

Derek Williams

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Alongside my career as an educator, I have been self-employed variously as composer, conductor, musical director and record producer for a range of international clients, including The University of Edinburgh and Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, EMI Music, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Caroline O'Connor, Sir Robert Helpmann, Sir Howard Morrison. My work has featured in performances at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Royal Albert Hall and Garrick Theatre (London), Sydney Opera House and Melbourne Hamer Hall (Australia), the Australian Embassy (New York), Sala Accademica di Santa Cecilia (Rome) and Edinburgh University. I am an orchestrator, associate composer, musician with [33 Discogs album credits](#) and [27 IMDb credits](#) for feature films, television documentaries, mini-series, and have been a frequent conductor of studio orchestras, including Victorian Philharmonic Orchestra for the feature film *Frauds*. Many of the media to which I have contributed have themselves achieved critical and popular acclaim, including LA Independent Film Awards (*The Beast in the Storm*), BAFTA Award (*The Making of Longbird*), Best Film Score (*Crush*), an Oscar (*Adventures Of Priscilla, Queen Of The Desert*), Triple Platinum record sales (*Come In Spinner* - ABC) and an Australian Aria Award nomination (*Cash Landing* – EMI Music). Stars in films I have orchestrated include Russell Crowe, Cate Blanchett, Hugo Weaving, Phil Collins, Josephine Byrnes, Lee Majors, Jack Scalia, Bob Peck, Guy Pearce, Terence Stamp. I worked with Torvill & Dean as arranger and pianist for their album *Here We Stand*. I have performed extensively as keyboardist, including over 400 performances of Andrew Lloyd Webber's show *Cats* (Really Useful Theatre Company) and *Phantom of the Opera* (Cameron Mackintosh Limited), and as musical director for independent productions. I am Chair of the Wagner Society of Scotland and a board member of the 15,000-strong [Richard Wagner Verband International](#).

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

PhD	Music Composition, The University of Edinburgh (2012)
BMus	Bachelor of Music, The University of Auckland (1975) New Zealand First. All music subject passes with Distinction (A) or High Distinction (A+) Winner Hollinrake Memorial Prize and Senior Scholarship for best graduate student
DipTeach	Diploma in Teaching, New South Wales Dept of Education & Training (1997) Australia
DipTchg	Diploma in Teaching, New Zealand Education Department (1981) New Zealand
FTCL	Fellow of Trinity College of Music, London (1977)
LMusTCL	Licentiate (Composition) Trinity College of Music London (1976)

RECENT COMMISSIONS

- [Stella Cole & Mikkel Rønnow](#) arrangements for shows at Glassalen (Tivoli) Copenhagen April 2026 (Arranger)
- [Hindemith Trio](#) (Parma, Italy) *The Traveller* - trio for Viola, Baritone Saxophone and Piano (Composer)
- [William Grant & Sons](#) Glenfiddich 21yo Whisky campaign *The Finishing Touch* (Arranger, Conductor, Composer)
- [Ruairidh Macintosh Turner](#) (ECA) *The Beast in the Storm* winner LA Independent Film Awards (Composer)
- [Robert Dick](#), *Orchestra of the Canongate* Symphony in 4 movements (Composer)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2007- present	The University of Edinburgh [Old College, South Bridge EH8 9YL] Lecturer, Tutor, Examiner (Associated Staff) • Lecturing, Tutoring, Examining MMus, MSc, 3rd & 4th year BMus(Hons) students in Orchestration, Composition
1986-2006	NSW Department Of Education & Training [GPO Box 33, Sydney 2001, Australia] Teacher of Music, Software Design & Development, Information Processes & Technology, Computing
1989-2006	NSW Board Of Studies [117 Clarence Street, Sydney 2000 Australia] Higher School Certificate (HSC) Music Examiner & Computing Studies Advisor • Conducting live music performance examinations for the Higher School Certificate examinations • Examiner for Composition & Computing Studies examination candidates for the Higher School Certificate
1995-2006	Sydney Community College [2A Gordon Street, Rozelle 2039, Australia] Lecturer – Steinberg Training Centre (part time) – Authorised Trainer • Designing and delivering a range of courses in Music Technology
1984	Progeni Systems Ltd/Polycorp secondment [14-18 Pretoria Street, Lower Hutt 5011, New Zealand] Computer Programmer of educational software for New Zealand schools
1979-1985	New Zealand Ministry Of Education [PO Box 1666 Wellington 6140] Teacher of Music, English and Computer Awareness
1979	Waiariki Technical Institute [Mokoia Drive, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand] Lecturer – Theory of Music (part time)
1974-1978	New Zealand School Of Music Ltd [157 Symonds Street, Auckland 1010 *NB wound up in 1978] Founder / Director / Teacher
1973-1974	Auckland University Conservatorium of Music [Private Bag 92019 Auckland 1142] Lecturer, Tutor & Examiner (part time) – Harmony & Aural Training

TECHNICAL SKILLS – details on website www.derekwilliams.net

Competencies acquired through running my private digital composing, recording, mixing and mastering studio including:

Equipment

- Apple Mac Pro; Windows 10 P6T Intel X58 i7 930 Quad Core 2.8GHz 6.4GT/s; Behringer DDX3216; Mark of the Unicorn MTPAV & 2408 MkIII; ESi M8U-XL; Steinberg CC121; Tascam US-224; Yamaha SPX90 & NS20; Beyer M500N; Shure SHR-16AM; Kurzweil K2500R, K250 & K250R; Roland RD-300SX & JX8P; Korg M3R & Nanopad2, NanoKey2, NanoKontrol2; M-Audio ProKeys Sono 88

Software

- Cubase; ProTools; Logic; Digital Performer; Halion; Reason; MachFive; MSI Software Sample Player; Composers' Mosaic; Complete Vienna Symphonic Library Symphonic VST Cube & Orchestral Cube Pro Edition; Dorico; Sibelius; Finale; Gigastudio; Kontakt; Garritan Personal Orchestra & Jazz Libraries; Waves Diamond Bundle; Auto-Tune; MIDI Interface Manager & Patch Librarians; PhotoScore Ultimate; PDFtoMusic; Readiris Pro; Dragon Dictate (Mac & Windows); iWork; iLife; Microsoft Office (Mac & Windows); full Adobe Suite

AFFILIATIONS

- **2024–present** Elected at Deutsche Oper for 5-year term as Board Member [Richard Wagner Verband International](#)
- **2017–present** Chair, [Wagner Society of Scotland](#)
- **2016–present** Member [Musicians' Union](#) (full member)
- **2012–present** Member Ivors Academy (formerly British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors)
- **1990–present** Australasian Performing Right Association Ltd, Writer Full Member
- **1985– present** [Member Music Arrangers Guild of Australia Inc](#) (MAGA - current)
- **2007–2009** Music Postgraduate Student Representative, Edinburgh University Students Association
- **2008–2009** Funding Manager of Executive Board, Edinburgh Contemporary Music Ensemble (ECME)
- **2007–2008** Corporate Fundraising Manager/Committee Member, Edinburgh University Studio Opera (ESO)
- **2007** Musical Director, Edinburgh University Savoy Opera Group (EUSOG)
- **1985–2007** Musicians Union of Australia
- **2006** Auckland University Alumni Association Inc
- **1995–1996** Musical Director/Orchestra/Choral Conductor, Waverley-Randwick Philharmonic Society Inc.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS – details in Appendix 1 and website www.derekwilliams.net

- **2026** Arranger for Stella Cole hired by Mikkel Rønnow for performances at Glassalen (Tivoli) Copenhagen
- **2024–present** Elected at Deutsche Oper Berlin for 5-year term as Board Member [Richard Wagner Verband International](#)
- **2021** Conductor Linlithgow String Orchestra; Conductor Abbotsford String Ensemble, debut Edinburgh Festival Fringe
- **2017–20** Commission to compose *Trio for Viola, Baritone Sax and Piano* by Hindemith Trio, Parma, Italy
- **2016** Commission to compose film score for Ruaridh M Turner's award winning short thriller *The Beast in the Storm*
- **2015** Composer/Arranger/Conductor for Glenfiddich 21yo Whisky TV and online media campaign with McOpera Orchestra
- **2014–20** Commission to compose full scale Symphony in 4 movements for Canongait Orchestra of Edinburgh Scotland
- **2014** Commission to compose film score for *Mail Porter* for Sick Kids' Friends Foundation, Edinburgh
- **2013–14** Composer *Medea* – 1 act opera premiered Edinburgh Jazz Bar, Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2013 & Reid Hall 2014
- **2013** *Waltz* commissioned by Edinburgh University & Royal Conservatoire of Scotland for Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2013
- **2012** Commission by The University of Edinburgh to compose String Quartet for Professor Raymond Monelle Conference
- **2012** Commissioned arrangement/orchestration by Caroline O'Connor for Hamer Hall official opening, Melbourne
- **2011** Commission by *Artisan Trio* to compose *Quintet for Clarinet, Horn, Violin, Cello and Piano*
- **2011** *Seiras Quintet* commission to compose *Piano Quintet No 1* performed at Sala Accademica di Santa Cecilia in Rome
- **2007–15** Pianist, big band musical director for Sinatra interpreter Frank Holden's live and recorded performances
- **1985–2013** Orchestrations and compositions performed at international venues including Sydney Opera House and Royal Albert Hall, TV documentaries, mini-series and films including the Oscar winning *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, Aria award nominee album *Cash Landing* for EMI Music and platinum Australian Broadcasting Corporation album *Come in Spinner*
- **1983–2013** Orchestrator, conductor, musical director and record producer for leading international figures including Sir Robert Helpmann, Sir Howard Morrison and English National Opera star Caroline O'Connor
- **2006–2010** Composing a full-scale opera, *Wilde*, scenes from which have been workshopped by the professional touring opera company, Opera Circus, and recordings made by professional opera singers
- **2009** Record producer and participant composer for the recording of a University funded CD of string quartets with guest soloists featuring PhD student compositions performed by The Edinburgh Quartet and guests
- **2008** Répétiteur for Edinburgh Grand Opera's semi-professional production of Gounod's *Faust* at the Edinburgh Festival Theatre and offstage conductor for the live performances
- **2007** arranger for Caroline O'Connor *Night of 1,000 Voices* concert at the Royal Albert Hall, later New York & Melbourne
- **2007** Musical director and conductor for the Edinburgh University Savoy Group's performance the musical *Salad Days*
- **2007** String Quartet *Caledonian Quartet* premiered by The Edinburgh Quartet, Scotland's leading professional string quartet, and included in a University funded CD of student compositions for commercial release
- **1985–2001** Conducting studio orchestras performing my orchestrations for many film scores and commercial albums including the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra for the film *Frauds* starring Phil Collins
- **1979–1994** Performing as pianist and keyboardist in live theatre including over 400 performances of Andrew Lloyd Webber's show *Cats* at Sydney's Theatre Royal, Australia
- **1993** Orchestrator for feature movie *Crush*, which wins Best Film Score and 3 other awards
- **1990** Arranger/Conductor Australian Broadcasting Corp's album *Come In Spinner* which achieves Platinum sales
- **1973, 1974** Winner Professor Hollinrake Memorial Scholarship, and Senior Scholarship at Auckland University
- **1972** World tour as chorister with the Auckland University Festival Choir, conductor Professor Peter Godfrey CBE

APPENDIX 1 – PUBLICATIONS AND MUSIC CREDITS (full details, audio/video at www.derekwilliams.net)

Variously arranger, orchestrator, composer, conductor, performer

Film details at www.imdb.com/name/nm0930427

The Beast in the Storm – Winner Best Thriller LAIFA 2016
Hildegard – Australian Film Commission (2001)
Empire – Australian Broadcasting Corp. (1997)
The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert
- Polygram Filmed Entertainment (1994)
Frauds – J & M Entertainment (1993)
Crush – Australian Film Council (1992)
Blinky Bill – Yoram Gross Productions (1992)
The Rainbow Warrior Conspiracy – 7 TV Network
The Crossing – Beyond Productions (1990)
Ring of Scorpio – Nine Network Australia (1990)

Television (refer also IMDB as above)

Hard Knox – Peter Bloomfield (2001)
Thank God He Met Lizzie – Stamen Films Ltd (1997)
Seven Deadly Sins – ABC (1993)
The Other Side of Paradise – 10 TV Network (1992)
Children of the Dragon – ABC (1991)
Police Rescue – ABC (1991)
Come in Spinner – ABC (1990)
Bodysurfer – Ian Barry (1989)
The Last Resort – ABC (1988)

Documentary www.imdb.com/name/nm0930427

Mail Porter – Sick Kids' Friends Foundation (2014)
The Making of Longbird – Atzi Muramatsu (2013)
Black Swan – Antony Partos (1995)
Widows – Australian movie (1994)
The Wonderful World of Dogs – Mark Lewis (1990)
In Grave Danger of Falling Food – Bill Mollison (1989)
Flashbacks – Australian Broadcasting Corp. (1988)

TV/Radio Themes, Commercials and Infomercials

Glenfiddich 21yo – TV & Online Media Campaign (2015)
ABC Cable Television News Service (1995)
Channel 7 Sports Themes (1988-1990)
Channel 7 IDs including Let's Celebrate '88
Arthur Young, Australia – Broadcom (1988)

Albums (full details Discogs Portfolio)

Encounters – CD Edinburgh University (2009)
Caroline O'Connor – A Tribute to Garland (2005)
Frank Bennett – Cash Landing – EMI Music (1998)
Frauds – J & M Entertainment (1993)
The Crossing – Beyond Productions (1989)
Come in Spinner – Platinum Album ABC Records, Australian Broadcasting Corporation (1990)
Seven Deadly Sins – ABC (1993)
Aloha – Cast Album (1983)
Glenn Wood Tap – The Syllabus (2004-present)
History of Australia – Cast Album (1988)
Torvill & Dean - Here We Stand (1989)
New Zealand Choral Music – Kiwi Records (1972)

Additional Conducting Repertoire (videos available)

Beethoven *Symphony No 1 & 6; Coriolan Overture*
Haydn *Symphony No 104*
Mozart *Overture to Così Fan Tutte; Ave Verum*
Weber *Clarinet Concerto*
Mendelssohn *Violin Concerto*
Bach *Cantata Christ Lag in Todesbanden*
Handel *Excerpts from The Messiah*
Grieg *Excerpts from Peer Gynt Suite*
Bizet *Farandole*
John Williams *Star Wars Overture*
Bellini *La Sonnambula*
Bruch *Kol Nidrei*
Edinburgh University Composers' Orchestra (guest)

Opera and Musical (videos available)

Medea – opera, Composer (Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2013)
Jekyll & Hyde – The Opera – Composer, (commission 2013)
Wilde – Composer, full scale opera in 2 Acts (2006-2011)
Caroline O'Connor – The Showgirl Within, Garrick Theatre, London (2010), *End of the Rainbow*, Sydney Opera House (2005), Arranger/Orchestrator
Faust – Répétiteur, Offstage Conductor, Edinburgh Grand Opera (2008)
Opera Shorts – Répétiteur, Recordist (2008)
Salad Days – Musical Director, Répétiteur, Edinburgh University Savoy Opera Group (2007)
Lulu – Musical Director, Arranger, Répétiteur, Pianist (1996)
The Last Empress – Score Programmer (1996)
Phantom of the Opera – Keyboard, Cameron Mackintosh (1995)
Cats – Keyboards, The Really Useful Theatre Co (1985-94)
Leopard's Leap – Arranger, Recordist (1990-1994)
Nunsense – Répétiteur, Keyboards (1991)
Thirteen Daughters – Arranger, Recordist (1989)
History of Australia (Manning Clark) – Arranger (1988)
Rasputin – Keyboards, Associate Chorus Master (1987)
Cinderella – Musical Director (1987)
Aloha – Musical Director, Arranger/Orchestrator (1983-85)
Oklahoma – Musical Director (1983)
Godspell – Musical Director (1980)
Earthfire – Keyboards & Associate MD (1980)
Jesus Christ, Superstar! – Keyboards (1979)

Live Performance (videos available)

Tonight at the West End – Pianist, Usher Hall (2015)
Medea – opera, (Edinburgh Fringe 2013, Reid Hall 2014)
Jake Howarth – Rhapsody For Two Pianos, 2nd Pianist, Edinburgh University Composers' Orchestra (2012)
Tidemarks – Suzanne Parry John, Dumfries, Pianist (2012)
Julien Lonchamp – Verso-Tempo, and Fall of a Window Cleaner, Edinburgh & Glasgow, Conductor (2011-12)
Quintet No 2 – Artisan Trio & guests, Composer (2011)
Quintet No 1 – Seiras Quintet, Rome, Composer (2011)
De Novo – for Ryan Somerville, Conductor (2010)
"Fortune & Men's Eyes" Octet – Kings Space London (2009)
Caroline O'Connor – Official Opening, Melbourne Hamer Hall (2012) *Night of 1000 Voices*, Royal Albert Hall (2007), *Australia Day*, New York Embassy (2008), *Tribute to Garland*, Taronga Park, Sydney (2005), Arranger, Musician
Frank Holden Big Band – Musical Director (2007-2015)
The Edinburgh Quartet – Composer (2007-2009)
Araluen Receptions – Resident Pianist (1995-2006)
Fornicon – Arranger, Graham Murphy *Sydney Dance Company* - Sydney Opera House (1995)
Berlin – Arranger, Graham Murphy *Sydney Dance Company* - Sydney Opera House (1995)
Grace Knight – Arranger, Musical Director (1990)
Debbie Newsome – Arranger, Musical Director (1989)
Kate Ceberano – Arranger, Session Conductor (1988-89)
with *Wendy Matthews* – Keyboards ABC TV Special
Australian Singing Competition – Arranger (1985-89)
Sir Howard Morrison – Keyboards (1982)
Auckland University Festival Choir – Chorister (1972)

Other Compositions (videos available)

Waltz – Composer, (Edinburgh Festival commission 2013)
Quintet Piano, Strings, Horn, Clarinet – Artisan Trio (2011)
Piano Quintet – commission Seiras Quintet, Rome (2011)
Fortune & Men's Eyes – Octet, Kings Place, London (2009)
Caledonian Quartet - String Quartet (2007)
Surfing Ballet (Aloha) – commission Eaton Magoon Jr
Sonata in Ab Minor for Flute, Clarinet, Viola & Piano (1975)

APPENDIX 2 – REFEREES & REFERENCE LETTERS

Referees

1. Emeritus Reid Professor, Nigel Osborne MBE

The University of Edinburgh
Department of Music
Alison House
12 Nicolson Square
Edinburgh EH8 9DF
SCOTLAND

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigel_Osborne

2. Dr Carl Hammond

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Pudahuel, Lomas de lo Aguirre
Santiago 9061253
CHILE

Email: carlhammond@me.com

Cell phone: +56 22 640 9134

<http://musicalcompositions.net/>

3. Professor Raymond MacDonald

The University of Edinburgh
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SCOTLAND

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<https://www.eca.ed.ac.uk/profile/prof-raymond-macdonald>

4. Mr Garry Traynor

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<https://www.sydneycommunitycollege.edu.au/>

Reference Letters – available on request

- Professor Nigel Osborne
- Professor Peter Nelson
- Emeritus Professor, Dr Charles Nalden
- Emeritus Professor, Dr John Tiffin
- New South Wales Board of Studies (2)
- Mr Martin Armiger, Australian Film, Radio & Television School
- Mr Guy Gross, Screen Composer
- Mr Michael Stavrou, Sound Engineer
- Mr Geoff McNeil, Principal, Randwick Boys High School
- Mr Geoff Cramond, Principal, Rotorua Boys High School