

Douglas Lilburn's first published work was his *Prelude* for piano, which appeared in *Lady Newall's New Zealand Gift Book* in 1943.³ Two years later this piece was included in *Four Preludes* for piano, published by the Caxton Press. The few sketches and printed editions of these works were given added research value by the donation in 1987 of painter and printer Leo Bensemann's collection.⁴ This included two of the original manuscripts and the Caxton Press printing blocks for this publication, as well as other small works, mostly for piano, composed by Lilburn for Bensemann and another friend, Lawrence Baigent, as Christmas and birthday gifts. Included are *A Musical Offering of Preludes*, *Musical-boxes* and a *Tempo di Bolero* for 6 hands, with a dedication by Lilburn showing his keen sense of humour, and a transcription for piano of his *Players' Music* from *Hamlet*, originally composed for the Canterbury University College Drama Society.

Living in Christchurch from 1941 to 1947, Lilburn was influenced by rich associations with poets, artists, writers, and musicians, as well as the Drama Society whose memorable productions by Ngaio Marsh were enhanced by his incidental music: *Hamlet* (1943), *Othello* (1944), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Plate II) and *King Henry V* (1945), and *Macbeth* (1946).

Following his move to Wellington in 1947 to take up an appointment in music at Victoria University, he composed incidental music for New Zealand Broadcasting Service Drama Department productions, the New Zealand Players, and Wellington Repertory. His association with the National Film Unit produced the music for the feature film *Journey for Three*, and he composed the score for the BBC documentary *This is New Zealand*.

The collection of film and drama scores is incomplete. For example, the score for the New Zealand Players' *Dandy Dick* 'went missing after the tour', with only sketches remaining. Other works, such as *This is New Zealand*, are intact, and even include parts.

As may be expected, the collection contains the scores and related materials for his three symphonies and other orchestral works, his chamber music, instrumental works and vocal music, the latter including fine settings of New Zealand poetry.

There are the works composed for special occasions such as the *Processional Fanfare for the Final Congregation of the University of New Zealand* (1961), later arranged for wider performance, and works for friends such as 'Three Bars for the Blood and Bone', written for pianist Margaret Nielsen, who required only 'three bars' in payment for blood and bone she delivered for his garden. There are also the sketches for a Suite for brass band (1958) which was 'never finalised'.

Scores of arrangements consist of two Mozart Divertimenti from Piano Sonatas in B flat and in D for four hands, and Overture in D by Carl F. Abel, arranged by Lilburn for the National Broadcasting