

## PROGRAMME NOTE

Since the Beethoven Variations of the same name, it is well-known that *kakadu* is the German word for cockatoo. Certainly there are cockatoos in my music, as well as many other kinds of birds. The work, however, takes its name from the Kakadu National Park in northern Australia. This enormous wilderness area stretches from coastal tidal plains to rugged mountain plateaux, and in it may be found the living culture of its Aboriginal inhabitants, dating back for fifty thousand years. Sadly, today there are only a few remaining speakers of *kakadu*, or *gagadju*.

The work, then, is concerned with my feelings about this place, its landscape, its change of seasons, its dry season and its wet, its cycle of life and death. In three parts, the outer sections are dance-like and energetic, sharing similar musical ideas. The central section is somewhat introspective, and is dominated by a cor anglais solo representing the voice of Emanuel Papper, who commissioned the work. Apart from this solo, the melodic material in *Kakadu*, as in much of my recent music, was suggested by the contours and rhythms of Aboriginal chant.

P.S.

## ORCHESTRA

2 Flutes	Timpani
2 Clarinets in Bb	
2 Oboes	Percussion (3 players):
Cor Anglais	Tam-tam, Beijing gong,
2 Bassoons	Large suspended cymbal,
Contrabassoon	Pair of cymbals,
	Bass drum, 1 pair Bongos,
4 Horns in F	3 Tom-toms, 2 Congas.
4 Trumpets in C	
2 Tenor trombones	
Bass trombone	Strings
Tuba	

Orchestral parts available on hire

*Kakadu* was generously commissioned by Emanuel Papper  
as a present for his wife Patricia, upon her birthday.

The first performance was given by the Aspen Festival Orchestra,  
conducted by Jorge Mester, at Aspen, Colorado on 24 July 1988.

*Kakadu* is recorded by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra  
conducted by Stuart Challender on ABC Classics  
CD 426481-2, LP 426481-1, Cassette 426481-4

Duration: c.15 minutes

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