

John Kefala Kerr Curriculum Vitae



www.johnkefalakerr.com

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

PhD, MPhil, University of Sussex (Composition)
PG Cert. Advanced Studies (Composition), Guildhall School of Music & Drama
LGSM, Guildhall School of Music & Drama

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Double Finalist Journal Culture Awards (2014)
Journal Culture Award winner (2012)
Gold Medal Winner Volos International Composition Competition (2009)
Arts Council Research & Development Award (2005)
Arts Council Encore Award (2003/4)
Arts Council Travel & Training Award (2005)
Arts Council Electroacoustic Bursary (1997)
Royal Television Society Craft Award for Music (1996)
Ralph Vaughan Williams Trust Music Scholarship (1995)
Centre Acanthes Scholarship, Mozarteum, Salzburg (1995)
Guildhall School of Music & Drama Composition Prize (1995)

RESIDENCIES

2022/23 Associate Artist, An Tobar and Mull Theatre
2018 Artist in Residence, Grainger Market, Newcastle upon Tyne
2014 Artist in Residence, UK National Railway Museum, York
2013 Artist in Residence, Monks' Dormitory Library, Durham Cathedral
2012 Composer in Residence, Dove Marine Laboratory
2002-04 Composer in Residence, Cumbria Arts in Education
2000 Composer in Residence, SELECT 107 FM (Year of the Artist Residency)
1999 Artist in Residence, Queen's Hall Arts Centre, Northumberland
1998-99 Performing Right Society Composer in Education
1996-98 Artist in Residence, Aycliffe Hospital (NHS Mental Health Trust)
1991 Composer in Education, Northern Sinfonia (*Golem* Project)

RECORDINGS

Miracle "Sonic Postcards" SAN001, CD

Mortal "Mixed" NMC036, 1997 CD

Juke Box for the End of Time "Unknown Public 04", CD

WORKS/PERFORMANCES

2022

Sanctuary (site-specific, smartphone app installation). Commissioned by Amble Development Trust with funds from Coastal Communities Fund.

2021

Variations on a Theme of Agatha Christie. Commissioned by the National Centre for the Written Word with funds from Arts Council England.

2020

Washing the Shopping (solo accordion). Performed by Ghenadie Rotari, Trieste, Italy.

The Outsider (narrator and small ensemble) clarinet, bassoon, trumpet, trombone, percussion (1 player), violin, double bass. Commissioned by Skipton Camerata for 'Lockdown Diaries'.

Captain Tom's Passacaglia (solo piano). Performed by Duncan Honeybourne, Weymouth, UK.

Fly Home (Super-8 film score). Winner Straight 8 Film Festival Competition screened at virtual Cannes Film Festival.

2019

Insulin at Teatime (multimedia song cycle) soprano, piano and video projection. Commissioned by CoLab

2018

Tool-Being (A/V installation) Studio Kalderimi, Kissos, Greece, August 10-12

Book of Bells (sound installation) Sonorities Festival, Belfast, April 18-22

Arcadia (site-specific mini opera). Commissioned by Community Foundation.

2017

Blood Choir (mixed voices, soundtrack, live performance and 360° music video) Funder: Newcastle Culture Investment Fund.

2016

Take Your Seats (performance with Grand Gestures Dance Collective), Shipley Art Gallery, Gateshead, 6th February

Book of Bells (A/V installation). BEAST Festival, 28-29 April

"Fresh" platform event (with Grand Gestures Dance Collective), Dance City, Newcastle, December 2nd

2014

Steamsong (multimedia opera). Commissioned by The National Railway Museum and BRASS: Durham International Festival, Gala Theatre, Durham, July 12 & 13. Produced by KOPCO. Funders: Arts Council England/Durham County Council/Locomotion.

2013

Book of Bells (installation). Commissioned by BRASS: Durham International Festival, Monk's Dormitory Library, Durham Cathedral, July 2013. Funder: BRASS: Durham International Festival.

Blow the Wind Southerly. 4 choirs. Commissioned for Create Choral, The Great Hall, Discovery Museum, Newcastle, June 2013. Funder: Festival of the North East.

2012

A Sign in Space (sound opera). Mixed choir, choristers, big band, violin, harp, organ, 4-channel digital soundtrack, sound-making objects. Commissioned by The Forge. July 2012. Funders: Youth Music, BRASS: Durham International Festival, Durham Cathedral, The Forge.

2011

Eight Bells. Solo violin & soundtrack. Collaboration with Dove Marine Laboratory. Commissioned by Rednile Projects. St. George's Church, Cullercoats, June 2011 & Shimmer Festival, Whitley Bay, November 2011. Funder: North Tyneside Borough Council.

Uncommercial Plainsongs of the 21st Century. Small Ensemble. NUCME, King's Hall, Newcastle University, April 2011.

2010

Fish and the Yesterday Song. Devised multimedia performance. KOPCO/Skimstone Arts co-production. Funder: Arts Council England.

2009

3 Pleas for Refugees. Orchestra/mixed chorus/solo violin/solo cello/sampler, organ.

2008

Strawberry Loop. Animated film soundtrack (dir: Maki Kobayashi)

- The 5th London Short Film Festival, 4-13 January 2008
- The East End Film Festival, London, 17-24 April 2008
- The London International Animation Festival, 2-7 September 2008
- Kitashinano Obuse Film Festival, November 2008, Japan
- The Flip Animation Festival, 6-8 November 2008
- Wolverhampton, UK The Festival
- Internacional de Filmets, 14-22 November 2008 Badalona, Barcelona, Spain
- The Bangimation screening at Bang! Short Film Festival, 30 November 2008, Nottingham, UK
- The Village Screen, Glastonbury Festival, 22-26 June 2009, UK
- The Open Weekend, 24-26 July 2009, Middlesbrough, UK

Fire. Animated film soundtrack (dir. Roya Kafi-Rezaee).

2004

Triptych (Antwerp). Multimedia installation. Video camera/laptop/projected video/soundtrack. Developed under the auspices of the PoPok workshop, Belgium and presented at de Singel Arts Centre, Antwerp, May 2004

2003

Beyond Belief. Cycle of 4 site-specific multimedia operas. Commissioned by Cumbria Arts. Funding: Arts Council England, Northern Rock Foundation, Youth Music, Performing Right Society, Copeland Borough Council, Allerdale District Council, Wansbeck District Council:

1. *Ikon of the Nativity: An Opera in a Cinema*. 28 performers/1 musician/projected video/soundtrack. Rosehill Theatre, Cumbria, December 2001 dur: 35'
2. *Passion: An Opera in a Sports Centre*. 75 performers/5 musicians/soprano/projected video/soundtrack. Whitehaven Sports Centre, Cumbria, May 2002 dur: 60'
3. *Testament (A Movie Icon)*. Installation: projected video/soundtrack. The Baptistry, St Michael's Church, Workington, Feb 2002 dur: 45'
4. *Creation: An Opera in a Marquee*. 22 performers/5 musicians/soundtrack. Earth Balance Environmental Centre, Northumberland, July 2003 dur: 50'

Hidden Rivers, sound installation. Commissioned by ISIS Arts, Guildhall, Newcastle, Jul-Sept 2003

The Way We Live. DVD. Collaboration with filmmaker Andrew Hardie, commissioned by BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art for National Architecture Week.

2002

Lament, Talisman Ensemble/KOPCO, Cutting Edge Festival, The Warehouse, London, Oct 2003

AirSpace. 15-hr durational performance. Solo performer/flight simulation software/projected video/soundtrack. Commissioned by Waygood Gallery for 'Platform 000001' produced by KOPCO, Newcastle upon Tyne, 19 Oct 2002
Phoney Opera. Telephone audio-drama. Commissioned by Waygood Gallery for Return to Sender Festival.

The Egg. Devised site-specific promenade performance for under-fives, 3 performers/projected video/soundtrack. Commissioned by The Forge (co-dir. John Kefala Kerr/Claire Webster/Imogen Cloet), The Gatehouse, Durham, Sept 2001. Funder: The Forge

2001

Logos. Small ensemble (2 narrators/violin/soprano/piano/celtic harp/soundtrack/inkjet printer/musical birthday cards). Commissioned by Woodhorn Museum & Art Gallery for Turning the Pages, the British Library's virtual exhibition of the Lindisfarne Gospels. Talisman Ensemble, Woodhorn Museum, October 2001. Funder: Wansbeck District Council.

Foley's Lament. Small ensemble, narrators, soundtrack and assorted objects. Commissioned by COMA. Customs House Theatre, South Shields, March 2001

2000

Epitaphios. Small ensemble, glass harmonica, soprano & digital sound. Commissioned by the National Glass Centre, 3rd & 4th July 2000

Devotions (Book 2). Solo piano. Geoff Hannan (piano), Year of the Artist Commission/Queen's Hall Arts Centre, Hexham, Dec 2000

Tempus Fugit. Performance installation (co-dir. John Kefala Kerr/David Napthine/Sarah Pauley/Ali McCaw). Commissioned by Changeling Productions, July 2000

Untitled. Broadcast series of audiogenic pieces. Commissioned by Select 107 FM (Year of the Artist Commission) June-Jul 2000

In Your Head. Performance installation. Collaboration with Andrew Hardie (filmmaker) & Sean Burn (writer), commissioned by Spacetime Projects, Jerwood Gallery, Natural History Museum, London, July 2000

1999

Hb. Multi-site promenade performance event. Commissioned by Queen's Hall Arts Centre. Produced by KOPCO, Haydon Bridge, Northumberland, July 1999

Eikonostasi 7Up. Small ensemble/soprano/soundtrack, Queen's Hall Arts Centre, Talisman Ensemble, Hexham, 25 June 1999

Makeover Melodrama. Karaoke opera. Female performer & backing track. Produced by KOPCO/Queen's Hall Arts Centre, Hexham, 25 June 1999

Kosovo Pascha. Steel pans. The Sunshine Panners, Haydon Bridge High School, 4 April 1999.

Giggling Girls Choir. 8+ female voices. Haydon Bridge High School, 4 April 1999

Crying Kids Chorus. 8+ young voices. Haydon Bridge High School, 4 April 1999

Spitting Love. Theatre score. New Writing North, Future Tense Festival, Newcastle Playhouse, 7 April 1999/Customs House Theatre, 24 March 1999

An Electroascetic's Prayerbook (Vol. 1). Digital sound.

1998

Triptych. A/V installation. Collaboration with Northern Stage (dir. Richard Gregory). Centre for Performance Research Aberystwyth, Tramway Glasgow, Playhouse Newcastle, April 1998

Seesaw. Theatre score. Quarantine Theatre Co. (dir. Richard Gregory). Gulbenkian Studio Theatre, Newcastle, 6 June 1998

Tell Me. Theatre score. Collaboration with Northern Stage (dir. Richard Gregory), Donmar Warehouse, London, 9-14 May 1998

1997

Devotions (Book 1). Solo piano. Geoff Hannan (piano), Show Up event, Old Town Mission, North Shields, 6 Dec 1997

It's a Wonderful Life. Devised site-specific performance in a shopping centre based on the classic film by Frank Capra. Acting Up North (co-dir. with Robert Lawson and Claire Webster), North Shields, Dec 1997.

1996

Us (Kitchen Sink Karaoke). Karaoke opera. 2 performers. Produced by KOPCO/Cutting Edge Festival, The Warehouse, London, Oct 2003/Westfaltenhallen, Dortmund, 25 June 2001/Newcastle Playhouse, 16 Oct 2000/Haydon Lodge, Northumberland, 6 July 2000

Cradle. Dance score. Commissioned by David Massingham Dance, Bloomsbury Theatre, London, 17th & 18th May 1996

1995

The Nest of Spices. Site-specific performance in a disused electricity generating station. Collaboration with Northern Stage (dir. Richard Gregory), North Tyneside, Oct 1995

Ernest D'Amour. Musical metafiction. Gulbenkian Studio Theatre. Produced by KOPCO, Newcastle, Sept 1995

Junk Male (A Novelty Space Age Mini-Opera). Karaoke opera. Solo baritone. Andrew Gallagher (baritone). Produced by KOPCO/Gulbenkian Studio Theatre, Newcastle, Sept 1995

Shouting Male Voice Choir. 8+ male voices. Produced by KOPCO/Gulbenkian Studio Theatre (dir. John Kefala Kerr), Newcastle, Sept 1995

1994

Encyclopedie des Farces et Attrapes et des Mystifications. Music theatre. Produced by KOPCO/Gulbenkian Studio Theatre, Newcastle, Sept 1995

The Line of Least Resistance. Dance score. Commissioned by David Massingham Dance, Gulbenkian Studio Theatre, Newcastle, 28th & 29th October 1994

1993

Piano Sonata No. 1. David Murray (piano). Purcell Room, South Bank Centre, London, 23 May 1993

Drive. Dance score. Commissioned by Tandem Dance, University of Sunderland, 30 Sept 1993/DLI Museum & Arts Gallery, Durham, 1 Oct 1993/Dance City, Newcastle, 22 Oct 1993

1992

Mortal. Free bass accordion/soundtrack/digital delay. Commissioned by Sonic Arts Network, James Crabb, Purcell Room, South Bank Centre, London, 9 May 1992/Atelier St Anne, Brussels, 5 Oct 1992

Joshua's Trumpet. Brass quintet. Commissioned by English Brass Ensemble, St Nicholas' Church, Northumberland, Oct 1992

Motorola. Saxophone quartet. Commissioned by Northern Saxophone Quartet, Teatro Rossini, Pesaro, Italy, September 1992

ICFTU. Video documentary score. Commissioned by Merlin Films (dir. John Eden). International Congress of the Federation of Trades Unions, Brussels, July 1993

1990

Palomar's Dream. Amplified tenor sax/soundtrack. Commissioned by Peter Nichols, Darlington Arts Centre, April 1990

Comics, Yamaha WX7/DX7 & SPX90. Commissioned by Peter Nichols, International Saxophone Congress, Wakefield College, October 1990

Juke Box for the End of Time. Soundtrack. Commissioned by the Electric Music Festival, Projects UK, Newcastle upon Tyne, November 1990

The Massacre of Innocents. Sound installation. Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York, Chapel of St. Boniface, March-April 1990

MEDIA & PRESS

BBC2 *Compose Yourself*, 2012

Profile of JKK by Geoff Hannan, British Music Information Centre

Times Educational Supplement feature on JKK's *Ikon of the Nativity* (Dec 2000)

BBC TV News feature on JKK's Year of the Artist residency at Select 107 FM (Nov 2000)

Jazz Kai Tzaz magazine (Athens) feature on JKK (Feb 2000)

Celebration 93 Border Television feature on JKK, Merlin Films (1993)

"New Music & New Methods", Caroline Taylor's account of John Kefala Kerr's PRS Composer-in-Education residency at Projects UK, Music Teacher, Feb 1999

Reviews of *Abstract 3*, The Guardian and The Times (1993)