



Errollyn Wallen

The Girl in My Alphabet (1990)

2 pianos (8 or 4 hands)

Duration: 10 minutes

Published by Peters Edition (EP 7685)

Recorded on: the girl in my alphabet (Avie AV 0006)

First performance: Nanquidno, Purcell Room, South Bank, London, 1990

Commissioned by Nanquidno

This was composed in 1990 for two pianos, eight hands, then later condensed into this piano duo arrangement. Errollyn explains the enigmatic title as a combination of The Girl of Ipanema on which the piece is based, and the 'alphabet' or basic material of her compositional style. 'The Girl' in this case represents the important element of eclecticism in her writing. The work takes The Girl of Ipanema from an introduction of frenetic chromaticism into sections using jazz, blues and minimalist layering techniques, and finally to an unexpected lyrical climax inspired by an advertisement for Canadian tourism. This falls apart in a barrage of chord clusters, out of which the main theme finally makes a brief appearance, unadorned.

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