

A photograph of two bare, weeping trees against a twilight sky, with a dark silhouette of a forest in the foreground. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a lighter, hazy purple near the horizon. The trees are dark silhouettes, with their branches reaching upwards and outwards. The foreground is dominated by a thick, dark line of evergreen trees.

Jeremy Cullen
Scenes
Vol. 2

Notornis

1. Main Theme (from *The Priest, the Witch and the Poltergeist*) (2012)

In 2012 I composed the soundtrack to the audiobook *The Priest, the Witch and the Poltergeist*. The story by Barbara Wade Rose is set in Cideville, France in 1851 and is based on actual historical events including curses, exorcisms and seances culminating in a dramatic courtroom trial between the 'witch' Thorel Felix and the priest Father Jean Lariat.

2. The Forest (2015)

This piece was composed for a short film called *The Dragon's Scale* to accompany the opening scene where a father and son venture into a supernatural forest. It was the very first idea I sketched and since (as often happens) the film's score ended up going in a different direction I kept this unused cue as a solo piano piece.

3. Arabesque (2018)

Arabesque was written for a documentary about ballet, to accompany a scene of the dancers preparing for opening night with a mixture of nerves and excitement. It wasn't used in the film so I had it recorded by the Kiwa String Quartet at Stella Maris Chapel in Wellington.

4. Theme from *The Handover* (2008)

The Handover is a New Zealand short film directed by David Stubbs. It tells the story of a single father who is struggling to move on from his previous relationship.

5. Le Flâneur (from *The World of Eugène Atget*) (2012)

Le Flâneur is from the soundtrack to a (hypothetical) documentary *The World of Eugène Atget*, about the French photographer who chronicled the people, nature and architecture of early 20th Century Paris. A flâneur is a person who strolls the streets of a city, observing society as a 'passionate spectator' (in Baudelaire's words).

6. and 26. *Mary's Song* (from *Mary Stuart*) (2010)

Composing the score for the New Zealand Festival of the Arts production of Schiller's play *Mary Stuart* was my first freelance composing gig after leaving the security of full-time employment at the recording studio where I worked for 10 years (Marmalade Audio). *Mary's Song* is a setting of *When Shall My Sorrowful Sighing Slack?* - a 16th century text with connections to Mary, Queen of Scots and which poignantly conveys the anguish of her imprisonment.

7. *Eve and Felix* (from *The Priest, the Witch and the Poltergeist*) (2012)

A theme for the unlikely couple of the 'witch' Thorel Felix and the maid Eve Thérigny. Eve falls in love with Felix's courage and his rebellion against religious and societal authorities such as the priest Father Lariat.

8 - 14. Selections from *24 Preludes* (2013-14)

These seven *Preludes* for solo piano are from a set of 24 in every major and minor key that I embarked upon in 2013, in an attempt to resume more 'abstract' musical composition after a long (15 year!) gap where I had been primarily focussed on writing for film and TV. For this reason I decided not to censor the obvious but unapologetic ghosts of my earlier pianist/composer heroes such as Debussy, Rachmaninoff, Shostakovich, Scriabin and Liszt...

15. *Postlude* (from *Potiki's Memory of Stone*) (2007)

This piece was written for a radio drama adaptation of Briar Grace-Smith's play *Potiki's Memory of Stone*. Set in a small town in the South Island of New Zealand, the play explores the story of a sacred *pounamu* (greenstone) boulder and the consequences of desecrating ancient *taonga* (treasures).

16 - 24. Music from *Caging Skies* (2018) (see back cover for individual track titles)

Desiree Gezentsvey's play *Caging Skies* is an adaptation of the novel by Christine Leunens. Set in Vienna in the Second World War, the story tells how Johannes - a member of the Hitler Youth - discovers his family is hiding a young Jewish woman, Elsa, in their home. (The story has also been adapted by Taika Waititi into the Oscar-nominated film *Jojo Rabbit*.)

25. Galliard (from *Mary Stuart*) (2010)

From the incidental music to the stage play *Mary Stuart*, the galliard was a favourite dance of Mary's cousin, antagonist and rival for the throne - Queen Elizabeth I of England.

26. (see Track 6 above)

27. Chorale No. 2 (2013)

This piece was composed on summer holiday at Paekakariki Beach, north of Wellington, on the Kāpiti Coast of New Zealand in December 2013. It is a simple palindrome in that the same pitches are repeated in reverse order for the second half of the chorale.

28. - La Foire des Invalides (from *The World of Eugène Atget*) (2013)

Inspired by a photograph by French photographer Eugène Atget, *La Foire des Invalides* is an attempt to conjure up the sound of a 'street band' of amateur musicians at the famous carnival of Paris in the early 1900s. It features accordion, cimbalom, piano, violin, percussion, clarinet, saxophones, trumpets, string quartet and tuba.

All photographs by Jeremy Cullen

All music composed and performed by Jeremy Cullen (Piano)
with

Natalia Czarska-Kacprzak - Violin (Track 28)

Chester Englander - Cymbalom, Percussion (Tracks 1, 7, 28)

Michael Frankenger - Accordion (Tracks 1, 5, 7, 16, 28)

Milo Fultz - Double Bass (Tracks 5, 28)

Yury Gezentsvey - Violin (Tracks 16 - 24)

Maria Grigoryeva - Violin/Viola (Tracks 1, 5, 16, 28)

Oli Hayhurst - Double Bass (Track 28)

Ken Ichinose - Cello (Tracks 1, 7, 28)

Olivia Jageurs - Harp (Tracks 1, 5, 7)

Lyudmila Kadyrbaeva - Cello (Tracks 5, 28)

Josh Plotner - Saxophone (Tracks 5, 28)

Óscar Senén - Tuba (Track 28)

Chris Tedesco - Trumpets (Track 28)

Matthew Whittington - Percussion (Track 28)

and the Kiwa String Quartet (Tracks 3, 26):

Malavika Gopal, Alan Molina (Violins), Sophie Acheson (Viola), Ken Ichinose (Cello)

Piano recorded at Hapua Street, Wellington, New Zealand (2017 - 2019)

Mixed and mastered by Jeremy Cullen

For Bede Cullen (1934-2019)

Thanks to:

Ella, Edie, Coco, Lucy, Rosalind, Emma, Louisa, Victoria, Charlotte, Sophie

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1. Main Theme (from *The Priest, the Witch and the Poltergeist*)
2. The Forest
3. Arabesque
4. Theme from *The Handover*
5. Le Flâneur (from *The World of Eugène Atget*)
6. Mary's Song (from *Mary Stuart*) - Piano Version
7. Eve and Felix (from *The Priest, the Witch and the Poltergeist*)
8. Prelude No. 13 in C Minor (from *24 Preludes*)
9. Prelude No. 15 in B-Flat Minor
10. Prelude No. 9 in A-Flat Major
11. Prelude No. 6 in F Minor
12. Prelude No. 5 in E Minor
13. Prelude No. 11 in B-Flat Major
14. Prelude No. 24 in D-Flat Major
15. Postlude (from *Potiki's Memory of Stone*)
16. Vienna, 1944 (from *Caging Skies*)
17. Sostenuito (from *Caging Skies*)
18. March No. 1 (from *Caging Skies*)
19. Cadenza (from *Caging Skies*)
20. Oma's Intermezzo (from *Caging Skies*)
21. Slumber Aria - after J.S. Bach (from *Caging Skies*)
22. Elsa and Johannes (from *Caging Skies*)
23. Scherzo (from *Caging Skies*)
24. March No. 2 (from *Caging Skies*)
25. Galliard (from *Mary Stuart*)
26. Mary's Song (from *Mary Stuart*) - String Quartet Version
27. Chorale No. 2
28. La Foire des Invalides (from *The World of Eugène Atget*)