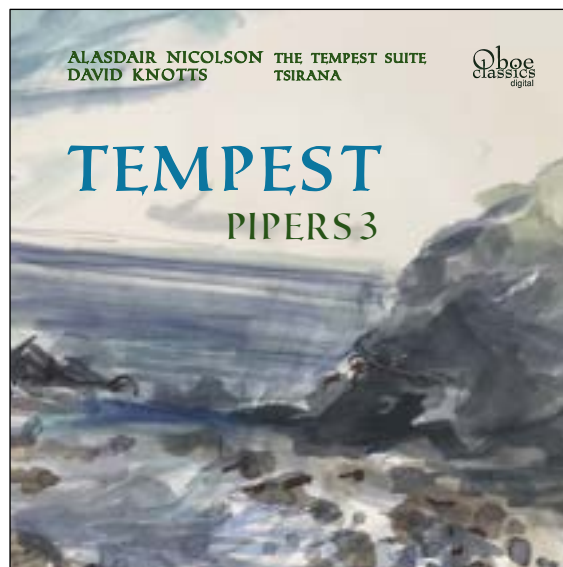


# TEMPEST

## PIPERS 3

Oboe  
classics  
digital

ALASDAIR NICOLSON  
**THE TEMPEST  
SUITE**  
DAVID KNOTTS  
**TSIRANA**



Alasdair Nicolson (b. 1961)

### THE TEMPEST SUITE

1	Overture	3.00'
2	Gavotte and Double: Yellow Sands	1.59'
3	Bourée: Full Fathom Five	3.00'
4	Loure: While You Here Do Snoring Lie	1.32'
5	Quadrille: The Bee Sucks	2.00'
6	Air: Ariel Gone	2.45

David Knotts (b. 1972)

### TSIRANA

7	Apricot Tree	3.58'
8	Entwined	3.07'
9	In the Shadows	5.45'
10	Seascape	

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### PIPERS 3

Mark Baigent	oboe, oboe d'amore, cor anglais
Matthew Draper	oboe, cor anglais
Jessica Mogridge	oboe, cor anglais

## THE TEMPEST SUITE

This piece distils a huge amount of incidental music written for a production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. When Pipers 3 visited the St Magnus International Festival in 2011, one of their incarnations there was as three oboe-playing Ariels perched high on a balcony weaving music throughout the play. This Suite brings much of that music together into early dance forms: with the central four movements relating to songs in the original. The sound of the oboe and cor anglais can be playful, melancholy, magical and lyrical and so the combination allows complete freedom to follow the many moods of Shakespeare's play. The *Overture* is fanfare-like with intricate overlapping material that builds and then subsides. *Yellow Sands* is a tango-like gavotte in five beats in the bar. *Full Fathom Five* is filled with dotted rhythms and grace notes with a central extended melody on cor anglais. *While you here do snoring lie* is a gentle lullaby exploiting the lower sounds from three cor anglais. *The Bee Sucks* is like a simple children's song – repeating its melody over and over again. *Ariel Gone* finishes the suite with a keening melody that eventually evaporates as does the character Ariel.

Alasdair Nicolson

## TSIRANA

When I began to think about writing music for three double-reed instruments, I was drawn to the music of the Armenian duduk, the ancient ancestor of the modern oboe. The duduk is made from the wood of the highly-prized apricot tree and traditional Armenian songs and dances which feature the instrument are both encrusted with ornamentation and soulful and lamenting in character. Both characteristics can be heard in *Tsirana*.

The folk song *Tsirani Tsar* (Apricot Tree) was collected by the Armenian composer and musicologist, Komitas Vardapet and lines from the song inspired each of the four movements of *Tsirana*. The first movement is bold and proclaiming in character, celebrating the sound-giving tree. This is followed by a virtuosic moto perpetuo, with the three instruments entwined together. In the solemn third movement, each player 'sings' alone in the shadow of the tree. The dramatic finale draws on the music of the previous three movements: the wind howls and the music rushes headlong into the tempestuous sea.

David Knotts

*Apricot tree, do not bear fruit, vay!*  
*Don't let your branches entwine, vay!*  
*Every time I walk in your shadow,*  
*My pain and suffering also entwine!*

*Give me, o give me back the joy of my heart,*  
*Which, like the wind, has drowned into the sea.*  
*May this terrible year end and never come back!*  
*The pain has plunged me into the black abyss!*  
*How the wind howls,*  
*Drowning the laughter of my heart into the sea.*

From 4 Armenian Songs – Komitas Vardapet 1928

## PIPERS 3

Pipers 3 is a distinguished oboe trio whose three exceptional musicians have established the ensemble as one of Europe's foremost chamber groups of its kind. Their acclaimed recording *Intercession* is widely regarded as a landmark in the oboe trio repertoire. While the roots of the oboe trio trace back to 18th-century Vienna, Pipers 3 has, since its formation in 1990 with oboist Julian West, been dedicated to expanding the ensemble's possibilities. The group has commissioned and premiered numerous new works, exploring fresh approaches to performance and embracing a wide range of musical influences. Their collaborations include commissions from composers such as Michael Finnissy, Richard Causton, Rob Keeley, Richard Leigh, Lyndon Hilling, Paul Renan-Zelezniak, David Knotts, and Alasdair Nicolson, which they perform alongside the classical foundations of the trio repertoire.

Pipers 3 has been recognized with numerous awards, including prizes from The Young Concert Artists Trust, The Royal Overseas League, the Bromsgrove Festival, Radio 3 Young Artists' Platform, The Countess of Munster Recital Scheme, South-East Arts Young Musicians' Platform, The John Tunnell Trust, and the Vandoren Prize at UFAM, Paris. The trio has also broadcast widely on BBC Radio 3, BBC Radio 4, and Classic FM.

## ALASDAIR NICOLSON

Alasdair Nicolson was born in Inverness and brought up on the Isle of Skye and the Black Isle. He studied at Edinburgh University and later became Shaw McFie Lang Fellow there working in composition and music theatre. Whilst his first commissions came immediately after he finished his studies, he began his career by combining composition with work in theatre and opera as musical director, conductor and répétiteur. It was in the late 80s and early 90s that he came to wider attention as winner of the IBM Composers' Prize and, following this success, he received commissions from the UK and abroad.

Nicolson has gone on to work with some of the world's best orchestras, ensembles and soloists. His music is widely performed and broadcast and it has won critical acclaim for its clarity, craftsmanship and individuality. He is now regarded as one of Scotland's foremost composers. As well as his compositional work Alasdair has been involved with many organisations as a creative producer. He is currently Artistic Director of the St Magnus International Festival and Director of the St Magnus Composers' Course as well as being Artistic Director of his own ensemble *The Assembly Project*. He has been curator for one of *SCOT:lands* for Edinburgh's Hogmanay and previously worked as Artistic Director of Bath International Music Festival, Sound Inventors, Northlands Festival and Platform Festival.

[www.alasdairnicolson.co.uk](http://www.alasdairnicolson.co.uk)

*The Tempest Suite* is published by Universal Edition

## DAVID KNOTTS

David Knotts studied at the Royal Academy of Music, King's College, Cambridge, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and the University of Sussex. A finalist in the 1994 BBC Young Musician of the Year Composer Competition, David has since written for many of the UK's leading soloists and ensembles, including the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Swedish Chamber Orchestra, BBC Singers, English National Opera, and the Schubert Ensemble.

His recent works include *Grimm Tales* for guitarist Craig Ogden, the oratorio *Toads on Tapestry* celebrating the Magna Carta, and the piano concerto *Laments and Lullabies*, premiered by Tom Poster at the Presteigne Festival. Other notable pieces include *The Unicorn Dances*, *At the Mid Hour of Night* for the Wihan String Quartet, and *The Rider from Artemision*, premiered at Oxford's Sheldonian Theatre. His guitar concerto *The Alabaster Chambers* was premiered by Craig Ogden and the BBC Concert Orchestra at London's Southbank Centre. Recent works include *Una Sanosa Porfia* was written for the Choir of Canterbury Cathedral and released on Signum Records and *The Bestiary of Brilliant Beasts* for the New Paths Festival.

[www.davidknotts.co.uk](http://www.davidknotts.co.uk)

*Tsirana* is published by Composers Edition

### PIPERS 3

Mark Baigent

Oboe I: tracks 1 - 3 & tracks 5 - 6  
Oboe d'amore: tracks 7 - 10  
Cor Anglais: track 4

Matthew Draper

Oboe III: tracks 1 - 3 & 5 - 6  
Cor Anglais: track 4  
Oboe I: tracks 7 - 10

Jessica Mogridge

Oboe II: tracks 1 - 6  
Cor Anglais: track 4 & tracks 7 - 10



Producer, engineer and editor: Alex Caldon  
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Artwork: Bay Lees. [www.baylees.co.uk](http://www.baylees.co.uk)