

# MARTIN SUCKLING

## CATALOGUE OF WORKS

'Suckling has an exciting, distinctive voice and a rigorous ear for detail.'

THE OBSERVER (FIONA MADDOCKS), 4 NOVEMBER 2012

FABER *ff* MUSIC

# MARTIN SUCKLING

Martin Suckling was born in Glasgow in 1981. After spending his teenage years performing in the National Youth Orchestra and in ceilidh bands around Scotland, Suckling studied music at Clare College Cambridge and King's College London. He was a Paul Mellon Fellow at Yale University from 2003–5, undertook doctoral research at the Royal Academy of Music, and subsequently became a Stipendiary Lecturer in Music at Somerville College, Oxford. His teachers include George Benjamin, Robin Holloway, Paul Patterson, Martin Bresnick, Ezra Laderman, and Simon Bainbridge. He has benefited from residencies at the Royal Shakespeare Company, Aldeburgh Music, the Aspen Festival, and IRCAM, and has won numerous awards including the 2008 Royal Philharmonic Society Composition Prize. He lives in Manchester and is currently Senior Lecturer in Composition at the University of York.

Suckling has been commissioned by many leading orchestras and ensembles including the London Symphony Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, London Sinfonietta, Britten Sinfonia, Scottish Ensemble, Hebrides Ensemble, and the Royal Shakespeare Company. Notable conductors of his works include Ilan Volkov, François-Xavier Roth, Robin Ticciati, Nicholas Collon and Pierre-André Valade. His music has also featured in many festivals including Cheltenham, Ultraschall, Chacombe, Deal, ISCM World Music Days 2007 (Hong Kong), and Oxford Lieder. In 2013 he was appointed Composer in Association with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

In 2011 Suckling's critically acclaimed *Candlebird* for baritone and ensemble, setting texts by Don Paterson, was premiered by the London Sinfonietta, who subsequently recorded it on their own label. In the same year *storm, rose, tiger* was premiered by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra under Robin Ticciati whilst *de sol y grana*, a concerto for violin and ensemble was premiered by Agata Szymczewska and the London Contemporary Orchestra.

Throughout the 2012/13 season Suckling wrote a series of *Postcards* for the Scottish Ensemble. These miniatures – presented initially as separate pieces to appreciative audiences across Scotland – were performed as a complete 15-minute collection at the Wigmore Hall. The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and Ilan Volkov premiered *Release* at their Tectonics festival in May 2013, whilst *Nocturne*, a duet for violin and cello commissioned by Aldeburgh Music, was premiered by Pekka Kuusisto and Peter Gregson.

*Six Speechless Songs*, Suckling's first work as Associate Composer with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, was premiered in February 2014. 2015 saw Mark Simpson, Jean-Guihen Queyras and Tamara Stefanovich premiere Suckling's clarinet trio *Visiones (after Goya)* at the Aldeburgh Festival, whilst members of Aurora Orchestra premiered *Psalm*, a work for harp and three spatialised ensembles, at the Royal Academy of Art and Kings Place. A Piano Concerto for Tom Poster and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra was premiered in October 2016, and *The White Road*, a flute concerto after Edmund de Waal for Katherine Bryan and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, followed in early 2017.

April 2017

## ORCHESTRA

### The Moon, The Moon! (2007)

orchestra

7 minutes

3(II+III=picc).3.2.bcl.3(III=cbsn) – 4.3.2.btrbn.1 – timp – perc(2): glsp/vib/crot/BD/tam-t/4 toms/

2 wdbl/whip – cel – harp – strings

FP: 18.12.07, Barbican Hall, London, UK: London Symphony Orchestra/Michael Francis

Commissioned by the LSO in partnership with UBS as part of the Sound Adventures scheme

Score and parts for hire

### storm, rose, tiger (2011)

chamber orchestra

17 minutes

2(I=picc, II=picc detuned by ¼ tone).2.2(II+III=Bb + in A detuned by ¼ tone).2 – 2.2.0.0 – timp – strings

(8.6.4.4.2)

FP: 13.10.11, Usher Hall, Edinburgh, UK: Scottish Chamber Orchestra/Robin Ticciati

Commissioned by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Score and parts for hire

## Abbreviations

### WOODWIND

picc	piccolo
fl	flute
afl	alto flute
bfl	bass flute
ob	oboe
bob	bass oboe
ca	cor anglais
acl	alto clarinet
Ebcl	E♭ clarinet
cl	clarinet
bcl	bass clarinet
cbcl	contra bass clarinet
bsn	bassoon
cbsn	contra bassoon
ssax	soprano saxophone
asax	alto saxophone
tsax	tenor saxophone
bsax	baritone saxophone

### BRASS

hn	horn
fl.hn	flugel horn
ptpt	piccolo trumpet (B♭)
tpt	trumpet
trbn	trombone
btrbn	bass trombone
scrt	soprano cornet
crt	cornets
rcrt	repiano cornet
btuba	bass tuba
euph	euphonium
bar	baritone

### PERCUSSION

ant.cym	antique cymbals
BD	bass drum
c.bell	cow bell
cast	castanets
ch.bl	chinese block
chic.cym	chic cymbal
ch.dr	chinese drum
chtpl.bl	chinese temple block
chimes	wooden chimes
chi.ba	chime bars
crot	crotales
cym	pair of cymbals
glsp	glockenspiel
mcas	maracas
mar	marimba
met.bl	metal block
mil.glsp	military glockenspiel
riv.cym	rivit cymbal
SD	side drum
siz.cym	sizzle cymbal
susp.cym	suspended cymbal
t.bells	tubular bells
t.mil	tambour militaire
tab	tabor
tam t	tam tam
tamb	tambourine
TD	tenor drum
tgl	triangle
timb	timbales
tpl.bl	temple blocks
vib	vibraphone
wdbl	wood block
xy	xylophone
xyirim	xyloimba

### STRINGS

vln	violin
vla	viola
vlc	cello
db	bass

### KEYBOARDS

pno	piano
cel	celesta
synth	synthesizer

### OTHERS

gtr	guitar
bgtr	bass guitar

All other instrument names are given in full.

## Release (2013)

orchestra

12 minutes

picc.2(II=picc).2.2(II=cl in A).bcl(=Ebcl).2.cbsn – 4.3.2.btrbn.1 – timp – perc(3): vib/sml.susp.cym/5 tpl.bl/5 almglocken/med.susp.cym/tumba/whip/tam-t/glspn/large susp.cym/tamb/BD – harp – strings (12.12.10.8.6)

FP: 12.5.13, Tectonics Festival, City Halls, Glasgow, UK: BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra/Ilan Volkov

Commissioned by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra

Score and parts for hire

## Six Speechless Songs (2013)

chamber orchestra

12 minutes

2(both=picc).2.2(II=Ebcl, II=bcl).2(II=cbsn) – 2.2(II=tpt in D).0.0 – strings

FP: 6.2.14, Usher Hall, Edinburgh, UK: Scottish Chamber Orchestra/Robin Ticciati

Commissioned by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra to open their 40th Anniversary Concert season

Score and parts for hire

## Piano Concerto (2016)

piano and chamber orchestra

28 minutes

2(II=picc).2(II=ca).2(II=Ebcl).2(II=cbsn) – 2.2.0.0 – timp(=claves) – strings (8.6.4.4.2 players)

FP: 12.10.16, Younger Hall, University of St Andrews, St Andrews, UK:

Tom Poster/Scottish Chamber Orchestra/Thierry Fischer

Commissioned by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra with generous support from The Idlewild Trust, Britten-Pears

Foundation, RVW Trust, Cruden Foundation and The Hope Scott Trust

Score and parts for hire

## The White Road (2017)

a concerto for flute and orchestra after Edmund de Waal

14 minutes

2(II=picc).2.2(II=Ebcl).2 – 0.2.2.btrbn.0 – perc(2): vib/t.bell/drum kit/5 tpbl/4 metal objects/tam-t/TD/BD – strings

FP: 3.2.17, Usher Hall, Edinburgh, UK: Katherine Bryan/Royal Scottish National Orchestra/Arild Remmereit

Commissioned for Katherine Bryan by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and the Toronto Symphony

Orchestra, Peter Oundjian, Music Director

Score and parts for hire

## ENSEMBLE

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### Candlebird (2011)

baritone and ensemble of 18 players

Text: Don Paterson (English)

25 minutes

solo baritone – 2(II=picc, II=picc+aff).1.2(II in A = Ebcl, II in Bb = bcl + cl in A tuned down ¼ tone).1 – 1.1.1.0 – perc(1): mar/mcas/bongos/whip/susp.cym/tam-t/crot – harp – strings (1.1.2.2.1)

FP: 29.5.11, Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, UK: Leigh Melrose/London Sinfonietta/Nicholas Collon

Commissioned by the London Sinfonietta

Score 0-571-53889-4 on sale, parts for hire

### de sol y grana (2011)

violin and ensemble of 14 players

15 minutes

solo vln – 2(II=picc, II=picc+bfl.1.1(in A = bcl in Bb).0 – 1.1(= tpt in D).1.0 – perc(1): vib/mar/cabasa/susp.cym (bowed) – pno(=cabasa) – strings (0.0.2.2.1)

FP: 12.12.11, Spitalfields Winter Festival, Shoreditch Church, London, UK: Agata Szymczewska/London

Contemporary Orchestra/Hugh Brunt

Commissioned by London Music Masters

Score and parts for hire

### Postcards (2013)

string ensemble

17 minutes

FP complete version: 21.10.13, Music Hall, Aberdeen, UK: Scottish Ensemble

Commissioned by the Scottish Ensemble with support from the PRS for Music Foundation

Score and parts for hire

### Psalm (2015)

harp and 3 groups of 4 players

18 minutes

2 fl.2 cl(II=bcl).harp.2 vln.2 vla.2 vlc.2 db

FP: 9.11.15, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK: Aurora Orchestra

Commissioned by Edmund de Waal for performances at the Royal Academy and Kings Place on the occasion of *On White*, November 2015

Score and parts for hire

### Candlebird

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'Finding unsuspected subtleties in both Scottish vernacular music and quarter-tonal tuning... simply staggeringly assured.'

The Sunday Times (Paul Driver),  
5 June 2011

'Tangibly evocative. In the title song, sliding, indistinct string melodies sound like a Brahms sextet melting in extreme heat.'

The Guardian (Erica Jeal), 1 June 2011

### storm, rose, tiger

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'Engrossing, haunting and self-assured.'

Guardian (Kate Molleson),  
16 October 2011

'An exhilarating essay in energy and colour, which, in its every needlepoint gesture, confirms Suckling as one of the major voices of his generation.'

The Herald (Michael Tumelty),  
29 April 2013

### Six Speechless Songs

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'Buoyant and shimmering. Among many striking moments were squalling strings, daringly sparse stretches and a yearning trumpet call that glowed like a beacon through the haar.'

The Guardian (Kate Molleson),  
7 February 2014

### Piano Concerto

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'Highly original... tremendous rhythmic writing, with music of bracing immediacy.'

The Herald (Michael Tumelty),  
17 October 2016

### The White Road

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'A sonic feast, seething with microtones and ear-baffling sonorities but held together by a firm but eloquent structure.'

The Scotsman (David Kettle),  
6 February 2017

### de sol y grana

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'The technique and imagination on show was enormously impressive.'

The Telegraph (Hugo Shirley),  
13 December 2011

### Postcards

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'Spine-tingling. Swishing harmonics streaked through the ethereal string textures like meteors, anchored by an ever-present, faint pulsing of the passing seconds.'

The Scotsman (Susan Nickalls),  
16 February 2013

### Psalm

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'Absorbing... a composer with a vividly theatrical imagination.'

The Times (Neil Fisher),  
12 November 2015



## HEAD OFFICE

Faber Music Ltd  
Bloomsbury House  
74-77 Great Russell St  
London WC1B 3DA  
fabermusic.com

Promotion Department:  
+44(0)207 908 5311/2  
promotion@fabermusic.com

## Sales & Hire

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hire@fabermusic.com

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Customer Service  
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Van Nuys  
CA 91410-0003, USA  
Tel: +1 (818) 891-5999  
sales@alfred.com

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## CHAMBER

### Three Venus Haiku (2009)

cello and piano (flute, clarinet, violin and viola versions also available)

5 minutes

Cello version: FP: 8.3.09, Wigmore Hall, London, UK: Oliver Coates/Daniel Driver

Commissioned by Oliver Coates

Score on special sale from the Hire Library

### To See the Dark Between (2010)

piano and string sextet

10 minutes

pno – 2 vln.2 vla.2 vlc

FP: 9.5.10, Wigmore Hall, London, UK: Aronowitz Ensemble

Commissioned by the Royal Philharmonic Society and the Wigmore Hall

Score and parts for hire

### Nocturne (2013)

violin and cello

8 minutes

FP: 18.5.13, Britten Studio, Snape, Suffolk, UK: Pekka Kuusisto/Peter Gregson

Commissioned by Aldeburgh Music for the Faster Than Sound series

Score and parts on special sale from the Hire Library

### Songs from a Bright September (2014)

baritone and piano trio

13 minutes

Texts: David Sergeant (English)

FP: 26.3.14, Victoria Hall, Hartley Witney, Hampshire, UK: Matthew Rose/Angell Trio

Commissioned by the Angell Trio in memory of Michael Cuddigan

Score and parts on special sale from the Hire Library

### Visiones (after Goya) (2015)

clarinet, cello and piano (piano trio version also available)

12 minutes

FP: 20.6.15, Aldeburgh Festival, Britten Studio, Snape, Suffolk, UK: Mark Simpson/Jean-Guihen Queyras/Tamara Stefanovich

Commissioned by Aldeburgh Music

Score and parts on special sale from the Hire Library

## INSTRUMENTAL

### Lieder ohne Worte (2010)

piano

10 minutes

FP: 19.9.10, Chelsea Schubert Festival, Holy Trinity Church, Chelsea, London, UK: John Reid

Commissioned by John Reid with funding from the Ralph Vaughan Williams Trust

Score on special sale from the Hire Library

### Cumha na Cloinne (2013)

piano

4 minutes

Score on special sale from the Hire Library

## DISCOGRAPHY

### Candlebird

Leigh Melrose/London Sinfonietta/Nicholas Collon

2012 London Sinfonietta: SINFCD12012

### To See the Dark Between

Aronowitz Ensemble

2012 Sonimage: SON 11202

