

Winter, 2017

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## The Ecstasy of Rita Joe New Opera by Victor Davies

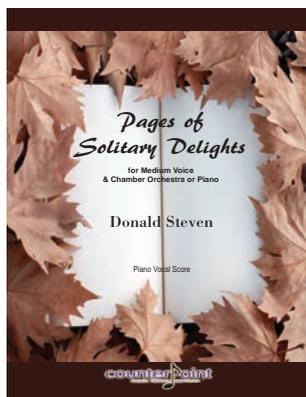


Victor Davies' latest opera is an adaptation of the George Ryga play *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe*. The new opera, which uses the same name as the play, tells the story of an aboriginal woman, Rita Joe, who leaves her reserve to find freedom in the city, only to find instead racism, hatred and violence. Even though the play was first presented in 1967 and has been remounted a few times since then, the story continues to resonate in our times.

The composer had been thinking of creating an opera based on this story for many years as he had been encouraged to do this by some friends. In 2014, a successful workshop performance was mounted by Guillermo Silva-Marin and his Opera in Concert. This same group and director will now be giving the official concert premiere in Toronto on March 24, 25 2018, with Marion Newman as Rita Joe, Evan Korbut as Jamie Paul, Everett Morrison as David Joe, and Michelle Lafferty as Eileen Joe, conducted by Robert Cooper at Jane Mallet Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre, Toronto.

## Juno-Award-Winner Pages of Solitary Delights by Donald Steven

*Pages of Solitary Delights* is a work for medium voice and orchestra. It was commissioned by the McGill (University) Symphony Orchestra for contralto Maureen Forrester to perform and record. It tied for the first place JUNO award (with Malcolm Forsyth's *Atayoskewin*, which we also have published) the first time the category for *Best Classical Composition* was awarded. This is a delightful piece and you can hear Ms. Forrester perform it with the McGill Symphony Orchestra on YouTube. Unfortunately, this work has been forgotten and unjustly ignored. Counterpoint is about to release a new edition of this work with a newly created piano reduction so that it can be performed in a recital or a setting without the original orchestral accompaniment. While it was created for a contralto, the work could also be done by a mezzo soprano or baritone, and hence the "medium voice" designation. This will be for sale on our online store or it can be ordered through a retailer of your choice. This will be out in early January, 2018. The original orchestral accompaniment is available on rental from Counterpoint: 3.2.2.2./2.2.3.0./2 perc. hp.pno./sts Duration: 11'

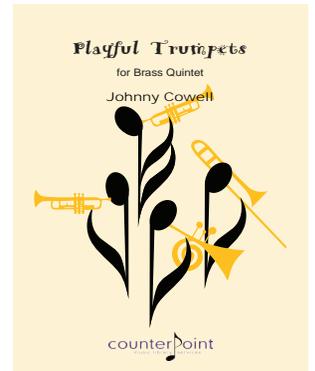


Donald Steven is one of only 4 composers to have won both a Juno and a Jules Leger prize. His Leger Prize winning work is *In the Land of Pure Delights*, also available from Counterpoint. This work is an ensemble piece--21' duration, scored: fl (=alto fl, bass fl, picc). clar (=E-flat clar, bass clar). 2 perc. synth. vln (vla), vlc

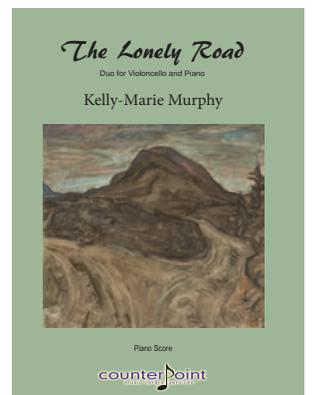
## New Publications - Winter, 2017

Johnny Cowell's *Playful Trumpets* is a delightful small gem for brass quintet--horn, 2 trumpets, trombone and tuba. You can hear this on YouTube along with a number of other Cowell pieces. We also sell the CD *The Art of Johnny Cowell* that has this piece and 24 others tracks. Order it through our online store.

This is a continuation of our project to put into print the music of the composer and trumpeter extraordinaire, Johnny Cowell, who turns 92 on January 11. Look for more releases in the coming months.

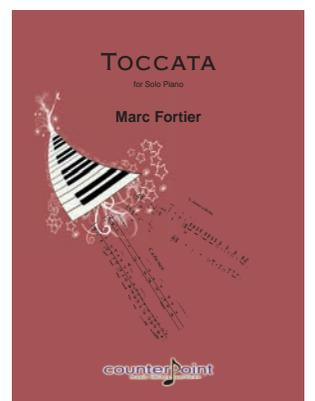


Kelly-Marie Murphy's *The Lonely Road* is a duo for cello and piano. The piece was inspired by the drawing by Frederick H. Varley called *Lonely Road* (replicated on the cover), which is located at the National Gallery in Ottawa, close to the composer's home. Premiered in 2010, it has been performed by a number of cellists. You can hear it through this link: <https://soundcloud.com/k-mmurphy/01-the-lonely-road>



Composer, conductor, performer Marc Fortier is one of our newest composers. He has had a long and distinguished conducting career in Quebec working with Montreal orchestras including Montreal Pops, Montreal Symphony Summer Pops as Artistic & Music Director, as well as in copyright administration as founder and board member of the Quebec Society of Authors and Composers, as well as a Board member of the Composers, Authors and Publishers Association of Canada, now SOCAN.

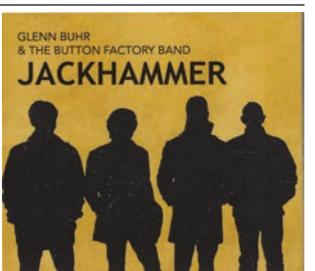
*Toccata* is a 3-part solo piano piece which has one movement each for left and right hands and then the third movement for both hands. This began as only one movement for a student who only had one hand. Later the other movements were added. It displays different styles of music writing from Classical to Serial and it can be taught to advanced pupils in order to develop the virtuosity of both hands. It may also be performed in a concert or as an encore.



## Glenn Buhr & The Button Factory Band

Composer/Songwriter Glenn Buhr has been working for the last few years on his new project The Button Factory Band a pop/art music/fusion band. They put out their first CD on our label, Counterpoint Records.

Listen to tracks from this new disc at: <http://buttonfactoryband.com/music/> Hard copies are for sale through our online store. Downloads through the band site.



## More New Publications - Winter, 2017

### Bramwell Tovey

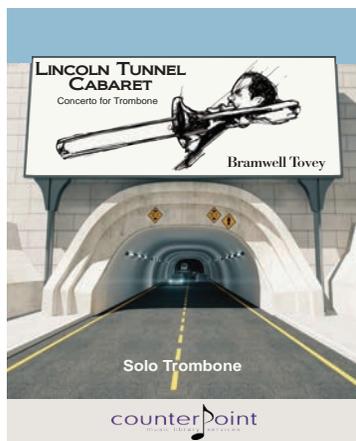
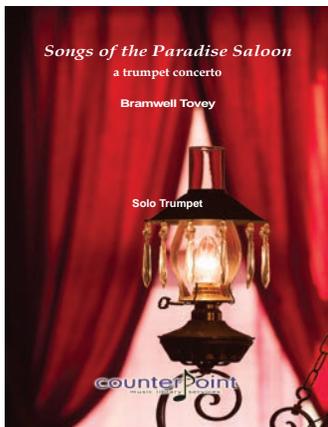
#### *Songs of the Paradise Saloon*

is a trumpet concerto whose theme and premise comes out of Bramwell Tovey's opera *The Inventor*. The Paradise Saloon was a bar in 19th century New York, which is featured in one of the scenes in the opera. Like any bar you find the usual characters, some of which the composer became quite fond of and decided to include musical material from this opera scene.

The piece was written for Toronto Symphony principal trumpet, Andrew McCandless and was premiered in December, 2009. The concerto requires the soloist to play not only trumpet but also flugel horn, cornet and piccolo trumpet. Listen to Bramwell talk about this concerto: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kkWNHOoXNM> This can be performed with orchestra or brass band. A recording done with the Hannaford Street Silver Band is available on their disc *Journey in Brass*. The solo trumpet is now on sale through our online store.

#### *Lincoln Tunnel Cabaret*

is a trombone concerto written for New York Philharmonic principal trombone, Joseph Alessi. Bramwell Tovey created the piece as a scenario of Mr. Alessi, who lives in New Jersey, commuting to work through the Lincoln Tunnel, which connects New York City to the state of New Jersey. The composer later found out that Mr. Alessi actually uses the Washington Bridge to go to work, but decided he preferred his scenario, even if it is not true. The piece is complete with traffic jams, stop and go traffic and a cadenza in the middle with the soloist entertaining his fellow travellers stuck in the tunnel in a jam. Listen at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=22AFBKBeNr4> This work may be played with orchestra, concert or brass band, all available from the publisher. The solo trombone and piano reduction is now on sale.



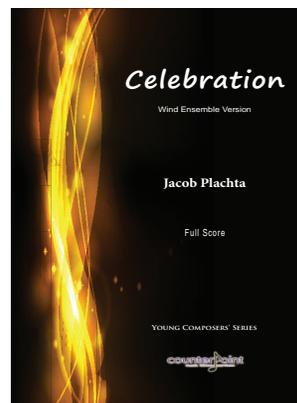
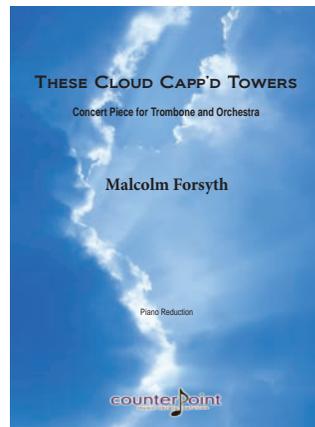
### Forsyth - These Cloud Capp'd Towers

The trombone concerto, *These Cloud Capp'd Towers*, was written for soloist and conductor, Alain Trudel and the Prince George Symphony, in celebration of their 10th Anniversary in 1990. The composer was principal trombone with the Edmonton Symphony for many years, and as such this work exploits and shows the lyrical and then dramatic-rhythmic capabilities of the instrument and the skill and musicality of the soloist. Alain Trudel again performed this work earlier this year, in a brass band arrangement, performed with the Hannaford Street Silver Band. Both accompaniments are available on rental from the publisher.

This new edition of the solo part and piano reduction created by the composer, will be ready for sale in early January.

Jacob Plachta is the first member of our Young Composers' Series. His *Celebration* was originally written for brass band for the Hannaford Youth Band, of which he was a member for several years. This new transcription for wind ensemble expands its availability to other bands. Like the name says, it is lively and celebratory. Listen to this and other works by Jacob at: <http://cpmusiclibrary.ca/jacob-plachta-audio/> Concert band now available for sale.

Scored: Concert Band: 3.picc.1.3.bcl.2 asax.tsax.barsax.1./4.3.2.btm.b.tba.euph./timp. 2 perc.cb; Brass Band: sop cnt(Eb). solo/rep/2nd/3rd cnts (Bb).flugel.solo/1st/2nd hns(Eb). 1st/2nd Bar(Bb).1st/2nd tmb.btm.b.euph.Eb/Bb tuba.timp.2 perc.



### Jeffrey McCune Composer and Visual Artist

Jeffrey McCune is not only a talented composer, pianist and conductor, he now has added visual artist to his list of talents. It is something to which he has returned. After spending many years in the "business of music", in artistic administration, he decided to retire from that and go back to his love of creating visual art. "My art is about making images that create a unique sensation: a need, a feeling, a mood...a certain transcendence that takes us to a peaceful, contemplative state of mind."

Visit his website to learn more and see his work, which is available for sale.

[www.jeffmccunefineart.com](http://www.jeffmccunefineart.com)



Gary Kulesha has had a busy year of performances and premieres of his work. As part of the 2017 Festival of the Sound, in Parry Sound, Ontario, one of the many excellent groups of performers were the Canadian Brass. They, along with Guy Few and some of his colleagues remounted, Gary's *Soundings for Brass*, a spatial work that had the Brass performing on a

Festival cruise ship in Georgian Bay, and Guy Few and group at various locations around the Bay, interacting by playing call and responses from another boat, at a location on shore and finally from the ship dock. This was only the second time this piece, originally commissioned by Festival of the Sound, had been performed.

*Dance Suite* is a new concert band piece commissioned by the Northdale Concert Band of Toronto for their 50th Anniversary. It was premiered November 4, with the composer conducting. A second performance will be given by the University of Toronto Concert Band under their conductor Jeffrey Reynolds.

The OSM Manulife Competition has, since its creation in 1940, launched the careers of some 350 prize winners. This year's competition focused on Brass and Woodwinds, and Gary's *Sonata for Trombone and Piano*, written for Gordon Wolfe, was the required piece. In the November competition it received multiple performances of the second movement.

*Double Concerto* for violin and viola will be premiered as part of the Toronto Symphony's New Creation Festival on March 18, 2018 with Jonathan Crow and Teng Li, soloists and Peter Oundjian conductor.

### Counterpoint Highlights available in PDF

Download the PDF version of this newsletter from our website, as well as the link to sound clips, on this page:

[www.cpmusiclibrary.ca/highlights](http://www.cpmusiclibrary.ca/highlights)