

# Looking Glass Ties (2000/2001)

## 9 pieces for solo guitar

- 1 invisible starfall
- 2 Some Like It Hot
- 3 Brazil
- 4 Rockaby
- 5 Sonata K25
- 6 Late Music
- 7 In this Style 10/6
- 8 the creep of varying light
- 9 Twelve Monkeys

The initial idea for this set of pieces came from Peter Blake's cover design for the Beatles' Sgt. Pepper album. The diverse portraits that make up *Looking Glass Ties* are re-workings of existing pieces displayed in a new light and from a different perspective – pieces through the looking glass.

There are abrupt stylistic changes between movements and the degree to which the borrowed material is transformed varies greatly from piece to piece. For instance, in *Twelve Monkeys* the fragments of Piazzolla Tangos, on which the piece is based, are barely recognisable, and the rhythmic template for *Some like it hot*, originally taken from a short cue from Bernard Herrmann's score to Truffaut's film *Fahrenheit 451*, became completely buried by other references and quasi-quotations. Conversely, *Sonata K.25* is simply a transcription of a complete Scarlatti Sonata, transformed only by the addition of a few extra notes and the instruction to perform it anachronistically, ignoring historical performance practice. My concern is not that an audience recognises the various 'quotations', but more with the possibilities uncovered when working with other composers' material.

The nine pieces can be played as a complete set, which lasts approximately 21 minutes. Alternatively, any number of the pieces may be selected and performed in any order to suit the contexts of specific recital programmes.

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