a novelist – soprano
Mr. Beebe, an English clergyman – baritone
Mr. Eager, an English chaplain in Florence – tenor
Miss Alan #1 – soprano
Miss Alan #2 – soprano
Cecil Vyse, Lucy’s fiancé – tenor
Mrs. Honeychurch, Lucy’s mother – soprano
Freddy Honeychurch, Lucy’s brother – tenor
A Driver – tenor
An Italian Girl – soprano
Supernumeraries, no chorus
Orchestra: 2 Flutes (1st doubling Piccolo), 2 Oboes (2nd doubling English Horn), 2 Clarinets, 2 Bassoons, 2 Horns, 2 Trumpets, 2 Tenor Trombones, Bass Trombone, Percussion (one or two players), Harp, Strings. There is also an on-stage piano part.

Concert version available on An American Voice, Troy 381, Albany Records
DVD of the complete performance available from Newport Classics

Catalog of Vocal Music

Preacher Man – baritone and piano*

Song cycle on texts of Langston Hughes

Written for DuWayne Davis

Canticles of the Revelation – countertenor and piano

Texts taken from the Book of Revelation

Written for Eduardo Lopez de Casas

*Elegy: The Finest Gift**

Tenor and String Orchestra

Written for Joseph Evans

Here I Am at Last – soprano and piano*

Written for the occasion of Elena Nickolaidi's 80th birthday

Original text by Sidney Berger

Published by Classical Vocal Reprints

Bluebeard's Doors – Dramatic Soprano and piano*

Song Cycle to texts by Linda Lacy

Published by Classical Vocal Reprints

Shadows and Music, dramatic song cycle for soprano, mezzo-soprano, violin, and piano*

Original texts by Buck Ross

This appears on the CD *Shadows and Music*, Troy 845, from Albany Records

La Bonne Chat, or *The Joy of Kitties*, song cycle for low voice and piano

Portraits, song cycle for Coloratura Soprano and piano

There's a Contradiction Inside, song cycle for Mezzo-soprano and piano