

## Brett Dean



Brett Dean Photo © Mark Coulsen

### CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

#### Between the spaces in the sky (In Memoriam Richard Hickox)

2011 8 min

for string orchestra

**World premiere of version:** 29 Jun 2011

Plaisterers' Hall, London, United Kingdom

City of London Sinfonia

Conductor: Michael Collins

#### Carlo

1997 21 min

Music for strings and sampler

strings(8.0.3.3.1)-sampler (also: version for strings and live chorus)

*"... a mesmeric score that shows again why Dean is perhaps the most significant of all Australian composers. It stands out as one of an increasingly small number of pieces that successfully mix live and electronic performance. The music, at once haunted and haunting, opens with taped Gesualdo and expands in every direction with strings that are by turns wispy and scorching." (John Allison, The Times, 31 Oct 2001)*

*"Dean's treatment [of Gesualdan motifs] is brilliantly imaginative, the splintering of vocal harmony into the screams and moans of Gesualdo's victims forming a particularly graphic climax." (The Times, May 1998)*

*"The best piece was Carlo...The strings mimic, fuse with and distort Gesualdo's gestures. A strange 20th century beauty emerges." (Evening Standard, May 1998)*

9790202530405 (Full score)

**World Premiere:** 05 Dec 1997

Huntington Winery, Mudgee, Australia

Australian Chamber Orchestra

Conductor: Brett Dean

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA 1

#### Game over

2000 13 min

for instrumental soloists, string orchestra and electronics

cl(=bcl)-elec.gtr-perc(1):susp.cym/tom-t/chin.cym/2tam-t/SD/hi-hat/pedal  
BD-pft-elec.vln.vlc.db-strings(min.4.4.3.3.1)-multi track tape-CD player

*"Game Over is the composer's musical treatise against that most vacuous of television culture's genres, the game show... [and] stood out for the finely wrought complexity of its orchestral textures." (Metropolitan)*

**World Premiere:** 08 Apr 2000

University of Iowa, Hansher Auditorium, Iowa City, United States

Bang on a Can; Australian Chamber Orchestra

Conductor: Brett Dean

#### Pastoral Symphony

2000 17 min

for chamber orchestra

1(=picc).1.2(l=Ebcl,bcl,ll=bcl).1(=dbn,flexatone)-2.2(l=picc  
tpt).1(=flexatone).1(=flexatone)-perc(2):l=4tom-t/4susp.cym/SD/pedal  
BD/2bongos/2roto-toms/crot/marimba/tgl/tam-t; ll=vib/xyl/glsp/crot/sm  
chin.cym/BD/alu-foil/thundersheet-pft-kbd sampler-strings(3.3.2.1)-CD player

*"Pastoral Symphony begins with birdsong, moves into mechanized madness and ends with a sorrowing viola, like a prayer beside a grave, only this grave contains the entire planet and everything on it." (Robert Jones, The Post and Courier, 28 May 2002)*

9790202521526 Orchestra (full score)

**World Premiere:** 09 Feb 2001

Maison de Radio France, Paris, France

Ensemble Modern

Conductor: Stefan Asbury

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA 1

## Shadow Music

2002

21 min

for small orchestra

2(I,II=af,II=picc).2(II=corA).2(I,II=bcl).2.2.2.2.btrbn.0-timp(=tamb/chin.cym/tpl.bl/BD).perc  
(1):vib/tom-t/tgl/wdbl/SD/talking  
dr/BD/susp.cym/chin.cym/tam-t/maracas/whip/glsp/crot-harp-strings(min.10.8.6.4.2;  
3vlnll also play water gongs and susp.cym; 2vlnll also play bowed crot)

*"An orchestral soundscape in three movements, Shadow Music finds Dean in increasingly confident voice. There's nothing identifiably Antipodean about the accent, but his balance of form and content shows that 15 years as a violist with the Berlin Philharmonic were not wasted. The title suggests an indeterminate, often dark atmosphere, which the music amply embroiders. In 'Prelude'staccato rumblings cast long, shadowy lines that coalesce in an abrupt crescendo. 'Forgotten garden' is a dense hothouse of sound, full of ideas that sustain and renew themselves. 'Voices and Shadows' begins with atmospheric bowed crotales, before following trombone and contrabassoon into the bowels of the orchestra. Dean knows how to lead the ear..." (Andrew Clark, Financial Times, 09 Jul 2003)*

*"... a substantial, three-movement work, full of sombre sonorities, which gradually gains in musical weight." (The Guardian, 07 Jul 2003)*

**World Premiere: 13 Jun 2002**

Malthouse Theatre, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Markus Stenz

## Short Stories

2005

12 min

Five interludes for string orchestra

strings(min.5.5.3.3.1players)

*"Interwoven between, and sometimes within, the [Vivaldi Flute] concertos was the world premiere of Brett Dean's Short Stories. Cleverly utilising a range of effects, including pizzicatti, glissandi and whispering harmonics, these evocative, tightly structured miniatures are, for the most part, brooding and unsettling, dominated by a threatening, nervous energy that occasionally swells up into frenzied outbursts. Only the elegiac, Arvo Pärt-like finale, Arietta, offers any sense of relief, albeit fleeting and unresolved. Once again, Dean proves that he is a composer with a distinctive voice and singular vision." (Murray Black, The Australian, 04 Jul 2005)*

*"[Dean's] miniature stories are a rich amalgam of images and sonorities. His string essays proceeded in stealthy fashion. The plucked strings seemed to conspire in whispers before converging onto a meshed canvas of solo melodies and glissandi, the sounds made by sliding a finger along a string. The celestial mood eventually succumbed to combative episodes. This is a finely crafted work." (Xenia Hanusiak, Herald Sun, 06 Jul 2005)*

9790202531891 **String Orchestra (Full score)**

**World Premiere: 02 Jul 2005**

City Recital Hall, Sydney, NSW, Australia

Australian Chamber Orchestra

Conductor: Richard Tognetti

## Testament

2008

14 min

Music for orchestra, after 'Testament: Music for twelve violas' (2002)

2(I,II=picc).2.2.2.2.2.0.0-timp(=lg susp.cym)-strings (All string players require an additional bow without any traces of rosin on the hairs.)

**World Premiere: 07 Mar 2008**

Federation Concert Hall, Hobart, Australia

Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Sebastian Lang-Lessing