The Orchestral Music of Michael Tippett

With extracts from the composer’s letters, writings, interviews and broadcasts, and supported by evidence from his sketchbooks and manuscripts, *The Orchestral Music of Michael Tippett* explores Tippett’s intentions and argues that the experiences that triggered his creative impulses are integral to understanding his music. In his discussion of Tippett’s creative process, Thomas Schuttenhelm attempts to recapture the circumstances under which Tippett’s orchestral works were created, to document how his visionary aspirations were developed and sustained throughout the creative cycle, and to chart how conception was transmuted from idea through to performance. Analysing Tippett’s orchestral works throughout his long career, from the *Symphonic Movement* of 1930–1 to his final masterpiece *The Rose Lake* in 1991–3, Schuttenhelm explores each work in detail to provide a comprehensive commentary on one of the most influential British composers of the twentieth century.

A composer, guitarist and scholar, Thomas Schuttenhelm is on the faculty at the Hartt School (University of Hartford) and Central Connecticut State University. He was a UK Fulbright Fellow and a British Music Studies Fellow (the Harry Ransom Center at University of Texas at Austin). He has lectured at Yale University, Cardiff University, University of Newcastle, University of Sussex, University of London and the Mannheim Hochschule für Musik. He was the editor of *The Selected Letters of Michael Tippett* and is a contributing author to *The Cambridge Companion to Michael Tippett*. In addition to performing and promoting Tippett’s music, he has contributed to numerous BBC broadcasts and continues to play an important role in the creation, performance and scholarship of contemporary music.
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**General Editor** Arnold Whittall

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The Orchestral Music of Michael Tippett

Creative Development and the Compositional Process

Thomas Schuttenhelm
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### Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>From the letters to Alan Bush held at the British Library.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AK</td>
<td>From the letters to Anna Kallin held in the private collection of Meirion Bowen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBC</td>
<td>From the Tippett Collection held at the BBC Written Archives Centre, Caversham Park, Caversham.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BP</td>
<td>From the collection of letters held at the Britten–Pears Library.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD</td>
<td>From the collection of letters to Colin Davis held at the British Library: Deposit 2004/18.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CG</td>
<td>The Michael Tippett Archive held at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DN</td>
<td>From the letters to Douglas Newton held at the British Library: MS Mus. 291–2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESW</td>
<td>From the Michael Tippett collection (correspondence to Edward Sackville-West) held at MacMaster University (Ontario, CA).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EWW</td>
<td>From the Eric Walter White collection held at the Harry Ransom Centre, University of Texas at Austin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FA</td>
<td>From the letters to Francesca Allinson held in the private collection of Meirion Bowen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IK</td>
<td>From the letters to Ian Kemp held by the Tippett Estate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JA</td>
<td>From the letters to John Amis held at the British Library: Add. MS 71178.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MB</td>
<td>From the letters to Meirion Bowen held in the private collection of Meirion Bowen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTil-BL</td>
<td>From the Michael Tillett collection held at the British Library (2011; uncatalogued).</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
List of abbreviations

MTil-RCM From the Michael Tillett collection held at the Royal College of Music (2008; uncatalogued).

MT-SM From the Michael Tippett Archive held at Schott Mainz.

OPE Mischa Scorer (dir.), ‘One Pair of Eyes’ with Sir Michael Tippett: Poets in A Barren Age, film (BBC, 1974).

PR From the collection of letters to Priaulx Rainier held at the Royal Academy of Music.


WG From the collection of letters to William Glock held at the British Library: MS Mus. 957.