

This music deserves the widest acclaim, for its optimistic, heroic aesthetic is immediately accessible yet never commonplace. The influence of the Tippett sonatas is clear in many of the textures and colours, and the chordal sonorities in the central slow movement are especially striking, bringing quasi-orchestral luminosity to a work that is nonetheless predominantly linear. The outer movements sparkle in atonal toccata figurations. At under 20 minutes, the Sonata is highly concentrated, yet it covers a huge emotional range, a plethora of figurations and a sophisticated palette of rhythms. This is music to be played by professionals only, perhaps, but there is nothing aloof about its emotional core. * International Piano, April 09 *About the Author Gabriel Jackson was born in Bermuda. After three years as a chorister at Canterbury Cathedral he studied composition at the Royal College of Music. Jackson's music has been commissioned, performed and broadcast worldwide, and his works have been presented at many festivals including Aldeburgh, Cheltenham, Spitalfields, and the BBC Proms. His liturgical pieces are in the repertoires of many of Britain's cathedral and collegiate choirs, and his choral works in general have been recorded by some of the world's leading choirs including Polyphony, The Vasari Singers, The State Choir of Latvia, and Merton College Choir, Oxford. He is currently the Associate Composer to the BBC Singers, who have premiered and broadcast a number of recent commissions. Over recent years Jackson's music has been equally focussed on instrumental works. Commissions include works for organist Michael Bonaventure, Red Note Ensemble, and the Lunar Sax Quartet.