

## Shoalhaven

Shoalhaven is one of several works I composed in the 1980s which re-explored the kind of language in which the music of my boyhood expressed itself. Its style is very direct and needs little introduction. Like the Shoalhaven Philharmonic Society, for whom it was composed in 1983, it takes its name from the Shoalhaven River which rises in the Great Dividing Range south of Kangaroo Valley and, passing north of Nowra, flows to the sea across the narrow coastal plain. From the mountains to the sea, this is a place that is rich in associations for myself and my family from the middle of the nineteenth century to the present day.

The shape of the piece is a traditional ABA<sub>1</sub>. The outer sections are broad and gentle in their movement, while the middle section is a blues that pays more than a passing tribute to the memory of my very dear friend, Don Banks.

The membership of the country orchestra for whom I composed it, put considerable constraints on its instrumentation. This version for larger orchestra was made for *Yorchestra* and is intended to give more people a chance to play in it.

DL

### Instrumentation

:  
2 flutes & piccolo  
3 oboes  
3 clarinets  
2 bassoons  
4 horns  
3 trumpets  
3 trombones (1 bass trombone)  
Glockenspiel  
Xylophone  
Percussion  
Timpani  
Strings

Duration 12 minutes.