

Karl Jenkins - Diamond Music (1996)

Written by bluesever

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Palladio 1.I Allegretto 3:47 2.II Largo 3:32 3.III Vivace 6:58 Adiemus Variations 4.I 1:28
5.II 3:32 6.III 2:29 7.IV 3:33
Passacaglia (In Memoriam Evelyn Mary Hopkins, 1903 1995)
8.Passacaglia 4:53
String Quartet No. 2
9.I The Fifth Season 3:43 10.II Tango 5:50 11.III Waltz 2:11 12.IV Romanze 2:59 13.V Bits
4:44

The London Philharmonic Strings (tracks: 1 to 3,8) The Smith Quartet (tracks: 4 to 7,9 to 13)
Deirdre Cooper (Cello) Violin – Dermot Crehan, Duncan Riddell, Konstantin Stoianov, Robert
St. John Wright (tracks: 1 to 3) Conductor - Karl Jenkins

Sir Karl William Pamp Jenkins (CBE), was born on 17th February, 1944, in Penclawdd, Wales. He first received music training from his father, who was a choirmaster and chapel organist. Jenkins began to learn the oboe, and subsequently played in the National Youth Orchestra of Wales. Further to this, he went and studied music at Cardiff University, and then at the Royal Academy of Music.

Regarded as the 'most performed living composer in the world', Jenkins' work can be heard in films, TV series and concert halls. In 2005, Jenkins composed the score for the feature film, River Queen, which subsequently won the Golden Goblet Award for 'Best Score'. Jenkins is also well-known for his Adiemus project, which combined Western classical styles with ethnic vocal sounds and percussion, with a new, invented language. Jenkins is also celebrated for his royal commissions such as his harp concerto Over the Stone, which was for HRH The Prince of Wales' harpist. He has also worked with euphonium virtuoso, David Childs, violinist Marat Bisengaliev and Welsh baritone, Bryn Terfel.

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The name Palladio has caused much discussion as to its origins. Put simply, it refers to Venice-born architect, Andrea Palladio. The form is a concerto grosso for string orchestra, with Jenkins saying this about the work:

"Palladio was inspired by the sixteenth-century Italian architect, Andrea Palladio, whose work embodies the Renaissance celebration of harmony and order. Two of Palladio's hallmarks are mathematical harmony and architectural elements borrowed from classical antiquity, a philosophy which I feel reflects my own approach to composition. The first movement I adapted and used for the 'Shadows' A Diamond is Forever television commercial for a worldwide campaign. The middle movement I have since rearranged for two female voices and string orchestra, as heard in Cantus Insolitus from my works Songs of Sanctuary." ---Alex Burns, classicalalexburns.com

The String Quartet No. 2t was written for a British ensemble, the Smith Quartet (none of whose members is named Smith). It is a suite-like work in five movements. The first movement, "The Fifth Season" is a kind of pattern music, with rhythmic ideas from Baroque music lying oddly atop a 5/4 beat. The second movement, "Tango," explores the basic tango pattern of a dotted eighth, sixteenth, and two eighth notes in various versions.

The third movement, "Waltz," serves the function of a scherzo. In the "Romance," movement, all four members of the quartet get an ardent solo. The final movement, "Bits," is a complex rondo with an intro and epilogue, so that its form can be expressed "IABACADAEI." The I (introduction and epilogue) is an Organum. The recurring A section is a Chorale, and the three episodes are, respectively, a Musette, a Blues, Hoe-Down, and Hollywood. ---Joseph Stevenson, allmusic.com

The passacaglia is a form that originated in the Baroque era, was revived by Brahms, and has again become important in the 20th century. Traditionally a rather somber sort of music. A passacaglia is a set of variations on a theme which is constantly repeated somewhere in the musical texture.

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Jenkins passacaglia is based on a five-measure theme. The work is a memorial to the composer's aunt.

In 1995 Jenkins released highly successful record called "Adiemus, Songs of Sanctuary," and extended work for voice, percussion, and the strings of the London Philharmonic Orchestra. This disc topped both the classical and the pop charts of Europe and Japan. "Adiemus Variations" is a theme and four variations for string quartet based on the theme of the first movement of "Songs of Sanctuary." ---Joseph Stevenson, allmusic.com

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