

University of Adelaide

Elder Conservatorium of Music

Tristram Cary: scenes from a composer's life

by

Gabriella Joy Smart

Dissertation submitted in fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of

Master of Music

November 2009

In Memoriam

Tristram Ogilvie Cary

14 May 1925 – 24 April 2008

Tristram Cary: scenes from a composer's life

Contents

Abstract		4
Declaration		5
Acknowledgements		6
List of music examples		7
Introduction		8
Chapter 1	Formative Years: (1925–1946)	14
Chapter 2	Early Career (1947–1954)	28
Chapter 3	Film (1954–74)	44
Chapter 4	Electronics and EMS (1967–74)	68
Chapter 5	<i>The Rhyme of The Flying Bomb</i>	84
Chapter 6	Australia and Academic Life (1974–2008)	103
Chapter 7	Migration and Dislocation	112
List of Sources		136
Appendix A: List of Works and Discography		146
Appendix B: <i>The Rhyme of the Flying Bomb</i> (sound recording)		192
Appendix C: <i>The Rhyme of the Flying Bomb</i> (full score)		193

Abstract

Tristram Cary (1925-2008) had a varied and successful life as a composer, spanning sixty years and two continents. He was a highly respected and prolific composer of film, radio, concert and electronic music in England before he took up a position at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, Adelaide, in 1974 at the age of 49.

Cary produced a significant body of work that enjoys public attention through performances, recordings and intelligent criticism, but it remains outside the music canon. He is half remembered in England, and not fully valued in Australia; as it were, each country sees only half the picture. The dislocation of his career path resulted in the underestimation of many of his achievements, in particular his groundbreaking work in electronic music independent of concurrent European developments during the post-war years. Apart from his own fastidious cataloguing and documentation of his work, an external critique of his long and prodigious career has not previously been undertaken.

The dissertation gives a survey of Cary's life and career, and aims to evaluate the importance of his achievements. The effects of his move from England to Australia on his career are assessed, and reference is made to the reception of some of his key compositions, including *The Rhyme of the Flying Bomb*.

Declaration

The candidate confirms that this work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution to Gabriella Smart and, to the best of the candidate's knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text.

The candidate gives consent to this copy of the thesis (with the exception of Appendices B and C), when deposited in the University library, being made available for loan and photocopying, subject to the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968.

The candidate also gives permission for the digital version of the thesis (excluding Appendices B and C) to be made available on the web, via the University's digital research repository, the Library catalogue, the Australasian Digital Theses Program (ADTP) and also through web search engines, unless permission has been granted by the University to restrict access for a period of time.

The candidate does not give permission for the photocopying, digital copying, or web distribution of either Appendix B (the sound recording) or Appendix C (the musical score).

Signed: **Gabriella J. Smart**

Date:

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the generosity of Tristram Cary in the many hours spent with the composer recording interviews. His enduring talent was a continual source of inspiration. Tristram provided crucial biographical information and copies of published and unpublished materials, including scores, sound recordings, and reviews. My thanks go to my supervisor Professor Charles Bodman Rae for his unfailing professional support. I would also like to thank the composer's widow Mrs Jane Cary, my family Mark, Stuart and Justina Patterson, for their patience, Eleonora Sivan, Dr. Maggie Tonkin, Claire Harris, Matthew Bate, Dr. David Swale and Dr. Helen Rusak.

List of music examples

All the following facsimile examples are drawn from the composer's autograph score of *The Rhyme of the Flying Bomb*, and relate to the discussion of that work in Chapter 5.

The complete, full score of this work can be found in Appendix C.

	Page
Ex.1: <i>The Rhyme of the Flying Bomb</i> , bb. 307-312	91
Ex.2: <i>The Rhyme of the Flying Bomb</i> , bb. 94-99	95
Ex.3: <i>The Rhyme of the Flying Bomb</i> , bb. 108-116	96
Ex.4: <i>The Rhyme of the Flying Bomb</i> , bb. 222-226	97
Ex.5: <i>The Rhyme of the Flying Bomb</i> , bb. 299-308	98