

Sir Harlequin *for solo bassoon* (2012) 14 minutes EP 72292

*Sir Harlequin* is a collection of pieces for solo bassoon. Harlequin is the quick witted servant from Commedia dell'Arte and pantomime. In his red and black chequered costume he is agile and acrobatic, and outwits his adversaries. Like Pierrot, he moves swiftly from gaiety to melancholy; he courts Columbine and – unlike Pierrot – he is successful!

My Harlequin fancies himself as a knight with his own coat-of-arms. Thus the movements of this suite have 'heraldic' subtitles.

I have composed nine movements, lasting in all about 14 minutes, from which the performer may select to make a shorter suite, if preferred. The performer is invited to speak the title of each movement before playing it, rather than just listing the selection in a programme.

*Sir Harlequin* is dedicated to Matthew Dodd, the bassoonist who provided both the artistry and the technical know-how that enabled the suite.

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