

John Adams



John Adams photo © Christine Alicino

___The Music of John Adams___ The strains of his grandfather's lakeside New England dance hall were among the earliest layers of John Adams's aural memory. So too were the marching bands in which he played clarinet as a young student. Learning the basic European canon in front of the family Magnavox, Adams readily assimilated it alongside the crazy quilt of American vernacular music he encountered in the early postwar decades. Duke Ellington is a recurrent inspiration, and Adams's love of jazz—which returns in unexpected forms, such as the improvisatory “hypermelody” of the Violin Concerto (1993) or the electric violin's raga-like musings in *The Dharma at Big Sur* (2003)—was early nurtured by his parents' activities in jazz groups. As a student at Harvard during the cataclysmic upheavals of the late Sixties, Adams experienced the cognitive dissonance of the arid pronouncements of contemporary serialists when confronted with the fresh, Dionysian inventiveness of this golden age of rock. Adams eventually found his voice in the loosely experimental atmosphere of the California Bay Area where he relocated in his twenties. The Minimalist aesthetic lighted the way for Adams to reactivate the energetic pulsation and tonal basis of the jazz and rock idioms which seemed to legitimize the “pleasure principle” of listening. Yet early on Adams saw beyond the inherent limitations of Minimalism to a larger musical vision, as the seminal string septet *Shaker Loops* made clear. Already in his breakthrough orchestral works written for the San Francisco Symphony—culminating in *Harmonielehre*—Adams was displaying a genius for revitalizing the lofty rhetoric of romanticism and large forms with a contemporary sensibility. At the same time his early fascination with electronic music grew into a technologically enhanced palette that marries acoustic and synthesized sounds. Among Adams's most experimental soundscapes are the Pulitzer Prize-winning *On the Transmigration of Souls* and the music to depict the desert test site for the bomb in *Doctor Atomic*. From this array of influences, Adams continually generates new, unexpected compounds. His career can be viewed, as the composer puts it, as a quest “to forge a language, Whitman-like, out of the compost of American life.” This grounding in the vernacular can lead to surprisingly witty collisions, such as the Chamber Symphony's mash-up of early Schoenberg with cartoon soundtracks. Alongside the rascally, Mark Twain-like “trickster” humor is a vein of deeply felt nostalgia and rueful intimacy that can evoke the elegiac,

unsentimental tenderness of Copland. Adams is among the most frequently choreographed of contemporary composers in part because of the fascinating contexts in which he situates his dramatically propulsive rhythmic sensibility. He also refracts the pioneering perspective of Charles Ives, who remains a role model for keeping “the vernacular roots of the art alive” while experimenting without inhibition. Adams's uniquely American perspective comes into intense focus in his operatic work, beginning with 1987's *Nixon in China*, whose theatrical depiction of the cultural clash between Communism and Capitalism revitalized the genre for an entire generation. Adams's works for the stage have profoundly shaped not just the evolution of his own musical language but contemporary perceptions of opera and its possibilities. His choice of subject matter in collaboration with long-term artistic partner Peter Sellars, while sometimes controversial, is rooted in the mythic potential of contemporary icons and events. Adams strives to create an American opera with larger cultural implications, a work of art that addresses the defining conflicts of our time without pap solutions, whether terrorism (in *The Death of Klinghoffer*), the experience of urban immigrants (in the millennial oratorio/opera *El Niño*), or the beginning of the atomic age (*Doctor Atomic*). Yet Adams continues to draw on the inspiration of old masters, as in the Mozart-tinged *A Flowering Tree*, in which an ancient South Indian folk tale proves a fertile source for yet another act of cultural cross-pollination. Adams has become a representative 21st-century composer who continues to find ideal subjects for his own art of musical metamorphosis. Thomas May, 2008 (Thomas May is the editor of *The John Adams Reader* and author of *Decoding Wagner*, both from Amadeus Press. He writes frequently about music and theater.)

OPERAS

The Death of Klinghoffer

1990

2 hr 20 min

Opera in two acts

S,M,C,T,3Bar,B; chorus(min:24 singers); dancers
2(I,II=picc).2(II=corA).2(II=bcl).2(II=dbn)-2.2.2.0-perc(1);KAT MIDI mallet
controller/timp-2kbd samplers-harp-strings(8.8.6.6.4)

NOTE: The hiring of a sound designer is a condition/requirement for permission.

For complete technical specifications go to: mhgrey.wordpress.com

9790051968800 (Vocal Score)

World Premiere: 19 Mar 1991

Théâtre de la Monnaie, Brussels, Belgium

Peter Sellars, director/Mark Morris, choreographer; Théâtre de la Monnaie
Conductor: Kent Nagano

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Doctor Atomic

2004-05

2 hr 53 min

opera in 2 acts

M,A,2T,2Bar,BBar,B; chorus
3(II, III=picc).3(III=corA).3(II=Ebcl, III=bcl,dbcl).3(III=dbn)
-4.3(III=picc.tpt).3.1-harp-cel-timp-perc(4):I=thunder sheet/glsp/tgl/tuned
gong/crot/susp.cym/med tam-t/BD/2roto toms/chinese cym/SD/tuned
gongs;II=chimes/lg.tam-t/susp.chinese cym/crot/BD/tgl;III=tuned gongs/lo
gong/susp.cym/thunder sheet/med tam-tlg tam-t/hi susp.cym/xyl/crot/chimes/low
susp.cym/antique cym/hi tgl/med tam-t/sm tam-t/med gong/alarm bell/BD;IV=lg chinese
cym/susp.cym/tam-t/tuned gongs/BD/2 high tgls/bass chime-computer-controlled sound
system-strings

NOTE: The hiring of a sound designer is a condition/requirement for permission.

For complete technical specifications go to: mhgrey.wordpress.com

9790051097142 (Full score)

9790051097067 (Vocal Score)

World Premiere: 01 Oct 2005

San Francisco Opera House, San Francisco, CA, United States

Gerald Finley, bar / Kristine Jepsen, mezz / Peter Sellars, dir; San Francisco Opera
Conductor: Donald Runnicles

El Niño

1999-2000

1 hr 51 min

A Nativity Oratorio for chorus and orchestra

S,M,Bar,3CT; chorus; children's chorus
2(I,II=picc).2(I,II=corA).2(II=bcl).2(II=dbn)-3.0.3.0-perc(3):I=glsp/lo
tgl/gong/almglocken/guero/maracas; II=crot/almglocken/gong/hi cowbell/3tgl/tpl.bl;
III=gong/chimes/crot/claves/2tgl/2temple bowls-harp-pft(=cel)-2kbd
(I=pft,cel;II=sampler,cel)-2steel string gtr-strings(minimum 14.0.6.6.4)

NOTE: The hiring of a sound designer is a condition/requirement for permission.

For complete technical specifications go to: mhgrey.wordpress.com

9790051096756 (Vocal Score)

9790051097012 (Full score)

World Premiere: 15 Dec 2000

Châtelet, Paris, France

Dawn Upshaw/Lorraine Hunt-Lieberson/Willard White/Peter Sellars, director; Deutsches
Symphonie Orchester/London Voices
Conductor: Kent Nagano

A Flowering Tree

2006

1 hr 53 min

Opera in 2 acts

IyrS,T,Bar; chorus SATB (minimum 40)
2(II=picc).picc.soprano recorder*.alto recorder*.2(II=corA).3(III=bcl).2(II=dbn)
-4.2.3.0-timp.perc(4):I= glsp/wdbl/claves/pedal BD/SD/2susp.cyms/2tuned bongos (or
roto toms)/tom-t/shaker/3 tpl.blks/cowbell/bongo/maracas/BD/2 Japanese Bowl
gong/Chinese cym/2tgls/slapstick;II= chimes/tgl/tamb/wdbl/susp.cym/rainmaker
(med.)/BD/cast/bongo/SD; III=maracas/tamb/rainmaker (low)/high tgl/low tubular wind
chimes; IV=shaker/rainmaker (low)-harp-cel-strings(min: 12.10.8.6.5)

*OPTIONAL: recorder players play some very simple percussion (rain sticks, etc.), or
they can play only recorder

NOTE: The hiring of a sound designer is a condition/requirement for permission.

For complete technical specifications go to: mhgrey.wordpress.com

9790051097166 (Vocal Score)

9790051097081 (Full score)

World Premiere: 14 Nov 2006

Halle E im MuseumsQuartier, Wien, Austria

Peter Sellars, director / Jessica Rivera, soprano / Russell Thomas, tenor / Eric Owens,
baritone; Orquesta Sinfónica Juvenil Simón Bolívar / Schola Cantorum de Caracas
Conductor: John Adams

Girls of the Golden West

2017

2 hr 30 min

Opera

hS.S.M.3T.Bar. Male 4tet, Men's Chorus, dancer,

3(=picc),3(=corA),3(=Ebcl, bcl),3(=dbn)-4.3.3.1-perc(2)
-pft-accordion-gtr-strings(12.9.7.7.5)

Sound Design as detailed by Mark Grey

World Premiere: 21 Nov 2017

War Memorial Opera House, San Francisco, CA, United States

Peter Sellars, director/librettist; San Francisco Opera

Conductor: Grant Gershon

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

The Gospel According to the Other Mary

2012

2 hr 12 min

A Passion oratorio for orchestra, chorus and soloists

SATB Chorus: 40 voices MINIMUM with sound enhancement

3(III=picc)2.corA.2.bcl.2.dbn-4.2.2.0-perc:SD/pedal dr/BD(low)/timbale/tom-t(low)/tuned
gongs/chimes/almglocken/glsp/3tam-t(lg,med,sm)-cimb-pft-harp-bgtr-strings

NOTE: The hiring of a sound designer is a condition/requirement for permission.

For complete technical specifications go to: mhgrey.wordpress.com

World Premiere: 31 May 2012

Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles, CA, United States

Kelley O'Connor, mezzo-soprano / Tamara Mumford, contralto / Russell Thomas,
tenor/Daniel Bubeck, counter tenor / Brian Cummings, counter tenor / Nathan Medley,
counter tenor; Los Angeles Philharmonic / Los Angeles Master Chorale
Conductor: Gustavo Dudamel

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

I was looking at the ceiling and then I saw the sky

1995

1 hr 50 min

Songplay in two acts

3M,highT,T,2Bar

2reeds(I=cl,bcl,II=asax)-3kbd(I=pft/sampler,II=sampler,III=synth)-gtr(=elec.gtr)
-db(=elec.bgtr)-drum kit(=MIDI drums)

NOTE: The hiring of a sound designer is a condition/requirement for permission.

For complete technical specifications go to: mhgrey.wordpress.com

9790051097074 (Vocal Score)

World Premiere: 03 May 1995

Zellerbach Playhouse, University of California, Berkeley, United States

Peter Sellars, director; Paul Drescher Ensemble

Conductor: Grant Gershon

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Nixon in China

1987

2 hr 57 min

An opera in three acts

solo voices: colS,lyrS,3M,T,lyrBar,Bar,BBar; chorus; dancers
2(I,II=picc).2(II=corA).3(I=Ebcl;II,III=bcl).4sax(S,2A,Bar).0-0.3.3.0-perc(1):BD/pedal
BD/wdbl/susp.cym/SD/sandpaper blocks/tamb/hi-hat/TD/sizzle cym/glsp/slapping
sound/tgl/sleigh bells-2elec pft-synth or sampler (Kurzweil K2000)
-strings(minimum:6.6.4.4.2)

NOTE: The hiring of a sound designer is a condition/requirement for permission.

For complete technical specifications go to: mhgrey.wordpress.com

9790051968701 (Vocal Score)

World Premiere: 22 Oct 1987

Wortham Theater Center, Houston, TX, USA

Peter Sellars, director / Mark Morris, choreographer; Houston Grand Opera

Conductor: John DeMain

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

FULL ORCHESTRA

Absolute Jest

2011

25 min

for string quartet and orchestra

2.picc.2.corA.2.bcl.2.dbn-4.2.2.0-timp.perc(2):cowbell/xyl/BD/chimes/glsp/vib-harp-pft.c el-strings

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

<u>NOTE</u>: Due to certain balance issues in the orchestration, it is strongly recommended that very light amplification of the solo quartet be used with the sound controlled through a mixing board located at the rear, behind the audience.

9790051097708 **String Quartet & Orchestra**

World Premiere: 15 Mar 2012

Davies Symphony Hall, San Francisco, CA, USA
St Lawrence String Quartet; San Francisco Symphony
Conductor: Michael Tilson Thomas

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

City Noir

2009

34 min

for orchestra

picc.3(III=picc).3.corA.3(III=bcl).bcl.asax.dbn--6.4.3.1--timp.perc(5):vib/lg sus.cym/SD/bongos; tuned gongs/sus.cym/glsp/mar/tam-t/BD/chimes/vib/low tom-toms/tgl/castanets/cowbell/clave/temple bl; chimes/glsp/tamb/med tam-t/2 timbales/sus.cym/crotales/xyl; BD/tuned gongs/med tam-t/2 sus.cym/mar/crotales/castanet/tgl/glsp; 2 tam-t/BD/sus.cym/tgl/temple block/SD/2 tom-t/timbale/bongo/conga/tuned gongs.trap set--pft--cel--2harps--strings

9790051097791 **Orchestra (full score)**

World Premiere: 08 Oct 2009

Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles, CA, United States
Los Angeles Philharmonic
Conductor: Gustavo Dudamel

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Doctor Atomic Symphony

2007

25 min

for orchestra

2.picc.3(III=corA).3(II=Ebcl, III=bcl).3(III=dbn)
-4.4(IV=picc.tp).3.1-harp-cel-timp-perc(4):crotales/chimes/SD/thunder sheet/glsp/BD/2 tam-t/2 susp.cym/tuned gongs-strings

9790051097326 **(Full score)**

World Premiere: 21 Aug 2007

Royal Albert Hall, London, United Kingdom
BBC Symphony Orchestra
Conductor: John Adams

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

El Dorado

1991

31 min

for orchestra

3(II,III=picc).2.corA.3(II=Ebcl,III=bcl.2.dbn-4.3.
(I,II=flgn).3.1-timp(=claves,sandpaper,tamb).perc(4):I=marimba/claves/cowbell/xyl/SD;
II=cabasa/hi&lo tom-t/pedal BD/xyl/claves/bongos/3tpl.bl/bowed vib; III=hi-hat
cym/SD/pedal BD/4timbales/metal pipe(2 small
pieces)/TD/5tom-t;IV=claves/guero/maracas/tamb/sandpaper/hi wdbl/BD-2kybd
samplers-harp-strings

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

For complete technical specifications go to: mhgrey.wordpress.com

9790051096381 **(Full score)**

World Premiere: 11 Nov 1991

San Francisco, CA, United States
San Francisco Symphony
Conductor: John Adams

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Girls of the Golden West

Lola Montez Does the Spider Dance
2016

4 min 30 sec

dance section from Girls of the Golden West
3(III=picc).2.corA.2.bcl.2.dbn-4.3.3-BD-pft-strings

World Premiere: 06 Aug 2016

Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, Santa Cruz, CA, United States
Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music
Conductor: Marin Alsop

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Guide to Strange Places

2001

27 min

for orchestra

2(II=picc).picc.2.corA.2.bcl.dbcl.2.dbn-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(4):I=marimba/glsp/BD/SD/cow
bell; II=marimba/chimes/almglocken/tgl/crot; III=glsp/BD/lo roto-tom/hi
tgl/crot/chimes/claves/almglocken; IV=chimes/BD/4 roto-toms/susp.cym/3
susp.tgl/wdbl/almglocken-harp-pft-cel-strings

World Premiere: 06 Oct 2001

Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Radio Filharmonisch Orkest
Conductor: John Adams

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

I Still Dance

8 min

for orchestra

4(IV=picc,III=picc2).3.corA.4.bcl.3.dbn-4.4.3.1-timp.perc(2)-pft-eps-strings

World Premiere: 19 Sep 2019

Davies Symphony Hall, San Francisco, CA, United States
San Francisco Symphony
Conductor: Michael Tilson Thomas

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Lollapalooza

1995

6 min

for orchestra

picc.2(III=picc).2.corA.2.Ebcl.bcl.3.dbn-4.3.2.btrbn.1-timp.perc(4):I=xyl/3lg
roto-toms/susp.cym/sm tam-t;II=SD/pedal
BD/maracas/tamb/claves;III=claves/wdbl/bongo/SD/low floor tom-t;IV=vibes, lg
BD-pft-strings

9790051096367 (Full score)

World Premiere: 10 Nov 1995

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, United Kingdom
City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra
Conductor: Simon Rattle

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

My Father Knew Charles Ives

2003

25 min

for orchestra

picc.3(III=picc).2.corA.3(III=Ebcl).bcl.2.dbn-4.4.3.1-timp(=2bowl gongs)
-perc(4):crot/glsp/cowbell/xyl/2bowl
gongs/mar;xyl/crot/SD/susp.cym/2tom-t/vib/almglocken/3high tgl/mar;chimes/crash
cym/susp.cym/3high tgls;3tgls/2BD/tuned gongs/tam-t/almglocken/low
susp.cym/vib/crot-pft-cel-harp-strings

9790051096275 Orchestra (full score)

World Premiere: 30 Apr 2003

Davies Symphony Hall, San Francisco, California, United States
San Francisco Symphony
Conductor: Michael Tilson Thomas

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Naive and Sentimental Music

1999

48 min

for orchestra

4(III,IV=picc).3(III=corA).3(II=bcl2).bcl.3(III=dbn)
-4.4.3.2-timp.perc(5):I=vib/almglocken/xyl/2tgl/susp.cym/2sm chinese gongs/sm
hipitched bell/glsp; II=marimba/shaker/xyl/crot/almglocken/vib/susp.cym;III=xyl/glsp/lg
BD/sm hi pitched bell/bowed vib/susp.cym; IV=chimes/hi anvil/tam-t/"ranch"
tgl/5japanese temple bowls; V=5logongs/chimes/lg sleighbells/3"ranch" tgl/hi
tgl/tam-t/susp.cym/susp.sizzle cym-2harps-pft-cel-kbd sampler-steel stringed gtr-strings

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

For complete technical specifications go to: mhgrey.wordpress.com

9790051261680 (Full score)

World Premiere: 19 Feb 1999

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Los Angeles, California, United States
Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra
Conductor: Esa-Pekka Salonen

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Short Ride in a Fast Machine

1986

4 min

Fanfare for orchestra

2.2picc.2.corA.4(III,IVadlib).3.dbn-4.4.3.1-timp.perc(3):2wdbl/tgl/
xyl/crot/glsp/susp.cym/sizzle cym/SD/pedal BD/large BD/large tam-t/
tamb-2synth(opt)-strings

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

For complete technical specifications go to: mhgrey.wordpress.com

World Premiere: 13 Jun 1986

Mansfield, MA, United States
Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra
Conductor: Michael Tilson Thomas

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Slonimsky's Earbox

1996

14 min

for orchestra

2.picc.2.corA.3(III=Ebcl).bcl.3-4.4.3.1-timp.perc(3)-crot/marimba/
glsp/xyl/2susp.cym/wdbl/claves/SD/hi-hat/tpl.bls/cast/shaker/tamb/
tam-t/tgl/vib-harp-pft-sampler-strings

Sampler is Kurzweil K2000 or Akai. Alternative would be celesta or small electronic jazz organ.

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

For complete technical specifications go to: mhgrey.wordpress.com

9790051096497 (Full score)

World Premiere: 12 Sep 1996

Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, United Kingdom
Halle Orchestra
Conductor: Kent Nagano

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Tromba Lontana

1986

4 min

Fanfare for orchestra

2.2picc.2.2.0-4.2(solos).0.0-perc(3):glsp/crot/susp.cym/vib-pft-harp-strings

9790051211500 Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 1150

World Premiere: 04 Apr 1986

Jones Hall, Houston, TX, United States
Houston Symphony
Conductor: Sergiu Commissiona

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Berceuse elegiaque

Ferruccio Busoni, arranged by John Adams

1989

9 min

arrangement for chamber orchestra of Busoni's Berceuse No.7 of Elegies (1907) for solo piano

2.1.1.bcl.2-2.0.0.0-timp(=gong)-pft(=cel)-harp-strings(min:6.6.4.4.2)

World Premiere: 08 Jun 1989

St Paul, Minnesota, United States

St Paul chamber Orchestra

Conductor: John Adams

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

The Black Gondola

Franz Liszt, arranged by John Adams

1989

9 min

for orchestra or chamber orchestra, arrangement of Liszt's La Lugubre gondola II (1882)

2.2(II=corA).2(II=bcl).2-3.0.0.0-timp-harp-strings (min:6.6.4.4.2)

World Premiere: 27 Oct 1989

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts , St. Paul, MN, United States

Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra

Conductor: John Adams

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Chamber Symphony

1992

23 min

for chamber orchestra

1(=picc).1.2(I=Ebcl, II=bcl).2(II=dbn) - 1.1.1.0 - perc:trap set(cowbell/hi-hat cym/SD/pedal BD/wdbl/2bongos/3tom-t/roto toms/tamb/timbale/claves/conga)-kbd sampler-strings(1.0.1.1.1)

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

9790051212231 **Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 1223**

World Premiere: 17 Jan 1993

Dr Anton Philipszaal, The Hague, Netherlands

Schoenberg Ensemble

Conductor: John Adams

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Christian Zeal and Activity

1973

10 min

for chamber ensemble

1.0.1.1-0.0.0.0-pre-recorded tape*-harp-strings

*tape may also be prepared by performing organisation

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

World Premiere: 23 Mar 1973

San Francisco Conservatory, San Francisco, CA, United States

San Francisco Conservatory New Music Ensemble

Conductor: John Adams

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Fearful Symmetries

1988

27 min

for orchestra or chamber orchestra

2(I,II=picc).2(II=corA).2.bcl.1-4sax(S,2A,Bar)-2.3.3.0-timp-2kybd samplers(Kurzweil K2000)-pft-strings(minimum:6.6.4.4.2)

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

For complete technical specifications go to:

<http://mhgrey.wordpress.com/>

9790051096350 **(Full score)**

World Premiere: 29 Oct 1988

Avery Fisher Hall, New York, New York, United States

Orchestra of St Luke's

Conductor: John Adams

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Wiegenlied

Franz Liszt, arranged by John Adams

1989

4 min

for orchestra or chamber orchestra, arrangement of Liszt's Wiegenlied (1881)

2.1.2.0-0.0.0.0-harp-strings

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

SOLO INSTRUMENT(S) AND ORCHESTRA

Century Rolls

1997 31 min

for piano and orchestra

2.picc.2.corA.2.bcl.2-3.3.2.0-timp.perc(2):vib/xyl/wdbl/marimba/
high bongo/glsp-harp-cel-strings

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

9790051246335 **Piano**
9790051096480 **(Full score)**

World Premiere: 25 Sep 1997
Severance Hall, Cleveland, USA
Emanuel Ax, piano; Cleveland Orchestra
Conductor: Christoph von Dohnanyi

The Dharma at Big Sur

2003 27 min

for electric violin and orchestra

0.0.2bcl.0-4.3.2.btrbn.1-timp.perc(4):vib/glsp/mar/chimes; almglocken/xyl; 4bowl
gongs/glsp/chimes/almglocken/tgl; tuned gongs/2pots/crotales-pft-2hrp-2kbrd
samplers-solo amplified violin-strings

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

For complete technical specifications go to: mhgrey.wordpress.com

9790051096251 **(Full score)**
9790051106707 **Violin (part)**

World Premiere: 24 Oct 2003
Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles, California, United States
Tracy Silverman, violin; Los Angeles Philharmonic
Conductor: Esa-Pekka Salonen

Eros Piano

1989 15 min

for piano and orchestra or chamber orchestra

2(I,II=picc).2.2(II=bcl).2-2.0.0.0-perc(1):vib/crot/maracas-synth(opt)
-strings(minimum:6.6.4.4.2)

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

For complete technical specifications go to: mhgrey.wordpress.com

9790051097371 **(Full score)**
9790051107124 **Piano Score**

World Premiere: 24 Nov 1989
London, Queen Elizabeth Hall, United Kingdom
Paul Crossley, piano; London Sinfonietta
Conductor: John Adams

Gnarly Buttons

1996 26 min

for clarinet and small orchestra

corA.bn-trbn-gtr(=banjo/mandolin)-2kbd(I=pft)-strings (min 1.1.1.1.1, max 6.6.4.4.2)

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

For complete technical specifications go to: mhgrey.wordpress.com

9790051582211 **Clarinet, Piano**
9790051096404 **(Full score)**

World Premiere: 19 Oct 1996
Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, United Kingdom
Michael Collins, clarinet; London Sinfonietta
Conductor: John Adams

La Mufa

Tango

Astor Piazzolla, arranged by John Adams

1995

5 min

for violin and orchestra

2.1.1.bcl.2-2.0.0.0-pft-strings

World Premiere: 16 Jan 1997

Philharmonie, Cologne, Germany

Gidon Kremer, violin; Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Must the Devil Have All the Good Tunes?

2018

28 min

piano concerto

2(I=picc).picc.2.corA.2(II=bhn).bcl.2.3(III=dbn)-4.2.2.0.-perc(1): almgl/b dr/sn dr-honky tonk piano-solo piano-bs gtr-strings

World Premiere: 07 Mar 2019

Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles, CA, United States

Yuja Wang, piano; Los Angeles Philharmonic

Conductor: Gustavo Dudamel

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Saxophone Concerto

2013

29 min

Concerto for saxophone

2.picc.2.corA.2.bcl.2-3.2.0.0-pft-cel-harp-strings

9790051107681 **Alto Saxophone, Piano**

World Premiere: 22 Aug 2013

Sydney Opera House, Sydney, Australia

Timothy McAllister, saxophone; Sydney Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: John Adams

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

SOLO INSTRUMENT(S) AND ORCHESTRA 10

Scheherazade.2

2014

50 min

dramatic symphony for violin and orchestra

2.picc.2.corA.2.bcl.2.dbn-4.2.3.0-perc(3):susp.cym/tam-t/2BD(med.lg)/vib/tuned gongs/whip/xyl-2harp-cimbalom-cel(5oct)-strings

World Premiere: 26 Mar 2015

Avery Fisher Hall, New York, NY, United States

Leila Josefowicz, violin; New York Philharmonic

Conductor: Alan Gilbert

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Todo Buenos Aires

Astor Piazzolla, arranged by John Adams

1996

5 min

for violin and orchestra

1.1.1.bcl.2-2.0.0.0-timp-pft-strings

World Premiere: 19 Feb 1997

Heidelberg, Germany

Gidon Kremer, violin; Philharmonische Orchester Heidelberg

Conductor: Thomas Kalb

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Violin Concerto

1993

33 min

for violin and orchestra or chamber orchestra

2(I,II=picc).2(II=corA).2(II=bcl).2-2.1.0.0-perc(2):

I=marimba/t.bell/2bongo/2conga/BD/susp.cym/tamb; II=bongo/guero/timp/bowed vib/t.bells/clave/hi cowbell/BD-2synth(Yamaha SY99 & Kurzweil K2000, or 2 Kurzweil K2000)-strings(min:6.6.5.5.2) NB: min strength advised in 1st movement

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

for complete synthesizer/sampler requirements go to:

mhgrey.wordpress.com

9790051351619 **Violin, Piano**

9790051096398 **(Full score)**

World Premiere: 19 Jan 1994

Ordway Music Theater, Saint Paul, MN, United States

Jorja Fleezanis, violin; Minnesota Orchestra

Conductor: Edo de Waart

SOLO INSTRUMENT(S) AND ORCHESTRA 10

VOICE(S) AND ORCHESTRA

The Death of Klinghoffer

Aria of the Falling Body 1990

7 min 30 sec

for baritone and orchestra

picc.1.2.2.2-2.0.2.0-2 or 3kbd samplers-strings(8.8.6.6.4)

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

For complete technical specifications go to:

<http://mhgrey.wordpress.com/>

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

The Death of Klinghoffer

Bird Aria 1990

4 min 30 sec

for baritone and orchestra

picc.1.2(II=corA).2(II=bcl).1.dbn-2.0.2.0-2 or 3kbd samplers-strings(8.8.6.6.4)

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

For complete technical specifications go to:

<http://mhgrey.wordpress.com/>

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Doctor Atomic

Batter my heart, three person'd God 2005

7 min

for baritone and orchestra

2.picc.3.3(III=bcl).3-4.3.3.1-timp-harp-perc(2)chimes/tuned gongs-strings

9790051934362 **Baritone, Piano**

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Doctor Atomic

Easter Eve 1945 2004

12 min

for mezzo-soprano and orchestra

3(II, III=picc).3(III=corA).3(III=bcl).2.dbn-4.3.3.0-harp-cel-perc(4);I=thunder
sheet/glsp/tgl/tuned gong;II=chimes;III=lg tam-t/hi susp.cym/xyll/crot;IV=lg.chinese
cym/susp.cym/tam-t(with superball)/tuned gongs-strings

World Premiere: 21 May 2004

Avery Fisher Hall, New York, New York, United States

Audra McDonald, soprano; New York Philharmonic

Conductor: John Adams

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

The Gospel According to the Other Mary

2012

2 hr 12 min

A Passion oratorio for orchestra, chorus and soloists

SATB Chorus: 40 voices MINIMUM with sound enhancement

3(III=picc)2.corA.2.bcl.2.dbn-4.2.2.0-perc:SD/pedal dr/BD(low)/timbale/tom-t(low)/tuned
gongs/chimes/almglocken/glsp/3tam-t(lg,med,sm)-cimb-pft-harp-bgtr-strings

NOTE: The hiring of a sound designer is a condition/requirement for permission.

For complete technical specifications go to: <http://mhgrey.wordpress.com/>

<http://mhgrey.wordpress.com/>

World Premiere: 31 May 2012

Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles, CA, United States

Kelley O'Connor, mezzo-soprano / Tamara Mumford, contralto / Russell Thomas,
tenor/Daniel Bubeck, counter tenor / Brian Cummings, counter tenor / Nathan Medley,
counter tenor; Los Angeles Philharmonic / Los Angeles Master Chorale
Conductor: Gustavo Dudamel

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Le Livre de Baudelaire

Claude Debussy, arranged by John Adams

1994

22 min

Four songs from Debussy's Cinq poemes de Baudelaire, arranged for soprano and orchestra

3(III=picc).2.2.bcl.2-4.0.0.0-perc(1 or 2):timp/xy/bell tree/
low susp.cym/tgl/tam-t-harp-cel-strings

World Premiere: 10 Mar 1994

Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, United States

Roberta Alexander, soprano; Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra

Conductor: John Adams

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Nixon in China

Arias from the opera

1987

24 min

for soprano, baritone and orchestra

2(I,II=picc).2(II=corA).3(I=Ebcl;II,III=bcl).4sax(S,2A,Bar).0-0.3.3.0-perc(1):BD/pedalBD/
wdbl/susp.cym/SD/sandpaper blocks/tamb/hi-hat/TD/sizzle cym/gisp/slapping
sound/tgl/sleigh bells-2pft-synth or sampler (Kurzweil K2000 or Yamaha HX-1 Electone)
-strings(minimum:6.6.4.4.2)

For complete technical specifications go to: mhgrey.wordpress.com

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Nixon in China

This Is Prophetic! (Pat's Aria)

1987

8 min

for soprano and orchestra

2(I,II=picc).2(II=corA).3(III=bcl).4sax(S,2A,T).0-0.3.3.0-perc(1):wdbl/tamb/gisp/tgl/sleigh
bells-2pft-kybd sampler (Kurzweil K2000)-strings(minimum:6.6.4.4.2)

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

The Nixon Tapes

version 1

1998

56 min

Scenes from Nixon in China for chorus, voices and orchestra

2hBar,lyrS,colS,B; SATB chorus

2.2.3.4sax.0-0.3.3.0-perc(1)-2pft-synth or sampler (Kurzweil K2000)
-strings(minimum:6.6.4.4.2)

Selections:

Act 1 scene 1 - Overture, Chorus "Soldiers of Heaven", Landing of Air Force One."News has a kind of mystery".

Complete Act 1 Scene 3

Act 2 - "This is Prophetic" and "I am the wife of Mao Tse Tung"

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

For complete technical specifications go to: mhgrey.wordpress.com

World Premiere: 17 Jul 1998

Aspen, Colorado, United States

James Maddalena, John Duykers/Trudy Ellen Craney Elissa Johnston, Pat/William Sharp, Cho-en Lai; Aspen Chamber Orchestra

Conductor: John Adams

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

The Nixon Tapes

version 2

1998

49 min

Scenes from Nixon in China for chorus, voices and orchestra

2hBar,lyrS,colS,B; SATB chorus

2.2.3.4sax.0-0.3.3.0-perc(1)-2elec.pft-strings (pref:8.8.6.6.4)

Selections:

Act 1 scene 1 - Overture, Chorus "Soldiers of Heaven", "Landing of Air Force One", "News has a kind of mystery"

Act 1 scene 3 complete

Act 2 - "This is Prophetic".

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

For complete technical specifications go to: mhgrey.wordpress.com

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

The Nixon Tapes

version 3

1998

51 min

Scenes from Nixon in China for solo voices and orchestra

2hBar,lyrS,colS,B; (no chorus)

2.2.3.4sax.0-0.3.3.0-perc(1)-2pft-synth or sampler (Kurzweil K2000 or Yamaha HX-1
Electone)-strings(minimum:6.6.4.4.2, pref:8.8.6.6.4)

Selections:

Landing of the Spirit of '76, "News has a kind of mystery", "This is prophetic"

Act 3 complete.

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

For complete technical specifications go to: mhgrey.wordpress.com

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

The Wound-Dresser

1988-89

19 min

for baritone and chamber orchestra

2(l=picc).2.1.bcl.2-2.1(=picc tpt).0.0-timp-kbd sampler-strings(minimum:6.6.4.4.2)

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

For complete technical specifications go to: mhgrey.wordpress.com

9790051211623 **Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 1162**

9790051097388 **Baritone, Orchestra (Full Score)**

9790051097395 **Baritone, Piano**

World Premiere: 24 Feb 1989

St Paul, Minnesota, United States

Sanford Sylvan, baritone; St Paul Chamber Orchestra

Conductor: John Adams

CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA

The Death of Klinghoffer

Choruses

1990

45 min

for chorus and orchestra

2(I,II=picc).2(II=corA).2(II=bcl).2(II=dbn)-2.2.2.0-perc(1):tmp-2kbd
samplers-strings(8.8.6.6.4)

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

For complete technical specifications go to:

<http://mhgrey.wordpress.com/>

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Doctor Atomic

At the Sight of This

2005

5 min

for chorus and orchestra

2 pic.1.2.e hn.1.E cl.1 (cb cl).2.cbn-4.3.3.1-timp-perc(bd, roto, ch gong, 3 tam, sus cym)
-hp-cel-str

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

On the Transmigration of Souls

2002

27 min 30 sec

for orchestra, chorus, children's chorus and pre-recorded soundtrack

SATB Chorus; children's chorus

3(III=picc),picc.3.2.bcl.dbcl.2.dbn-4.4.3.2-timp.perc(4);I=glsp; II=crot/hi tgl; III=chimes/2
hi tgl; IV=2 hi tgl/susp.cym/brake dr-2harp-pft-cel-kybd sampler(optional)*
-strings-pre-recorded tape-computer-controlled sound system

*acoustic piano tuned 1/4 tone lower. Transposed part (1/2 step higher) available with performance materials. A sampler may be used as an alternative.

NOTE: The hiring of a sound designer is a condition/requirement for permission.

For complete technical specifications go to: mhgrey.wordpress.com

9790051096749 (Full score)

9790051096732 (Vocal Score)

World Premiere: 19 Sep 2002

Avery Fisher Hall, New York, NY, United States

Brooklyn Youth Chorus and New York Choral Artists; New York Philharmonic

Conductor: Lorin Maazel

ENSEMBLE AND CHAMBER WITHOUT VOICE(S)

Absolute Jest

2011 25 min

for string quartet and orchestra

2.picc.2.corA.2.bcl.2.dbn-4.2.2.0-timp.perc(2):cowbell/xyl/BD/chimes/gisp/vib-harp-pft.c
el-strings

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

<u>NOTE</u>: Due to certain balance issues in the orchestration, it is strongly recommended that very light amplification of the solo quartet be used with the sound controlled through a mixing board located at the rear, behind the audience.

9790051097708 **String Quartet & Orchestra**

World Premiere: 15 Mar 2012

Davies Symphony Hall, San Francisco, CA, USA
St Lawrence String Quartet; San Francisco Symphony
Conductor: Michael Tilson Thomas

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

First Quartet

2008 28 min

for string quartet

9790051106721 **(Full score)**

World Premiere: 29 Jan 2009

Juilliard School, New York, NY, United States
St Lawrence String Quartet

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

John's Book of Alleged Dances

1994 35 min

for string quartet and pre-recorded CD
string quartet and pre-recorded performance CD

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

For complete technical specifications go to: mhgrey.wordpress.com

9790051106240 **String Quartet, CD**

9790051212859 **Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 1285**

World Premiere: 19 Nov 1994

California Center for the Arts, Escondido, United States
Kronos Quartet

Lollapalooza

John Adams, arranged by James Spinazzola

1995/2006 6 min

arrangement for wind ensemble

2(II=picc).picc.2.corA.3.Ebcl.bcl.cbcl.ssax.asax.tsax.bsax.3(III=dbn)
-4.3.2.btrbn.euphonium.1-timp.perc(4):SD/BD/sus.cym/sm.tam-t/lg.tam-t/3 lg roto
toms/pedal BD/maracas/tamb/claves/bongo/xyl/vib/mar-pft-db

9790051662098 **Band (full score only)**

9790051662104 **Band (score & parts)**

Scratchband

1996, rev.1997 12 min

for amplified ensemble

1(=picc).1.2(II=bcl).0-1.1.1.0-pft.sampler*-elec.gtr-5string bass gtr-perc(1):pedal
BD/4tom-t/2bongos/SD/tamb/hi-hat/cym/ride
cym/wdbl/cowbell/3tpl.bl/cast/claves/maracas/roto tom or timp(opt)
*Kurzweil K2000 or AKAI S1000

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

For complete technical specifications go to: mhgrey.wordpress.com

World Premiere: 13 Apr 1996

Penn State University, University Park, Pennsylvania, United States
Ensemble Modern
Conductor: John Adams

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Short Ride in a Fast Machine

John Adams, arranged by Lawrence T Odom

1986, arr. 1991 4 min

arranged for concert band

2fl.2picc.2.corA.Ebcl.2solo Acl/3Bbcl/bcl.alcl.3bsn.sax(SATB)-
4hn.4crts.2tpt.4trb.baritones.4tba-celli-basses-perc(3):wdbl/SD/
gisp/crot/susp.cyms/BD/pedal BD/timp/sizzle cym/tamb/tgl/xyl/tam-t-
2synth(Casio 200 series or Yamaha 2X series with Harpsichord stop)-
cel
NB: harp part in full score to be omitted. Multiple celli optional.

9790051656820 **Symphonic Band (full score)**

9790051656813 **Symphonic Band (score & parts)**

World premiere of version: 26 Jun 1991

RNCM, Manchester, United Kingdom

Royal Northern College of Music Wind Orchestra

Conductor: Clark Rundell/Timothy Reynish

Son of Chamber Symphony

2007

23 min

for chamber ensemble

1(=picc).1.1.bcl.1-1.1.1.0-perc(2):chimes/kybd sampler(or high thunder sheet)/3
bongos/conga dr/clave/susp.cym/cowbell;kybd sampler/glsp/temple
bl/cast/3bongos/conga dr/clave/wdbl/hi-hat cym/susp.cym/cowbell/3 low tom-t/pedal
BD-pft(=cel or kybd sampler)-strings(1.1.1.1.1)

This work requires additional technological components and/or amplification.

For complete technical specifications go to: mhgrey.wordpress.com

9790051097005 **Orchestra (full score)**

World Premiere: 30 Nov 2007

Dinkelspiel Auditorium, Stanford, CA, United States

Alarm Will Sound

Conductor: Alan Pierson

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

ENSEMBLE AND CHAMBER WITH VOICE(S)

Doctor Atomic

Am I in Your Light?

John Adams, arranged by Evan Ziporyn

S-2vln.vla.vcl

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

PIANO(S)

American Berserk

2001 6 min

for solo piano
9790051246267 Piano

World Premiere: 25 Feb 2002
Carnegie Hall, New York, New York, United States
Garrick Ohlsson, piano;

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Hallelujah Junction

1998 17 min

for two pianos
9790051277643 2 Pianos, 4 Hands

World Premiere: 03 Apr 1998
Getty Center, Los Angeles, California, United States
Gloria Cheng, piano / Grant Gershon, piano

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

I Still Play

2017 5 min

for solo piano, in honor of Bob Hurwitz
pft

World Premiere: 01 Apr 2017
Peter Jay Sharp Building, Brooklyn, NY, United States
Jeremy Denk, piano; Brooklyn Academy of Music

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Roll Over Beethoven

2014 20 min

for two pianos, piano arrangement by Preben Antonsen

World Premiere: 23 Mar 2016
Greene Space, New York, NY, United States
Christina and Michelle Naughton, duo pianos;

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Short Ride in a Fast Machine

John Adams, arranged by Preben Antonsen
2018 4 min

for piano four hands
2pft

9790051108138 Piano, 4 Hands

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

INSTRUMENTAL

Fearful Symmetries

Postmark

John Adams, arranged by Marilyn Shrude

2009

2 min 30 sec

arranged for soprano saxophone and piano

9790051106745 **Soprano Saxophone, Piano**

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Road Movies

1995

16 min

for violin and piano

9790051351770 **Violin, Piano**

World Premiere: 23 Oct 1995

Kennedy Center, Washington, DC, United States

Robin Lorentz, violin/ Vicky Ray, piano;

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

VOCAL

Doctor Atomic

Am I in Your Light?

Kitty's Aria from Act 1 scene II for mezzo-soprano and piano
9790051934416 **Mezzo-Soprano, Piano**

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Nixon in China

This is Prophetic! (Pat's Aria)

for soprano and piano

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

BAND

Short Ride in a Fast Machine

John Adams, arranged by Richard Saucedo

1986, arr. 2006

4 min

arranged for concert band

2.picc.2.3.Ebcl.bcl.2.2asax.tsax.barsax-2.3.2.2baritone.1-timp-perc(5)-strings:
(0.0.0.0.1)

9790051661749 **Band (full score only)**

9790051661732 **Band (score & parts)**

MISCELLANEOUS

Hoodoo Zephyr

1993 50 min

for tape

Work for midi keyboard for Nonesuch CD (no performance materials available)

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Light Over Water

1983 44 min

two channel tape

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world