After Lindisfarne

Three Miniatures for solo horn — Nicola LeFanu

These three miniatures are linked by shared ideas, but separately characterised, as their titles suggest: Prelude, Study (moto perpetuo) and Nocturne. I have aimed to write for the beautiful tone quality of the horn, as well as its capacity for timbral variation and microtonal inflection. Each miniature lasts a couple of minutes.

The title *After Lindisfarne* reflects my love of visiting 'Holy Island' in Northumberland. Prelude (*Crossing the Causeway*) suggests the spacious sands – serene or treacherous, according to the tide. Study (*In the sand dunes*) evokes the unfrequented wild places along the north coast of the island.
At night, the sound of Lindisfarne is the 'song' of the seals. Nocturne (*St Cuthbert's isle and seals*) conjures up something of this haunting soundscape:
'the isle is full of noises
sounds and sweet airs, that give delight and hurt not..'

After Lindisfarne for solo horn is one of a collection of 200 solo pieces written to celebrate the bicentenary of the Royal Academy of Music in 2022. The first soloist will be Joseph Longstaff.

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