

Charlotte Bray (b. 1982) 'Blaze and Fall' for clarinet, viola and piano (2017)

Charlotte Bray studied composition under Joe Cutler and Mark Anthony Turnage; she won the Royal Philharmonic Society Composition Prize in 2010 and the 2014 Lili Boulanger Prize. Her many commissions include an orchestral work for the Proms, song cycles for the Aldeburgh, Aix, Verbier and Oxford Lieder Festivals, chamber operas and a variety of chamber works.

Today's work, which lasts about 10', was commissioned and premiered by the Jacquin Trio. It builds on a line of 'Homages' which originated with the Schumann piece we have just heard. *Märchenerzählungen* inspired György Kurtág's *Hommage à Robert Schumann*, which in turn inspired Marco Stroppa's *Hommage à György Kurtág*. Bray says of her work:

'Openly embracing the limitless creativeness of Schumann, the enviable precision of Kurtág and the intrepid inventiveness of Stroppa, I have sought to shape their separate offerings into my own voice. Taking themes inherent in the Schumann and Kurtág: night, sun, clouds, cycles, anxiety and love to inspire (as did Schumann) the imaginary world of the piece.

'The most obvious influence drawn from Kurtág is structural, following his pattern of five short movements succeeded by a sixth that is far longer than the five put together... For each of the first five movements, I borrowed a 'cell' of material from Kurtág as a starting point, a harmony or figuration for instance. The final movement was approached more freely, although as the base I inserted a chord structure consisting of an ascending and then descending bass line, which repeats in transposed variations throughout. This technique was influenced by Kurtág's use of Isorhythm, which he borrowed from the medieval French composer Machaut. The Fibonacci sequence, which attracted Kurtág, plays a part in organising chords, intervals, rhythms and structures.'