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Adrian Sutton (b.1967) Trio Dances for String Trio (2021)

Galliard

Sarabande

Rigaudon

Adrian Sutton is a British composer, producer, and an accomplished violinist and violist. He was the composer and a principal instrumental performer for the smash-hit, award-winning play *War Horse*. His scores cross orchestral, chamber and electronic genres, and have featured in a number of other successful National Theatre productions including *Coram Boy*, *Angels in America*, and the multiple Olivier- and Tony award-winning *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*.

Adrian's chamber music scores have frequently involved collaboration with the violinist Fenella Humphreys, including the Arpeggiare Variations for her 'Bach2TheFuture' project, Sap and Sinews for her 'Four Seasons Recomposed' series, and a recording of his Spring Masque for violin/viola duo. Fenella is the dedicatee of his recent violin concerto, which she premiered last year at a special celebratory South Bank concert.

The Trio Dances for String Trio was commissioned by the Presteigne Festival and premiered there by Fenella with Perpetuo in 2021. Adrian Sutton writes:

"This is a little suite of three dances for string trio that, in a sense, picks up from where my violin/viola duo Spring Masque (2012) left off. Ever since writing the score for the National Theatre's production of *The Revenger's Tragedy*, I had fallen in love with a certain kind of Renaissance-inspired sound which infuses the first of these dances. The opening characteristic stress pattern of the 6/8 *Galliard* metre is used as a platform throughout the movement to explore the thematic material in a series of increasingly frequent modulations. The *Sarabande* is based on a simple tune that I wrote many years ago and, until now, never found a home for. I like how composition frequently works like that – things get tucked away in a drawer, waiting for their right moment. Each of the three instruments gets a turn with the melodic material. The final *Rigaudon* is an earthy, robust dance in 2/4 time to round the suite off; though it contains some contrapuntal passagework to give the players a workout!"