

Andrew Wilson-Dickson – Composer, 360 words

Andrew Wilson-Dickson is a composer, pianist and conductor (as well as author, teacher and string-player). During his four years at Cambridge University he studied piano with John Lill and then the organ at York with Nicholas Danby and Francis Jackson, at the same time holding the post of organ scholar at York Minster.

Just prior to his move to Wales in 1984, Andrew won the National Eisteddfod's 'Tlws y Cerddor' with *Sefyddfa a Sgwrs* for clarinet, strings, horn and accordion. But before and since then his compositions have been played (and broadcast) by many well-known artists such as Peter Lawson, Andrew Ball, Julian Jacobson (piano), Nancy Ruffer (flute), John Wallace (trumpet), Susanne Stanzeleit, Madeleine Mitchell (violin), (piano) Kevin Bowyer (organ), and by ensembles such as Lontano, the Wallace Collection and the Medici String Quartet (who played his string quartet commissioned by the BBC). He has written three operas and other dramatic works. He won the Bournemouth-Parry International Festival composition prize in 1999 with a piece (Psalm 29) which has since been taken on tour in Australia by the Sydney Chamber Choir.

As a result of his long-standing involvement with period music as a player and teacher, he is particularly interested in writing for early instruments – explaining the recent commissions for music from Fretwork and Charivari Agréable. His *Concerto Grosso* (Greenhouse Effect) was written for the Welsh Baroque Orchestra, a period instrument ensemble which he founded and directs.

Recently completed commissions include Three Hail Marys (ten-piece brass) for the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and The Fox, a cantata for period instruments first performed by the Welsh Baroque Soloists, summer 2005. In 2006 new works performed include a Guitar Concerto, a Trio for clarinet, cello and piano, a Concerto Grosso ('Greenhouse Effect') for the Welsh Baroque Orchestra, and a choral work 'Neijal', with the help of which the choir Godre'r Garth won a major competition at the National Eisteddfod. 2007 saw the completion of the piano piece 'Ahwak'.

Andrew writes liturgical music for the Christian church in a style vocally accessible to congregations while attempting to avoid adherence to a particular tradition. He has created responsorial settings to nearly 40 psalms, alongside hymns, cantatas and musicals.

Andrew is Chairman of Composers of Wales, an organisation which seeks to represent about 50 composers in Wales, providing a forum for their music.