

## Elliott Carter



Photo credit: Meredith Heuer

### An introduction to the music of Carter by Jonathan Bernard

Any composer whose career extends through seven decades -- and still counting -- has already demonstrated a certain staying power. But there are reasons far more compelling than mere longevity to regard Elliott Carter as the most eminent of living American composers, and one of the foremost composers in the world at large. His name has come to be synonymous with music that is at once structurally formidable, expressively extraordinary, and virtuosically dazzling: music that asks much of listener and performer alike but gives far more in return.

Carter, born into comfortable circumstances in New York, was brought up to appreciate the arts but not necessarily to make them his life's occupation. When he decided to become a composer, it was much against the wishes of his family. Like many aspiring composers of his generation, Carter went off to Paris after college to study with Nadia Boulanger, an experience which lent his work a conservative, neoclassical style for a time. Eventually, however, the modernist influences he had absorbed as an adolescent -- notably as the result of his contact with Ives and Varèse -- proved the more telling: beginning with the first glimmerings of change in the late 1940s and continuing through the 1950s, Carter invented a harmonic and rhythmic language uniquely his own, one that firmly repudiated the prevailing taste of the pre-War era yet also kept its distance from (then) ascendant post-War serialism. And ironically, it was precisely Carter's stubborn insistence on going his own way that brought him international fame. The implications of his new language were at times slow to work out -- Carter spent most of the 1960s working on just two pieces -- but they yielded music of enormous power, and eventually they also yielded a technique both fluent and flexible, as the growing number and variety of his compositions during the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s attest.

In a musical age dominated by simplification, what has made Carter's music increasingly attractive is, paradoxically, its very complexity: the sense it often conveys of many different things going on at once, producing the most violent sorts of contrast alongside the smoothest of continuities, offering not an

escape from the demands of modern existence but a meaningful engagement with them. In particular, Carter's concern to express "character" and "behavior" brings to his work a notably human aspect; that the collective exigencies of his music can never, in the end, suppress the individual voice is, for the listener, a source of deep involvement and satisfaction.

Over the past dozen years or so, Carter has been more prolific than ever. During this period he has produced many more pieces of relatively modest scale, such as *Esprit rude/Esprit doux*, the *Enchanted Preludes*, and a clutch of solo works, than at any time since the early years of his career. These have proved widely appealing, to judge from the number of performances they have received -- but then so have the larger works of this same period, including two concertos and a fourth string quartet. Carter has arrived at a working method that is in some sense definitive, a summa of all that has preceded it -- or, as some have called it, a "new classicism", among the hallmarks of which are a certain structural and formal directness, conveyed in textures that are almost transparent in their clarity. Yet the lustre of this late style signals no reduction at all in sheer energy, as the astonishing *Quintet for piano and winds* demonstrates. With the passing of his 85th birthday and the premiere of his remarkable new *Partita* by the Chicago Symphony, Carter's creative forces are at their peak of vitality; one can expect to hear much more from this giant of contemporary music in the years to come.

Jonathan Bernard, 1994

(Professor of Music at the University of Washington; has written extensively on the theory and analysis of 20th-century music.)

## OPERAS

### What Next?

1997-98

47 min

An opera in one act

Text: Libretto by Paul Griffiths (E)

lyrS,dramS,A,T,Bar, boy alto  
2(II=picc).2(II=corA).2(II=bcl).2(II=dbn)-2.1.1.1-perc(4):I=SD/2cym/  
thundersheet/6brake dr/cowbell/marimba; II=cym/tamb/5cowbells/3metal  
pipes/washboard/vib; III=tam-t/hammer/lion's roar/gong/tom-t/cym/SD;  
IV=BD/2tom-t/SD/cym/flex/vib-harp-pft-strings(min.4.4.2.2.2)

#### World Premiere: 16 Sep 1999

Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Berlin, Germany

Nicholas Brieger, director / Lynne Dawson, Simone Nold, Hilary Summers, William Joyner, Hanno Mueller-Brachmann; Staatsoper Unter den Linden  
Conductor: Daniel Barenboim

## FULL ORCHESTRA

### Adagio tenebroso

**1994** 20 min

(second part of the orchestral triptych Symphonia: sum fluxae pretium spei)

3(II, III=picc).2.corA.2(II=Ebcl).bcl.2.dbn-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(4):BD/  
4bongo dr/glsp/4tpl.bl/cowbells/vib/2susp.cym/2tom-t/2wdbl/SD/xyl/  
tam-t/marimba/wood drum/2metal block-pft-strings

**World Premiere: 13 Sep 1995**

Royal Albert Hall, London, United Kingdom  
BBC Symphony Orchestra  
Conductor: Andrew Davis

### Allegro scorrevole

**1996** 11 min

(third part of the orchestral triptych Symphonia: sum fluxae pretium spei)

2.picc.2.corA.2(II=Ebcl).bcl.2.dbn-4.3.3.1-perc(4):timp/glsp/xyl/vib/  
4bongos/SD/2tom-t/wdbl/3susp.cym/2cowbells/guiro/2metal blocks/  
4tpl bl/BD/marimba-harp-pft-strings

**World Premiere: 22 May 1997**

Severance Hall, Cleveland, United States  
Cleveland Orchestra  
Conductor: Christoph von Dohnanyi

### Anniversary

**1989** 6 min

(third part of the orchestral triptych Three Occasions)

Text: The second movement of Three Occasions for Orchestra, Anniversary was written as a dashing and affectionate present for his wife, Helen, on their golden wedding anniversary.

- Programme note by Paul Griffiths

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3(III=picc).2.corA.2.bcl.2.dbn-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(2):vib/marimba/xyl/  
3susp.cym-pft(=cel)-strings(16.14.12.10.8)

**World Premiere: 05 Oct 1989**

London, Royal Festival Hall, United Kingdom  
BBC Symphony Orchestra  
Conductor: Oliver Knussen CBE

### Boston Concerto

**2002** 19 min

for orchestra

3(II,III=picc).2.corA.3(III=bcl).3(III=dbn)-4.3.3.1-perc(3):xyl/vib/log dr/4bongos/high  
SD/susp.cym/wood chime;mar/log dr/4tpl.bl/2cowbells/susp.cym;  
BD/tom-t/4wdbls/guiro/susp.cym/maracas/med SD-harp-pft-strings

**World Premiere: 03 Apr 2003**

Symphony Hall, Boston, Massachusetts, United States  
Boston Symphony Orchestra  
Conductor: Ingo Metzmacher

### A Celebration of some 100 x 150 notes

**1986** 3 min

(first part of the orchestral triptych Three Occasions)

2.picc.2.corA.2.bcl.2.dbn-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(1):glsp/vib-pft(=cel)-  
strings(16.14.12.10.8)

**World Premiere: 10 Apr 1987**

Jones Hall, Houston, Texas, United States  
Houston Symphony Orchestra  
Conductor: Sergiu Comissiona

### Fons Juventatis

**2004** 3 min

for orchestra

1.2(II=picc).2.corA.2.bcl.3(III=dbn)-4.3.3.0-perc(3):xylorimba;guiro;small  
SD/maracas-pft-harp-strings

### Micomición

**2002** 3 min

for orchestra

2.picc.2.corA.1.bcl.dbcl.2.dbn-4.3.3.1-harp-pft-timp.perc(2):susp.cym/3  
tom-t/BD/mar;crash cym/xyl-strings

**World Premiere: 15 Jan 2004**

Symphony Hall, Boston, Massachusetts, United States  
Boston Symphony Orchestra  
Conductor: James Levine

## More's Utopia

2004

3 min

for orchestra

1.2picc.2.corA.2.dbcl.2.dbn-4.3.3.1-perc(3):log dr/tpl.bl/s/wdbs/lg slap stick/xylorimba;  
tam-t/gong/4susp.cyms/vib; BD/tom-t-pft-strings

## Partita

1993

17 min

(first part of the orchestral triptych Symphonia: sum fluxae pretium spei)

picc.2(II=picc).2.corA.2(II=Ebcl).bcl.2.dbn.-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(4);  
2metal bl/2cowbells/2susp.cyms/2wdbl/4tpl.bl/wood dr/gavel/guiro/  
4bongos/2tom-t/SD/BD/glsp/vib/xyl/marimba-pft-harp-strings

**World Premiere: 17 Feb 1994**

Chicago, IL, USA

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Daniel Barenboim

## Remembrance

In memory of Paul Fromm

1988

7 min

(second part of the orchestral triptych Three Occasions)

1.2picc.2.corA.2.bcl.2.dbn-4.3.3.1-timp.perc:BD/glsp/vib-cel(=pft)-  
strings(minimum:16.14.12.10.8)

**World Premiere: 10 Aug 1988**

Tanglewood, United States

Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra

Conductor: Oliver Knussen CBE

FULL ORCHESTRA 4

## Soundings

2005

10 min

for orchestra

picc.2(=picc).2.corA.2 (I=Ebcl,II=bcl).dbcl.2.dbn-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(2):xyl/tmpl.  
blks/bongos/2susp.cyms/cowbell/low conga drums/2 tom-t/BD;claves/4wdbl/2SD/2  
susp.cyms/log dr/2 low tom-t-pft-strings

*"Soundings packs a lot of invention into its dozen minutes. Carter celebrates the two Barenboims, giving him music to play at the piano and a lot more music to conduct, but never at the same time... In between, Carter gives us a parade of rapidly shifting orchestral ideas: horn and woodwinds chopping up a darting phrase; the subterranean rumbles of contrabass clarinet; a twittering trio of piccolos; a pensive tuba solo that's actually longer than the entire piano part. Through it all, there's Carter the high-modernist artisan, delighting in the virtuosic sinew of a great orchestra he knows well."*

*Chicago Tribune*

**World Premiere: 06 Oct 2005**

Symphony Center, Chicago, Illinois, United States

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Daniel Barenboim

## Symphonia: sum fluxae pretium spei

1993-96

47 min

I. Partita II. Adagio tenebroso III. Allegro scorrevole

3(II,III=picc).2.corA.2(II=Ebcl).bcl.2.dbn-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(4);  
xyl/glsp/SC/2tom-t/susp.cym/timp/2wdbl/4bongos/cowbell;2metal blocks (very high &  
med  
high)/4tpl.bl/3susp.cyms(high,med,low)/tom-t/2cowbells;vib/BD/4bongos/2tom-toms(me  
d & low)/2wood blocks/SD/2susp.cyms(med &  
low);vib/glsp/mar/tam-t/SD/susp.cym/BD/2bongos/wood dr (log  
dr)/gavel/2tom-t-harp-pft-strings

9790051096244 **Orchestra (full score)**

**World premiere complete: 25 Apr 1998**

Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, United Kingdom

BBC Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Oliver Knussen CBE

FULL ORCHESTRA 4

### Three Illusions for Orchestra

2004

9 min

for orchestra (1. Micomicón 2. Fons Juventatis 3. More's Utopia)

3(I,II=picc).2.corA.2(II=bcl).bcl.dbcl.3(III=dbn)  
-4.3.3.1-timp-perc(3):susp.cym/4tom-t/BD/mar/xylorimba/log dr/4 tpl.bl/4wdbl/lg  
slapstick;cym/xyl/vibr/guiro/tam-t/nipple gong/4susp.cyms/vib;  
cym/xyl/vib/BD/4tom-t-pft-harp-strings

*"An appealing orchestral showpiece..."*  
*New York Times*

*"All three brief pieces are responses to literary fantasies - Micomicón to Don Quixote; The Fountain of Youth to Roman myth; and More's Utopia to Sir Thomas More's vision of an ideal society. The music is fantastical too... always surprising, inevitable, and vividly orchestrated. Micomicón is romantic and heroic; Utopia is dark and severe; Fountain is playful and takes a place in the great tradition of iridescent water music..."*  
*Boston Globe*

*"...a three-part work that, in barely 10 minutes, is a thoroughly complete musical statement. The formal Micomicón, the playful Fons Juventatis and the formidable More's Utopia together form a kind of symphony that sounds both densely packed and delicately transparent at the same time."*  
*Boston Herald*

**World Premiere: 06 Oct 2005**

Symphony Hall, Boston, Massachusetts, USA  
Boston Symphony Orchestra  
Conductor: James Levine

### Three Occasions for Orchestra

1986-1989

16 min

I. A Celebration... II. Remembrance III. Anniversary

3(I,II=picc).2.corA.2.bcl.2.dbn-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(2):vib/marimba/xyl/3susp.cym/BD/glsp  
-pft(=cel)-strings(16.14.12.10.8)

9790051094806 **(Full score)**

**World Premiere: 05 Oct 1989**

London, Royal Festival Hall, United Kingdom  
BBC Symphony Orchestra  
Conductor: Oliver Knussen CBE

## CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

### Penthode

1985

18 min

for five groups of four instrumentalists

1(=picc.af).1(=corA).1(=Eb).bcl(=dbcl).1-1.2.1.1-perc(3):marimba/3tpl.bl/2wdbl/lg  
SD/sm susp.cym/wood dr/gavel;vib/crot/sm.tgl/guero/3susp.cym/military  
dr/gong/tam-t;claves/whip/4bongos/sm.snare dr/3tom-t/BD/cowbell-pft-harp-1.1.1.1.1

9790051094813 (Full score)

### Réflexions

2004

10 min

for ensemble

2(l=picc2.af).1(=picc1).1.corA.2(l=Eb cl, ll=bcl, dbcl).2(ll=dbn)-2.2.2.0-  
perc(3):4bongos/4wdbls/BD/gong/sm.susp.cym/lg.snare  
dr/xylorimba;4tom-t/tam-t/stones/sm.snare dr/2log  
drs/sm.tgl/lg.susp.cym/vib/glsp;4tpl.bl/sm.cowbell/almglocke/med.SD/hammer/guero/cl  
aves/med.susp.cym-pft-harp-strings(2.1.2.2.1)

*"With multiple smiles and twinkles in the eye towards the hero of the day, Réflexions does not fall into the mould of the occasional piece and manifests the stunning vitality of a musician who is nearing his centenary. Boulez was thrilled. The audience was, too, during its repeated ovation of Carter."*

*Le Monde*

**World Premiere: 15 Feb 2005**

Cité de la Musique, Paris, France

Ensemble Intercontemporain

Conductor: Pierre Boulez

## Sound Fields

2007

4 min

for string orchestra

min. 9.6.6.6.4 players

*"...a slow, quiet study in texture, pitting leanness against richness, contrasting the two and mixing them in a continuously shifting pattern of colour.*

*Daily Telegraph (UK)*

*"Mr. Carter can still be surprising. A new work, 'Sound Fields' (2007), composed for the festival, does away with almost everything you expect in a Carter work. Counterpoint, sharply contrasting dynamics, tempos and coloration: all gone. This work is about shifting densities, from single notes to thick textures, and is scored for a homogenous string ensemble that plays entirely at a calm mezzo forte. Think of it as Mr. Carter's Adagio for Strings, with a nod to Morton Feldman.*

*The New York Times*

**World Premiere: 20 Jul 2008**

Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood, MA, USA

Tanglewood Music Center Fellows

Conductor: Stefan Asbury

## SOLO INSTRUMENT(S) AND ORCHESTRA

### Cello Concerto

2000

18 min

for cello and orchestra

3(III=picc).2.corA.2(II=bcl).bcl(=dbcl).2.dbn-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(3):xyl/glsp/marimba/4tpl.bl  
/2cowbells/4wdbl/2log  
dr:vibr/2SD/BD/3tom-t/4bongos;guiro/2SD/3susp.cym-harp-strings

979051096510

9790051105410 Cello, Piano

9790051096510 (Full score)

**World Premiere: 27 Sep 2001**

Symphony Hall, Chicago, Illinois, United States  
Yo-Yo Ma, cello; Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Conductor: Daniel Barenboim

### Clarinet Concerto

1996

18 min

for clarinet and small orchestra

1.2(II=corA).0.1-1.1.1.1-perc(3):glsp/4bongos/sm tom-t/lg tom.t/med  
susp.cym/wood dr/tam-t/xyl/2metal bl/tpl.bl/lg SD/lg susp.cym/vib/  
sm wdbl/cencerros/sm susp.cym/sm SD/med tom-t/BD-harp-pft-strings  
(1.1.1.1.1)

**World Premiere: 10 Jan 1997**

Cite de la Musique, Paris, France  
Alain Damiens, clarinet; Ensemble InterContemporain  
Conductor: Pierre Boulez

SOLO INSTRUMENT(S) AND ORCHESTRA 7

### Concertino for Bass Clarinet and Chamber Orchestra

2009

8 min 45 sec

for bass clarinet and chamber orchestra

solo bass clarinet-2(I=picc, II=af).af(=bfl).0.0.dbn-0.0.0.0-perc(2):xyl/vib/log  
dr/tam-t/tom-t/SD/sus.cym/flat gong/conga/bongos;  
glsp/mar/BD/tom-t/totos/SD/sus.cym/temple blocks/pipe-pno.-strings(2.2.2.2.2.) string  
parts may be expanded proportionally.

*"The Concertino for Bass Clarinet...conjured a magical passage of deeply resonant sound that was much more than the sum of its parts."*

—Robert Everett-Green, *The Globe and Mail*

*"...a relatively brief but dazzling work..."*

—Christian Carey, *Musical America*

**World Premiere: 10 Dec 2010**

Isabel Bader Theatre, Toronto, Canada  
Virgil Blackwell, bass clarinet; New Music Concerts Ensemble  
Conductor: Robert Aitken

### Conversations

from "Two Controversies and a Conversation"

2010

7 min

for piano, percussion and chamber orchestra or full orchestra

1(=picc).2.2(II=EbCl, II=bcl).1-1.2.1.0-strings (min:2.2.2.2.2)

*"Carter's late, late style in its tersest distillation. No words are wasted in a conversation notable nonetheless for urbanity and wit, for a vigorous responsiveness and a lack of any wistfulness."*

— Paul Driver, *Sunday Times*

*"What zip. What zest. What remarkable atmospheric range rushes past in just seven minutes."*

— Igor Toronyi-Lalic, *The ArtsDesk*

**World Premiere: 26 Jun 2011**

Snape Maltings, Aldeburgh, United Kingdom  
Colin Currie, percussion / Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano; Birmingham Contemporary Music Group  
Conductor: Oliver Knussen

### Dialogues

2003

14 min

for piano and large ensemble

1(picc).1(corA).1.1(=dbn)-2.1.1.0 - strings (2.2.2.2.2 players\*)  
\* may be increased proportionately, up to a maximum of 12.10.8.6.4 players

**World Premiere: 23 Jan 2004**

Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre, London, United Kingdom  
Nicolas Hodges, piano; London Sinfonietta  
Conductor: Oliver Knussen

SOLO INSTRUMENT(S) AND ORCHESTRA 7



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**Two Controversies and a Conversation****2011**

11 min

for piano, percussion and chamber orchestra or full orchestra

1(=picc).2.2(I=EbCl, II=bcl).1-1.2.1.0-strings (min:2.2.2.2.2)

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**World Premiere: 08 Jun 2012**

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, USA

Colin Currie, percussion / Eric Huebner, piano; New York Philharmonic

Conductor: David Robertson

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**Violin Concerto****1990**

28 min

for violin and orchestra

2(II=picc).picc.2.corA.2(II=Eb,bcl).bcl.2.dbn-4.3.3.1-perc(2): timp/glsp/crot/vib/sm&lg  
susp.cym/sm&lg SD/tam-t/BD-strings (either 16.14.12.10.8 or 14.12.10.8.6)9790051095162 **(Full score)**9790051351374 **Violin**

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**World Premiere: 02 May 1990**

San Francisco, CA, USA

Ole Bohn, violin; San Francisco Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Herbert Blomstedt

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## VOICE(S) AND ORCHESTRA

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### Of Rewaking

**3 Poems of William Carlos Williams**

**2002**

13 min 30 sec

for mezzo-soprano and orchestra

Text: William Carlos Williams (E)

mezzo-soprano--2(II=picc).2(II=corA).2(II=bcl).2(II=dbn)--2.1.1.0-  
-perc(3):gavel:gong/med.susp.cym/high SD/lg. cowbell/4wdbls;tam-t/2log  
dr/3tom-t/med.SD/high susp.cym/mar;BD/low SD/low susp.cym/sm. cowbell/4  
bongos/guero/vib--pft--harp--strings(min. 6.4.4.3.2 players)

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**World Premiere: 29 May 2003**

Symphony Center, Chicago, Illinois, United States

Michelle DeYoung, mezzo-soprano; Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Daniel Barenboim

## ENSEMBLE AND CHAMBER WITHOUT VOICE(S)

### Asko Concerto

**1999-2000** 12 min

for ensemble

1(=picc).1.1.bcl.1-1.1.1.0-perc(1):xyl/vib/marimba/med SD/BD-harp-pft(=cel)  
-2vln.vla.vlc.db

**World Premiere: 26 Apr 2000**

Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Asko Ensemble

Conductor: Oliver Knussen CBE

### Au Quai

**2002** 3 min

for bassoon and viola

9790051104451 **Bassoon and viola**

**World Premiere: 12 Jun 2002**

Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, United Kingdom

London Sinfonietta

Conductor: George Benjamin

### Birthday Flourish

**1988** 2 min

for 5 trumpets in C also arrangement for brass quintet 1.2.2.0

9790051103348 **Brass Quintet (score & parts)**

**World Premiere: 14 Sep 1988**

San Francisco, California, United States

San Francisco Symphony

Conductor: Herbert Blomstedt

### Call

**2003** 1 min

for 2 trumpets and horn

2 tpt-hn

9790051105304 **2 Trumpets, Horn**

**World Premiere: 05 May 2004**

United Artists Battery Park Theater, New York, New York, United States

Mark Gould & Kevin Cobb, trumpet / William Purvis, horn;

### Canon for 4 - Homage to William

**1984** 5 min

for flute, bass clarinet, violin, and cello

9790051102594 **Flute, Bass Clarinet, Violin, Cello**

9790051209842 **Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 984**

### Clarinet Quintet

**2007** 15 min

for clarinet and string quartet

*"Too much time and ink have been spent talking about how challenging, rigorous and difficult Elliott Carter's music is, and not nearly enough on how lively, vigorous and even funny it can be. The playful qualities outnumbered potential hazards...when the Juilliard String Quartet and the clarinetist Charles Neidich offered the premiere of Mr. Carter's 'Clarinet Quintet.'"*  
*The New York Times*

9790051802012 **Clarinet, String Quartet (Score & parts)**

**World Premiere: 29 Apr 2008**

Peter Jay Sharp Theater, Juilliard School, New York, NY, USA

Charles Neidich, clarinet; Juilliard String Quartet

### Con Leggerezza Pensosa - Omaggio a Italo Calvino

**1990** 5 min

for clarinet, violin and cello

9790051211678 **Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 1167**

9790051103218 **Clarinet, Violin, Cello**

**World Premiere: 29 Sep 1990**

Italian Institute for Musicological Research, Latina, Italy

tba

### Double Trio

**2011** 8 min

for double trio

0.0.0.0-0.1.1.0-perc-pft-strings:(1.0.1.0)

*"The new eight-minute Double Trio of this year is one of Carter's most brilliant creations..."*  
*—Charles Rosen, New York Review of Books*

**World Premiere: 11 Oct 2011**

Salle de concert Bourgie, Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal, Montréal, QC, Canada

Camerata Orford Ensemble

Conductor: Jean-François Rivest

**Duettino****2008** 3 minfor violin and violoncello  
violin and violoncello

Movement II of "Due Duetti"

**World Premiere: 12 Dec 2008**  
Zankel Hall, New York, NY, USA  
Rolf Schulte, violin / Fred Sherry, cello;**Duettone****2009** 4 minfor violin and violoncello  
violin and violoncello

Movement I of "Due Duetti"

**Enchanted Preludes****1988** 6 minfor flute and cello  
9790051102785 **Flute, Cello**  
9790051211210 **Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 1121****World Premiere: 16 May 1988**  
Merkin Hall, New York, New York, United Kingdom  
Patricia Spenser (flute), Andre Emelianoff (cello)**Esprit Rude/Esprit Doux****1985** 4 minfor flute and clarinet  
9790051102518 **Flute, Clarinet****Esprit Rude/Esprit Doux II****1994** 5 minfor flute, clarinet and marimba  
9790051104369 **Woodwind duos****World Premiere: 30 Mar 1995**  
Orch Hall, Chicago, United States  
Richarde Gref, fl/John Yeh, cl/James Ross, marimba

ENSEMBLE AND CHAMBER WITHOUT VOICE(S) 12

**Fragment No.1****1994** 4 min

for string quartet

**World Premiere: 13 Oct 1994**  
Merkin Hall, New York, New York, United States  
Kronos Quartet**Fragment No.2****1999** 3 min

for string quartet

**World Premiere: 23 Jun 1999**  
Cuvilliestheater, Munich, Germany  
Arditti Quartet**Hiyoku****2001** 4 minfor two clarinets  
9790051104383 **2 Clarinets****World Premiere: 09 Dec 2001**  
Kleine Zaal, Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Charles Neidich / Ayako Oshima, clarinet;**Immer Neu****1992** 5 min

for oboe and harp

**Luimen****1997** 12 minfor ensemble  
tpt.trbn-vib-mand-gtr-harp**World Premiere: 31 Mar 1998**  
Paradiso, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Nieuw Ensemble  
Conductor: Ed Spanjaard

ENSEMBLE AND CHAMBER WITHOUT VOICE(S) 12

**Mosaic****2004**

10 min

for chamber ensemble

fl(=afl,picc).ob(=corA).cl(=bcl)-harp-vln.vla.vlc.db

*"Carter went back into his own history for his six-minute Mosaic, a scintillating memory of his youthful friendship with the harp wizard Carlos Salzedo. First, a harp statement; then an instrumental response. But this bare structural design gives no indication of the playful humour, the jostling arpeggios and ingenious devices squeezed into its pages."*

*The Times*

9790051096626 (Full score)

**World Premiere: 16 Mar 2005**

Purcell Room, London, United Kingdom

Nash Ensemble

**Nine by Five****Woodwind Quintet II****2009**

8 min

for woodwind quintet

fl.ob.cl.bn.hn.

**World Premiere: 11 Feb 2010**

Paul Hall, The Juilliard School, New York, NY, USA

New York Woodwind Quintet

**Oboe Quartet****2001**

17 min

for oboe and string trio

ob-vln.vla.vlc

**World Premiere: 02 Sep 2001**

Matthaeuskirche, Lucerne, Switzerland

Heinz Holliger, oboe; Thomas Zehetmair/Ruth Killius/Thomas Demenga

**Quintet for piano and string quartet****1997**

16 min

**World Premiere: 18 Nov 1998**

Library of Congress, Washington, DC, United States

Ursula Oppens, piano; Arditti Quartet

**Quintet for piano and winds****1991**

24 min

ob.cl(=Ebcl).bn-hn-pft

9790051212330 Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 1233

9790051103706 (Parts)

**World Premiere: 13 Sep 1992**

Philharmonie, Köln, Germany

Heinz Holliger, ob / Elmar Schmid, cl / Klaus Thunemann, bn / Radovan Vlatkovic, hn /

András Schiff,

**Rigmarole****2011**

2 min

for cello and bass clarinet

**World Premiere: 08 Dec 2011**

92nd Street Y, New York, NY, USA

Fred Sherry, cello / Virgil Blackwell, bass clarinet;

**String Quartet No.4****1986**

24 min

9790051102778 (Parts)

9790051211302 Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 1130

**World Premiere: 17 Sep 1986**

Festival Miami, University of Miami, Florida, United States

Composers String Quartet

**String Quartet No.5****1995**

21 min

9790051212699 Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 1269

9790051104543 (Parts)

9790051213412 Study Score (hardback) - Hawkes Pocket Score 1341

**World Premiere: 19 Sep 1995**

De Singel, Antwerp, Belgium

Arditti Quartet

## String Trio

2011

7 min

for string trio

"...a dramatic and satisfying work."

— Charles Rosen, *New York Review of Books*

**World Premiere: 08 Dec 2011**

92nd Street Y, New York, NY, USA

Rolf Schulte, violin / Richard O'Niell, viola / Fred Sherryl, cello;

## Tinnabulation

2008

9 min

for percussion sextet

perc(6) I: 2congas/4bongos/lg.log drum/flat gong/Chinese opera gong/wood drum; II: guiro/maracas/2cyms/tgl/slap stick/alto nipple gong/3tom-t/alto SD/picc.wdbl; III: bass nipple gong/splash cym/high SD/claves/ratchet/darbouka/timbale/tom-t; IV: sop.nipple gong/talking drum/shaker/med.SD/lg.tam-t/sm.tam-t/Japanese wdbl/sm.log dr; V: 5tpl.bl/2wdbl/tenor nipple gong/low SD/3pipes; VI: 4almglocken/2wdbl/BD/hammer/tom-t/bari.nipple gong

"...exudes Carter's brand of immaculately choreographed rhythmic chaos, like an explosion in a clock factory. ..."

"Carter had never written for solo percussion ensemble before but that clearly did not deter him from bending this configuration to his own composerly aims with extraordinary precision.

'Tinnabulation' covers an enormous range of sonorities, partly through Carter's choice of instruments (a Chinese opera gong and five types of nipple gongs are among the mix) but also through his meticulous instructions of where to strike each instrument and what kind of stick to use, be it a mallet, a brush, a birch dowel, or even a knitting needle."

*The Boston Globe*

**World Premiere: 02 Dec 2008**

Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory of Music, Boston, MA, USA

NEC Percussion Ensemble

Conductor: Frank Epstein

## Tre Duetti

2008-09

9 min

for violin and violoncello

violin and violoncello

I. Duettone

II. Duettino

**World Premiere: 05 Oct 2009**

Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY, USA

Fred Sherry, cello / Rolf Schulte, violin;

## Trije glasbeniki

2011

2 min

for flute, bass clarinet and harp

"...a daringly episodic trio..."

— Anthony Tommasini, *The New York Times*

**World Premiere: 09 Nov 2011**

Slovenska filharmonija, Marjana Kozina Hall, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Robert Aitken, flute / Jurij Jenko, bass clarinet / Coline-Marie Orliac, harp;

## Trilogy

1992

15 min

I. Bariolage (harp solo) II. Inner Song (oboe solo) III. Immer Neu (oboe and harp)

oboe and harp

9790051103782 **Oboe, Harp**

**World Premiere: 30 Jun 1992**

Pontino Festival, Italy

Heinz Holliger, ob/Ursula Holliger, harp

## Triple Duo

1983

20 min

for 6 players

fl(=picc).cl(=Eb,bcl)-perc(1):glsp/crot/marimba/lg  
susp.cym/SD/BD/3tpl.bl/4tom-t-pft-vln.vlc

9790051209828 **Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 982**

**World Premiere: 23 Apr 1983**

Symphony Space, New York, NY, United States

The Fires of London

## Wind Rose

2008

6 min 30 sec

for wind ensemble

picc.3.2afl.bfl.3.2corA.Ebcl.3.3bcl.dbcl.3.dbn

*"The complex, wriggling, quixotic Carter we know was replaced by a Carter testing his mettle by writing only slow chords and single notes, moving and merging like clouds. The wind colour range was especially remarkable, spiked by the phalanx of eight clarinets (of four different species)."*

*The Times (UK)*

**World Premiere: 16 Dec 2008**

Barbican, London, United Kingdom

BBC Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Oliver Knussen

## ENSEMBLE AND CHAMBER WITH VOICE(S)

### In Sleep, in Thunder

1981 20 min

for tenor and 14 instrumentalists

Text: Robert Lowell (E)

1(=picc.af).1(=corA).1(=bcl).1-1.1.1.0-perc(1):vib/marimba/wdbl/cowbell/guiro/bottle/ma racas/sm.sizzle cym/susp.cym/SD/TD/BD/tam-t-pft-strings(1.1.1.1.1)

9790051209798 Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 979

### In the Distances of Sleep

2006 15 min

for mezzo-soprano and ensemble

Text: Wallace Stevens (E)

2(II=picc).af(=bass fl).1.2(I=Ebcl,II=bcl).bcl(=cbcl).1-0.0.0.0-perc(2): xyl/mar/BD/3tom-t/3SD/4bongos/susp.cym; vib/sm.tam-t/log dr/tpl.bl/wdbl/guiro/almglock/cowbell/susp.cyms/sizzle cyms/SD/gong/metal pipes-pft-strings(min. 2.2.4.4.2 players, can be expanded proportionately)

*"Mr Carter's music keeps the listener busy. The vocal lines are by and large in long, unbroken phrases and the instrumental music around them seethes. There are the snare drums and sharp percussive detonations so familiar to his music, the rippling mallet percussion and the short bursts of winds and strings. Stevens's reflections have an outdoor setting, and you can almost hear the insects buzz and the birds chirp."*  
New York Times

World Premiere: 15 Oct 2006

Zankel Hall, New York, New York, United States

Michelle DeYoung, mezzo-soprano; MET Chamber Ensemble

Conductor: James Levine

### On Conversing with Paradise

2008 20 min

for baritone and ensemble

Text: Ezra Pound (E)

0.0.1(=bcl).bcl(=cbcl).0--1.0.0.0--perc(5):I=large log dr/Japanese wdbl/nipple gong/2congas/splash cym; II=guiro/maracas/cym/metal wind chimes/3tom-t/4bongos; III=tam-t/almglocken/2SD/2cym/4ot.bl; IV=BD/SD/gong/bamboo wind chimes/small log dr/2pipes; V=sm BD/3SD/3cym/4wdbls/glsp/crot --pft--strings(2/2/2/2/2)

World Premiere: 20 Jun 2009

Snape Maltings, Aldeburgh, United Kingdom

Leigh Melrose, baritone; Birmingham Contemporary Music Group

Conductor: Oliver Knussen

## A Sunbeam's Architecture

2010 11 min

song cycle for tenor and chamber orchestra

Text: Text based on poems by e.e. cummings

1.1.2(II=bcl).1-1.0.0.0-perc(2)-pft-strings:(a minimum of 10 strings, which can be expanded proportionately:2.2.2.2.2)

*"It has been a long time since a composer has been willing to write so powerful a musical setting to poetry."*

—Charles Rosen, *New York Review of Books*

*"...an inventive, urgent work..."*

—Anthony Tommasini, *The New York Times*

World Premiere: 08 Dec 2011

92nd Street Y, New York, NY, USA

Nicholas Phan, tenor; Various Artists

Conductor: Ryan McAdams

## Tempo e Tempi

1998-99 15 min

for soprano and ensemble

Text: Eugenio Montale/Salvatore Quasimodo/Giuseppe Ungaretti (I)

sop - ob(=corA). cl(=bcl) - vln. vlc

*"...the most beautiful and serene of all the song cycles of his extraordinary Indian summer of creativity."*

*BBC Music Magazine*

World Premiere: 24 May 2000

Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, United Kingdom

Lucy Shelton, soprano; London Sinfonietta

Conductor: Oliver Knussen CBE

## Three Explorations

Drawn from T.S. Eliot's Four Quartets

2011 10 min

for solo baritone, winds and brass

1(=picc).2af(I=fl, II=bf).1.2bcl(1=cl, II=dbcl).0-0.3.ttrbn.tenor-bass trbn.btrbn.0

*"...a substantial new song cycle..."*

*Allan Kozinn, The New York Times*

World Premiere: 12 Dec 2011

Alice Tully Hall, New York, NY, USA

Evan Hughes, baritone; AXIOM Ensemble

Conductor: Jeffrey Milarsky

**What Are Years**

**2009**

12 min

for soprano and chamber ensemble

Text: Marianne Moore (E)

1(=picc).2.corA.bcl(=dbcl).2-perc(2).harp.-strings (min.2.2.2.2.2)

**World Premiere: 26 Jun 2010**

Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Aldeburgh, United Kingdom

Claire Booth, soprano; Ensemble intercontemporain

Conductor: Pierre Boulez

## PIANO(S)

**90+**

**1994**

5 min

for solo piano

9790051285037 Piano

**World Premiere: 12 Jun 1994**

Pontino Festival, Sermoneta, Italy

Giuseppe Scotese, pft

### Caténaïres

**2006**

4 min

for piano

**World Premiere: 11 Dec 2006**

Zankel Hall, New York, NY, USA

Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano;

### Fratribute

**2008**

2 min 15 sec

for piano

solo piano

<br><br>

This work is part of 'Tri-Tribute', which is available for sale

<a href="http://www.boosey.com/cr/purchase-music/Elliott-Carter-Tri-Tribute/53851">

here </a>

**World Premiere: 20 Jun 2009**

Britten Studio, Snape, Aldeburgh, United Kingdom

Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano;

### Intermittences

**2005**

6 min

for piano solo

**World Premiere: 03 May 2006**

Miller Auditorium, Kalamazoo, Michigan, United States

Peter Serkin, piano;

### Matribute

**2007**

4 min

for piano

solo piano

<br><br>

This work is part of 'Tri-Tribute', which is available for sale

<a href="http://www.boosey.com/cr/purchase-music/Elliott-Carter-Tri-Tribute/53851">

here </a>

**World Premiere: 27 Aug 2007**

Concert Hall, Lucerne Culture and Convention Ctr, Lucerne, Switzerland

James Levine, piano; Boston Symphony Orchestra

### Retrouvailles

**2000**

2 min

for solo piano

9790051246250 Piano

**World Premiere: 26 Mar 2000**

South Bank Centre, London, United Kingdom

Rolf Hind, piano;

### Sistribute

**2008**

2 min

for piano

solo piano

<br><br>

This work is part of 'Tri-Tribute', which is available for sale

<a href="http://www.boosey.com/cr/purchase-music/Elliott-Carter-Tri-Tribute/53851">

here </a>

**World Premiere: 20 Jun 2009**

Britten Studio, Snape, Aldeburgh, United Kingdom

Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano;

### Tri-Tribute

**2007-2008**

8 min 15 sec

for piano

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**Two Diversions**

**1999**

8 min

for solo piano

9790051246243 Piano

**World Premiere: 02 Mar 2000**

Carnegie Hall, New York, New York, United States

Kirill Gerstein, pft

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**Two Thoughts About the Piano**

**2007**

10 min

for piano

I. Intermittences

II. Caténares

9790051105540 Piano

## INSTRUMENTAL

### 4 Lauds

**1984-2001** 15 min

for solo violin: I. Statement II. Riconoscenza III. Rhapsodic Musings IV. Fantasy  
9790051351794 Violin

### A 6 Letter Letter

**1996** 3 min

for solo English horn  
9790051660735 Cor Anglais

**World Premiere: 27 Apr 1996**  
Casino, Basel, Switzerland  
Heinz Holliger; Heinz Holliger

### Bariolage

**1992** 7 min

for solo harp  
9790051380206 Harp

**World Premiere: 23 Mar 1992**  
Salle Patino, Geneva, Switzerland  
Ursula Holliger, harp

### Changes

**1983** 7 min

for guitar  
9790051390151 Guitar

### Fantasy

**Remembering Roger**  
**1999** 3 min

for solo violin

### Figment

**1994** 5 min

for solo cello  
9790051371549 Cello

**World Premiere: 08 May 1995**  
Merkin Hall, New York, New York, United States  
Thomas Demenga, cello

### Figment II

**Remembering Mr. Ives**  
**2001** 5 min

for solo cello  
9790051104420 Cello

**World Premiere: 02 Dec 2001**  
Alice Tully Hall, New York, New York, United States  
Fred Sherry, cello;

### Figment III

**2007** 3 min

for solo contrabass

**World Premiere: 18 Jan 2008**  
Merkin Concert Hall, New York, NY, USA  
Donald Palma, double bass; Speculum Musicae

### Figment IV

**2007** 3 min

for solo viola

**World Premiere: 22 Jan 2008**  
Cit  de la Musique, Paris, France  
Samuel Rhodes, viola;

### Figment V

**2009** 2 min

for solo marimba

**World Premiere: 02 May 2009**  
Frederick Loewe Theater, New York University, New York, NY, USA  
Simon Boyar, marimba;

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**Gra**

Polish: "to play"

**1993**

5 min

for solo clarinet

9790051581993 **Clarinet****World Premiere: 04 Jun 1993**

Pontino Festival, Sermoneta, Italy

Roland Diry, clarinet;

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**Gra (trombone version)****1994**

5 min

for solo trombone

9790051050345 **Trombone**

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**HBHH****2007**

2 min 30 sec

for oboe solo

**World Premiere: 27 May 2007**

Karthause Ittingen, Remise, Warth, Switzerland

Heinz Holliger, oboe;

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**Inner Song****1992**

5 min

for solo oboe

9790051660605 **Oboe****World Premiere: 25 Apr 1992**

Witten Festival, Germany

Heinz Holliger, ob

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**Mnemosyné****2011**

2 min

for violin solo

**World Premiere: 08 Dec 2011**

92nd Street Y, New York, NY, USA

Rolf Schulte, violin;

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**Retracing****2002**

3 min

for solo bassoon

9790051104512 **Bassoon****World Premiere: 03 Dec 2002**

Weill Recital Hall, New York, NY, USA

Peter Kolkay, bassoon;

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**Retracing II****2009**

2 min 15 sec

for solo horn

**World Premiere: 11 Feb 2010**

Paul Hall, The Juilliard School, New York, NY, USA

William Purvis, horn;

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**Retracing III****2009**

2 min

for solo trumpet

**World Premiere: 18 Nov 2011**

Slovenska filharmonija, Marjana Kozina Hall, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Tibor Kerekes, trumpet;

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**Rhapsodic Musings****2001**

5 min

for solo violin

**World Premiere: 28 Mar 2001**

Merkin Hall, New York, New York, United States

Robert Mann, violin;

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**Riconoscenza****1984**

4 min 30 sec

'per Goffredo Petrassi' for solo violin

9790051351022 **Violin**

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**Scrivo in Vento****1991** 5 min

for solo flute

9790051591329 **Flute****World Premiere: 20 Jul 1991**

Eglise de la Chartreuse, Avignon, France

Robert Aitken, flute;

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**Shard****1997** 3 min

for solo guitar

9790051390953 **Guitar****World Premiere: 11 Jun 1997**

Humblebaek, Denmark

David Starobin, gtr

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**Statement****Remembering Aaron****1999** 3 min

for solo violin

**World Premiere: 22 May 1999**

Peer Gynt Saalen, Grieghallen, Bergen, Norway

Ole Bohn, violin;

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**Steep Steps****2001** 3 min

for bass clarinet

9790060802485 **Bass Clarinet**9790051104437 **Bass Clarinet****World Premiere: 17 Oct 2001**

Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall, New York, New York, United States

Virgil Blackwell, bass clarinet;

## VOCAL

### La Musique

2007

2 min

for soprano solo  
Text: Baudelaire (F)

### Of Challenge and of Love

1994

22 min

for soprano and piano  
Text: John Hollander (E)  
9790051933228 **Voice, Piano**  
9790051934119 **Soprano, Piano**  
**World Premiere: 23 Jun 1995**  
Snape Maltings concert Hall, United Kingdom  
Lucy Shelton, soprano; John Constable, piano

### Poems of Louis Zukofsky

2008

12 min

for clarinet and soprano  
Text: Louis Zukofsky (E)

**World premiere incomplete: 13 Dec 2008**  
Lincoln Center, New York, NY, USA  
Lucy Shelton, soprano/Stanley Drucker, clarinet;

## CHORAL

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### Harvest Home

1937

4 min 20 sec

for mixed chorus a cappella

Text: Robert Herrick (E)

9790051470921 **SATB**

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### Let's Be Gay

1937

3 min 10 sec

for chorus (SSA) and two pianos

Text: John Gay, from 'The Beggar's Opera' (E)

9790051470914 **SSA**

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### Mad Regales

2007

9 min

for 6 solo voices

Text: John Ashbery (E)

S.M.A.T.Bar.B

*"...a bracing modern madrigal, enigmatic, multi-layered, mischievous and mad — just what John Ashbery's crazy poems deserved."*

*The Times (UK)*

*"In these surprisingly nutty madrigals, illogic becomes delight. Words pop up madly where they don't fit but are made to belong nevertheless."*

*Los Angeles Times*

**World Premiere: 22 Jul 2008**

Tanglewood Music Centre, Lennox, MA, USA

Tanglewood Music Center Fellows

Conductor: James Levine

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