

Six Bagatelles for Guitar (2007)

These imaginative pieces are the first that Richard has written for solo guitar; they are challenging but rewarding works to play, as they are advanced pieces that employ all registers of the guitar's range and a wide compass of dynamics, techniques and special effects. It is remarkable that Richard was able to respond aptly to the guitar's expressive range and sound world without any detailed knowledge of how the instrument is played! Throughout the pieces we are treated to an approach to harmony and melodic invention that is individual and characterful; the bagatelles are a significant addition to the repertoire.

The first bagatelle (Prelude) gets straight down to business with a lively and unsettling juxtaposition of accented, angular bars and arpeggios that span the range of the instrument, whilst the second (Improvisation) is lyrical, brooding and introspective. Bagatelle three (Capriccio) is dramatic and chromatic, and this is followed by the fourth (Nocturne) that contrasts moments of serene repose in the outer sections with an unsettled middle. The fifth (Waltz) offers an expansive melodic line throughout with unexpected and delightful harmonic twists, and the final bagatelle (Madrigal Rondo) is dance-like, rhythmical and jaunty

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