



Peter Maxwell Davies  
DAVID ROSE/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

**PETER MAXWELL DAVIES**

**The Last Island**

**Hebrides Ensemble**

*Delphian*

This beguiling sequence of late inventions ends with a quartet unfinished at Davies's death.

**PASCAL DUSAPIN**

**String Quartets Nos 6 and 7**

**Arditti Quartet, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, cond Pascal Rophé**

*Aeon*

The longer quartet, No 7, OpenTime, requires an orchestra as well as four string players, and is full of intricate, repetitive figuration.



Liza Lim  
FAIRFAX MEDIA/GETTY IMAGES

**LIZA LIM**

**The Wreck of Former Boundaries**

**Elision, cond Carl Rosman**

*Huddersfield Contemporary*

This release marks the Australian ensemble's 30th birthday. Lim's work How Forests Think is cast in a nuanced avant-garde idiom.

**OLIVER KNUSSEN AND OTHERS**

**Britannia**

*Cragg Foundation*

Six contemporary British works recorded in Wuppertal, including Britten's Cello Sonata, the piano Prayer Bell Sketch, by Knussen, and Mark-Anthony Turnage's Slide Stride, for piano quintet.

**MORTON FELDMAN**

**Three Voices**

**Juliet Fraser**

*Hat[now]Art*

Fraser's sensitive realisation of this late Feldman opus, based on a poem written to him by Frank O'Hara, sees her become a singular trio.

**IMOGEN HOLST**

**String Chamber Music**

*Court Lane Music*

Holst's daughter was a splendid composer, meticulous and vigorous. These six works have ear-cleansing freshness.

**JOHN MCCABE**

**Silver Nocturnes**

**Roderick Williams, Sacconi Quartet**

*NMC*

The title piece among these three works is an arresting setting of 16th-century "silver" poets, framed by Shakespeare.

**EDGARD VARESE**

**New York**

**Ensemble Intercontemporain, cond Matthias Pintscher**

*Alpha*

Varèse's Intégrales stands out on this deft evocation of New York's creative spirit.

**SCIARRINO, CARTER, NUNES ET AL**

**Caprices**

**Irvine Arditti**

*Aeon*

The violinist and leader of the great quartet is an indomitable espouser of the avant-garde, as we see in this programme.

**STRAVINSKY**

**The Soldier's Tale**

**Royal Academy of Music Manson Ensemble, cond Oliver Knussen**

*Linn*

Stravinsky's theatre piece is set beside short items by him, Birtwistle and Maxwell Davies. Harriet Walter narrates.