

Patrick Harrex (born London 1946) is an award winning composer whose works have been given live and broadcast performances in many countries around the world. His music has been recorded by Argo, CBC (Canada), Editions LGNM (Luxembourg) and New Music Brighton. His works range from solo pieces to larger ensemble and choral works and he writes for both amateur and professional performers.

*"Patrick Harrex [has] the ability to take delight in sounds for their own sake." - William Littler, Toronto Daily Star*

Patrick's first musical training was as a violinist, his teachers including Norbert Brainin and Eta Cohen. He began to write music at school but his interest in composition blossomed while at York University where he read Music and Education. He achieved a number of successes during his student days, including first prize in the 1968 BBC Composers' Competition with *Colloquy*. His *Sonata for female voice, flute and percussion*, published by Schott (in the Ars Viva catalogue) was written in 1966 and in 1968 he was commissioned by the Decca Record Company to write a work for children (*Narnian Suite*) for 'Voices', recorded on the Argo label. *Antiphonies*, written for the Portia Ensemble, was premiered at the Purcell Room in November 1967, with the composer conducting. In 1968 he was featured in BBC Radio Three's 'Youth at the Helm' in conversation with Sir Michael Tippett.

While at York he was also a founder member of Gentle Fire which became one of the leading groups performing experimental and live electronic music.

He was awarded a French Government Scholarship enabling him to spend a year in Paris after graduating from York in 1968, where he attended Messiaen's composition class at the Conservatoire and studied privately with Gilbert Amy. Prior to this, during the summer of 1967 he had attended a brief course in composition given by the Belgian composer Henri Pousseur.

Patrick has continued to receive awards and commissions. He was twice a shortlisted composer with SPMN (The Society for the Promotion of New Music) and in 2003 gained second prize in the Luxembourg International Composition Prize with *Hauptweg und Nebenwege*. His works have been performed widely, live and on radio, not only in the UK (including BBC Radio Three, Bath Festival, Brighton Festival, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival) but also in continental Europe, the United States, Canada, South Africa, Israel and Australia.

His work has been performed by many eminent musicians including Noelle Barker, Michael Bonaventure, Tracey Chadwell, Michael Finnissy, Janet Hilton, Rolf Hind and Nicolas Hodges, Robert Sherlaw Johnson, Thea King, the Luxembourg Sinfonietta, Jane Manning, Canadian soprano Mary Morrison, the Nash Ensemble, The Riot Ensemble, Judith Pierce, the Pierrot Players, Première Crew and Mary Thomas.

Patrick is also actively involved in encouraging interest in new music by young people and amateur musicians – he has been Composer in Residence at two Sussex schools and has directed one-off workshops at others. In 2005 he established the Sussex branch of CoMA (Contemporary Music for All). He was a founder member and is a past chairman of New Music Brighton, a collective of composers living or working in the Sussex area. He is Musical Director of Brighton & Hove Arts Orchestra, an open-access community orchestra. He was the first Musical Director of New Note Orchestra, a project assisting people in recovery from addiction, for which he is currently an Artistic Consultant.