

Brett Dean



Brett Dean Photo © Cordula Groth

FULL ORCHESTRA

Amphitheatre

2000

11 min

Scene for orchestra

2(II=picc).af(=picc).2.heckelphone(or corA ad lib).1.bcl.dbcl.3.dbn-4.4.3.1-timp.perc(3):I=3roto-toms/crot/TD/SD/t.bells/marimba/xyl/cy ms; II=7tuned gongs/2tam-t(med.lg)/chin.cym/4susp.cym/SD; III=4tom-t/lg BD/2susp.cym/chin.cym/SD/vib/steel drums-harp-strings

"It is a beautifully conceived work that, despite its brevity, generates an expansive timelessness that conjures up the imposing landscapes of Sibelius. Dean's deft handling of a large orchestra is immediately appealing, yet the work has layers of structural and expressive complexity that beckon further hearing." (Bronwen Arthur, The Australian, 19 Jun 2000)

"Amphitheatre encompasses clarity and succinctness in its brief musical message... It was a lesson in substance." (Jeremy Vincent, The Australian, 11 May 2001)

9790202530504 **Orchestra (score)**

World Premiere: 16 Jun 2000

Concert Hall, Brisbane, Australia
Queensland Symphony Orchestra
Conductor: Daniel Harding

Amphitheatre

(version for reduced orchestra)

2000

11 min

Scene for orchestra

2(II=picc).af(=picc).2.corA(=heckelphone ad lib).1.bcl.dbcl.2.dbn-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(3):I=3roto-toms/crot/TD/SD/t.bells/marimba/xyl/cy ms; II=7tuned gongs/2tam-t(med.lg)/chin.cym/4susp.cym/SD; III=4tom-t/lg BD/2susp.cym/chin.cym/SD/vib/steel drums-harp-strings

FULL ORCHESTRA 1

Beggars and Angels

1999

26 min

Music for orchestra

4(I,II,III=picc,IV=afi).3(III=corA).4(II=EbcI,III,IV=bcl).3(III=dbn)
-6.4.3.1-timp.perc(4):I=vib/xyl/glsp/roto-toms/sizzle
cym/2chin.cym/rainpipe/ratchet/2bongos/SD; II=drum kit/t.bells/cyms/3chin.cym/lg
BD/tamb/4tuned metal plates;
III=3tam-t/5tom-t/2chin.cym/5susp.cym/whip/2tgl/SD/TD/tamb/3wdbl/roto-toms/cabaca;
IV=marimba/3tgl/crot/SD/lg BD/t.bells/2metal lids/3wdbl/ratchet/2chin.cym/5tuned metal
plates-harp-pft(=cel)-strings

"Beggars and Angels is at once an aggressive pictorial and ethereal journey, taking in a huge orchestral force. Played in one continuous breath, but with a decisive shift in mood midway through, the work delights in its expansive physical framework... [and] pushes its emotions in all directions." (Jeremy Vincent, The Australian, 08 Nov 1999)

"... an exciting soundscape that has a breadth of conception and a unified sense of structure that places Dean at the forefront of 21st century musical creativity." (Barbara Hebdon, Courier-Mail, 08 Nov 1999)

9790202521625 **Orchestra (Study Score)**

World Premiere: 04 Nov 1999

Melbourne, VIC, Australia
Melbourne Symphony Orchestra
Conductor: Markus Stenz

Between Moments

2003

6 min

Music for orchestra, in memory of Cameron Retchford

2(II=picc).1.corA.0.0-3.1.3.0-perc(3):I=vib/sm tam-t(or gong)/sm susp.cym/glsp;
II=cym/lg tam-t/lg susp.cym/glsp; III=BD/med susp.cym/field dr/glsp-harp-pft-strings

"... a short, contemplative work, with restrained dynamics, long sustained sounds and subtle instrumental timbres. Atmospheric, controlled and sensitive..." (Courier Mail, 10 Jun 2003)

World Premiere: 07 Jun 2003

QPAC Concert Hall, Brisbane, Australia
Queensland Youth Symphony Orchestra
Conductor: John Curro

FULL ORCHESTRA 1

Ceremonial

2003

8 min

(second part of the orchestral triptych Three Memorials)

3(II,III=picc).3(III=corA).2.bcl.2.dbn-4.2.3.1-perc(4):I=timp/BD/rattle/alu-foil;
II=vib/crot(2octaves)/gongspiel/tuned gongs(F2,G2)/seed-rattle; III=marimba/bass
marimba/tam-t/2chin.cym/3susp.cym(lg to med/sm); IV=marimba/lg
chin.tom-t/2tom-t(med,high)/2bongos(high)/2tgl(sm)/3Peking opera cym(susp)
-harp-cel.pft-strings(min.14.12.10.8.6; 2nd vln desks 3-6 also play perc:sm bells/sleigh
bells/house keys/sm containers of stones/toy bells etc.)

World Premiere: 09 May 2003

Perth, Australia

West Australian Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Matthias Bamert

Dispersal

2001

5 min

(first part of the orchestral triptych Three Memorials)

3(I,II,III=picc).3(III=corA).3(II,III=bcl).3(III=dbn)-4.3.picc
tpt.3.1-timp(=whip/tamb).perc(3):I=xyl/vib/glsp/2tgl/lg BD; II=marimba/crot/brake
dr/tamb/piece of corrugated iron; III=SD/4susp.cym/sizzle cym/2TD(or low
tom-t)/2bongos/pedal BD/tam-t/t.bells-harp-pft-harmonium-strings

"Dispersal is a powerful statement if ever there was one from a five-minute orchestral work. Deriving its title from the mass slaughter and driving out of Aborigines from their homelands, it begins with a tremendous maelstrom of disconnected sounds – stabs, shocks and searing outbursts – which give way to reveal a shadowy, eerie hymn setting..." (Graham Strahle, The Australian, 16 Nov 2001)

World Premiere: 09 Nov 2001

Festival Theatre, Adelaide, Australia

Adelaide Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: David Alan Miller

Komarov's Fall

2006

7 min

(third part of the orchestral triptych Three Memorials)

2.2picc.3.corA.2.Ebcl.bcl.2.dbn-6.3.2.btrbn.1-timp(=whip).perc(5):I=marimba/BD/alu-foil
; II=xyl/glsp/5wdbl/3tom-t/crot(2octaves)/alu-foil; III=glsp/1crot/susp.cym/hi-hat/SD/sand
paper; IV=vib/tam-t/alu-foil; V=tuned gongs/SD/med
chin.cym/thundersheet/alu-foil-2harp-cel-strings

World Premiere: 16 Mar 2006

Philharmonie, Berlin, Germany

Berliner Philharmoniker

Conductor: Simon Rattle

FULL ORCHESTRA 2

Moments of Bliss

1. Hotel Room (Awakening); 2. Heart of the Matter; 3. Knocking at the Hellgate; 4. Far
2004

25 min

for orchestra and electronics

4(IV=picc).3(III=corA).4(II=Ebcl,III=bcl,IV=dbcl).3(II=whirly tube,III=dbn)
-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(4):I=vib/SD/sizzle cym/tgl/3gongs/7cowbells; II=lg
tam-t/5tom-t/3bongos/5susp.cym(incl.1sizzle cym)/whip/marimba(shared with IV)/glass
chimes/tamb/tuned gong/whirly tube; III=sm tam-t/xyl/glsp/SD/lion's roar/4t.bells/tuned
gong; IV=BD/marimba/full drum kit/glsp/2tgl/1crot/tuned
gong-2harp-elec.git-pft(=cel).MIDI kbd(using Ableton LIVE via Mac computer)
-strings(16.14.12.10.8; pincipal 1st vln=elec.vln; 2vln/vla/vlc=whirly tube; 1 female 2nd
vln="Wheel of Fortune"; all vlc/db require a medium soft timpani stick)

"Moments of Bliss [is] an orchestral suite drawn from an opera that Dean is writing based on Peter Carey's novel, Bliss. Introducing the work, (Markus) Stenz called it 'a true 21st-century piece', and in many ways it's an apt description, particularly in the use of sound effects and tape sequences. These ideas are hardly new in themselves, of course, but Dean manages to blend the electronic and the acoustic sounds in a fashion that makes previous attempts seem like a rehearsal for their real possibilities. He also backs it with some sensational instrumental writing, especially for bass and contrabass clarinet. I can't wait for the full opera." (Martin Ball, The Australian, 06 Dec 2004)

"This new score mirrors some Mahler characteristics: a huge orchestra, some extraordinary solos and unexpected instrumental combinations, a mixture of severely serious and popular music and an all embracing impression of sombre resignation. On its first outing, the work received a warm response; yet another substantial product from the MSO's active composer in residence." (Clive O'Connell, The Age, 04 Dec 2004)

"Dean's brilliant sense of humour comes to the fore in a suite of extracts from a forthcoming opera based on Peter Carey's novel Bliss... For this story of an Australian advertising executive who thinks he has died and gone to hell, Dean combines street noise, advertising jingles and air-conditioning hum in a hellist potpourri of modern life that climaxes in a convulsive orchestral heart attack. If Dean's vocal writing is half as expressive, he could be on course to produce the first great landmark opera of the 21st century." (Guardian, 18 June 2007)

World Premiere: 02 Dec 2004

Hamer Hall, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Markus Stenz

FULL ORCHESTRA 2

Parteitag

2004/05

11 min

Music for orchestral groups and video

Text: Video by Cazerine Barry

GROUP I: 1.1.1.1.bcl.1-2.0.picc tpt.2.1-perc(2):vib/glsp/crot(2octaves)/med tam-t/very sm susp.cym//4tom-t/SD/pedal BD/5susp.cym(1crash,1ride,1med chin.cym,1lg Peking opera cym,1sizzle.cym); GROUP II: 1.1.0.Ebcl.dbcl.0.dbn-2.0.picc tpt.1.btrbn.1-perc(2):glsp/5tuned gongs(D1,E-flat1,G-flat1,B-flat1,E-flat2)/SD/pedalBD/4susp.cym(1crash,1ride,1lg chin.cym,1med Peking opera cym)/lg tam-t/rain maker//1small susp.cym/steel drums(2pans, chromatic from E2 to C#4)/crot(2octaves); GROUP III: 4antiphonal tpt(placed singularly, separately and antiphonally, equidistant from the other groups); GROUP IV: timp.perc(1):glsp/4tom-t/SD/BD/pedal BD/4susp.cym(1crash,1ride,1sm chin.cym,1sm Peking Opera cym)/sm tam-t-MIDI kbd(4loudspeakers) -strings(min.14.12.10.8.6); oboists and members of the string section also play 4 plastic whirly tubes and 6 empty wine glasses of differing sizes (with thin tgl beaters)

World Premiere: 03 Jun 2005

Westergasfabriek, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra

Conductor: Markus Stenz

Three Memorials

2001/03/06

20 min

I. Dispersal; II. Ceremonial; III. Komarov's Fall