

HILARY TANN

From her childhood in the coal-mining valleys of South Wales, Hilary Tann developed the love of nature which has inspired all her music, whether written for performance in the United States (***Adirondack Light*** for narrator and orchestra, for the Centennial of Adirondack State Park, 1992) or for her first home in Wales (the celebratory overture, ***With the heather and small birds***, commissioned by the 1994 Cardiff Festival).

A deep interest in the traditional music of Japan led to study of the ancient Japanese vertical bamboo flute (the *shakuhachi*) from 1985 to 1991. Among many works reflecting this special interest is the large orchestral work, ***From afar***, premiered in 1996 by the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra conducted by Kirk Trevor. ***From afar*** received its European premiere in 2000 by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and was selected for the opening concert of *The International Festival of Women in Music Today* at the Seoul Arts Center in Korea (KBS Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Apo Hsu, 2003).

Hilary Tann lives south of the Adirondacks in upstate New York where she is the John Howard Payne Professor of Music at Union College in Schenectady. She holds degrees in composition from the University of Wales at Cardiff and from Princeton University. From 1982 to 1995, she was active in the International League of Women Composers and served in a number of Executive Committee positions. Numerous organizations have supported her work, including the Welsh Arts Council, New York State Council on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, and Meet the Composer/Arts Endowment Commissioning Music USA.

Her connection with Wales continues in various choral commissions, including ***Psalm 104 (Praise, my soul)*** for the North American Welsh Choir (1998) and ***Paradise*** for Tenebrae (Gregynog Festival, 2008). The influence of the Welsh landscape is also evident in many chamber works and in text selections from Welsh poets R. S. Thomas and Menna Elfyn. In July 2001, The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Owain Arwel Hughes premiered ***The Grey Tide and the Green***, commissioned for the Last Night of the Welsh Proms.

Recent years have brought a series of concerto commissions – for violin (***Here, the Cliffs*** premiered by the North Carolina Symphony with Corine Brouwer Cook, 1997), alto saxophone (***In the First, Spinning Place*** premiered by the University of Arizona Symphony with Debra Richtmeyer, March 2000), and cello (***Anecdote***, premiered by the Newark (DE) Symphony with Romanian cellist Ovidiu Marinescu, December 2000). ***Shakkei***, a diptych for oboe solo and chamber orchestra, was premiered by Jinny Shaw in the Presteigne Festival, August 2007, and has since been recorded for CD and performed in Dublin (Ireland), at the 2008 IAWM Congress in Beijing, in New York City, in Rio de Janeiro, in San Francisco, and at the 15th World Saxophone Congress in Bangkok (2009), with Susan Fancher (solo soprano saxophone) and the Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra. ***Shakkei*** will also be presented at the *Eastman Women in Music Festival* (March 2011) where Hilary Tann will be guest composer-in-residence.

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