



J. Simon van der Walt

Composer - Teacher - Performer

www.jsimonvanderwalt.com tedthetrumpet@gmail.com 07905 270 198

J. Simon van der Walt is a composer, multi-instrumentalist and teacher, of English and South African descent, now settled in Scotland. Originally a self-taught jazz trumpet player, he now teaches at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and Stevenson College Edinburgh, specialising in composition, orchestration, and new technology. His qualifications include LLCM trumpet, FLCM composition, and TQFE (postgrad).

Simon has been writing and playing music for over twenty years; his extensive catalog of works demonstrates the breadth and depth of his musical interests, encompassing jazz, Indonesian gamelan, electronics and contemporary devised theatre. He is currently engaged in PhD research at the RSAMD under Gordon McPherson, comprising a series of works which transgress the boundaries of the traditional concert;

'If one starts by considering an ensemble as a collection of *performers* rather than a collection of *instruments*, and the performance area as an undiscovered space, what musical consequences follow?'

(from program note to 'othing', for strings)

Selected recent works

2008

- *'The Other Other Hand - a working model of the composition, practice and reception of the concert music of the early C21st'* for ensemble
- *So-Called 'Natural Selection'* for strings and spoken voice, commission from the Glasgow Philharmonic Orchestra

2007

- *The Society for Classical and Authentic Music* for ten double reeds; **BBC SSO** 'Reed On!'
- *'L'auteur n'est par mort'* for clarinet, piano and hang (metal drum), presented at the International Conference of Music Since 1900, York

2006

- Song-cycle *Schaduwee* for soprano, piano, four bassoons, ghetto blaster and video; Plug festival
- *Tribulation* for **Ensemble Thing**
- Commission from **Symposia** for *Diverses Mélodies Nobles, Élevées et Héroïques, pour très grand ensemble*, performed at Musica Nova
- *The Cave of Destiny* for trumpet, bass trumpet and reverb, for **Mark O'Keeffe** with John Kenny
- *Being Born, Living on Planet Earth and Dying* for **Psappha**

2005

- Commission from **Paragon** for online interactive composition *Talking Glitch Machine*
- Collaboration *Float Sound Objects* with **Gamelan Naga Mas**; multimedia performance incorporating trumpet, gamelan, laptop and video

2004

- Performance piece *Just Act* with **Esquire Saxofoonkwartet**, Holland; international collaboration with seven other composers, with funding from the Scottish Arts Council
- **Symposia** commission *The Blue Box* performed at Musica Nova festival

2003

- *4thought* première by **Paragon Ensemble** at Edinburgh International Festival
- *Not in my name* for three marimbas and protagonist devised & performed at the Banff Centre, Canada

2002

- Première of *There s always one* by **Paragon Saxophone Quartet**
- Première of *Hanc marginis...* by **Orlando Consort** at Dartington International Summer Festival
- Première and second performance of *Ha!* for strings by **Goldberg Ensemble**