

ELEPHANT & CASTLE



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STRING WORKS BY CARSON COOMAN
PERFORMED BY THE TIPPETT QUARTET

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String Quartet No. 5 (2025)

1	i	Elephant & Castle	4.09
2	ii	Embankment	4.33
3	iii	Kennington Park	5.07
4	iv	Battersea	3.53
5		Embrace (2024)	13.05
6		Embrace II (2024)	2.30
Total running time			33.18

String Quartet No. 5

The four movements of String Quartet No. 5 (2025) have titles taken from places in London, England. Although these titles were prompted from a visit to the city, except for *Kennington Park*, the music is not connected to memories of the specific places, but rather it is pure music springing from imagined “poetic images” conjured solely by the names.

Elephant & Castle begins with serene chords in the upper strings that gradually gain greater decoration. Under this, a robust and dramatic cello line emerges.

Embankment is an animated discourse between the four instruments. Beginning largely separately, they begin to combine more and more, climaxing with the two violins in light, fast activity over a long melody in the viola and cello. The instruments pull apart again and dissolve into glissandi.

Kennington Park is a musical conflation of two evenings spent in the park as sunset approached. The movement

begins with hymn-like music, the phrases of which are separated by darker interjections. A melody in the two violins against pulsations in the viola and cello leads to a full-throated presentation of the hymn-like music, before a chime-like coda.

Battersea begins with an extended passage in unison/octaves, with its perpetual motion energy disrupted by syncopations. The movement’s discourse evolves through a contrast of both harmonic and melodic ideas, an increase in silence, and the eventual arrival at a coda that is somewhat open-ended.

Embrace and Embrace (II)

Embrace and *Embrace (II)* were both written to mark the marriage of dear friends, Jeffrey Grossman and Karl Hinze. *Embrace* is music that unfolds entirely placidly, with a slow and quiet surface throughout. By contrast, the much shorter *Embrace (II)*, while sharing the warm tone of the first piece, arcs upward fervently before a very brief codetta.

BIOGRAPHIES

Carson Cooman (b. 1982) is an American composer with a catalogue of hundreds of works in many forms — from solo instrumental pieces to operas, and from orchestral works to hymn tunes. His music has been performed on all six inhabited continents in venues that range from the stage of Carnegie Hall to the basket of a hot air balloon. Cooman's music appears on over forty recordings, including more than twenty-five complete CDs on the Naxos, Albany, Artek, Gothic, Divine Art, Métier, Diversions, Convivium, Altarus, MSR Classics, Raven, and Zimbel labels.

Cooman's primary composition studies were with Bernard Rands, Judith Weir, Alan Fletcher, and James Willey. As an active concert organist, Cooman specializes in the performance of contemporary music. Over 300 new compositions by more than 100 international composers have been written for him, and his organ performances can be heard on a number of CD releases and more than 7,500 recordings available online (representing the work of more than 800 composers). Cooman is also a writer on musical subjects, producing articles and



reviews frequently for a number of international publications. He serves as an active consultant on music business matters to composers and performing organizations, specializing particularly in the area of composer estates and archives.

www.carsoncooman.com

BIOGRAPHIES

The Tippett Quartet has performed and broadcast throughout the UK, Europe, Canada and Mexico, and its broad and diverse repertoire highlights the ensemble's unique versatility. It has an impressive catalogue of recordings and has given numerous world and UK premieres.

In 2011 the quartet celebrated the anniversary of the iconic film composer Bernard Herrmann with a series of concerts and

radio broadcasts, and can be heard as featured artists on the film *Knives Out* and *Glass Onion*. In 2023 the quartet celebrated its 25th anniversary with the release of the complete Korngold Quartets to great acclaim. It was Chamber CD of the Month in *BBC Music Magazine* and also included in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* Top 10 Classical Recordings of the Year.

www.tippettquartet.co.uk



ELEPHANT & CASTLE

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