



© Michael Salander

# Nicola **LeFanu**

Contemporary

# Nicola LeFanu



Nicola LeFanu has composed around one hundred works for a variety of mediums. Her music is published by Edition Peters and by Novello and has been widely played, broadcast and recorded. She has composed eight operas, which have been staged in UK, Ireland and USA: Dawnpath (New Opera Company, London, 1977), The Story of Mary O'Neill, a radio opera, libretto Sally McInerney, (BBC, 1987), The Green Children, a children's opera, libretto Kevin Crossley-Holland, (Kings Lynn Festival, 1990), Blood Wedding, libretto Deborah Levy (WPT, London 1992), The Wildman, libretto Crossley-Holland, (Aldeburgh Festival, 1995), Light Passing, libretto John Edmonds, (BBC/NCEM, York, 2004), Dream Hunter, libretto John Fuller (Lontano, Wales 2011, London 2012) and Tokaido Road, a Journey after Hiroshige, libretto Nancy Gaffield, (Okeanos, Cheltenham Festival, July 2014).

She was born in England in 1947 to Irish parents; her mother was the composer Elizabeth Maconchy. LeFanu studied at Oxford, RCM and Harvard. She is active in many aspects of the musical profession and was Professor of Music at University of York, 1994-2008.

In April 2017 she celebrated her seventieth birthday, and was BBC Radio 3 'Composer of the Week'. 2017 also saw premieres of five new works, including 'The Crimson Bird' a dramatic scena, text John Fuller; commissioned by RPS for BBCSO with Rachel Nicholls, soprano. The cantata 'St Hilda of Whitby', text Wendy Cope, was premiered in February 2018.

In 2020 a CD with four of her major orchestral pieces was released by NMC, supported by a grant from the PRSF. It features the RTE NSO and the BBCSO.

Premieres since the pandemic include LeFanu's new work for saxophone orchestra 'In The Forests of the Night', premiered in New York and toured in Germany and UK; the Quintet for strings; 'After Lindisfarne' for solo horn; 'Triptych' for baritone and chamber orchestra (text, Rowan Williams), 'Broadwood Bagatelles' for clavichord and 'the forest, the strand, the sea' for solo piano.

<http://www.nicolalefanu.com>

For further information:

## Leipzig

**C. F. Peters Ltd. & Co. KG**

Talstraße 10

D-04103 Leipzig

Deutschland

☎ +49 (0) 341 989 792

✉ [stefan.conradi@editionpeters.com](mailto:stefan.conradi@editionpeters.com)

## New York

**C. F. Peters Corporation**

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 2005

New York, NY 10018

USA

✉ [gene.caprioglio@editionpeters.com](mailto:gene.caprioglio@editionpeters.com)

## London

**Peters Edition Ltd**

2 – 6 Baches Street

London N1 6DN

UK

☎ +44 (0) 20 7553 4000

✉ [newmusic@editionpeters.com](mailto:newmusic@editionpeters.com)

## Solos

### **After Lindisfarne** (2020) 6 minutes

For Solo Horn in F

One of a collection of 200 solo pieces written to celebrate the bicentenary of the Royal Academy of Music in 2022.

First performed by Joe Longstaff of 8 June 2021.

EP 73553

### **And So the Night Became** (2002) c. 7 minutes

For Prepared Piano - piano preparation as for John Cage Sonatas and Interludes

For Nicky Losseff

First performed 8 May 2002, Jack Lyons Concert Hall, by Nicky Losseff.

EP 71220

### **Eight Studies** (2012) 12 minutes

For Piano

First performed 14 December 2013, Goldsmiths College, by Matthew Schellhorn

EP 72423

### **the forest, the strand, the sea** (2021) 12 minutes

For Solo Piano

Commissioned by James Willshire with support from the Ambache Charitable Trust and the GEMMA Classical Music Trust.

First performed by James Willshire on 26 March 2022 at St Philip and St James' Church, Leckhampton, Cheltenham

EP 73616

### **Night Song with Frogs** (2004) c. 6 minutes

For Cymbalom (or Harpsichord) and pre-recorded frogs

For Anthony Gilbert's 70th birthday

First performed 12 July 2004, Purcell Room, London, by Edward Cervenka

EP 71218

### **A Phoenix for Carla** (2011) 10 minutes

For Solo Flutes (flute d'amour and alto flute (Kingma system))

Commissioned by Stephen Massil for Carla Rees

First performed 10 June 2013, Spitalfields Music, Hoxton Hall, by Carla Rees

EP 72465

### **A Postcard and a Letter** (2006/2008) c. 3 minutes

For Piano

see '*A Postcard for Bernard and Mary Loughlin*' and '*A Letter to Cesca and Lluís*'

EP 71728

### **Prelude after Grinling Gibbons** (2018) 8 minutes

For Solo Violin

First performed by Pete Sheppard Skaerved on 30 October 2018 at Fairfax House, York

EP 73300

### **Prelude** (2001) 2 minutes

For Violoncello

Commissioned by ABRSM for *Spectrum for Cello*

EP 71221

### **Prelude after Grinling Gibbons** (2018) 7-8 minutes

For Solo Violin

First performed on October 30th 2018 by Peter Sheppard Skaerved

EP 73300

### **Sir Harlequin** (2012) 14 minutes

For Solo Bassoon

Written for Matthew Dodd

EP 72292

**Souvenir du Petit Berger** (2018) 4 minutes

For Solo Piano

First performed by James Willshire on 1 September 2018 at Late Music York

EP73239

## Duos

**Echo and Narcissus** (2006) c.13 minutes

For 2 Pianos

Commissioned by Joseph Tong and Waka Hasegawa.

First performed 20 April 2006, St George's Hall, Bristol, by Joseph Tong and Waka Hasegawa

EP 71209

**Isobirthday** (2002) c. 4 minutes

For Flute and Clarinet

For Jim Wilson's 80th birthday

First performed 29 September 2002, Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin, by the Concorde ensemble.

EP 71230

**One Voice in Two Parts** (2007) 4 minutes

For 2 Recorders (Soprano and Bass)

Commissioned by Peter Bowman and Kathryn Bennetts

First performed February 2007, by Peter Bowman and Kathryn Bennetts.

EP 71232

**Sea Sketches** (2008) c. 10 minutes

For Clarinet and Piano

Commissioned by Peter Sparks

First performed 11 January 2008, Park Lane Group Young Artists Series, Purcell Room, Southbank Centre, London,

by Peter Sparks (clarinet) and Matthew Schellhorn (piano)

EP 71210

**Seven Inventions and a Passacaglia** (2000) 14 minutes

*Previously entitled 'A Little Sketchbook'*

For Piano, 4 hands

Commissioned by Northern Aldborough Festival

First performed 14 July 2000, Aldborough Church, Boroughbridge, Yorkshire, by Helen and Harvey Davis

EP 71208

**Song of the Night Sky** (2004) 2 minutes

For Clarinet and Piano

Commissioned by ABRSM for *Spectrum for Clarinet*

EP 71212

## Chamber Ensemble

**A Little Concerto** (2001) c.15 minutes

For Clarinet and String Trio

Commissioned by Whitgift School, Croydon

First performed 4 July 2001, by Sacha Esterson (clarinet) and soloists from the London Mozart Players

EP 71213

**Catena** (1999/2001) 18 minutes

For 11 Solo Strings

Commissioned by Opus 20

First performed 5 January 2001, Purcell Room, Southbank Centre, London, by Opus 20, conducted by Scott Stroman

EP 71234

**Fantasy** (2014) c.5 minutes

For 4 Harps

Commissioned by 4 Girls, 4 Harps

First performed 28 May 2015, Temple Church, London, by 4 Girls, 4 Harps

EP 72669

**Harlequin Memories** (2012) 20 minutes

For Bassoon and String Quartet

Commissioned by Stephen Massil in memory of his father, Bill Massil

First performed 21 June 2012, Shoreditch Church, Spitalfields Festival, by Bram van Sambeek and the Heath String Quartet

EP 72215

**In the Forests of the Night (2020)** 10 minutes

For Saxophone Orchestra: 2 Soprano, 4 Alto, 2 Tenor, 2 Baritone, 1 Bass)

Commissioned by the Megalopolis Saxophone Orchestra, the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, the Saxophone Class of Musikhochschule Lübeck, the District Saxophone Chamber Orchestra and the Fredonia State University of New York Saxophone Ensemble.

First performed by Megalopolis Saxophone Orchestra on 9 October 2021 at Di Menna Center, New York City

EP 73574

**Miniature and Canon** (2000) c. 4 minutes

For Piano Quartet

Piano, Violin, Viola and Violoncello

Commissioned by The Schubert Ensemble for Chamber Music 2000

First performed 23 March 2001, Wigmore Hall, London, by The Schubert Ensemble of London

*Miniature and Canon* EP 71207*(Canon* EP 71233, *Miniature* EP 712140)**Night Songs** (2004) 12 minutes

For Flute (Piccolo &amp; Alto Flute), Horn, Viola and Harp

Commissioned by Arpège with financial assistance from RVW Trust and The Holst Foundation

First performed 11 November 2005, St. James's Church, Piccadilly, London, by Arpège

EP 71223

**Piano Trio** (2003) 16 minutes

For Violin, Violoncello and Piano

For Ian Munro

First Performed 7 May 2004, Pavilion Theatre, Brighton, by Double Image

EP 71231

**Quintet for Strings** (2019) 15 minutes

For 2 Violins, Viola, 2 Violoncellos

Commissioned by The British Music Society of York for the Sacconi Quartet, with Tim Lowe cello and premiered at Lyons Concert Hall York on 1st October, 2022

EP 73524

**Songs Without Words** (2005) 8 minutes

For Clarinet and String Trio

Written for the 30th Anniversary of Gemini

First performed 20 May 2005, St. James, Piccadilly, London, by Ian Mitchell (clarinet), Gemini: Caroline Balding (violin), Yuko Inoue (viola) and Robin Michael (violoncello)

EP 71226

**String Quartet No.3** (2010) 10 minutes

For String Quartet

For the Kreutzer Quartet

First performed 15 March 2011, Wilton's Music Hall, London, by the Kreutzer Quartet

EP 72112

## **String Quartet No.4** (2017)

For String Quartet

Commissioned by York Late Music Concert Series and first performed by the Bingham String Quartet on September 2nd, 2017

EP 73125

## **Orchestra**

### **Amores** (2004) 21 minutes

Five songs without words for Horn and Strings (3.3.2.2.1 minimum)

Commissioned by The Goldberg Ensemble for their 2004 Contemporary Tour

First performed 6 February 2004, St. George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol, by Richard Watkins (horn), The Goldberg Ensemble, conducted by Malcolm Layfield

EP 71217

### **Concertino for Chamber Orchestra** (2005) 10 minutes

1.1.1.1 – 2.1.0.0 – Str(3.3.2.2.1 min)

Commissioned by Chamber Orchestra Anglia

First performed 25 June 2005, UEA, Norwich, by Chamber Orchestra Anglia, conducted by Sharon Choa

EP 71227

### **The Crimson Bird** (2016) 23 minutes

Soprano and Orchestra

SopSolo - 3.3.3.3 - 4.3.3.1 - Timp - Cel - Hp - Str

Text: from 'Siege' by John Fuller

Composing The Crimson Bird was made possible by the award of the Royal Philharmonic Society Elgar

Bursary. It was written for the BBCSO, for first performance with Rachel Nicholls and Ilan Volkov on February 17th, 2017

EP 72890

### **Threnody** (2014) 6 minutes

For Orchestra

3.3.3.3 - 4.3.3.1 - Timp - 2Perc - Hp - Str

First performed 13 January 2015, National Concert Hall, Dublin, Ireland, by RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Gavin Maloney

EP 72636a

### **Wind-blown Seeds** (2012) 14 minutes

For String Orchestra (6.6.4.4.2)

Commissioned by Arcos Chamber Orchestra

First performed 16 May 2012, Temple Emanu-El, New York City, by The Arcos Orchestra, conducted by John-Edward Kelly

EP 72245

## **Vocal/Choral**

### **Alkman the Choirmaster** (2007) 12 minutes

For High Voice and Harp

*Text: John Fuller*

For Alison Nichols and James Gilchrist

First performed 17 May 2007, Bury St Edmunds Festival, by Alison Nichols (harp) and James Gilchrist (tenor)

EP 71215

### **as heather curves** (2021) 4 minutes

For Double SATB Choir

*Text from Beara Peninsula by Eithne Strong*

Commissioned by Bernie Sherlock for the New Dublin Voices, with funding from An Chomhairle Ealaíon, Arts Council Ireland

EP 73625



**The Bourne** (2008) c. 2½ minutes

For Soprano and Harp

*Text: Christina Rossetti*Commissioned by NMC recordings for *The NMC Songbook*, a disc celebrating their twentieth anniversary

First performed 3 April 2009, King's Place, London, by Elizabeth Atherton (soprano) and Lucy Wakeford (harp)

EP 71730

**The Falcon Carol** (2019) 3 minutes

For SATB Choir A Cappella

*Text: James Harpur*

EP 73421

**Finding** (2008) 3½ minutes

For Baritone and Piano

*Text: Ursula Vaughan Williams*

First performed 3 October 2008, memorial concert for Ursula Vaughan Williams, Royal College of Music

EP 71789

**Five Songs from Catalunya** (2006) c. 12 minutes

Five songs for amateur Choir (SATB)

*The Storm Cock • Henny Penny • The Month of May • Lullaby, Sleep and Dream • The Moon in the Clear Blue Sky**Text: traditional, from Catalan folksongs*

First performed 3 June 2006, Farrera de Pallars, Catalunya, by Cor Signum de la Seu d'Urgell

EP 71790

**Mira Clar Tenebras** (2002) c. 20 minutes

For Mezzo Soprano, Oboe d'amore/Cor anglais, Viola and Harp

*Text: European, mainly mediaeval*

Commissioned by Okeanos

First performed 1 November 2002, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, by Okeanos

EP 71206

**The Moth-Ghost** (2020) 10 minutes

Dramatic Scena for Soprano and Piano

*Text by James Harpur*

Written for Gabriella Di Laccio, who commissioned the piece with funds provided by the PRSF.

First performed by Gabriella Di Laccio and Clelia Iruzum on 21 October 2021 at St James' Church Sussex Gardens,

London

EP 73532

**Rossetti Songs** (2008) 15 minutes

For Women's Choir

*Text: Christina Rossetti*

Commissioned by MUSE, Cincinnati's Women's Choir on the occasion of their 25th Anniversary

First performed 22 November 2008, by MUSE, Cincinnati's Women's Choir, Catherine Roma (artistic director)

EP 71735

**Songs for Jane** (2006) c. 6 minutes

For Soprano and Viola

*Text: Anon, from the Japanese*

For my cousin Jane on her seventieth birthday

First performed 1 March 2007, Purcell Room, Southbank Centre, London, by Carola Darwin (soprano) and Dimitri

Murrath (piano)

EP 71211

**St Hilda of Whitby** (2018) 25 minutes

A Cantata

*Text by Wendy Cope*

2 versions

1) Soprano and Baritone Soli, SATB choir and instrumental ensemble [oboe, bassoon, horn, trumpet and string quartet]

2) Soprano and Baritone Soli, SATB choir and piano,

Commissioned by the Association of Senior Members of St Hilda's College, Oxford, in celebration of the 125th anniversary of the College's foundation.

First performed by St Hilda's College Choir conducted by Jonathan Williams on 18 February 2018 at University Church Oxford

EP 73178

**St Ita's Lullaby** (2015) 3 minutes

A Christmas Carol for SATB

*Words by James Harpur*

EP 72629

**The Swan** (2017) 10-11 minutes

Baritone and Piano

*Text: Fleur Adcock*

Commissioned by Jeremy Huw Williams with the support of The John S. Cohen Foundation

First performed at Lower Machen Festival, 25 June 2017 by Jeremy Huw Williams (baritone) and Paula Fan (piano)

EP 73106

**The Swan** (2017) 10-11 minutes

Baritone, Trumpet, Violin, Viola and Cello

*Text: Fleur Adcock*

Commissioned by Jeremy Huw Williams with the support of The John S. Cohen Foundation

First performed at Lower Machen Festival, 25 June 2017 by Jeremy Huw Williams (baritone) and Paula Fan (piano)

EP 73106

**The Tongue and the Heart** (2008) c. 10 minutes

For Soprano and Violoncello

*Text: John Fuller*

For Sarah Leonard and Robin Michael

First performed 6 November 2008, Sound Festival, Banchory, Scotland, by Sarah Leonard (soprano) and Robin Michael (violoncello)

EP 71044

**Triptych** 15 minutes

For Baritone Voice and Chamber Orchestra

*Poems by Rowan Williams*

1(Picc).2.0.2-2.0.0.0-Str (4.3.2.2.1)

Commissioned by the Welsh Chamber Orchestra with the support of the Ralph Vaughan Williams Trust.

First performed by Jeremy Huw Williams (baritone) with the Welsh Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Anthony Hose on 26 November 2021.

EP 73513

**Two Auden Songs** (2007) c. 8 minutes

For High Voice and Piano

*Lullaby • Edward Lear**Text: W. H. Auden*

EP 71225

**Lullaby 'Lay your Sleeping Head'** (2007) 4 minutes

For Soprano or Tenor and Piano

*Text: W. H. Auden*

Commissioned by Eleanor Meynell

First performed 22 February 2007, Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall, Manchester, by Eleanor Meynell and Christopher Glynn

EP 71219



**Edward Lear** (2007) 4 minutes

For Soprano or Tenor and Piano

*Text: W. H. Auden*

For James Gilchrist

First performed 31 August 2009, Presteigne Festival, by James Gilchrist (tenor) and Huw Watkins (piano).  
EP 71792**Two Christmas Carols** (2015/2019) 6 minutes

For SATB Choir A Cappella

St Ita's Lullaby • The Falcon Carol

*Text by James Harpur*

EP 73422

**St Ita's Lullaby** (2015) 3 minutes

A Christmas Carol for SATB

*Words by James Harpur*

EP 72629

**The Falcon Carol** (2019) 3 minutes

For SATB Choir A Cappella

*Text: James Harpur*

EP 73421

**Two French Songs** (2003) c. 7 minutes

For Soprano and Piano

Au Chat • Billet à Whistler

*Text: Gwen John/Mallarmé*

EP 71063

**Au Chat** (2003) 3 minutes

Soprano and Piano

*Text: Gwen John*

For David and Charlotte Evans

First performed 1 March 2007, Purcell Room, Southbank Centre, London, by Carola Darwin (soprano) and Maria Krivenski (piano)

EP 71222

**Billet à Whistler** (2003) 4 minutes

For Soprano and Piano

*Text: Mallarmé*

Commissioned by Alison Smart and Katharine Durran

First performed 13 July 2004, Purcell Room, Southbank Centre, London, by Alison Smart (soprano) and Katharine Durran (piano)

EP 71229

**Two Latin Carols** (1999/2002) c. 8 minutes

For SSA

*Misterium Mirabile • Rosa Sine Spina**Text: Anon, 15th Century/Anon, 13th Century*

EP 71064

**Misterium Mirabile** (1999) 5 minutes

Carol for SSA

*Text: Anon, 15th Century*

First performed 12 December 1999, by the choir of Norwich High School for Girls

EP 71216

**Rosa Sine Spina** (2002) 3 minutes

Carol for SSA

*Text: Anon, 13th Century*

First performed 11 April 2003, Northrop Festival, by Juice

EP 71205

## Opera/Music Theatre

### **Dream Hunter** (2010) 50 minutes

Chamber Opera for 4 solo singers, Fl(Picc, A-fl), Cl(B-cl), Tbn, Perc, Hp, Vln, Vc

*Libretto: John Fuller*

Commissioned by the Mornington Trust, with funds from the Britten Pears foundation, for performance by Lontano Ensemble

First performed 25 October 2011, Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Wales, by Lontano Ensemble

EP 72026

### **Light Passing** (2004) 70 minutes

Chamber Opera for 7 solo singers, Fl, Bsn, Tpt, 1 Perc, Hp, Vc, small Chorus (SATB, may be amateur)

*Libretto: John Edmonds*

Commissioned by BBC Radio 3.

First performed 28 October 2004, National Centre for Early Music, York, by Nicholas Folwell (Pope Clement VI), conducted by Clark Rundell. Directed by Cathy Denford, Vocal director: John Potter.

EP 71224

### **Tokaido Road** (2014) c. 55 minutes

*A Journey after Hiroshige*

Chamber Opera for 3 Singers, Mime and Small Chamber Ensemble

*Libretto: Nancy Gaffield*

Dedicated to Kate Romano

Commissioned by Okeanos with funds provided by Britten Pears Foundation, John S Cohen Foundation, Leche Trust, Radcliffe Trust and Cheltenham Festival

First performed 6 July 2014, Cheltenham Festival

EP 72572

## Discography

### **Amores for horn and string orchestra**

Richard Watkins, (hn) Goldberg Ensemble conducted by Malcolm Layfield

NMC D174

### **Billet à Whistler for soprano and piano**

Alison Smart, Katherine Durran

Metier CD 92100

### **The Bourne for soprano and harp**

Elizabeth Atherton, (sop) Lucy Wakeford (hp)

NMC D150

### **Catena for Eleven Solo Strings**

**String Quartet No. 2**

**Cancion de la Luna**

**Clarinet Concertino**

Fiona Cross, (clarinet) Nicholas Clapton, (countertenor) Goldberg Ensemble conducted by Malcolm Layfield

Naxos 8.557389

### **Miniature and Canon**

Schubert Ensemble of London

NMC D080

### **Mira Clar Tenebras for voice and small ensemble**

Okeanos

Metier CD 92064



For further information:

**Leipzig**

**C. F. Peters Ltd. & Co. KG**

Talstraße 10

D-04103 Leipzig

Deutschland

☎ +49 (0) 341 989 792

✉ [stefan.conradi@editionpeters.com](mailto:stefan.conradi@editionpeters.com)

**New York**

**C. F. Peters Corporation**

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 2005

New York, NY 10018

USA

✉ [gene.caprioglio@editionpeters.com](mailto:gene.caprioglio@editionpeters.com)

**London**

**Peters Edition Ltd**

2–6 Baches Street

London N1 6DN

UK

☎ +44 (0) 20 7553 4000

✉ [newmusic@editionpeters.com](mailto:newmusic@editionpeters.com)