

STUART HANCOCK



SELECTED CREDITS

KENSUKE'S KINGDOM (2023)
HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI: 75 YEARS LATER (2020)
THE ICE KING (2018)
WE'RE GOING ON A BEAR HUNT (2016)
CRAZYHEAD (2016)
ATLANTIS (2014-15)

BIOGRAPHY

Stuart Hancock is a film and TV composer, best known for his scores to BBC's 'Atlantis' and the animated movie adaptation of 'We're Going On A Bear Hunt'. He won a prestigious British Composer Award in 2015 for his concert work 'Snapshot Songs'. Stuart studied at Downing College Cambridge, and the London College of Music, graduating in 1998 with a distinction from the Masters course in Composing for Film and Television. This led to a full-time studio composer role with Soho-based music production company Mcasso, where Stuart excelled in commercial music composition and production. He went freelance in 2005 and has since built and maintained a varied career as a composer, arranger and conductor across all media.

Stuart quickly won industry recognition for his music and sound design, with awards for his commercial work on campaigns for the BBFC, Burberry New York and the BBC World Cup coverage. A first big film-scoring hit was with EMR, which won the Raindance Film Festival and went on general release in the summer of 2005 following its Cannes premiere. Stuart's first soundtrack releases - for the independent action movies 'Underground' and 'Bodyguard: A New Beginning' - came in June 2009 to rapturous reviews ("Hancock proves that his work is up there with the best that Hollywood has to offer. Expect great things from him in the future"; Darren Rea, review of 'Bodyguard: A New Beginning'). Stuart followed this with the World Cup football drama-documentary 'One Night In Turin' in 2010, which went on general cinematic release, and the album of his choral/orchestral score to the fantasy film 'Hawk' garnered many accolades on both sides of the Atlantic ("I had every expectation met with this soundtrack, and more. It is a delight to listen to"; Caleb Leland, Shadowlocked).

In late 2014, Stuart took up scoring duties on the hit primetime BBC1 Saturday night fantasy drama 'Atlantis', delivering a rich cinematic rollercoaster of an orchestral score across 13 epic episodes. The soundtrack was released in December 2015 on Silva Screen Records, to instant acclaim ("A magnificent work... the score sounds vibrant and exciting in a way that many similar scores don't. Both Hancock's action writing and his dramatic compositions are compelling"; Pete Simons, Synchronones).

By 2013, Stuart had begun to receive considerable recognition for his scoring of independent films, starting with the Idyllwild Cinema Festival, California, where 'Hawk' won Best Original Score (featurette). He won the documentary score category of the Jerry Goldsmith Awards (at the International Film Music Festival, Cordoba) with his poetic music for 'The Desert Treasure', and was declared Best Composer overall for his body of work. In September 2013, 'The Desert Treasure' went on to win the coveted Violetta D'Oro at the Parma International Film Music Festival, Italy, and the Gold Medal for Best Documentary Score at the Park City Film Music Festival, Utah. In 2016, Stuart's quirky folk-inflected score for the bittersweet short 'Killing Thyme' (starring Brian Cox and Charlotte Riley) won a further Jerry Goldsmith Award in the best short film score category.

Stuart capitalised on this success in 2016 with two breakthrough television projects: dark grungy electronica for the E4/Netflix comedy horror 'Crazyhead' (from Misfits writer-creator Howard Overman) and colourful orchestral scoring for the animated adaptation of 'We're Going On A Bear Hunt' (from the makers of 'The Snowman and the Snowdog'). 'Bear Hunt' premiered on Channel 4 on Christmas Eve and was the channel's highest-rated programme of the year with over 8 million viewers, and Stuart now conducts live concert performances of the film score to family audiences internationally (most recently in Kaohsiung, Taiwan in a double-bill with The Snowman).

Stuart's latest score for film is 'Kensuke's Kingdom' (2023), the animated feature film adaptation of the Michael Morpurgo book of the same name. It's an epic orchestral and choral score that won Best Film Score at Mon Premier Festival (October 2023, voted by young cinema-goers in France), Best Music at the 2024 British Animation Awards, and an Accolade award for Best Original Score.

Other recent credits include feature documentary 'Disorder' (2023), short documentary 'Largo' (2024), the award-winning coming-of-age short 'Him & Her' (2019), and the adapted score for 'The Ice King', a feature-length BBC Storyville documentary about Olympic champion ice skater John Curry, which had a UK cinema release in April 2018. 2020 credits include the score for a feature documentary marking the anniversary of Hiroshima.

Also in demand as a composer of concert music, Stuart's second youth opera - a pirate romp called 'The Cutlass Crew' - was staged by W11 Opera in Hammersmith in December 2017. His previous concert work includes the ambitious collaborative song project for symphony orchestra, choir and soloists called 'Snapshot Songs', which received standing ovations for its performances at London's Barbican Centre and garnered Stuart a prestigious BASCA British Composer Award in December 2015.

Stuart released 'Raptures' in November 2019 – his first album of concert music, recorded with the BBC Concert Orchestra. It has received unanimously glowing reviews across the classical music press:

- "Wide-eyed, big-hearted... a joyous hour of large, lyrical music" (BBC Music Magazine, December 2019)
- "I really cannot praise it too highly. It is such a pleasure to be able to thoroughly enjoy a modern work, and to be able to believe that the orchestra are thoroughly enjoying themselves too" (Musicweb International)
- "Effervescent...spacious sound and detailed annotations...much to enjoy" (Gramophone, February 2020)
- "His gift for a sweeping, heart-rending theme makes this a thoroughly indulgent pleasure... expert orchestration in themes that are always big on appeal" (The Strad, February 2020)

The central piece on the album, Stuart's Violin Concerto, was performed on February 29th 2020 at London's Cadogan Hall (with Jack Liebeck as soloist with Imperial College Symphony Orchestra).

<http://www.stuarthancock.com>

FILM CREDITS

Largo (2024)

Directed by Max Burgoyne-Moore & Salvatore Scarpa

Disorder (2023)

Directed by Kate Blewett

The Discarded (2023)

Directed by Uli Meyer

Kensuke's Kingdom (2023)

Directed by Neil Boyle & Kirk Hendry

Him & Her (2019)

Directed by Abigail Scollay

The Morning and the Night (2018)

Directed by Lo Pham

Killing Thyme (2015)

Directed by M J McMahon

The Last Belle (2011)

Directed by Neil Boyle

Life in a Fish Bowl (2009)

Directed by Gail Travers

The Ice King (2018)

Directed by James Erskine



Mum (2016)

Directed by Meriem Adib

The Desert Treasure (2012)

Directed by Lyndal Davies

Hawk (2011)

Directed by M J McMahon

Gin & Dry (2010)

Directed by Oscar Plewes

Bodyguard: A New Beginning (2008)

Directed by Chee Keong Cheung

Underground (2007)

Directed by Chee Keong Cheung

La Lucha (2007)

Directed by Alex Madia Levi

Baby Boom (2004)

Directed by Jake Barnes

Hand Righting (2004)

Directed by Jake Barnes

Meat and Electricity (2003)

Directed by Martyn Pick

Well Heeled (2007)

Directed by Jeremy Chopra

An Echo of Narcissus (2005)

Directed by Shane Ward

EMR (2004)

Directed by Danny McCullough & James Erskine

Murderer Either Way (2004)

Directed by Alex Madia Levi

Top Dog (2002)

Directed by Keith English

TELEVISION CREDITS**I Can See Your Voice: UK (2021)**

Thames / BBC One

Hiroshima and Nagasaki: 75 years later (2020)

Directed by James Erskine

Atlantis (2014-15), series 2, 13 episodes

Directed by Justin Molotnikov, Declan O'Dwyer, Lawrence Gough and Julian Murphy

Perfect Strangers (2007)

BBC daytime quiz show

Creature Comforts (2003), 3 episodes

Directed by Richard Golezowski

Crazyhead (2016), 6 episodes

Directed by Declan O'Dwyer and Al Mackay

The Other Wife (2012), 2 feature length episodes

Directed by Giles Foster

Bus Life (2004), 6 episodes

Directed by Keith English and Howard Myers

We're Going On A Bear Hunt (2016)

Directed by Joanna Harrison and Robin Shaw

This Morning (2013)

Theme music arrangement, ITV

Guinness World Records (2004)

Directed by Jon Kroll

London's Burning (2002), series 14, 8 episodes

Directed by Sven Arnstein, Colin Teague, Martin Hutchings and Richard Holthouse

Now That's Embarrassing: The 80s (2006)

Directed by Clair Breen

Reborn in the USA (2003)

Directed by Jonathan Buller

Fred Bastard (2001)

Directed by Uli Meyer

The Lampies (2001-2), series 1 & 2, 52 episodes

Created by David Bonner



ORCHESTRATION CREDITS (Film & TV)

Capsule (2015)

Directed by Andrew Martin (composer, Hugo de Chaire)

This September (2010-11), 4 feature length episodes

Orchestrator and co-composer (uncredited), directed by Giles Foster

Rosamunde Pilcher (2007-14), 24 feature length episodes

Various directors (composer, Richard Blackford)

Inga Lindstrom (2007-2010), 12 feature length episodes

Various directors (composer, Richard Blackford)

Four Seasons (2008-9), 4 feature length episodes

Orchestrator and co-composer (uncredited), directed by Giles Foster

A Risk Worth Taking (2008)

Orchestrator and co-composer (uncredited), directed by Paul Seed

THEATRE CREDITS

The Cutlass Crew (youth opera)

Premiered by W11 Opera (December 2017) London

To be staged by North Cambridge Family Opera (March/April 2020) Boston, US

Rain Dance (youth opera)

Premiered by W11 Opera (December 2010) London

Staged by North Cambridge Family Opera (March/April 2014) Boston, US

To be staged by Summer Music on the Shannon (August 2020), Ireland

To be staged by W11 Opera (revival, December 2020) London

The Father (Strindberg, incidental music)

The Courtyard Theatre, Covent Garden, London (October/November 2006)

VIDEO GAMES

Kano Star Wars The Force Coding Kit (2019)

Themes, incidental and promotional music

Kano Harry Potter Kano Coding Kit (2018)

Themes, incidental and promotional music

CONCERT WORKS

Untitled piece for strings (2020) 10'

For Dame Alice Owen's School, cond. James Widden

Premiere scheduled for March 1st 2020 in competition, Music for Youth, London

We're Going On A Bear Hunt: The Film Live In Concert (2019) 15'+25'

Orchestral score to picture, with specially composed introduction for family concert presentation

Premiered by RTE Concert Orchestra, National Concert Hall, Dublin, February 2nd 2019, and subsequently performed in 2019 by City of London Sinfonia (Royal Festival Hall, London), Royal Welsh College Chamber Orchestra (Dora Stoutzker Hall, Cardiff) and Counterpoint Ensemble (National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts Weiwuying, Taiwan)

Variations on a Heroic Theme (2007, revised 2019) 6'

For the Rehearsal Orchestra, recorded June 27th 2019 by the BBC Concert Orchestra, cond. Lev Parikian

Premiered November 30th 2019, Bridgewater Sinfonia, Berkhamsted, cond. Steven Joyce

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For the album release *Raptures*
Recorded June 27th 2019 by the BBC Concert Orchestra, cond. Lev Parikian
(for the album release **Raptures**)

Raptures – Suite for Orchestra (2019) 20'

Recorded June 25th 2019 by the BBC Concert Orchestra, cond. Lev Parikian
(for the album release **Raptures**)

Rhapsody for Accordion Orchestra (2016) 5'

For the London Accordion Orchestra, cond. Ian Watson
Premiered in competition, May 6th 2016, at the World Accordion Championships, Innsbruck, Austria

One Week (Buster Keaton short film score for live performance) (2011) 19'

For St Pauls Sinfonia, cond. Andy Morley
Premiered May 20th 2011, St Pauls Deptford, London

Folksong Suite for unaccompanied choir SATB (2011) 12'

For the Holst Singers, cond. Stephen Layton, commissioned by Making Music
Premiered March 26th 2011, The Roundhouse, London

Choir Straits for unaccompanied choir SATB with soloists (2009) 20'

For Kit and The Widow and Bath Camerata
Premiered December 17th 2009, Wigmore Hall, London

Endeavour – Dances from the Voyages of Captain Cook for wind band (2006) 15'

For the Palace Band, cond. Caroline Franklin
Premiered November 26th 2006, Highgate URC, London

Bitter Suite for orchestra and female vocal trio (2006) 15'

For Juice Vocal Ensemble and the London Phoenix Orchestra
Premiered June 9th 2006, St John's Smith Square, London

Concerto for Violin and Orchestra (2005) 30'

For Paul Barrett and Southbank Sinfonia
Premiered June 16th 2005, St John's Waterloo, London
Recorded June 27th 2019 by the BBC Concert Orchestra, cond. Lev Parikian, soloist Jack Liebeck
(for the album release **Raptures**)

Raptures – Suite for flute, violin, viola and cello (2003) 20'

For the Tullberg Ensemble
Premiered October 1st 2003, St John's Smith Square, London

Concerto for Two Flutes and Orchestra (2003) 25'

For Susan FitzGerald and Matilda Tullberg and the Doppler Sinfonia, cond. Peter Stark
Premiered May 19th 2003, St John's Smith Square, London

Lucky Star (Frank Borzage silent feature film score for live performance) (2001) 85'

For the Tempus Chamber Orchestra
Premiered February 23rd 2001, Royal Festival Hall, London
Three movement concert suite (20') derived from the full score performed on numerous occasions

