



Errollyn Wallen

SPIRIT SYMPHONY (2004)

Speed-Dating for Two Orchestras

I absolutely love writing for the orchestra, so to have the opportunity of writing for two filled me with a tremendous sense of relish. It's great also to think that this work might light a sparkler for professional/amateur music-making so that the tremendous attributes of both groups can be highlighted and enjoyed together on the same platform. A really great initiative by the BBC and Making Music.

For a composer like me, who loves colour, texture and drama, the orchestra has always been where it's at. I came up with a title first: Speed-Dating: The Symphony and it made me smile but once I got down to the business of putting notes on the page I decided that I also wanted to capture the spirit of life's joyousness with the spirit of Handel's Fireworks Music to which my new work is a companion piece. What has remained is the idea of encounter between the two orchestras and between individuals within it and I'm happy that my Spirit Symphony provides a promising venue for speed-dating...

The work is in three movements and is dedicated to Joseph Spooner, 'cellist with the Kensington Symphony Orchestra.

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