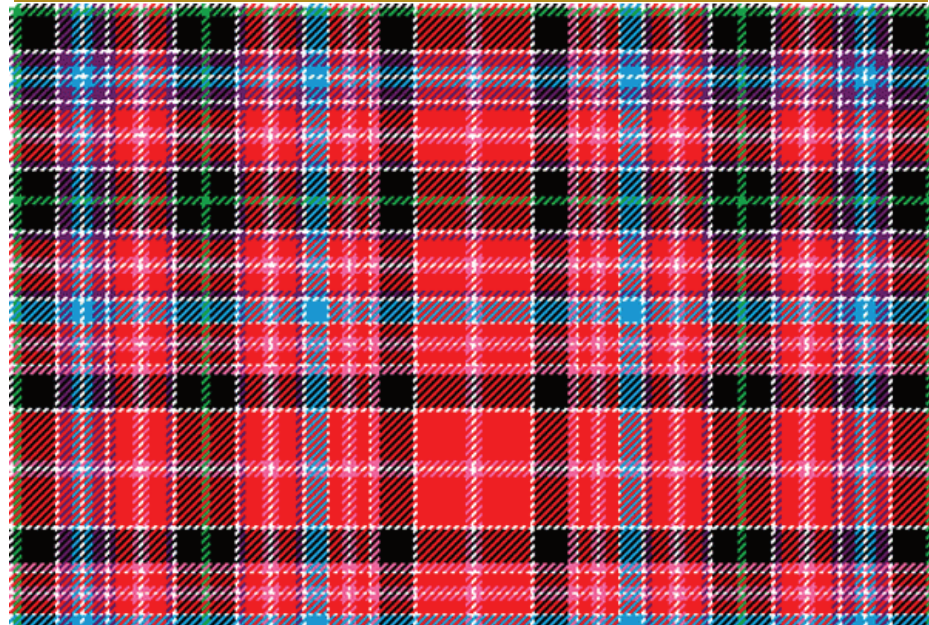


an Allegro tempo, opens with a lyrical theme played by the violins and violas, with woodwind support and nervous pizzicati underneath. Ideas pass mercurially from instrument to instrument. Then a lovely new theme is introduced by the oboe, followed by other solo winds. This new theme is juxtaposed with the more anxious setting of the first, leading to the development section. These same two themes reappear as the movement abruptly speeds to a stormy Vivace concluding section. The second movement, marked Lento, has been described by the composer as "elegiac in character." It is a passacaglia, a set of 20 variations on a slow, dissonant chorale-like theme. More overtly tuneful than either of its predecessors, the third-movement finale opens with playful woodwinds and a humorous "oompah" accompaniment. Starting at a brisk Allegro con brio, the music speeds to Presto for the forceful coda.

# Malcolm Arnold conducts

## The London Philharmonic Orchestra

### Four Scottish Dances / Symphony No. 3



Appearing in the wake of the extremely successful English Dances, the 4 Scottish Dances were composed early in 1957 for the BBC Light Music Festival. They were first performed by the BBC Concert Orchestra, under Arnold's direction, at London's Royal Festival Hall on June 8, 1957. A popular arrangement of the Dances for brass band was made by Ray Farr in 1984.

Parts of the opening dance, a strathspey, are in a swinging, moderately slow tempo. The other parts, in a quicker tempo, are enlivened by some fast tonguing by the trumpets and trombones. A lighthearted reel follows; with a main theme derived from a Robert Burns song, this dance began life as part of Arnold's score for the 1949 film *The Beautiful Country of Ayr*. The third dance is something of a nature portrait, its lovely slow tune played by the flute over a wash of

strings and decorations from the harp. Featuring a drone-like the first dance, the finale is brief but lively, in the manner of a highland fling, with a busy side drum contributing to the excitement with which the set ends.

One of the most popular of Arnold's nine symphonies, the Symphony No. 3 was commissioned by, and is dedicated to, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society. John Pritchard conducted the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic in the work's premiere performance at London's Royal Albert Hall on December 2, 1957.

Arnold has cited the music of Jean Sibelius as being an important influence on his own compositions, and the thematic relationships between the three movements of Arnold's Third Symphony are reminiscent of similar processes in some of the Finnish composer's larger works. The first movement of the symphony, starting at

# Malcolm Arnold conducts

## The London Philharmonic Orchestra

# Four Scottish Dances / Symphony No. 3

**Four Scottish Dances, Op. 59**

**1 Pesante 2:29**

**2 Vivace 2:06**

**3 Allegretto 3:48**

**4 Con Brio 1:18**

**Symphony No. 3, Op. 63**

**5 Allegro 13:28**

**6 Lento 13:44**

**7 Allegro Con Brio 7:32**

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