

Hornarama Code: 17190

McCabe, J: Floraison (The Goddess Triology II)

Horn and Piano

“Floraison is a terrific 1975 composition by John McCabe from The Goddess Trilogy for Horn in F and Piano accompaniment.

Floraison translates as 'flowering' or 'blossoming' and this piece depicts the flower maiden and love goddess Blodeuwedd ('bloom maiden'), who is also an owl goddess. She was made up of nine kinds of flowers, and in one pagan ritual her husband was sacrificed, ascending after death into the skies in the form of an eagle.

This composition is cast in the form of a passacaglia in which there are nine variations, but perhaps more important than this is the initial image behind the piece, which was that of a flower gradually opening and then closing. This image governs the shape of the music, with its increasingly elaborate and intense growth towards its climax and then a return at the close to the opening ideas.”

The first performance was given by Ifor James and John McCabe on 25 August 1975 at the Three Choirs Festival, Worcester.

Duration: approx 9 minutes