

“Stoneworks”

Composer's Notes

Stoneworks is the 7th of my guitar 'quartets' and was commissioned by Gareth Koch for Saffire (the Australian Guitar Quartet).

The name was inspired by the group's name and was originally just going to be about precious stones: sapphires, diamonds, rubies, emeralds etc. But at Gareth's insistence (as the work grew larger) I decided to try to encompass a more universal view of mans' relationship and dependence on stone!

The first two movements deal with precious stones and the colour of light that they refract, with the "Romanza" dealing with the more romantic notions of longing and desire. The third movement tries to capture some of the ancient "mystery" that caused early mankind to erect great circles like "Stonehenge". The final movement deals with the power that stone has given man; the great monuments and buildings. Temples & Gods, but also the great beauty that artisans through the ages have created from marble & granite. The titles are purely fanciful and are just a clue to the character of each movement. Stoneworks is also somewhat of a fairytale - stones are magical & we are constantly influenced by them. We stand in awe of the forces that shaped them and the timeless secrets they hold!

"Stoneworks" was completed on October 9 2002, and was premiered on the 4th of December in the concert hall of the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music as part of the 2nd Australian Guitar Competition & Festival. It is recorded on the Aria Award winning CD "Saffire" - ABC Classics.

In 2004 it also won "INSTRUMENTAL WORK OF THE YEAR" at the APRA/AMC Classical Music Awards.

R. Charlton Jan 2004

SHORT PROGRAM NOTE

"Stoneworks" is based upon the characteristics & resonances of some of the precious gemstones & stones that have been used (and prized) by man over the centuries. The sharp blue reflective qualities of Sapphires & Diamonds! The deep romantic & exotic nature of Emeralds & Rubies. The mystery surrounding "standing stones" (with a slightly "Celtic" flavour) and the sheer artistic & building "power" of Granite & Marble.

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