

Elliott Carter



Elliott Carter Photo © 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/guero/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),bc(=dbc),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

9790051094813 (Full score)

Réflexions

2004

10 min

for ensemble

2(l=picc2.af),ll=picc1),1.corA.2(l=Eb cl,ll=bcl,dbc),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/gisp;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/3sus.cym-harp-strings

979051096510

9790051105410 Cello, Piano

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

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

Flute Concerto

2008

13 min

for flute and ensemble

1(picc).1(corA).2(II=bcl).1(=dbn)-2.1.1.0-perc(1)mar/xyl/vib/log dr/5tpl.bl/2wdbl/SD/4bongos/4tom-t/2cym/tam-t/shaker/almglocke/BD/pipe-harp-pft-s trings(2.2.2.2.2 players*)

*may be increased proportionately. However, when marked solo, they should remain one on a part.

World Premiere: 09 Sep 2008

YMCA, Jerusalem, Israel
Emmanuel Pahud, flute; Jerusalem International Chamber Music Ensemble
Conductor: Daniel Barenboim

Horn Concerto

2006

12 min

for horn and orchestra

1.2picc.2.corA.2.bcl.cbcl.2.dbn-0.2.2.1-perc(3):vibr/lg. gong/bongos/cowbell/high SD/lg. almglocke/tgl/small maracas/high SD/tpl.bl;mar/2tom-t/lg susp.cym/4wdbl/sm.susp.cym/2very high pipes/tamb/lg maracas/med.SD;glsp/BD/low SD/log dr/med.susp.cym/wind gong/guiro/lg.pipe/med.SD-pft-strings

"...a jubilant celebration of this 'peculiar instrument' (Carter's phrase), with the solo gymnastics magically tintured by a rainbow of wonders, from tutti shrieks and a percussion salsa to whispers of vibraphone and muted brass."

The Times (UK)

"...lucid in its mix of sonorities, rhythmically vital, brilliant in exploiting the horn's resources and outgoing in a way that befits a concerto."

Financial Times

"...identified Carter's innate feel for instrumental timbre, his ability to tap, through his characteristic blend of complexity and clarity, the distinctive personality that an instrument possesses."

Daily Telegraph (UK)

"Carter gives the soloist a workout in some rapid figurations, but the dominant character of this piece is surprisingly lyrical... He uses the horn's long solo lines as opportunities for vivid experiments in timbre, as if challenging the soloist to see how many masks he can don in quick succession. Sommerville rose gamely to the challenge, navigating the passagework with apparent ease and demonstrating a wide kaleidoscope of tone, by turns powerfully focused, darkly veiled, raspy and aggressive, and brightly gleaming."

The Boston Globe

World Premiere: 15 Nov 2007

Boston, MA, USA
James Sommerville, horn; Boston Symphony Orchestra
Conductor: James Levine

Interventions

2007

15 min

for piano and orchestra

solo pft-3(1,3=picc, 2=Afl).3(II=corA).2(II=bcl).cbcl(=bcl).2.dbn-4.3(=Bb
trpt).3.1-perc(4)xyI/mar/4bongos/low cym/high SD/cowbell/lg
almglock/tam-t;4tmpI.bl/high cym/med SD/med.tom-t/slapstick/BD;4wdbl/med.cym/low
SD/low tom-t/guio/wood drum/claves;2metal pipes.2timbales/wind gong/nipple
gong/maraca/sizzle cym-strings

"The banter that 'Interventions' explores is expressed in the opening measures through a musical joke. The orchestra sounds a collective sustained A, the pitch to which the instruments generally tune. But the uppity piano thumps out an intrusive B flat, a half-step up, as if to say, 'Take that.'"

The New York Times

"...full of surprisingly lyrical string writing...with frequent interruptions from the piano, which then holds court with pointy, eruptive figuration or big, iridescent chords. Two independent trios help negotiate between orchestra and soloist. The final flourish is uncharacteristically brash - and life-affirming."

The Boston Globe

"...a feisty score. ...In 'Interventions,' whimsy meets wistfulness. The violins have it in mind to sing a long, lovely wide-ranging line for the whole of the score's 17 minutes. They don't get to, however, no matter how much support they get from the lower strings, which add harmonic and contrapuntal richness."

Los Angeles Times

World Premiere: 04 Dec 2008

Symphony Hall, Boston, MA, USA

Daniel Barenboim, piano; Boston Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: James Levine

Oboe Concerto

1986-87

25 min

for oboe, concertino group and orchestra

Concertino:4vIa-perc(1):4tmp/vib/gIsp/2metal.bl/2wdbl/4tpl.bl/
2cowbells/4bongo/2tom-t/susp.cym/guio
Orchestra:1(=afl/picc).0.1(=bcl).0-1.0.1.0-perc(1):marimba/xyI/BD/
tam-t/military dr/2SD/2susp.cym-strings(10.8.2.6.4 or 8.6.0.4.2)

9790051660612 **Oboe**

9790051094844 **(Full score)**

World Premiere: 17 Jun 1988

Zurich, Switzerland

Heinz Holliger; Collegium Musicum

Conductor: John Carewe

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**

World Premiere: 02 May 1990

San Francisco, CA, USA

Ole Bohn, violin; San Francisco Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Herbert Blomstedt

VOICE(S) AND ORCHESTRA

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=cbn)--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)

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

Due Duetti

2008-2009 7 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;

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**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

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

World Premiere: 16 Mar 2005

Purcell Room, London, United Kingdom
Nash Ensemble

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,

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

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

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/maracas/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, Aldeburgh, United Kingdom

Leigh Melrose, baritone; Birmingham Contemporary Music Group

Conductor: Oliver Knussen

PIANO(S)

90+

1994 5 min

for solo piano
9790051285037 Piano

World Premiere: 12 Jun 1994
Pontino Festival, Sermoneta, Italy
Giuseppe Scotese, pft

Caténaires

2006 4 min

for piano

"Intermittences" and "Caténaires" available for sale as "Two Thoughts About the Piano"
ISMN 979-0-051-10553-3

World Premiere: 11 Dec 2006
Zankel Hall, New York, NY, USA
Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano;

Fratribute

2008 2 min 15 sec

for piano

World Premiere: 20 Jun 2009
Britten Studio, Snape, Aldeburgh, United Kingdom
Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano;

Intermittences

2005 6 min

for piano solo

"Intermittences" and "Caténaires" available for sale as "Two Thoughts About the Piano"
ISMN 979-0-051-10553-3

World Premiere: 03 May 2006
Miller Auditorium, Kalamazoo, Michigan, United States
Peter Serkin, piano;

Matribute

2007 4 min

for piano

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

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

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

Two Thoughts About the Piano

2007

10 min

for piano

I. Intermittences

II. Caténares

9790051105540 **Piano**

INSTRUMENTAL

4 Lauds

1984-2001

15 min

I. Statement II. Riconoscenza III. Rhapsodic Musings IV. Fantasy

solo violin

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

Duettino

2008

3 min

for 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 min

for violin and violoncello

violin and violoncello

Movement I of "Due Duetti"

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 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

Cité de la Musique, Paris, France

Samuel Rhodes, viola;

Figment No.2**Remembering Mr. Ives****2001** 5 minfor solo cello
9790051104420 **Cello****World Premiere: 02 Dec 2001**
Alice Tully Hall, New York, New York, United States
Fred Sherry, cello;**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;**Gra**Polish: "to play"
1993 5 minfor solo clarinet
9790051581993 **Clarinet****World Premiere: 04 Jun 1993**
Pontino Festival, Sermoneta, Italy
Roland Diry, clarinet;**Gra (trombone version)****1994** 5 minfor solo trombone
9790051050345 **Trombone****Inner Song****1992** 5 minfor solo oboe
9790051660605 **Oboe****World Premiere: 25 Apr 1992**
Witten Festival, Germany
Heinz Holliger, ob**Retracing****2002** 3 minfor solo bassoon
9790051104512 **Bassoon****World Premiere: 03 Dec 2002**
Weill Recital Hall, New York, NY, USA
Peter Kolkay, bassoon;**Retracing II****2009** 2 min 15 sec

for horn

Retracing III**2009** 2 min

for trumpet

Rhapsodic Musings**2001** 5 min

for solo violin

World Premiere: 28 Mar 2001
Merkin Hall, New York, New York, United States
Robert Mann , violin;**Riconoscenza****1984** 4 min 30 sec'per Goffredo Petrassi' for solo violin
9790051351022 **Violin****Scrivo in Vento****1991** 5 minfor solo flute
9790051591329 **Flute****World Premiere: 20 Jul 1991**
Eglise de la Chartreuse, Avignon, France
Robert Aitken, flute;

Shard**1997**

3 min

for solo guitar

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

Humblebaek, Denmark

David Starobin, gtr

Statement**Remembering Aaron****1999**

3 min

for solo violin

World Premiere: 22 May 1999

Peer Gynt Saalen, Grieghallen, Bergen, Norway

Ole Bohn, violin;

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

Harvest Home

1937

4 min 20 sec

for mixed chorus a cappella

Text: Robert Herrick (E)

9790051470921 **SATB**

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 **SS/A**

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

HBHH

2007

2 min 30 sec

for oboe solo

World Premiere: 27 May 2007

Karthause Ittingen, Remise, Warth, Switzerland

Heinz Holliger, oboe;