

Composer's Note

My guitar concerto, Nourlangie, takes its name from a massive rocky outcrop in Kakadu National Park. Little Nourlangie takes its name from a small outcrop nearby, and both house ancient galleries of Aboriginal rock painting. The music of the latter, then, is based upon a variation of the main theme of the guitar work. Following an introduction, in which the sounds of birds are heard, the theme is stated three times, with the organ providing gamelan-like figuration. Upon each repetition new material is added, finally leading to the climax and a brief coda.

Performance Note

Performing material is also available for Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet and Trumpet, beginning at figure ⑥. Any combination of any number of these instruments may be used.

Maracas may be substituted for Rain Sticks if the latter are unavailable.

Little Nourlangie was commissioned by the ABC especially for the Education Program of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. It was first performed by this orchestra, conducted by John Hopkins with David Rumsey as soloist, in the Sydney Town Hall on July 17, 1990.

Duration: c.4'00