



## Christopher Hobbs: Compositions

**FOR INFORMATION ON THIS  
MUSIC, SEE THE EMC, OR  
CONTACT CHRIS HOBBS AT:**  
chobbs\*\*

experimentalmusic.co.uk

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## Profile

Christopher Hobbs, a pioneer in the field of Systemic Music in Britain, was born in 1950. He studied with Cornelius Cardew at the Royal Academy of Music and was the youngest member of the Scratch Orchestra when it began in 1969. In that year he also joined the improvisation group AMM. In 1970 he, along with John White, Hugh Shrapnel and Alec Hill, formed the Promenade Theatre Orchestra. After its disbandment in 1973 he and White continued as a duo. A pianist and percussionist as well as a composer Hobbs has performed with a large number of individuals—Gavin Bryars, Michael Nyman, Steve Reich, John Tilbury, Christian Wolff among others—and has written music for a large variety of ensembles and situations. He taught music at The Drama Centre, London, from 1973-1991. Other teaching posts include guest lectureships at the University of Redlands, California and continuing lectureships at De Montfort and Coventry Universities. In 1968 he founded the Experimental Music Catalogue which was relaunched by Virginia Anderson and Hobbs in 2000. Since 2005 he has made over 130 pieces using GarageBand software and systemic procedures based on Sudoku grids. A double CD of this music was issued by EMC in December 2006. As well as his own music and that of his friends he has been particularly associated with the work of Erik Satie, giving a celebrated performance with Gavin Bryars of *Vexations* in 1971 and premiering the complete score to *Le Fil des Etoiles*, Satie's longest through-composed piece, in 1989. He has subsequently recorded the work twice and published a critical edition of the score through EMC.

## Compositions

### Solo Piano/Keyboard

#### **OUT OF EXERCISE 3 (1970)**

A systemic piece in which expanding chords of differing durations are supported by constant semiquaver E flats (duration: 4'45")

#### **PIANO PIECE 1-12 (1973)**

Unrelated short pieces (2'–5'30"), empirically composed. Only one is now generally available, under the title "Piano Piece 1973"

#### **SEVEN SONATINAS (1975, 76, 77 (2), 79, 80, 86)**

Empirical, mostly single-movement pieces. The two still available are Sonatina (1975) (13') and Sonatina (1979) (20')

#### **5 PIECES FOR CASIO MT 750 (1990-91)**

Written for this specific keyboard and thus untranslatable onto any other.

#### **PIANO PIECE 1991**

A short (5') piece composed at the request of pianist Ian Lake

#### **24 PRELUDES (1992)**

In PF0005: Hobbs, 24 Preludes, published by the EMC. Each piece is around three minutes long, and the set moves through the 12 major and 12 minor keys.

#### **CHANGES (1994)**

From *A Compendium of Games*. A quasi-change-ringing system.

#### **L'AUTEUR SE RETIRE (1996)**

11 pieces (though the number does vary) generated by the lipogrammatic procedure of removing the musical letters of composers' names from examples of their work.



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### **FIFTY IN TWO THOUSAND (2000)**

For piano, electronic keyboard, and percussion (one player). In PF0010: Hobbs, *Fifty in Two Thousand*, published by the EMC. A long (75') work using various systemic and non-systemic procedures.

### **REFLECTIONS ON 'HOTTER THAN THAT' (2007)**

Composed for performance by John Tilbury at a Climate Change concert.

### **SUDOKU 137 (MONK'S MUSIC) (2013)**

### **AMY ON THE BEACH (2014)**

Composed for performance by Nicolas Horvath at a concert of music by Philip Glass and others.

### **WHITE'S 78 (2014) / L'AUTEUR SE RETIRE: APRÈS EJW (2014)**

Both composed for a birthday concert for John White

### Duo Keyboard

### **CHRISTMAS PIECE FOR ORGAN (1967/8, 69)**

For organ duet. 2 volumes, each lasting around 45 minutes. Mostly long notes determined by chance procedures.

### **THE REMORSELESS LAMB (1970)**

Piano duet or two pianos (but preferably the latter). A 50' work in which an arrangement of Bach's *Sheep May Safely Graze* is fragmented and distributed using chance procedures.

### **PRETTY TOUGH COOKIE (C. 1972)**

Two pianos. A short (2-3') systemic reworking of the love theme from Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet* Overture.

### **FIRST DUET SET (1974)**

Piano duet. 14 empirical pieces (25' in all).

### **SECOND DUET SET (1975)**

Piano duet. Seven empirical pieces, lasting around 20'.

### **ALLELUIA (1977)**

Two pianos. c. 6'. Used in Sonatina (1979).

### **5 PIECES FOR LIVE BATTS! (1990)**

Five separate pieces, all for 2 electronic battery-operated keyboards, composed for CH and John White's duo Live Batts.

1. Batt Jogg
2. The Batts of the Delectable Mountains
3. Batt Scrapps
4. Batt Flapp
5. Batt Fancie

### **STATELY, AND RATHER REMOTE (1992)**

Two pianos. An arrangement of one section of *A Window Opened on a Distant World* (see Chamber Music - Ensembles).

### **FROM A COMPENDIUM OF GAMES (1994)**

Two pianos. No longer available.

### **DE CAGE, APRES SATIE (1996)**

Two pianos. From *L'Auteur se Retire*. Uses Cage's arrangement of Satie's *Socrate*.



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### Multiple Keyboard

**CZERNY'S 100 ROYAL BOUQUET WALTZES FOR THE PIANO BY  
LANNER AND STRAUSS, ARRANGED FOR SUCH AS CANNOT REACH  
AN OCTAVE (C. 1970)**

Unspecified number of pianos. No longer available.

### IN OTHER PARTS OF THE FOREST (1989)

Two pianos, harmonium. Arrangement of *Another Part of the Forest* (see Chamber Music—Ensembles).

### SECOND DOOMSDAY MACHINE (C. 1971)

Four pianos. In PTO0003, *Hobbs PTO Pieces*, published by the EMC.

### Works for the Promenade Theatre Orchestra (1969-73)

#### WORKING NOTES

Three toy pianos, reed organ. In PTO0003, *Hobbs PTO Anthology*, published by the EMC.

#### MACCRIMMON WILL NEVER RETURN

Four reed organs. In PTO0003, *Hobbs PTO Anthology*, published by the EMC.

#### ARAN

(percussion, toy piano, reed org). In PTO0003, *Hobbs PTO Pieces*, published by the EMC.

#### HE'S MY GUY

Speaking voices, four reed organs.

#### OXFORD STREET WALK

Oboe, clarinet in Bb, trombone, drum. In PTO0003, *Hobbs PTO Anthology*, published by the EMC.

#### 12-BAR BLUES MACHINE

Four toy pianos.

#### SAD LOST-F MANTRA

Four toy pianos. In PTO0003, *Hobbs PTO Anthology*, published by the EMC.

#### MASTERY OF THE BEAT

Four reed organs.

#### TWO 15<sup>TH</sup>-CENTURY ROLL-OFFS

Four toy pianos, four reed organs. In PTO0003, *Hobbs PTO Anthology*, published by the EMC.

#### TRIO

Percussion.

#### WOMAN HAS NAUGHT TO DO WITH FAME

Speaking voices, four reed organs. In PTO0003, *Hobbs PTO Anthology*, published by the EMC.

#### DUFAY ACCOMPLI

Four toy pianos, four reed organs. In PTO0003, *Hobbs PTO Anthology*, published by the EMC.

#### SCRIABIN READYMADE

Four toy pianos. In PTO0003, *Hobbs PTO Anthology*, published by the EMC.

#### WITH THE ASCENDING MODULATION, HIS FAME MAY RISE

Three reed organs, percussion.

#### G MAJOR MACHINE

Four reed organs.



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### **RHYTHM WALK**

Percussion.

### **IMITATION ROLL-OFF**

Oboe, clarinet in Bb, trombone, percussion. In PTO0003, *Hobbs PTO Anthology*, published by the EMC.

### **STRAIGHT OFF THE TOP**

Oboe, bass clarinet, trombone. In PTO0003, *Hobbs PTO Anthology*, published by the EMC.

### **THE BACK GATE OF KIEV**

Four reed organs.

### **OUT OF EXERCISE**

Four toy pianos, four reed organs.

### **CLIMAX HIT-OFF**

Four toy pianos, four reed organs.

### **FRENCH LADY GIVES STRICT COUNTERPOINT LESSONS**

Four reed organs, two toy pianos. In PTO0003, *Hobbs PTO Anthology*, published by the EMC.

## Works for the Hobbs-White Duo (1973-76)

### a) Duo Percussion

#### **NUMBER PIECE 1**

In PTO0002: *Hobbs Percussion Anthology*, published by the EMC.

#### **HEAVY VIKING SYSTEMS**

In PTO0002: *Hobbs Percussion Anthology*, published by the EMC.

#### **NUMBER PIECE 2**

In PTO0002: *Hobbs Percussion Anthology*, published by the EMC.

#### **A FAIR LICK**

In OEMC0001: *Hobbs-White Duo Percussion Anthology*, and PTO0002: *Hobbs Percussion Anthology*, both published by the EMC.

#### **LINCOLN E. MOSES COMES DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN**

In OEMC0001: *Hobbs-White Duo Percussion Anthology*, and PTO0002: *Hobbs Percussion Anthology*, both published by the EMC.

#### **STEADY PACE JOURNEY**

In OEMC0001: *Hobbs-White Duo Percussion Anthology*, and PTO0002: *Hobbs Percussion Anthology*, both published by the EMC.

#### **TIMPANI STUDIES**

In OEMC0001: *Hobbs-White Duo Percussion Anthology*, and PTO0002: *Hobbs Percussion Anthology*, both published by the EMC.

#### **ANOTHER EXERCISE**

In PTO0002: *Hobbs Percussion Anthology*, published by the EMC.

#### **SYSTEMIC METTLE**

#### **KNIGHT'S SYSTEM**

#### **A MOTHER'S SON**

#### **NUMBER PIECE 3**

These four pieces are no longer available.

### b) Other Combinations

#### **VILLAGE ORGANIST ROLL-OFF**

Two toy pianos, two reed organs.



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### **FESTIVAL MACHINE**

Two reed organs, percussion, two bell metronomes. In PTO0003, *Hobbs PTO Anthology*, published by the EMC.

### **MUMMERS ARE COMING**

Two toy pianos, two reed organs. In PTO0003, *Hobbs PTO Anthology*, published by the EMC.

### **DAUGHTER OF LUNA**

Two toy pianos, two reed organs, percussion. In PTO0003, *Hobbs PTO Anthology*, published by the EMC.

### **SLOW SWING**

Toy piano, reed organ, tuba

### **PRELUDE ALLA REMINISCENZA**

Toy piano, reed organ, bassoon.

### **INTERMEZZO I & 2**

Two toy pianos, percussion.

## Chamber Music (Solos and Duos)

### **SONATINA (1975)**

Tuba and piano.

### **PRELUDES (1975)**

Tuba and piano.

### **12 SKETCHES (1976)**

Tuba and piano.

### **SONATINA (1976)**

Bassoon and piano.

### **STUDY FOR SOLO PERCUSSION (1977)**

For any percussion instruments.

### **ORANGEREARRANGEMENT (1977)**

Flute and percussion.

### **SWIFTLY TO VIRGINIA (1981/91)**

E♭ clarinet and piano.

### **rites of passage (1982)**

B♭ clarinet and piano/tam-tam.

### **FOOTLIGHT AND FANCY BOUND (1984)**

Alto saxophone, vibraphone, tape. No longer available.

### **FOUR PIECES (1986)**

Tuba and electronic keyboard.

### **FANFARES (1987)**

Two E♭ clarinets.

### **TOKYO GAMES (1991)**

B♭ clarinet and electronic keyboard.

### **FIGURING ON NERVOUS DRUMS (1992)**

Solo percussion. No longer available.

### **SONATINA (1992)**

Flute and piano.



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### **17 ONE-MINUTE PIECES FOR BASS CLARINET AND CASIO MT750 (1992)**

Recorded by Ian Mitchell on *...the edge of the world...*

### **WHY NOT (1994)**

Solo bass clarinet. Free on request to the EMC (questions\*\*experimentalmusic.co.uk - for  
\*\*, substitute @).

### **SCHERZO AND LYRIC (1991/95)**

Eb clarinet and piano.

### **6 DUOS FOR TUBA AND BASS (1997)**

### Chamber Music (Ensembles)

#### **MUSIC FOR THE CRUMBLING COOKIE I & 2 (1969/70)**

Unspecified ensemble.

#### **55 ENDINGS FROM 66 CHORAL IMPROVISATIONS IN 8 MAJOR KEYS (1971)**

Mixed ensemble.

#### **OUT OF EXERCISE 2 (1971)**

Mixed ensemble.

#### **PIOBAIREACHD EXERCISE (1971)**

Mixed ensemble.

#### **EXERCISE FOR PERCUSSIONISTS (C.1972)**

Percussion ensemble

#### **RONDO—FANTASIA (1974)**

Mixed ensemble.

#### **SOFT SAXON SYSTEMS (1974)**

Percussion ensemble.

#### **ARAN (C.1975)**

Percussion ensemble arrangement of PTO piece (see above) for *Ensemble Pieces* (Obscure 2).

#### **6 PRELUDES AND 5 CHORALES (1975)**

Three Bb clarinets, bass clarinet.

#### **SYMPHONIC DANCES (1975)**

Reed organ, percussion, toy piano.

#### **SYMPHONIC DANCES II (1975)**

Tuba, piano, and reed organ/percussion.

#### **RECITATIVE (1979)**

Bass clarinet, vibraphone, celeste, percussion.

#### **THREE FOR REDLANDS (1979)**

Mixed ensemble.

#### **SEXTET (1980)**

Wind quintet and tenor saxophone.

#### **THE WIDE OPEN SPACES (1981)**

Mixed ensemble (brass and percussion).

#### **FOUR STUDIES IN SHADOW (1984)**

Bass flute, bass clarinet, bassoon.

#### **FOUR PIECES (1985)**



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Mixed ensemble.

### **A SHORT SET (1986)**

Mixed ensemble.

### **MOVEMENT (1986)**

Mixed ensemble.

### **GOTHIC SWING (1987)**

2 Eb clarinets, 2 violas, vibraphone, piano.

### **GOTHIC SWING (REVISED ARRANGEMENT, 1997)**

Eb clarinet, Bb clarinet, two saxophones, viola, 'cello, vibraphone, marimba, piano.

### **ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST (1988)**

Two Eb clarinets, two violas, vibraphone, piano.

### **STRONG INTENDING (1991)**

Eb clarinet, bass clarinet, electronic keyboard.

### **A WINDOW OPENED ON A DISTANT WORLD (1992)**

Double wind quintet, piano.

### **17 ONE-MINUTE PIECES (ARRANGEMENT OF 1992 SET ABOVE, 1995)**

Eb clarinet, bass clarinet, Casio MT750 electronic keyboard.

### **STARSCAPE (1997)**

String quartet, vibraphone.

### **L'AUTEUR SE RETIRE (APRES A.E.L.S.) (1998)**

Mixed ensemble.

## Orchestra

### **THE ARNOLD/WOLF-FERRARI ORCHESTRA BOOK (1969-70)**

A chance-determined palimpsest of existing orchestral scores.

## Strings

### **HARP STAR-PIECES (1967)**

Notes and effects arranged according to tracing star-maps.

### **TRIO (1968)**

Two violins, three violas, two 'cellos.

### **17 ONE-MINUTE PIECES (1980)**

String quartet.

### **SECOND STRING QUARTET (1987)**

## Verbal Pieces

(All the following are, except where specified, for indeterminate number and variety of performers)

### **ONE NOTE 1966**

In OEMC0007, *EMC Verbal Anthology*, published by the EMC.

### **VOICEPIECE (1967)**

In OEMC0007, *EMC Verbal Anthology*, published by the EMC.

### **TO ALL WHO LIVE IN SIMPLE UNPRETENTIOUS HOUSES (COMPOSITION, FEB 10 1968)**

In OEMC0007, *EMC Verbal Anthology*, published by the EMC.



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### **SONG 1 (1968)**

#### **MEASURING MEANS (1968)**

In OEMC0007, *EMC Verbal Anthology*, published by the EMC.

#### **SHORTLY BEFORE MIDNIGHT (C.1968)**

A number of texts for indeterminate realisation. No longer available.

#### **THE GLORY OF HIGHLAND SCOTLAND—TOUR 47 (COMPOSITION, SEP 3 1968)**

In OEMC0007, *EMC Verbal Anthology*, published by the EMC.

### **SONG 2 (1968)**

#### **WALK EVENT (1968)**

In OEMC0007, *EMC Verbal Anthology*, published by the EMC.

#### **TOO SOFT TO TOUCH, BUT TOO LOVELY NOT TO TRY (COMPOSITION, NOV 27, DEC 16 1968)**

In OEMC0007, *EMC Verbal Anthology*, published by the EMC.

#### **HIGGINS' ETERNAL INK (COMPOSITION, DEC 25 1968)**

In OEMC0007, *EMC Verbal Anthology*, published by the EMC.

#### **125 QUESTIONS FOR PIANISTS (1969)**

In OEMC0007, *EMC Verbal Anthology*, published by the EMC.

#### **TWO COMPOSITIONS, 21 MAY 1969**

In OEMC0007, *EMC Verbal Anthology*, published by the EMC.

#### **THE FRIESIAN COW (1969)**

In OEMC0007, *EMC Verbal Anthology*, published by the EMC.

#### **CAN YOU HEAR ME, MOTHER? (1970)**

Instructions for a tape piece.

## Vocal Pieces

#### **2 WATT SETTINGS (C.1970)**

Male-voice Quartet.

#### **THE CASTLE KEEP (1970)**

Amplified speaking voices.

#### **FOUR MORGENSTERN SONGS (1975)**

Baritone, piano or piano duet.

#### **THE MOUNTEBANKS (1976)**

Operetta.

#### **IN THE SILENT VOID (1981)**

Baritone, viola, piano/percussion.

#### **FIVE MORGENSTERN SONGS (1984)**

Baritone and piano.

#### **CONSPICUOUS CONSUMER (1988)**

Mezzo-soprano, mixed ensemble.

#### **CONSPICUOUS CONSUMER (1997)**

Revised version, for soprano and piano.

#### **DREI LIEDER AUS «DER STRUWWELPETER» (1990)**

Mezzo-soprano or baritone and piano.





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### **EXTENDED RELATIONSHIPS AND FALSE ENDINGS (1992–3)**

Amplified speaking voices and ensemble.

### **SONO CANTUSQUE CONGRUA (1994)**

Male-voice quartet.

### **NO ONE MAY EVER HAVE THE SAME KNOWLEDGE AGAIN (1996)**

Taped speaking voices, mixed ensemble. In NM0011, *Hobbs, No One*, published by the EMC.

### Electric Pieces

#### **HOME (C. 1970)**

Tape.

#### **STILL LIFE, AND MOVING (1979)**

Keyboards, tape.

#### **STILL LIFE, AND MOVING (DETAIL) (1979)**

Keyboards, tape.

#### **THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN (1983)**

Keyboards.

#### **BACK SEAT ALBUM (1983)**

Casio VL-Tone, tape.

#### **COME ON, GET IT TOGETHER, CHAPS! (1988)**

Computer.

#### **CHANGES 1 & 2 (1988)**

Computer.

#### **SUDOKU (2005– )**

Computer. Pieces of varying length (4–80 minutes) composed using GarageBand software. A double CD of some of these pieces is available from Experimental Music Catalogue (EMC104). Sudoku 32, in a version for eight overdubbed pianos, is available from Cold Blue Music (CB0033).

2005: Sudoku 1–25

2006: Sudoku 26–47

2007: Sudoku 48–67

2008: Sudoku 68–97

2009: Sudoku 98–131

2010: Sudoku 132, 133

2011: Sudoku 134, 135

2012: Sudoku 136

#### **THE POWER (2006)**

Computer; twelve identical sampled voices, gradually coming into phase over ten minutes.

#### **THE PLAUSE (2006)**

Computer; treated samples of applause.

#### **THE MILL (2007)**

Computer; treated samples of steel mills.

#### **NUMBER PIECE 3,4 (2006)**

Computer; similar techniques to *Number Pieces 1 and 2* (see Hobbs-White percussion).

### Theatre Music (Songs and/or Incidental Music)

#### **THE LOVES, LIVES AND MURDERS OF LANCELOT BARABBAS QUAIL (1977)**

#### **THE MEASURES TAKEN (1978)**

#### **A CHASTE MAID IN CHEAPSIDE (1979)**



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**THE STORM (1979)**

**BLOOMERS FROM BASH STREET (1980)**

**PERICLES (1980)**

**THE BROKEN HEART (1981)**

**AN ITALIAN STRAW HAT (1981)**

**BERENICE (1982)**

**UNCLE VANYA (2 PRODUCTIONS) (1982)**

**BRITANNICUS (1982)**

**THE MOTHER-IN-LAW (1982)**

**HAMLET (1983)**

**EXIT THE KING (1983)**

**TWELFTH NIGHT (1983)**

**THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER (1985)**

**ALICE IN WONDERLAND (1985)**

**LIFE IS A DREAM (1986)**

**AMPHITRYON (1990)**

**THE EXCEPTION AND THE RULE (1990)**