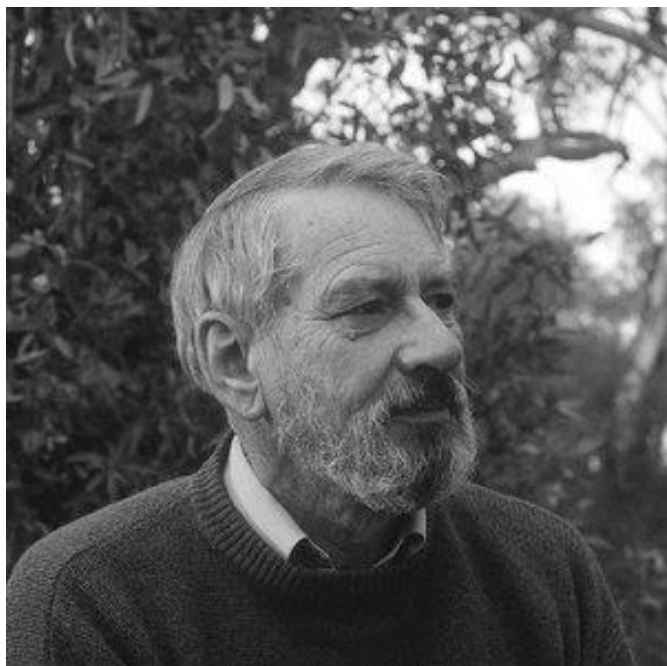




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# David LUMSDAINE

(b. 1931)



Born in Sydney in 1931, **David Lumsdaine** was educated at Sydney University and the Sydney Conservatorium. In 1953 he went to England, establishing his reputation with such works as *Kelly Ground*, *Flights*, *Mandalas 1* and *2*. During the sixties he was immersed in British contemporary musical life, and was increasingly sought after as a composition teacher. This led to university appointments, first at Durham (where he founded and directed the Electronic Music Studio) and subsequently at King's College, London where he shared a post with his wife, the composer Nicola LeFanu. He retired from academic life in 1993, and now lives in York (where his wife is Professor Emeritus of Music at the University of York) while still spending a large part of his time in Australia. Over the last forty years he has composed a body of strikingly original music, including *Aria for Edward John Eyre*, *Hagoromo*, *Mandala 3*, *Bagatelles*, *Mandala 5*, *Garden of Earthly Delights* and *Kali Dances*. His love of western European music (Dufay, Tallis, Bach, Mozart, Ravel, Stravinsky) is

frequently expressed through those works of his which begin as music about music. Yet this tradition is only one of the threads which make up his music: not only the music of other traditions and cultures, but also the music of the natural world. At its heart, the music embodies his experience of the Australian landscape — the variety of its shapes, rhythms, colours and textures: the vitality of its creatures; its sudden violence; its sense of unlimited space and time. His passion for the natural world and its conservation expresses itself more literally in his archive of birdsong and recorded soundscapes, many of which are published on CD.

## PRESS QUOTES

*'Comparisons, we know, smell bad, and seem particularly inappropriate in the case of such a loner as David Lumsdaine, whose works, scarce and wonderful and in many ways quite unlike each other, have come out of a solitary journey. But maybe a connection could be drawn with the music of Charles Ives, at a level below style. Lumsdaine is a more sophisticated artist, but there is a guilelessness that seems familiar, if perhaps only because it is so rare: both mean what they write, without compromises or excuses or inhibitions. And Lumsdaine, like Ives, feels landscape and history as close as the end of his pen, with the difference that the landscape and history are those of his native Australia'*

Paul Griffiths – *The Times*

**For more information on UYMP and our composers, and for general inquiries, please contact**

Tel: 01904 332434

e-mail: [info@uympp.co.uk](mailto:info@uympp.co.uk)

**For sales, hire and administration, please contact Administrator: Niki Zohdi**

Tel: 01904 332434

e-mail: [niki@uympp.co.uk](mailto:niki@uympp.co.uk)

*'Using a fresh and inexhaustible instrumental energy to give the vocal line strong rhythmic support and momentum, Lumsdaine unlocks a dazzling fund of songful invention. Hearing the voice and its entourage of instruments setting off on another joyously propelled excursion reminded me of one of those unstoppable and rhythmically tricky polyphonic rondeaux of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, rotating as if forever through its daisy chain of melody and counter-melody'*

*Sydney Morning Herald, on A tree telling or Orpheus*

*'Indeed, not for quite some years have I heard a new orchestral piece so stunning and so rich in new experience. What happens in the composition is that the orchestra is made to dance, and to reveal, for itself and for its audience, its own beauty in a thousand new colours and shapes. There are sheets of string and wind tone dappled with pitched percussion as a Klimt is dappled with gold. Lumsdaine's imaginary landscape has a searching, critical human presence'*

*Paul Griffiths – The Times, on Hagoromo at the  
BBC Proms, 1983*

## **LIST OF WORKS OVERLEAF**

## LIST OF WORKS

### ORCHESTRA

**The Arc of Stars (1990)** 16'  
for string orchestra  
commissioned by The Australian Chamber Orchestra  
first performance: conductor David Stanhope, Sydney 1992  
ISMN M 57020 002 3 score: £20.00  
performance materials for hire

**A Garden of Earthly Delights (1992)** 32'  
for solo cello and orchestra  
3(3<sup>rd</sup>+picc).3(3<sup>rd</sup>+ca).3(3<sup>rd</sup>+bcl).3(3<sup>rd</sup>+cbn) / 4.4.3.1 /  
hp.4perc / str  
commissioned by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation  
first performance: David Pereira and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra conducted by Iroyuki Iwaki, Sydney, November 1992  
ISMN M 57020 000 9 score: £40.00  
performance materials for hire

**Hagoromo (1977)** 30'  
3(all+picc,3<sup>rd</sup>+afl).3(3<sup>rd</sup>+ca).3(3<sup>rd</sup>+Ebcl,bcl).3(3<sup>rd</sup>+cbn) /  
4.4.3(2T,1B).1 / amplified harp.pf.6perc / 12.12.12.10.8  
commissioned by BBC  
first performance: BBCSO, conductor Pierre Boulez, Paris 1977  
ISMN M 57020 010 8 score: £40.00  
performance materials for hire

**Mandala 5 (1989)** 23'  
3(3<sup>rd</sup>+picc).3(3<sup>rd</sup>+ca).3(3<sup>rd</sup>+Ebcl).3(3<sup>rd</sup>+cbn) / 4.4.3(2T,1B).1  
/ hp.4perc / str  
commissioned by the Australian Broadcasting Commission  
first performance: the Sydney Symphony Orchestra conducted by Stuart Challender, Sydney Opera House 24 May 1989  
ISMN M 57020 004 7 score: £45.00  
performance materials for hire

**Salvation Creek with eagle (1974)** 18'  
1.1.1.1 / 1.1.1.0 / pf.perc / str  
first performance: Durham University New Music Ensemble, conductor Peter Wiegold, 1974  
ISMN M 57020 041 2 score: £20.00  
performance materials for hire

**Shoalhaven (1982)** 12'  
for large or small orchestra:  
Large: 3(3<sup>rd</sup>=picc).3.3.2 / 4.3.3(2T,1B).0 / 4perc / str  
Small: 2.2.2.2 / 2.2.2.0 / 4perc / str  
commissioned by Shoalhaven Philharmonic Society.  
first performance: Nowra 1983  
ISMN M 57020 006 1 score (large orchestra): £17.00  
ISMN M 57020 008 5 score (small orchestra): £17.00  
performance materials for hire

**Sunflower (1975)** 22'  
1.2(2<sup>nd</sup>=ca).2(2<sup>nd</sup>=bcl).2 / 2.0.0.0 / str: 6.4.4.3.1 (min)  
commissioned by Northern Sinfonia  
first performance: 1976  
ISMN M 57020 012 2 score: £30.00  
performance materials for hire

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### BRASS BAND

**Evensong (1975)** 12'  
for Eb cornet, 8 Bb cornets, flg, 3 Eb hn, 2 ten tn, btn, 2 Bb bar, 2 Bb ta, 2 Eb ta, 2 BBb ta  
commissioned by Arnolfini Gallery  
first performance: Grimethorpe Colliery Band conductor Elgar Howarth, Bristol 1975  
ISMN M 57020 037 5 score: £21.00  
performance materials for hire

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### LARGE ENSEMBLE (8 OR MORE PLAYERS)

**Kali Dances (1994)** 21'  
1.1.1.0 / 0.1.0.1 / pf.vib / 1.0.1.1.1  
commissioned by Sydney Alpha  
first performance: Sydney, September 1994  
ISMN M 57020 049 8 score: £24.00  
performance materials for hire

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### SMALL ENSEMBLE (4-7 PLAYERS)

**Bagatelles (1985)** 26'  
for fl, cl, vn, va, vc, pf  
commissioned by the Australia Ensemble  
first performance: Sydney, June 1985  
recorded on Tall Poppies TP133  
ISMN M 57020 047 4 score: £20.00  
ISMN M 57020 048 1 parts: £15.00

**Caliban Impromptu (1972)** 22'  
 for vn, vc, pf, tape and live electronics  
 commissioned by Cheltenham Festival  
 first performance by Orion Trio with the composer,  
 Cheltenham 1972  
 ISMN M 57020 045 0 score: £21.00  
 performance materials for hire

**A Dance and a Hymn for Alexander  
 Maconochie (1988)** 20'  
 for fl, cl, perc, mandolin, gtr, vn, cb  
 commissioned by Elision  
 first performance: Melbourne 1988  
 ISMN M 57020 031 3 score: £24.00  
 performance materials for hire

**Empty sky, Mootwingee (1986)** 21'  
 for fl, tn (or hn), vc, 2 perc, 2 pf  
 commissioned by Flederman  
 first performance: Sydney 1986  
 ISMN M 57020 029 0 score: £21.00  
 performance materials for hire

**Looking Glass Music (1970)** 25'  
 for brass quintet and tape  
 commissioned by BBC  
 first performance: Philip Jones Brass Ensemble, London  
 1971  
 ISMN M 57020 027 6 score: £21.00  
 performance materials for hire

**Mandala 1 (1967)** 15'  
 for wind quintet  
 first performance: London Sinfonietta, conductor David  
 Atherton, Durham 1970  
 ISMN M 57020 043 6 score: £18.00  
 ISMN M 57020 044 3 parts: £15.00

**Mandala 2 (1969)** 22'  
 for fl, cl, perc, va, vc  
 commissioned by Pierrot Players  
 first performance: Pierrot Players conductor Harrison  
 Birtwistle, London 1969  
 ISMN M 57020 025 2 score: £30.00  
 ISMN M 57020 026 9 parts: £27.00

**Mandala 3 (1978)** 34'  
 for pf solo, fl(+afl), cl, va, vc, chinese bell  
 commissioned by Gemini  
 first performance: Ronald Lumsden and Gemini  
 conductor Peter Wiegold, Bristol 1978  
 ISMN M 57020 023 8 score: £21.00  
 performance materials for hire

**Mandala 4 (1983)** 20'  
 for string quartet  
 commissioned by BBC  
 first performance: Arditti Quartet, London 1991  
 ISMN M 57020 021 4 score: £17.00  
 ISMN M 57020 022 1 parts: £12.00

**Rain Drums (1993)** 12'  
 ricercar for four drummers  
 commissioned by Synergy  
 first performance: Sydney, September 1994  
 ISMN M 57020 686 5 score: £18.00  
 performance materials for hire

## SOLOS, DUOS AND TRIOS

**Blue upon blue (1991)** 8'  
 for solo cello  
 commissioned by Tall Poppies  
 first performance: David Pereira, Sydney 1992  
 ISMN M 57020 036 8 score: £7.00

**Cambewarra (1980)** 21'  
 for solo piano  
 first performance: Peter Lawson, Manchester, 1981  
 ISMN M 57020 033 7 score: £21.00

**Curlew in the mist (1993)** 8'  
 for solo shakuhachi  
 commissioned by Tall Poppies  
 first performance: Riley Lee, Sydney 1994  
 ISMN M 57020 053 5 score: £7.00

**fire in leaf and grass (1990)** 3'  
 for clarinet in Bb and soprano  
 text: Denise Levertov  
 ISMN M 57036 044 4 score: £9.00

**Ruhe sanfte, sanfte ruh' (1974)** 18'  
 for solo piano  
 first performance: Ronald Lumsden, Reading, 1978  
 ISMN M 57020 034 4 score: £21.00

**Six Postcard Pieces (1994)** 5'  
 for solo piano  
 commissioned by Tall Poppies  
 first performance: Ian Munro  
 ISMN M 57020 035 1 score: £7.00  
 ISMN M 57020 035 1 digital download: £4.99  
 also available in the solo piano volume *Pianthology* £15.00

## **A tree dances for Orpheus (2006)**

for three variable instruments

part of 'On Track', UYMP's Grade 4-level Education Volume

ISMN M 57020 908 8

score and parts: £19.95

## **VOCAL**

### **Aria for Edward John Eyre (1973) 57'**

for soprano and double bass soloists, 2 narrators, large chamber ensemble, tape and live electronics

0.0.3(all+bcl).0 / 1.1.1.0 / hp.2perc / 0.0.0.0.1

commissioned by BBC

first performance: Jane Manning, Barry Guy, John Baddeley and John Rye with London Sinfonietta, conductor Elgar Howarth, Liverpool 1973

ISMN M 57020 039 9

score: £50.00

performance materials for hire

### **A Child's Grace (1993)**

for oboe, voice and harp

text from Robert Herrick

ISMN M 57080 081 0

score: £7.95

### **A Little Cantata in memoriam Tracey Chadwell (1996) 4'**

for treble recorder, soprano, piano

texts by the composer

world premiere: John Turner, Alison Wells, Keith Swallow in October 1996

ISMN M 57020 051 1

score: £9.00

### **Five Travelling Songs (1953-2012) 7'20"**

for SATB choir

text by Robert Graves, Ewart Milne and W H Auden

ISMN M 57036 394 0

score: £3.99

### **My sister's song (1974) 17'**

for solo soprano

text from Tamil love poems

commissioned by Camden Festival

first performance: Jane Manning, London 1975

ISMN M 57020 020 7

score: £10.00

### **A Norfolk Song Book (1992) 22'**

for soprano and recorder

commissioned by Tracey Shadwell and John Turner

first performance: at the Whitworth Gallery, Manchester, February 1993

ISMN M 57020 019 1

score and part: £19.00

## **A tree telling of Orpheus (1990) 24'**

cantata for soprano and ensemble

fl, cl, vn, va, vc

commissioned by Gemini

first performance: Huddersfield Festival, November 1991

ISMN M 57020 017 7

score: £30.00

performance materials for hire

### **The Ballad of Persse O'Reilly 20'** (published 2011)

for tenor, male chorus and two pianos

ISMN M 57036 054 3

score: £25.00

### **What shall I sing? (1982) 16'**

for soprano and two clarinets

first performance: Diana Crockford, Helmsley Festival, July 1983

ISMN M 57020 015 3

score and parts: £21.00

### **Where the lilies grow (1985) 12'**

for 8 part chamber choir

text from a Scottish Border Ballad

commissioned by The Song Company

first performance: conductor Charles Colman, Sydney 1985

ISMN M 57036 402 2

choral score: £3.99

ISMN M 57020 014 6

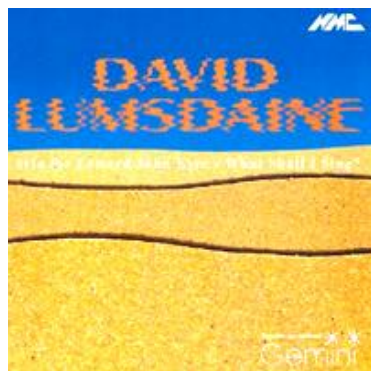
conducting score: £14.00

## **MUSIC FOR CHILDREN AND AMATEURS**

**A tree dances for Orpheus**

Solos, Duos and Trios

## RECORDINGS



### David Lumsdaine

**Includes:** *Aria for Edward John Eyre, What shall I sing?*

Performed by Gemini, Mary Wiegold (sop), Jane Manning (sop), Barry Guy (dbs), John Baddeley (narrator), Elgar Howarth (cond)

Released: 2004

Label: NMC Recordings NMC D007

### Cello Dreaming

**Includes:** *Blue upon blue*

Performed by David Pereira (vc)

Label: Tall Poppies TP075

### Mere Bagatelles

**Includes:** *Six Postcard Pieces*

Performed by Ian Munro (pf)

Label: Tall Poppies TP080

### Tracey Chadwell's Song Book

**Includes:** *Norfolk Song Book*

Performed by Tracey Chadwell & John Turner

Label: BMS 420CD

### Voices

**Includes:** *Ruhe sanfte, sanfte ruh'*

Performed by Roger Smalley (pf)

Label: Tall Poppies TP060

### Hagoromo, Salvation Creek with Eagle, Shoalhaven, Mandala 5

Performed by the West Australian Symphony Orchestra,  
Diego Masson & Albert Rosen (conds)

Label: ABC Classics ABC 426 994-2

### A Garden of Earthly Delights

Performed by the Australian Youth Orchestra, David Pereira (vc), Diego Masson (cond)

Label: Tall Poppies TP113

**Bagatelles**

Performed by the Tall Poppies Ensemble

Label: Tall Poppies TP133

**Kali Dances**

Sydney Alpha Ensemble

Label: ABC Classics 456 537-2

**Aria for Edward John Eyre**

Performed by Merlyn Quaife & Seymour Group, David Stanhope (cond)

Label: Vox Australis VAST011-

**Norfolk Song Book**

Performed by Tracey Chadwell & John Turner  
on Tracey Chadwell's Song Book

Label: BMS 420CD

**Meunga Creek (with excerpts from other soundscapes)**

on Ambiances Sonores d'Australie

Label: Sittelle 23907

**Butcherbirds of Spirey Creek, Mutawinji**

on Mutawinji

Label: Tall Poppies TP091

**Lake Emu, River Red Gums, Black Box**

on Lake Emu

Label: Tall Poppies TP092

**Cambewarra Mountain**

Label: Tall Poppies TP034

**Kelly Ground, Ruhe Sanfte, sanfte ruh',  
Cambewarra, Six Postcard Piecces**

David Lumsdaine: complete music for solo piano.

Mark Knoop

Label: Tall Poppies TP198