

Score example

Reminiscences of childhood

1. Lucilla's beehive

Commissioned by Lucilla Baj

Nimrod Borenstein (1969-)
Opus 54, No 1

Ethereal $\text{♩} = 100$

Piano

p *legato* *espress.*

mf *espress.*

f

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Nimrod Borenstein

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Nimrod Borenstein

With five world premieres, scores of performances and multiple recordings of his music – and all of this just in the second half of 2016 – British-French-Israeli composer Nimrod Borenstein is much in demand. Leading artists and orchestras who champion his work include Vladimir Ashkenazy, the Philharmonia Orchestra, Roberto Prosseda, Dmitry Sitkovetsky, the Oxford Philharmonic and many others. 2017 promises to be a banner year with the release on the Chandos label of a major album conducted by Ashkenazy, entirely devoted to Borenstein's music.

Education

The son of a renowned artist, Nimrod's first musical experience came as a child on holiday in France, when on a family walk through a forest they came across an outdoors concert. "I just stopped and refused to move until the concert was finished two hours later. And I told my parents then and there that I wanted to learn violin and be a musician," recalls Borenstein. A love affair with music started, with the young Borenstein challenging himself by listening to classical works on the radio, then turning the sound down halfway through and himself scoring the way he felt the next 30 seconds would continue (he was often more or less correct)! Aged eight he developed a twelve-tone system. "I was very pleased with myself, until someone told me that someone called Schoenberg had got there first," laughs Borenstein.

In 1984, he won the competition of the Cziffra Foundation and became one of its Laureats. He moved to London in 1986, to pursue his studies as a violinist with Itzhak Rashkovsky at the Royal College of Music. He was then awarded the highest scholarship from the Leverhulme Trust to study composition at the Royal Academy of Music (where he is now an Associate).

Compositions

Every composer needs artists to perform their music. One of the most important for Borenstein has been Vladimir Ashkenazy, who took an interest early on. A first opportunity to work together arose when Ashkenazy conducted the Philharmonia Orchestra for a performance of 'The Big Bang and Creation of the Universe' to great acclaim. This was quickly followed by a Philharmonia premiere, again with Ashkenazy, 'If you will it, it is no dream'. The collaboration has continued, culminating in 2017 with the new recording.

Borenstein's music continues to rise in popularity, with his *Suspended* opus 69 in particular proving a success with more than 100 performances (from the Edinburgh International Festival to the Taipei Arts Festival) since its premiere in January 2015 at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. The music was commissioned especially by Sean Gandini and Gandini Juggling for their ballet for jugglers and dancers 4 x 4 *Ephemeral Architectures*. A huge international success, the piece continues to tour the world.

A full-orchestra recording of *Suspended* opus 69 launched the Berlin-based *Solaire* label. Among the excellent reviews, *The Arts Desk* wrote: "Borenstein's transparent, athletic string writing is stunningly realised...glorious, singing lines...Borenstein's sense of fun is infectious".

Borenstein has shown particular focus in recent years on concertos. His Violin Concerto was premiered by Sitkovetsky in 2014, the year after his Cello Concerto. His Saxophone Concerto, commissioned for saxophonist Michel Supera, was premiered in 2016 by the Orchestre de la Garde républicaine conducted by François Boulanger. The same year saw his Concerto for Trumpet, Piano and String Orchestra, with the English Symphony Orchestra conducted by Kenneth Woods, with Simon Desbruslais and Clare Hammond as soloists. A guitar concerto for Costanza Savarese has been completed and Borenstein is writing on a second cello concerto, for the cellist Corinne Morris.

An ongoing 'Songs Without Words' project recently launched with Robert Prosseda playing Borenstein's *The Dream* in Athens. Future plans include recordings - as well as the Ashkenazy / Chandos disc - of the Concerto for Trumpet, Piano and String Orchestra (*Signum*), of the Cello Concerto No. 2, piano works played by Nadav Hertzka (*Skarbo*) and more.

Commendation

"A very talented composer." Vladimir Ashkenazy, pianist and conductor

Selected compositions of Nimrod Borenstein

- Duo concertant opus 73: for oboe and piano, *Mar. 2017*
- Études opus 66: for piano solo, *Sep. 2017*
- Heroic Elegy opus 67: for violoncello and piano, *Jun. 2017*
- If I forget Thee, O Jerusalem opus 41: for mixed choir SATB and organ, *Oct. 2017*
- Meditation and Burlesque opus 43, for string quartet, *Apr. 2017*
- Quasi una cadenza opus 26: for violin solo, *Jan. 2017*
- Reminiscences of Childhood opus 54: for piano solo, *Mar. 2017*
- Soliloquy opus 59: for solo violoncello, *May 2017*
- Souvenirs opus 49: for violin and piano, *Feb. 2017*
- *Suspended* opus 69 (two versions: for string orchestra and string quintet), *Feb. 2017*