

# HOWARD SKEMPTON

„*The Daddy Long-legs and the Fly*“,

Uraufführung in Anwesenheit des Komponisten

ANDREW DIGBY, Posaune

NIKOLAUS SCHLIERF, Viola

Donnerstag, 10. März 2016, 19 h

7hours HAUS 19

Im Park Campus Nord HUB, (rechts neben Boros)

Reinhardtstr. 18-20, 10117 Berlin

25 Förderticket / 15 Standard / erm.8 €

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Es ist ein Ereignis, dass wir ein neues Stück von Howard Skempton in Berlin hören können werden! – *“our most delightful miniaturist”* Ivan Hewett, The Guardian. – Wir laden Sie herzlich ein!

HOWARD SKEMPTON, geboren 1947, ist ein englischer Komponist, der seit seinem Studium, als er Cornelius Cardew kennenlernte, eine seither unverwechselbare Musik schreibt - inzwischen über 300 Stücke. Mit CORNELIUS CARDEW und MICHAEL PARSONS gründete er 1969 das berühmte SCRATCH ORCHESTRA.

HOWARD SKEMPTON: *„Es ist sehr schwer zu sagen, warum meine Musik experimentell ist. Ich bezeichne mich selbst als einen experimentellen Komponisten, weil ich mich Morton Feldman sehr nahe fühle, also weniger der europäischen Avantgarde, sondern mehr der amerikanischen. Dort bin ich zuhause, bei einer Musik, die den bildenden Künsten und der Literatur nahe ist.“*

Über das neue Stück schreibt Skempton:

*“The surprising title of my new piece will be The Daddy Long-legs and the Fly, the title of a poem by the nineteenth-century artist and writer, Edward Lear. Lear is best known for his nonsense verse and The Daddy Long-legs and the Fly is a fine example. The Daddy Long-legs tries to persuade the Fly to come to court, but the Fly explains that he cannot, because his legs are "so extremely short". In turn, the Fly invites the Daddy Long-legs to sing, but this is impossible, he bemoans, because his legs "are grown too long".*

*The plight of these differently-endowed friends must have been brought to mind by reflections on the unusual combination of trombone and viola. There is no direct link. The music is not illustrative. It is, instead, a continuous sequence of fragments. What is celebrated, by both poem and music, is the touching interaction of the most unlikely allies.”*

## BIOGRAFISCHE ANGABEN

HOWARD SKEMPTON <http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/category/music/composers/skempton.do> | [www.bbc.co.uk/music/artists/ec31c36a-8756-404f-88f5-1897cf9d8c3e](http://www.bbc.co.uk/music/artists/ec31c36a-8756-404f-88f5-1897cf9d8c3e)

Howard Skempton was born in Chester in 1947, and has worked as a composer, accordionist, and music publisher. He studied in London with Cornelius Cardew from 1967 and Cardew helped him to discover a musical language of great simplicity. Since then he has continued to

write undeflected by compositional trends, producing a corpus of more than 300 works - many pieces being miniatures for solo piano or accordion. Skempton calls these pieces „the central nervous system“ of his work.

Skempton's catalogue of works is also as diverse as it is long, ranging from pieces for solo cello (*Six Figures*, 1998), and guitar (*Five Preludes*, 1999), to the Chamber Concerto for fifteen players, the Concerto for Hurdy-Gurdy and Percussion, and *Lento*, premièred by the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican in 1991, and performed by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Ilan Volkov at the 2010 BBC Proms.

In May 2005 Skempton's *Tendrils* for string quartet was awarded the prize for 'best chamber-scale composition' by the Royal Philharmonic Society, and in December 2005 it won in the chamber music category at the annual British Composer Awards. Skempton won a second British Composer Award in 2008 for *The Moon is Flashing*, a song cycle for tenor and orchestra commissioned by the BBC which was premièred by BBC NOW and James Gilchrist at the Vale of Glamorgan Festival in September 2007 and broadcast on BBC Radio 3.

Many of Skempton's compositions have been recorded, including the hugely successful *Lento* for orchestra on the NMC label by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the piano works performed by John Tilbury on the Sony Classical label, and *Shiftwork* by Ensemble Bash, also on Sony Classical. 2001 saw the release of *Guild of The Flight of Song*, an acclaimed choral collection performed by the choir of Queens' College Cambridge under James Weeks. Vocal group Exaudi released a disc of Skempton's choral music in September 2007, also on the NMC label. The recording, entitled *Ben Somewhen*, also featured chamber works performed by the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group. *The Cloths of Heaven*, a recording of Skempton's choral music by the Exon Singers, was released on Delphian Records in June 2008, and in 2011 Mode Records released *Bolt from the Blue* a disc featuring Skempton's piano and choral works.

Works have been commissioned and performed by leading artists including the BBC, Kathryn Tickell, New Noise, BIRMINGHAM CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP, and the ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA's, *Ensemble 10/10'*. A work for the BIRMINGHAM CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP, *Only the Sound Remains*, for viola and ensemble, was premièred in February 2010 in a Skempton portrait concert. Other recent commissions include a choral work, *Song's Eternity* for the 2010 ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL, and Skempton is taking part in the New Music 20\*12 Cultural Olympiad project - He wrote a piece for eight church bells for the CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS which was performed to mark the opening of SPITALFIELDS FESTIVAL at Christ Church, London, in June 2012 (premièred Kingston-upon-Thames.)

Recent commissions include two from the BIRMINGHAM CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP — *Field Notes*, and a setting of Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* for baritone (Roderick Williams) and ensemble — and a Piano Concerto for John Tilbury commissioned by the BBC for a premiere at the HUDDERSFIELD CONTEMPORARY MUSIC FESTIVAL in 2015. 2016 he scores a string quartet for Harrogate Festival's 60th anniversary (July 2016) and „The Daddy Long-legs and the Fly“ for trombone and viola (7hours, Berlin).

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#### ANDREW DIGBY ([www.ascolta.de](http://www.ascolta.de), [www.composersslidequartet.com](http://www.composersslidequartet.com))

Andrew Digby wuchs in Sheffield (England) auf. Er begann sehr früh Klavier zu spielen sowie Posaune im Alter von etwa 10 Jahren und mit 14 Jahren begann er zu komponieren. Er studierte 1986-90 am ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE OF MUSIC in Manchester (Posaune mit Chris Houlding, Peter Gane und Andrew Berryman) und verbrachte danach ein Jahr in London beim MCPS/NATIONAL SOUND ARCHIVE.

1991-95 studierte er Komposition bei Mathias Spahlinger an der Musikhochschule Freiburg. Seitdem ist er freischaffender Komponist und Posaunist. Langjährige, internationale Arbeit mit ensemble recherche, ENSEMBLE AVENTURE, KAMMERENSEMBLE NEUE MUSIK BERLIN, ENSEMBLE MODERN, musikFabrik, APARTMENT HOUSE, KLANGFORUM WIEN, PHACE music\_on-line vienna und anderen Ensembles.

Komponisten, mit denen er, besondere Erfahrungen gesammelt hat, Klaus Huber, Karlheinz Stockhausen, Helmut Lachenmann, Hans-Joachim Hespos, Horatiu Radulescu, Mathias Spahlinger, Cornelius Schwehr, Chris Newman, Peter Ablinger und Wolfram Schurig u.a.

Andrew Digby ist Gründungsmitglied des ENSEMBLES ASCOLTA und des composers slide quartet.

Andrew Digby schrieb Auftragswerke für das SCHLAGQUARTETT KÖLN, das ENSEMBLE AVENTURE, das ensemble recherche, Sebastian Berweck, Anne-Maria Hoelscher, Carl Rosman und Arrangements für das LUCERNE FESTIVAL, WDR SO, NDR SO und das STAATSORCHESTER STUTTGART.

Für ascolta bearbeitete er Werke von J.S.Bach, Chopin, Brahms, Mahler, Satie, Schoenberg, Berg, Webern, Stefan Wolpe, Klaus Huber, Frederic Rzewski, John Adams und, insbesondere, Frank Zappa mit dessen Erben er in bester Verbindung steht.

NIKOLAUS SCHLIERF aus dem Bayerischen Wald besuchte das Musikgymnasium der Regensburger Domspatzen. Er studierte in Nürnberg (H.Kohlhase), Frankfurt (J.Heyer) und Freiburg (Garth Knox/J.Lüthy). 1995 - 2006 Solobratscher beim ENSEMBLE RESONANZ (Hamburg). Seit 2001 spielt er im SONAR QUARTETT BERLIN. 2006 Evangelist in J.S.Bachs Weinachtsoratorium, außerdem spielt er immer wieder beim KAMMERENSEMBLE NEUE MUSIK BERLIN, der OSTRAVSKA BANDA, musikFabrik NRW, BERLINER ENSEMBLE, ASIAN ART ENSEMBLE, beim KLANGFORUM HEIDELBERG, ENSEMBLE COURAGE DRESDEN, Ensemble LuxNM, ADAPTER ENSEMBLE, ANUBIS TRIO und als Amok Atonal auf.

Nikolaus Schlierf ist erster Preisträger des HANS EISLER WETTBEWERBS für Interpretation.