

PROGRAMME NOTE

Composed in 2005, *Sky and Water* is a short, atmospheric work for solo piano. It was inspired by M. C. Escher's woodcutting *Sky and Water I* (from which it also takes its name) in which birds appear to be systematically transformed into fish and vice versa. To me this suggested the possibility of using a computational sorting algorithm 'Insertion Sort' to bring about a transformation in terms of pitch, and specifically melodic line: in my composition, the opening descending figure slowly evolves into an ascending figure by the end of the piece.

Emily Howard, 2010

Duration: 7 minutes

*First performed by John McCabe on 22nd February 2006 at the
Gashball School of Music and Drama, London UK
as part of the Landscapes of the Mind Festival*

*A recording of Sky and Water, given by John McCabe, appears on
Tosca Classics CD Farewell Recital (TOCC 0139)*

for John McCabe
Sky and Water

Emily Howard

Spacious, Volatile ($\text{♩}=100$)

Musical score for measures 1-11. The piece is in 3/4 time with a tempo of $\text{♩}=100$. The score is for piano and includes dynamic markings such as *fff*, *mp*, and *pp*. The music features complex textures with overlapping lines and some triplets. A large watermark is visible across the page.

accel. e poco a poco agitato - - - - - A tempo ($\text{♩}=80$)

Musical score for measures 12-15. The tempo changes to *accel. e poco a poco agitato* and then to *A tempo* ($\text{♩}=80$). The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf*, *ff*, *pp*, and *ppp*. The music becomes more rhythmic and agitated. A large watermark is visible across the page.