

Jeffery Wilson Biography

Jeffery is one of the country's foremost composers and educators, equally at home in classical, contemporary and jazz music. He studied composition at the Royal College of Music with John Lambert and Herbert Howells and later with Aladar Majorossy, Gordon Jacob and Olivier Messiaen. He has about 150 works in the repertoire with over a third of them published. He has been composer in residence in many European cities and with some notable orchestras including the London Festival Orchestra, London Mozart Players and the Northern Sinfonia. Jeffery performs in recital with pianists Tim Watts and Henk Alkema, with the contemporary quartet 'Saxology' and his own band 'The Reduced History of Jazz'. A recent and exciting project is with the creative performance and education based trio 'ReedPlay' although he continues to perform with numerous jazz and new music ensembles.

Jeffery was a visiting lecturer in composition, saxophone and improvisation at the Utrecht Conservatorium from 1986 until recently and was for a number of years a supervisor on the music faculty at Cambridge University teaching history, analysis and jazz. He currently divides his teaching commitments between Junior Guildhall as coordinator and professor of composition, Colchester Institute where he is tutor of Clarinet and Saxophone and he sustains a thriving private teaching practice numbering among his students some prominent professionals, and University and Conservatoire students.

Adjudication has taken him all over the UK and much of Europe and he is much in demand in this area of music making. A role as examiner and Saxophone and Jazz advisor for Trinity Guildhall exams completes the picture here.

Current and recent composing projects include a Bass Clarinet Quintet for Victoria Soames Samek and the Coull Quartet, a Clarinet Quartet for 'Exchanging Blows', 'The Art of War' for Brass Band and a new sonata for Tenor Sax and Piano called 'The Iconic' for a premiere at his own Purcell Room recital- (Feb 8th 2010). 2010 also sees the revival of a number of works - 'Young Person's Guide to the Jazz Orchestra', 'Concerto for Timpani and Orchestra', and the opera 'The Way to Glory'.

Jeffery values the support of his publishers - Camden Music, Brasswind Publications, Saxtet, Reedimensions, Queens Temple and Trinity Guildhall.