



## HÄNDE

*Hände* is a new work for piano and film by composer Ken Hesketh, commissioned by pianist Clare Hammond. Ken has chosen *Hände: Das Leben und die Liebe eines Zärtlichen Geschlechts* (1927-8), a visually arresting and surreal masterpiece by Stella F. Simon and Miklos Blandy, as the backdrop for the work. The plot uses humans' hands as "characters in a dance-inspired narrative exploring female experience and representation" (Jennifer Wild). As hands are used to communicate meaning and context, their shapes, groupings and physicality can be interpreted as a form of gestural hand / sign language. It is this interpretation that informs the musical score and role of the pianist in this work.

Gestural hand shapes and signs, filmed live from the hands of the pianist and inserted into the film, will allow the pianist to 'ask' questions through sign language as to what is happening on screen or to pass comment. A misplaced or misunderstood gesture may lead to confusion, anxiety, isolation and even violence. This musico-dramatic work is an exploration of this concept and reflects Ken's attraction to the bizarre and eerie on celluloid!

*Hände* could be performed alongside other works for piano and film, or with contemporary works for solo piano.

"As the tongue speaketh to the ear, so the gesture speaketh to the eye." Francis Bacon

Watch film at:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=izEKZ20-UWA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izEKZ20-UWA)  
or type 'Hände Stella Simon' into YouTube

# 'Hände'

for piano and film

Composer, Ken Hesketh

Pianist, Clare Hammond

## REPERTOIRE SUGGESTIONS

### WORKS FOR PIANO AND FILM

KEN HESKETH  
*Hände* (2015, 18')\*

MICHEL VAN DER AA  
*Transit* (2009, 14')

DAI FUJIKURA  
*moromoro* (2003, 8')

ED HUGHES  
*New piece* (2015, 10')\*

THOMAS LARCHER  
*What Becomes* (2009, 20')

### WORKS FOR SOLO PIANO

KEN HESKETH  
*Horae (pro clara)* (2013, 38')

THOMAS ADÈS  
*Mazurkas, Op. 27* (2009, 8')

GEORGE BENJAMIN  
*Shadowlines* (2001, 15')

FRANCESCO COLL  
*Vestiges* (2012, 9')\*

ALEXANDER GOEHR  
*Symmetry, Disorders, Reach Op. 73* (45')

GYÖRGY LIGETI  
Selection from *Études, Books 1 and 2* (1985-94, 20')

\*Yet to be premiered

Listen to Clare's performance of Hesketh's *Horae* at:  
[www.clarehammond.com/horae.html](http://www.clarehammond.com/horae.html)

## KEN HESKETH

Kenneth Hesketh (b. 1968) began composing whilst a chorister at Liverpool Cathedral, later studying at the Royal College of Music. He attended Tanglewood in 1995 where he studied with Henri Dutilleux and was subsequently awarded a scholarship from the Toepfer Foundation at the behest of Sir Simon Rattle. He is now a professor at the Royal College of Music and honorary professor at Liverpool University. He was New Music Fellow at Kettle's Yard, Cambridge from 2003-2005.

He has received numerous national and international commissions from, amongst others, the Fromm Foundation at Harvard University, a Faber Millennium Commission for Birmingham Contemporary Music Group premiered under Sir Simon Rattle, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic orchestra conducted by Vasily Petrenko, the BBC Philharmonic conducted by Vasily Sinaisky, Hans Werner Henze and the Endymion Ensemble (in honour of Henze's 75th birthday), the Munich Biennale, the Seattle Symphony Orchestra, the Michael Vyner Trust for the London Sinfonietta, The Opera Group, ensemble Psappha and Kissinger Sommer Internationales Musikfestival. Hesketh's transcription of Aphex Twin's *Polygon Window* was part of the hugely successful London Sinfonietta and WARP records collaboration which toured Europe and was released on CD. In 2007 Hesketh was made Composer in the House (Royal Philharmonic Society/ PRS Foundation scheme) with the RLPO.

Recent performances include a 40-minute cycle of pieces for piano titled *Horae (pro Clara)* for the British pianist Clare Hammond which were premiered in its complete form at the Cheltenham Festival in 2013. Hesketh was a visiting guest composer at the Bowdoin Festival in the USA, and lectured on his works in Seoul, Korea at Yonsei and Ewha Universities. The first NMC recording devoted to large ensemble and orchestral works by the composer, titled "Wunderkammer(konzert)", was released in 2013. Hesketh's recent work for dance, *Forms entangled, shapes collided*, commissioned by ensemble Psappha and Phoenix Dance Theatre, through the support of The Royal Philharmonic Society Drummond Fund, toured nationally throughout 2013 with final performances in the Royal Opera House, Lindbury Theatre. The world premiere of Hesketh's work for string quartet, *Sisyphus' Punishment*, and a performance of his orchestral work *Knotted Tongues*, took place at the 2014 Beijing Modern Music Festival, China, where he was a featured composer. He also taught at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. Later the same year Hesketh taught at the Summer Academy of the Ionian University where he lectured on his works for film and dance.

In 2011 *Notte Oscura* for piano solo (Peter O'Hagan) was released on the UHR label, *Point Forms* (after Kandinsky) for Bassett clarinet was released on the NMC label (Mark Simpson and Ian Buckle), and *Three Japanese Miniatures* was released on the Prima Facie label (Clare Hammond) in 2011 and in 2013 on the Teriyaki label (Hanna Shybayeva). Hesketh's third solo disc will be released in 2014 on the Prima Facie label featuring works for 2 pianos and piano four hands.

[www.kennethhesketh.co.uk](http://www.kennethhesketh.co.uk)

## CLARE HAMMOND

Acclaimed as a pianist of "amazing power and panache" (*The Telegraph*), Clare Hammond is recognised for the virtuosity and authority of her performances and is forging an international career as a advocate of new and unfamiliar repertoire. In 2014 she gave debut performances at 7 festivals across Europe, including the 'Chopin and his Europe Festival' in Warsaw, the world premieres of works by 10 composers, and made her concerto debuts with the Kalisz and Lublin Philharmonic Orchestras.

Hammond's involvement in centenary celebrations for composer Andrzej Panufnik in 2014 saw the release of her first disc for BIS Records, *Reflections*, described as "commandingly virtuosic" in BBC Music Magazine and praised for its "skill, inspiration and clarity" in Gramophone Russia. International Piano Magazine recommended the disc as a "fascinating compendium, expertly executed" and it was awarded 5 stars in Diapason France who stated that "Hammond excels at instilling each piece with atmosphere". Clare undertook a recital and concerto tour of Poland under the auspices of the British Council's 'Artists' International Development Fund' while her debut recital at the 'Chopin and his Europe Festival' was recorded for broadcast on Polish Radio. She co-curated and managed the festival 'Panufnik 100: a family celebration' with the Brodsky Quartet at Kings Place in London, hailed as the "culmination of this year's Andrzej Panufnik centenary" by the *Telegraph*.

Contemporary music forms an important part of Hammond's work. In recent years she has given premieres of major works by composers Robert Saxton, Edwin Roxburgh, John McCabe and Arlene Sierra. The Guardian wrote of her performance of Ken Hesketh's *Horae* at the Cheltenham Festival in 2013 that she "displayed its scintillating passagework and poetic calm with great flair". In 2015, she will premiere a concerto for trumpet and piano by Geoffrey Gordon with Simon Desbruslais and the English Symphony Orchestra, release a disc of études by Unsuk Chin, Nikolai Kapustin, Sergei Lyapunov and Karol Szymanowski, and record another of works by Ken Hesketh, both for BIS.

[www.clarehammond.com](http://www.clarehammond.com)