

Programme Notes

"...Indeed, one may only ponder what Kalishnikov could possibly make of AK-47, a piano solo composed in 1994 (with optional electronic bass drum) by the Australian composer Matthew Hindson. Whilst it is still rare that art works are named after implements of destruction, in this case the appellation seems eminently suitable. From the outset, there is no doubt as to the work's intention ... and hence it continues, encapsulating everything from the intensely vicious and overbearing to what could only be the psychotic pinings of a Bosnian Serb mercenary, one day too long in the field. AK-47 does not in any way capture Kalishnikov's original dream - no, only the warped canons and postures of those who find this exalted invention a most suitable device with which to implement their dreams and fantasies."

Jean-Luc Napoléon III: *Masters and Mistresses Post-Modern: the penetration metaphor versus an approaching millenium*, Duke University Press, Durham, U.S.A., 1994, pp. 256-257.

Composer's Note: The AK-47 is a Soviet assault rifle much favoured by insurgents and guerillas due to its reliability, availability, and general effectiveness. It was invented by Kalishnikov in 1947, for which he was lauded as a hero of the Soviet people by Stalin. The piece was written for Simon Docking, and premiered by him in August 1994.

AK-47

for piano (with optional electronic bass drum)
by Matthew Hindson, 1994

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*A bass drum foot pedal for use with any General MIDI
synthesizer is available for hire from the composer,
who can be contacted via the above address.*