

An African Shrine & other works for Piano

Catalogue Number: AR003

Short Description

Works for solo piano. Martin Roscoe (Piano)

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Description

Martin Roscoe (Piano)

During the summer of 1972 I wrote a number of piano pieces. On the title page of "The Road through Samarkand" I added, "...with burning hearts they danced their way from Calais to Calcutta, but what did they find?". I had been watching the yellow-robed, shaven-headed, chanting, bell-ringers dancing up and down Oxford Street, London; this was at the time when Eastern cults and cheap drugs were persuading young experimenters to trek half-way round the world in the hope of finding new salvation. I pictured them dancing joyfully across Asia ever nearer their final disillusion....

The largest and most developed piece on this recording is "An African Shrine," written for John Ogdon in 1966. Violence and revolution in Africa were darkening everyone's hopes. I subtitled the piece as follows: scene: A lonely road. A deserted shrine. A woman kneels weeping. As the armies of the world pass by, she prays." **George Lloyd**

Reviews:

...the music pleases in a very unthreatening, beguiling way, especially in "An African Shrine" **Houston Chronicle**

...a new facet of the composer is exposed...the underlying poetry of the music is...serious rather than flippant...both angles splendidly brought out by Roscoe in performances of total authority...well recorded... **Gramophone**

...a fascinating amalgam...from the bouncy "The Road to Samarkand" to the almost mystic "Intercom Baby", the music (and the explanatory notes) are superb. **Raymond Jones, Classical Remarks**

...impressive resource and invention in both musical and pianistic terms...Martin Roscoe responds to the unfailingly effective keyboard textures with much superb playing...one cannot imagine better performances, nor ones better recorded... **Hi Fi News**

...this is a delightful recording...Lloyd's piano music has the same qualities we find in his symphonies: good tunes, genuine wit, and a romantic flair...Intercom Baby is a lullaby with a lovely tune that won't leave your head after you hear it...An African Shrine is the major work here...descriptive of the tension, the violence, and the beauties that combine to make up Africa...**Henry Fogel, Fanfare**

...five pieces...in a romantic idiom...sonorous, rich and sometimes gritty...An African Shrine (is) a compelling 23 minute tone drama...this is big stuff, wonderfully played by Martin Roscoe... **Classics Bristol Evening Post**

...Considering George Lloyd's extensive and imaginative sense of orchestral color, I admit to being curious as to whether he would be at home working with the limitations of a solo piano. Absolutely! This is a delightful recording.... good tunes, genuine wit... and a Romantic flair sprinkled with enough of today's idioms to make it relevant... **Fanfare**

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