

DON BANKS

ONE FOR MURRAY

ONE FOR MURRAY

for Solo Clarinet in B flat

EDITOR'S NOTE

Don Banks (1923 - 1980) was Australia's most important modernist composer in the third quarter of the 20th century. His principal publishers were Schott and Co of London, although a few items were published by others, including Chester and Novello. However, nine works remained unpublished at the time of his death, and these are now being published by *Southern Voices* :

<u>Title</u>	<u>ISBN</u>
<i>Sonatina for Piano</i>	0 646 27872 X
<i>Fantasia for strings</i>	0 646 27873 8
<i>Divertimento for flute and string trio</i>	0 646 27874 6
<i>Duo for violin and cello</i>	0 646 27867 3
<i>Psalm 70</i>	0 646 27868 1
<i>String Quartet</i>	0 646 27869 X
<i>An Australian Entertainment</i>	0 646 27870 3
<i>One for Murray</i>	1 876463 07 6
<i>I'm Easy</i>	1 876463 11 2

Of these, *One for Murray* for solo clarinet in B flat was amongst his last completed works, dating from 1977. It was written for his colleague and friend, New Zealander Murray Khouri. It's a bagatelle: an 'offshoot' from another, much longer piece, for clarinettist and electro-acoustic sound, $4 \times 2 \times 1$, also composed for Khouri (for the Adelaide Festival of 1978).

Please note that a loose-leaf copy of the score of *One for Murray* should be included with this bound library edition (at no extra cost). Further copies are available from the distributor (the Australian Music Centre) at the address given on the copyright page.

Graham Hair
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Glasgow University
2002

DON BANKS

ONE FOR MURRAY

for Solo Clarinet in B flat

Full score

Southern Voices

ISBN 1 876463 07 6

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For these reasons, each copy bears a separate print date as well as a publication date (and may bear an edition date as well). In the case of the present volumes the dates in question are:

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DON BANKS: AN INTRODUCTION TO HIS WORK

Don Banks was Australia's most important modernist composer in the third quarter of the 20th century. His most important works were probably the orchestral and chamber works which he wrote while living in London between 1950 and 1971, but he also made a significant contribution to Australian jazz, wrote a great deal of imaginative film music, composed the most important Australian contributions to the 'third-stream' genre (combining aspects of jazz and 'classical' practice), and made some isolated but distinctive contributions to developments of a more 'experimental' nature, including facets of Australian electronic music.

He was born in South Melbourne in 1923, and had a good start in life for a future composer, being the son of a professional band musician who played numerous instruments: all the saxophones (soprano, alto, tenor, baritone and bass) as well as percussion, piano and trombone. The young Banks' memories of those early years include performances given by his father's band at functions at Government House in the thirties. During his schooldays at Melbourne Boys' High School (1937-9) Banks acquired a passion for jazz, which remained with him all his life. The following decade was to see him become perhaps the most important pioneer of early bebop in Melbourne in the late forties, with various bands, including his own: the Donny Banks Boptet.

During the earlier years of this period (1941-6), Banks served with the Army Medical Corps in Melbourne, while playing jazz at night in various Melbourne venues. After the war (1947-9), he joined the large number of ex-servicemen who undertook belated tertiary studies: in his case the Diploma of Music at the Melbourne University Conservatorium. But he also continued to play jazz with his Boptet. The Boptet's final appearance was on radio station 3AR in January 1950 as part of the ABC's programme *Thursday Night Swing Club* (though the music it played was almost certainly not swing but bebop), just before his departure for London.

In early 1950 Banks left Australia to study in London, and thereafter jazz took a secondary part in his life, and although he always insisted on being identified as an Australian composer, he became quite a cosmopolitan in outlook. Certainly, the first few years of his period of residence in Europe were spent studying with three of the finest teachers of that (or any) day -- Matyas Seiber (who was Hungarian), Milton Babbitt (American) and Italian Luigi Dallapiccola (Italian) -- none of whom had any

serious connection with Australia. He studied privately with Matyas Seiber in London, from early 1950 until mid-1952. During the summer of 1952, he took a course at the American Institute in Salzburg with Milton Babbitt, and then spent the 1952-3 academic year studying with Luigi Dallapiccola in Florence. After this he settled back in London, though there was one further significant period of study three years later, when he attended a summer school at Gravesano in Switzerland in August 1956. This took place at the villa of the famous conductor Herman Scherchen, who had a passionate interest in new music, and the principal lecturer was the Italian composer Luigi Nono. Sessions were devoted principally to the study of the *Orchestral Variations* of Schoenberg and Webern (at that time works comparatively little-known in Europe, but widely regarded by composers such as Nono as heralding the future of music), and to electronic music (Scherchen had a private studio of his own *in situ*).

These early years of apprenticeship also saw his first significant compositions. His first substantial success was with his *Duo for Violin and Piano*, written under Matyas Seiber's tutelage during 1951, which was awarded the Edwin Evans Prize in 1952. The prize was presented by Professor Edward Dent at a performance in London in February 1952. The visit which Banks made to Salzburg in the summer of that year to study with Babbitt also enabled him to hear his *Duo* played at the 1952 ISCM Festival there. His *Four Pieces for Orchestra*, written during his period of study with Dallapiccola, was given in 1954 by the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Sir Adrian Boult. His *Three Studies for Cello and Piano*, composed soon after his return from Florence, were premiered by Nelson Cooke and Eric Parkin in London's Royal Festival Hall in April 1954.

Towards the end of the fifties, Banks began a significant career in composing for film. Essentially this remained the principal means by which he earned his living for his remaining years in London, along with teaching work at Morley College. He composed a huge quantity of music for film: documentaries, features, animated films, even TV advertisements. No account of Banks' work would be complete without reference to – in particular – those classics of vernacular culture, the 'Hammer Horrors'. Banks wrote 19 feature films, of which the 10 or so for Hammer Productions form the centrepiece. Into these scores he poured huge quantities of music which drew on every one of the musical idioms in which he had developed expertise, as occasion demanded. Although these film scores (and indeed most of his music outside the symphonic and chamber output) has been taken as peripheral in some accounts of Banks' work, they nevertheless allowed him to 'let his hair down' – free of the sometimes restrictive constraints of expectation imposed by audiences for jazz or 'classical' music, and in some respects show the different sides of his personality in even more vivid form than the symphonic and chamber works.

These films for which he wrote such huge quantities of music (something like 15-20 hours altogether) should probably be described – frankly – as 'B' movies, though this somewhat severe judgement is by no means universally shared, as can be deduced from the fact that Hammer has found it worthwhile during the nineties to re-issue quite a number of them on video as 'cult' movies. These re-issues include *The Mummy's Shroud*, *The Reptile*, *Rasputin the Mad Monk*, *Nightmare*, *The Torture Garden* and *The Evil of*

Frankenstein. Nevertheless, 'B' movies or no, we should recall that many of the greatest popular songs of the century come from musicals which 'bombed' after a few performances, and that often the songs they contained took on a new life of their own thereafter. In the same way, I believe that a good deal of Banks' film music is considerably stronger than the films in which it appeared, and deserves to be re-recorded for its own value. Indeed, in the cultural climate of the end of the century, when the rather patronising view of film music as inherently a second-class genre – quite a widespread attitude amongst composers of previous generations – is gradually fading away, and re-issues of film scores have become a more and more ubiquitous feature of the CD catalogues, this is now quite likely to happen.

If you look up Don Banks in the 1980 edition of the *New Grove Dictionary*, the article there by British journalist William Mann concentrates, as you might expect, on the side of his work by which he became best-known in Britain: the composer of "serious" works for orchestral and chamber forces in a 'modernist' idiom – works which make considerable demands on listeners' powers of perception and conception, and are predicated on a deep background knowledge of the development of 'progressive' musical styles in this century. The pieces on which Mann's assessment is based are essentially the chamber pieces beginning with the *Sonata da Camera* (1961) and the *Horn Trio* for the Edinburgh Festival (1962), leading to successes with larger orchestral canvasses such as the *Horn Concerto* for Barry Tuckwell and the London Symphony Orchestra (1966) and the *Violin Concerto* for the 1968 London Promenade Concerts, although the final work in this impressive sequence was written after his return to Australia in the early seventies: *Prospects* for the opening of the Sydney Opera House (1973).

Certainly these pieces do in some sense manifest the cosmopolitan qualities to be expected of an 'expatriate'. Nonetheless, the tone of Mann's article (basically a sympathetic one) makes a good deal of Banks' 'regional' origins. Conversely, and perhaps ironically, it's in Australia that writers have tended to emphasise the European, 'expatriate' aspect of his work.

Even if we regard these chamber and orchestral pieces as the 'core' of Banks' output, there are several other genres to which he made significant contributions, and which should be mentioned here. One was 'third-stream' music, in which jazz idioms and jazz performers were integrated with the 'classical' idiom and forces such as string quartet, chamber ensemble and orchestra – works such as *Settings from Roget*, *Intersections* and later *Nexus*.

Another was electronic music. As he was reported as saying on the subject many years later: "The language of music must be constantly reworked, and I believed that in time the avant-garde of today will become the mainstream of music in the future". Experiments with electronic music began in the sixties, but there were many trials and tribulations involved in getting access to facilities for electronic music in London at that time. Considering the magnitude of these problems, it is hardly surprising that electronic music never became more than a secondary component of his output (as it might have done, had he come to maturity a generation later, when

better equipment had become cheaper and more widely accessible), and when he did call on electronic resources, it was usually in combination with 'live' instruments.

In *Meeting Place*, written for the London Sinfonietta in 1970, he went a stage further still, combining both the 'third-stream' idiom and electronic media. But it was not until after his return to Australia that he was involved in the event in which this 'experimental' side of his musical personality reached its apotheosis, in one of the major events in which he was involved in Canberra in the early seventies, the 'no-holds-barred' audio-visual extravaganza *Synchronos '72*, which combined these elements plus yet another: visual images created and projected by Stan Ostojka-Kotkowski.

In 1970 Banks paid a visit to Australia, and then decided to return to Australia to live, which he finally did, after a further year in London, in 1972. He joined the staff of the Canberra School of Music for several years, and eventually moved to the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in 1978. For much of this period his work was hampered by the illness from which he eventually died in 1980, and although he wrote a number of successful works during the seventies, it would not be an unreasonable assessment that the major scores which he had written in London during the sixties remained his best.

Much of Don Banks' music is published by Schott. This means that performing scores of some of the solo and chamber works are available for purchase, as well study or miniature scores of some of the larger works. But a good number of these Schott works are still available only on hire. The works which were not published during his lifetime are now available for purchase from *Southern Voices* through the Australia Music Centre.

The principal repository of Banks' documentary material is the National Library of Australia. The manuscript collections of the NLA are, as one would expect, a rich resource for Australian Studies in most fields. But, compared to the resources for the study of literature, painting and other art forms, those for music are as yet rather more limited. Fortunately, the Banks Collection is one of its most significant musical resources. It is divided into two principal components: the Manuscript Room Collection (MS 6830) and the Petherick Room Collection (MUS BANKS). The most important things in MS 6830 are the music manuscripts (scores, parts, drafts, and sketches of chamber, orchestral, film and TV music, in the main) of most of his compositions (25 large black boxes) and the personal papers (34 large grey boxes, containing correspondence, programmes, scripts, diaries, and much else). The Petherick Room Collection consists of Banks' personal library: scores by other composers, books and journals (322 catalogued items, some of which are themselves bundles of several or many items) and recordings, on cassette, reel-to-reel tape and disc, not only of music, but also of broadcast talks, interviews and other spoken material (several hundred items in all). The collection was acquired by the NLA on the 10th August, 1982, but various bits and pieces have been added to it in the last sixteen years.

Overall the Don Banks Collection presents a remarkably rounded portrait of the composer and his activities, but there are some *lacunae*, above all the film scores.

Unfortunately, the NLA's archive contains only the short-score sketches for most of the film music (in pencil on three- or four-stave systems). The composer's widow, Valerie Banks, who now lives in Canberra, holds three or four full scores. The rest are probably somewhere in the Hammer archives, but since the musical manuscripts in the Hammer archives are largely uncatalogued and in a state of some disorder, I have not yet managed to reassemble complete and coherent full scores for the whole series of Banks movies in a form which precisely matches what is on the sound-tracks, though I hope to do so in the next year or two.

Writings about Don Banks are rather in need of updating. Since his activities, as sketched above, covered several fields of composition which ordinarily have little to do with one another, most writers who have attempted an assessment of his work have concentrated on one or two of these fields and ignored or skimmed over the others. There have also been several symposia with chapters in which his work has been discussed – albeit mostly quite old ones by now. However, in one recent one (see the bibliography, below) Randall D Larson discusses Banks' music for the Hammer horror movies, and describes him as 'the crown prince' of the genre. None of these quite gets to grips with the many identities which were an essential part of Banks' musical personality.

In the eighties and nineties we have become more accustomed to the idea that the work of Australian composers often embodies many musical identities, because of the arrival of a generation of composers, now in their thirties and forties, whose work, while thoroughly Australian in outlook, is less likely than the previous generation to accord precedence in the determination of identity to such straightforward factors as citizenship of a particular nation state or inhabitation of a particular landscape, and is equally influenced by a plethora of compositional practices derived from their contacts with the European new music festivals, the many sub-cultures of American musical life or the popular musics of six continents (amongst other possibilities). This phenomenon of multiple identity has sometimes been seen as analogous with, or perhaps an example of, the simultaneous development in other spheres of life of both globalisation and regionalisation (as for example within the European Union, in political and economic life). In the post-modern era, indeed, one might even say multiple identity has become the dominant paradigm in musical composition, in Australia as elsewhere, although the older tradition which tended to define Australian identity in terms of Australian landscape and something of an 'Asia/Pacific v Europe' polemic – a tradition promulgated for so many years by Peter Sculthorpe and others – has continued to find adherents.

A particularly interesting resource with respect to the 'jazzman' side of this multiple identity is in the National Film and Sound Archive in Canberra: the videocassette *The Melbourne Jazz Days, 1938 - 1950* by Banks' son Simon. A large part of this video is given over to interviews in 1985 with musicians who had played jazz with the young Don Banks in the forties, before he went to London to study, and these musicians all speak with great respect of his capabilities and originality as a jazz pianist and arranger.

Though there has not yet been a book devoted solely to Don Banks and his music, there have been a number of academic theses; several are in progress at various universities around the country as I write.

I should also mention two other forthcoming publications in which I have attempted to document the many identities of Don Banks more fully – a *Guide* to the NLA collection, *Don Banks on Music* – an anthology of the composer’s own writings, transcribed talks and interviews about music (many of them edited from the manuscripts and published for the first time) – and a monograph: *Meeting Place: the Music of Don Banks*.

Finally, a personal impression – one which remained unchanged from my first meeting with him in 1968 through a friendship of twelve years until his (by contemporary standards) quite early death at the age of 56: that of a slightly-built, quietly-spoken and unassuming person – very self-critical, but always ready to give credit where credit was due, whether to colleagues, students or other composers, and never given to carping or polemic. This flexible capacity to ‘give credit where credit was due’ was perhaps a key personality trait: one which enabled him to see, without ideological prejudice, possibilities in many different fields of musical composition – fields which espouse very different, even conflicting, ideas as to what constitutes musical value. Although, to be sure, this is a subjective personal impression of mine, it is not contradicted by the more objective, precise and complete answer to the question which the documentary evidence, especially the NLA collection, provides.

I joined the staff of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in mid-1980, expecting to spend some time as Don Banks’ colleague, although it was apparent that he was already very ill. In fact, he died only a few weeks later, on September 5th of that year, and I became his successor as Head of Composition instead of his colleague. He was a few weeks short of his 57th birthday when he died, and his composing during those final years in Australia had been considerably affected by his battle with cancer. In other circumstances, one might have expected that much of his best work was still to come.

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2002

DON BANKS: LIST OF WORKS



<u><i>Title</i></u>	<u><i>Instrumentation</i></u>	<u><i>Date</i></u>
Trio	flute, violin and cello	1948
Fantasia	string orchestra	1949
Sonatina	piano	1949
Divertimento	flute and string trio	1951
Duo	violin and cello	1951
Five North Country Folk Songs	soprano and piano	1953
Four Pieces	orchestra	1953
Sonata	violin and piano	1953
Five North Country Folk Songs	soprano and string orchestra	1954
Psalm 70	mezzo-soprano and orchestra	1954
Three North Country Folk Songs	soprano and piano	1955
Three Studies	cello and piano	1955
I'm easy	vln, double bass, trombone, guitar, pf, drums	1956
Pezzo Drammatico	piano	1956
Episode	small orchestra	1958
Sonata da camera	8 instruments	1961
Elizabethan Miniatures	flute, lute, viola da gamba and strings	1962
Horn Trio	horn, violin, piano	1962
Equation 1	12 players	1963
Form	tape	1964
Three Episodes	flute and piano	1964
Concerto for Horn and Orchestra	horn and orchestra	1965
Divisions	orchestra	1965
Assemblies	orchestra	1966
Settings from Roget	voice and jazz quartet	1966
Sequence	solo cello	1967
Concerto for Violin and Orchestra	violin and orchestra	1968
Prologue, Night Piece and Blues for Two	clarinet and piano	1968
Tirade	mezzo-soprano and ensemble	1968
Dramatic Music for Young Orchestra	orchestra	1969
Equation 2	12 instrumentalists	1969
Findings Keepings	chorus (+ optional bass guitar and drum kit)	1969
Intersections	electronic sounds and orchestra	1969

Fanfare and National Anthem	orchestra	1970
Meeting Place	chamber ensemble, jazz group, synthesizer	1970
Commentary	piano and tape	1971
Four Pieces	string quartet	1971
Limbo	3 singers, 8 instruments, 2-channel tape	1971
Music for Wind Band	wind band	1971
Nexus	orchestra and jazz quintet	1971
Three Short Songs	jazz singer and jazz quintet	1971
Aria from Limbo	mezzo-soprano, ensemble, 2-channel tape	1972
Equation 3	ensemble, jazz quartet and electronics	1972
Shadows of Space	4-channel tape	1972
Synchronos '72	tape	1972
Walkabout	children's voices and instruments	1972
Take Eight	jazz quartet and string quartet	1973
Prospects	orchestra	1974
Carillon	2-channel tape	1975
String Quartet	string quartet	1975
4 / 5 / 7	tape (graphic score for student performers)	1976
Benedictus	male chorus, jazz quartet, electronics	1976
Trio	bass clarinet, elec pf, Moog synthesizer	1976
4 x 2 x 1	clarinetist and tape	1977
Magician's Castle	tape	1977
One for Murray	solo clarinet	1977
Trilogy	orchestra	1977
An Australian Entertainment	male voices	1979

In addition to these works of ‘absolute’ music, the following feature films have scores which were wholly or partly composed by Don Banks:

Murder at Site 3 (Eternal Films Ltd, 1958)
The Price of Silence (Eternal Films Ltd, 1959)
The Treasure of San Teresa (Associated British Picture Corporation, 1959)
Jackpot (Eternal Films Ltd, 1960)
The Third Alibi (Eternal Films Ltd, 1961)
Captain Clegg (Hammer/ Universal International, 1961)
Petticoat Pirates (ABPC, 1963)
The Evil of Frankenstein (Hammer/ Universal International, 1963)
Crooks in Cloisters (ABPC, 1963)
The Punch and Judy Man (ABPC, 1963)
Nightmare (Hammer Film Productions Ltd, 1963)
Hysteria (Hammer Film Productions Ltd/MGM, 1964)
The Brigand of Kandabar (Hammer Film Productions Ltd, 1964)
Rasputin, the Mad Monk (Hammer Film Productions Ltd, 1965)
The Reptile (Hammer Film Productions Ltd, 1966)
The House at the End of the World (Alta Vista Film Productions Ltd, 1966)
The Mummy's Shroud (Hammer Film Productions Ltd, 1966)
The Frozen Dead (Hammer Film Productions Ltd, 1967)
The Torture Garden (Hammer Film Productions Ltd, 1970)

This list does not include the many documentary, animated and television films for which Banks wrote the music. For information on these films please consult Graham Hair: *A Guide to the Don Banks Collection in the National Library of Australia* (Canberra: Manuscripts Division, National Library of Australia), ISBN 0 642 10711 4.

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DON BANKS: ONE FOR MURRAY

PROGRAMME NOTE

Don Banks' *One for Murray* is a 'late' work, if indeed anything by Banks can be so-described, given that he died at what, for the last quarter of the twentieth century, was a comparatively early age (56). It is a bagatelle, about three minutes long, for solo clarinet in B flat, and the manuscript bears the inscription '7/8 April, 1977'.

The dedicatee was Banks' colleague and friend, Murray Khouri, hence the title. Khouri was on the staff of the Canberra School of Music during the seventies, when Banks was Head of Composition there, and later, with Banks and others, instigated the short-lived Australia Contemporary Music Ensemble, which gave a series of recitals at the 1978 Adelaide festival, conducted by Keith Humble. During this recital series, Khouri gave the première of another, much longer, clarinet work by Banks: *4 x 2 x 1*, for clarinet doubling bass clarinet with electro-acoustic sound. There are many correspondences in character and material between *4 x 2 x 1* and *One for Murray*. In fact *One for Murray* could be described as an 'offshoot' of the larger work.

The piece is essentially a 'written-out cadenza', moving freely around the whole register of the instrument, from sinuous passages in the lower 'chalumeau' to strident ones in the extreme top. Like much of Banks' later music, it makes extensive use of four-note chords (arpeggiated in this instance, of course) consisting of triads (major, minor, augmented or diminished) tucked inside a major seventh, eg E, G#, C, D# or C, D#, F#, B etc.

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2002

One for Murray

for Solo Clarinet in B flat

Score

One for Murray

for Solo Clarinet

Moderato (♩ = MM88)

Don Banks 1977

3"
rapido
rit poco a poco
 6
pp

f *p* *pp leggiero*

as fast as possible (cascade-like)

poco *misurato* *Moderato, ♩ = ca MM 88* *espr*

fp *pp* *p* *poco*

mf *pp (echo)* *p legato*

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

accelerando e crescendo ----- *molto* -----

f ----- *ff*

V V (very throaty) V (normale)

p *pp* *f* *pp*

p *legatiss* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

6 6

(flutter) 3:2

ff

simile

(ad lib)

A Tempo (♩ = MM 88)

senza vib *flutter* *normale* *flutter* (normale)

p *f* *pp* *sff* *ff* *p legato*

3:2

pp *poco*

ritmico

mf *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf*

Poco meno

poco rit

sf *sf* *sf* *sf* *pp*

smear *sf* *p* *f* *p*

tr *misurato*

3:2 3:2 3:2

pp *f* *p* *pp* *f* *rapido*

f *p* *f*

pp (subtone) *ff*

p *pp* *ff* *rapido*

ppp *leggero* *Poco rit* *3:2* *a niente*

7/8 April, 1977
 (dur ca 3')

Southern Voices Contemporary Music Publications Australasian Series

Southern Voices has established a series of publications of scores by Australasian composers. The series aims to present a representative selection of works by Australasian composers of the 19th and early 20th centuries, as well as by living composers resident in Australia and New Zealand, and works by composers of Australasian origin who are resident in Europe, the United States and elsewhere. Volumes in this series as at December 31st, 2002 include:

<i>Composer</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>ISBN</i>
Don Banks	Piano Sonata in C# Minor	0-646-27872-X
Don Banks	Fantasia for String Orchestra	0-646-27873-8
Don Banks	Divertimento for Flute and String Trio	0-646-27874-6
Don Banks	Duo for Violin and Cello	0-646-27867-3
Don Banks	Psalm 70	0-646-27868-1
Don Banks	String Quartet	0-646-27869-X
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