

Note from the Editor

It has been two years since I last created my newsletter, and much as happened in that time. Since buying the publishing division of Counterpoint Musical Services and moving the operation to Vaughan, Ontario (just at the north-western edge of Toronto), I have wanted to send you more news of our composers and performances. I believe in "better late than never". As maintaining our good service and keeping up with your requests and orders is our primary focus, and during "The Season" things are busy and continuous, therefore the newsletter was delayed.

I appreciate the support and good will I have received from many of you since this substantial transition. On to the news I want to share...

Jean-Marie Barker, Manager & President

Gary Kulesha signs exclusive contract with Counterpoint



We are pleased to announce that Gary Kulesha's catalogue of works are now handled by Counterpoint. All his orchestral works are available on rental and his chamber works as well as full scores, soloist parts and vocal/choral scores will be available on sale through our Print-on-Demand service.

Gary's works are performed around the world and have been championed by performers such as cellist Shauna Rolston, recorder virtuoso Michala Petri, clarinetist James Campbell, the Hannaford Street Silver Band and orchestras such as the Vancouver Symphony, National Arts Centre, and Toronto Symphony. Gary continues his role as Composer Advisor to the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in addition to teaching full time at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music.

Upcoming performances include:

Third Symphony by **Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra** Feb. 10, 2010; *Recorder Concerto* with **Michala Petri** and the **Manitoba Chamber Orchestra**, May 4, 2010.



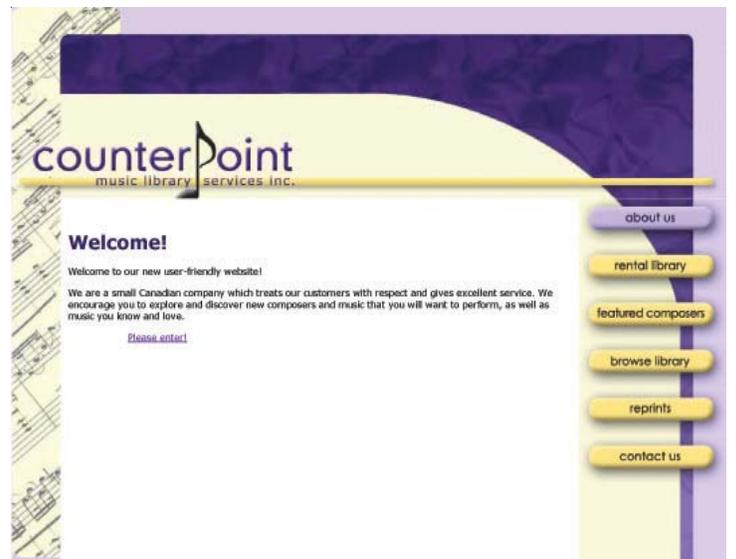
The music of Edmonton composer, and Canadian Music Centre Associate, **Jeff McCune**, is familiar to his home-town audience as the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra has commissioned not one but three orchestra works from him: *Dance Suite*, *Overture Sauvage* (1997) and *Aquamarine* (2004) for organ and orchestra. Jeff's work is interesting and audience friendly. We believe that not only his orchestra work needs to be more widely known and promoted, but also his much larger

chamber work catalogue and to that end we are in the process of taking on all his works. A biography and sound clips of his orchestra works can be found on our website. We will be adding more works to those already listed, soon. Look under *Browse our library* and enter his name to find this. The orchestra works are on rental, but the chamber works, as well as full scores and solo parts, will be sold through our Print-on-Demand service.

New Look for our Website

We have redesigned the look of our website and built onto and improved the user-friendliness started in the previous version. Please check it out at www.cpmusiclibrary.ca.

We are continuing to add composer pictures, biographies, sound clips and a new feature, sample score pages. This takes a lot of time to do so I am starting this with the Featured Composers on our new Featured Composers button which will take you to information about each composer and their works. My goal is to have these features available for as many works in the database as possible, a project that will likely take years, but you don't have to wait that long. If you see something that interests you, all you have to do is ask and I will send you perusal scores and promotional recordings if they are available.



Victor Davies has had two important premieres in the last couple years. He wrote a concerto for tuba and orchestra called *Concerto for Tubameister* (which is as fun as the name suggests), and his latest opera *The Transit of Venus*.

The tuba concerto was commissioned by retired U.S. naval commander Chip Sherman for his son J.c., a freelance tuba virtuoso who plays for among others Opera Cleveland, as "there is very little good music for tuba out there". He wanted a new piece that was "melodic and ear-friendly" and that is what the new concerto is. The work was premiered in the tuba and piano version by **J.c. Sherman** in September, 2008, and the orchestral premiere was enthusiastically received this past January, given by the **Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra** with their principal tuba, **Chris Lee**, as soloist.

The opera *The Transit of Venus* was well received at its premiere November, 2007. The opera is based on the astronomer Gallileo, the women who love him, and his attempts to record the transit, which is when the planet Venus passes between the sun and the earth. The libretto for this new opera was written by one of Canada's most accomplished playwrights, Maureen Hunter, from her play of the same name. It was premiered with the **Manitoba Opera**, the Winnipeg Symphony and a top-notch cast of Russell Braun, Judith Forst, Jean Stilwell, Monica Huisman and Colin Ainsworth.



Malcolm Forsyth

On June 5, at the 2009 **International Horn Society** conference in Macon, Illinois, two newly commissioned versions of existing works were premiered: *Eclectic Suite for Horn and Piano* (originally for cello and piano) was performed by soloist Jeff Nelson, commissioner of both these arrangements, and *Andante from Sagittarius for two horns and piano* (originally for brass

quintet and orchestra; later rearranged for cello and piano and later yet for two harps and string orchestra) was performed by Jeff Nelson and the Swedish virtuoso Annamia Erickson.

The **Edmonton Junior Children's Choir** premiered a new work commissioned and performed by them with verses by poet, actor and director Carl Hare, on April 14, 2009 at MacDougall Church, Edmonton, called *Nursery Rhymes*. It was conducted by Anne McIntyre with Sheila Wright accompanying them on piano. The piece has six intriguing movement titles: 1. The Bat 2. The Dragonfly 3. The Fly 4. The Butterfly 5. The Mouse 6. The cat. This will be of interest to the many children's choirs looking for new and interesting repertoire for their choirs.



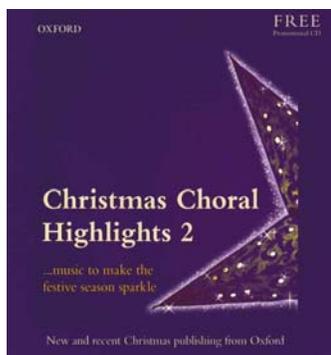
Glenn Buhr

This season will see another three premieres of Glenn Buhr's works. The internationally renowned **Penderecki Quartet**, whose home base is as the Quartet-in-Residence at Waterloo's Wilfrid Laurier University for the last 15 years, has had Glenn commissioned to write his *String Quartet no. 4* for them by the Women's Musical Club of Toronto (WMCT). It will be premiered

at Walter Hall, University of Toronto, March 25, 2010 as part of the WMCT's 112th season, in their Music in the Afternoon Series. This concert is already sold out by subscription.

The **Grand River Baroque Festival** will present their ninth season next year from June 18 - 20, 2010, based in and around Paris Ontario. The aim of this festival is to present the Baroque from a new perspective. To that aim the trumpeter Guy Few, and bassoonist Nadina Mackie Jackson, in their second year as Co-artistic directors, have commissioned Glenn to write a concerto for each of them. The new works will be called *Trumpet Concerto no. 2* and *Bassoon Concerto no. 2*. Learn more about this Festival at www.grbf.ca

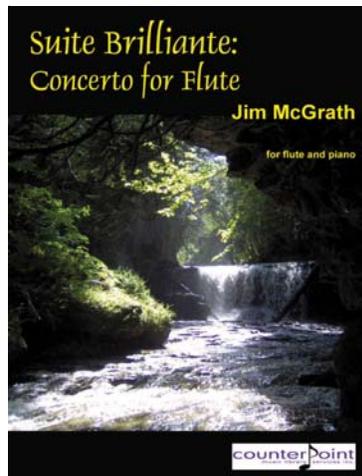
New Publications & CDs



You have programmed and presented your 2009 Christmas concert, but for 2010, you may want to try some enjoyable and new (or new to you) pieces. Oxford University Press has created two more Christmas Choral Highlight sampler discs to introduce you to some new pieces and new arrangements by their excellent composers. These discs include works by Bob Chilcott, Malcolm Archer, Mack Wilberg, John Rutter, David Willcocks and Howard Skempton.

You can see the contents list at our link:

www.cpmusiclibrary.ca/merch



Jim McGrath's wonderful Flute Concerto has been given a new catchy name of *Suite Brillante: Concerto for Flute*. Counterpoint has recently published a beautifully engraved edition of the solo flute and piano reduction which is meant to be used as a recital work, or as a basis for learning the piece to be played with orchestra. If you haven't heard this and would like a recording, please ask. A sound clip is on our

website. This new edition can be ordered through us or ask your favourite retailer to order it for you.

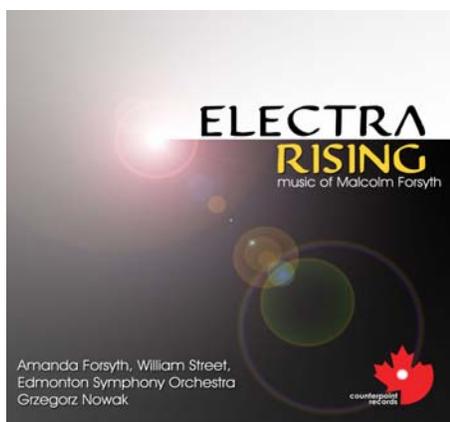


On our **new Merchandise page** we are offering not only our sales items, but other free Promotional Sampler CDs featuring choral and orchestral music, which are available upon request. Visit www.cpmusiclibrary.ca/merch

Counterpoint Records has been born.

We are pleased to announce the creation of the Counterpoint Records Label, as a division of Counterpoint Music Library Services Inc.

The first disc to be issued on this new label is a repressing of the disc *Electra Rising: music of Malcolm Forsyth* featuring his **Juno Award winning** work of the title, a cello concerto written for his daughter **Amanda Forsyth**. Also on the disc is his **Juno nominated** *Tre Vie: Concerto for Saxophone*, written for and performed by **William H. Street** along with the **Edmonton Symphony Orchestra** under the direction of Grzegorz Nowak. The third work on the disc is *Valley of a Thousand Hills*, an homage to three landscapes close to the composer's birthplace in South Africa. This is available for sale through our website for \$15. plus postage and GST.



Composers' Commissioning Project

Counterpoint has launched a new project aimed at bridging the gap between individuals or groups who would like to commission a piece of music, but don't know how to go about it, and those who create it. With our many years of experience looking after performers and composers and promoting the music we represent, we have the skills necessary to create that bridge. You can find complete details on our website at:

www.cpmusiclibrary.ca/unique

Future newsletters by Email

As the trend is to send more information by email, and less by post, we would like to send future newsletters by email. We encourage you to give us your email address so that we can send our newsletters to your inbox. We will continue to send by post, additional hard copy literature and sampler CDs to those we believe will find them of interest, but other information is easier to deliver electronically. If you would like to participate, please email me at: library@cpmusiclibrary.ca or through our website at www.cpmusiclibrary.ca

We promise to treat your address with care and not send you spam or pass it around to other organizations.