

# Heckelphone / Bass Oboe Repertoire

## Excerpt: Compositions for multiple bass oboes

by Peter Hurd; reorganized and amended by Holger Hoos, editor-in-chief since 2020

Version 2, 1 February 2022

B · D · F · G · H · M · S

# Preface

In 1998, Peter Hurd began collecting information on musical works requiring heckelphone or bass oboe instrumentation (later also covering lupophone and piccolo heckelphone). A first version of the resulting repertoire list, containing close to 500 pieces, was published online in 2011 and described in a brief article in *The Double Reed* [1]. In the years that followed, Hurd's collection efforts continued, leading to the online publication of a series of addenda.

In early 2020, Holger Hoos took an interest in analyzing the repertoire for heckelphone in more detail. The existing repertoire list provided an excellent starting point, since it was comprehensive, carefully organized and readily accessible. To facilitate automated analysis, and to ensure the sustainability of the ongoing effort of updating and curating the collection, we (Hoos and Hurd) decided to work together to consolidate the existing repertoire list and its addenda into a newly developed electronic format.

The resulting new version of the repertoire collection for heckelphone and bass oboe was extended with a number of newly discovered pieces as well as carefully edited for accuracy, completeness and consistency, with the goal of making it even more useful for musicologists, performers, composers, and others. First released online on 1 December 2020, version 1 of the newly edited repertoire collection contained 714 pieces by 463 composers.

A minor revision (version 1.1, released online on 1 February 2021) contained a number of new entries as well as several improvements and corrections to existing entries, resulting in 718 pieces by 468 composers, and a further, minor revision (version 1.2, released online on 21 March 2021) contained additional improvements and added dedicated lists of pieces for multiple heckelphones and for multiple bass oboes. This version of the collection has been described and analyzed in detail in an article published in October 2021 in *The Double Reed* [2]; a German translation appeared in December 2021 in *'rohrblatt* [3].

Since the release of version 1.2, we have continued our collection efforts. The latest edition of our collection (version 2) has been expanded with 71 newly discovered pieces by 54 composers; 45 of these pieces were written for heckelphone, 27 for bass oboe, and 3 for lupophone (with some pieces leaving a choice between several of these instruments). We have also amended, corrected or improved several entries from the previous version. 13 of the newly added pieces were completed in 2021; 23 between 2010 and 2020; 17 between 1980 and 2009; 7 between 1950 and 2009; 7 between 1905 and 1949; and for the remaining 4, the year of completion is unknown.

Overall, the latest edition of our collection, available at <http://repertoire.heckelphone.org>, contains 788 pieces by 511 composers; 488 of these pieces call for heckelphone, 315 for bass oboe, 45 for lupophone and 7 for piccolo heckelphone (with some pieces leaving a choice between several and a small number involving multiple of these instruments). Detailed analyses of this latest version of our collection and of the newly added pieces, as well as various excerpts (including ones that are organized chronologically) can be found at <http://repertoire.heckelphone.org>.

As in previous versions of the collection, despite our best efforts, some entries could not (yet) be rigorously verified for accuracy; these were included nonetheless, to provide leads for future investigation, but are marked clearly. Pieces were selected for inclusion based solely on the use of heckelphone, bass oboe or lupophone, without any attempt at assessing their artistic merit. Arrangements of pieces not originally intended for these instruments were included when there was clear evidence that they had found a significant audience; this latest version of our collection contains 39 such arrangements.

We gratefully acknowledge contributions by Crawford Best, Ulrich Brokamp, Michael Finkelman, Francis Firth, Alain Girard, Thomas Hiniker, Robert Howe, Gunther Joppig, Georg Otto Klapproth, Mark Perchanok, Andrew Shreeves and Michael Sluman.

Holger Hoos and Peter Hurd; 1 February 2022; Aachen, Germany and Bellingham (WA), USA

[1] Peter Hurd: Repertoire for Heckelphone and Bass Oboe. *The Double Reed* 34(3):101-102, 2011.

[2] Holger H. Hoos and Peter Hurd: A New Look at the Repertoire for Heckelphone and Bass Oboe. *The Double Reed* 44(4): 115-137, 2021.

[3] Holger H. Hoos and Peter Hurd: Das Repertoire für Heckelphon und Baritonoboe. *'rohrblatt* 36(4): 141-154, 2021.

## B

---

**Broughton, Tim G.: *Suite for Low Oboes* (\*)**

Remarks: for 3 bass oboes

Tags: bass oboe; chamber music, multiple

(\*) **Note:** This entry could not yet be verified and may contain inaccurate or erroneous information.

## D

---

**Dupont, Gabriel (1878–1914, FR): *Antar, 1912–1913***

Duration: 130min

Publisher: Heugel (1921)

Remarks: heroic tale in four acts and five tableaux; premiere on 11 March 1921 at the Opéra Comique, Paris; in act 4, a backstage ensemble is requested including 2 bass oboes

Tags: bass oboe; opera, multiple

For a link to additional information about the piece, the composer and to a recording, please see the on-line version of this document at <http://repertoire.heckelphone.org>.

## F

---

**Fox, Christopher (born 1955, UK): *Broadway Boogie, 1983–1984***

Duration: 8min

Remarks: for bass oboe and tape (3 bass oboes); premiere on 20 July 1984 at the Internationale Ferienkurse Neue Musik in Darmstadt, by Nora Post

Tags: bass oboe; chamber music, multiple

For a link to additional information about the piece and the composer, please see the on-line version of this document at <http://repertoire.heckelphone.org>.

## G

---

**Grella-Mozejko, Piotr (born 1961, PL): *OBOEnergy (MariusAZIONI), 1986***

Remarks: for 1-12 oboes, cors d'anglais, oboes d'amore, bass oboes

Tags: bass oboe; chamber music, multiple

For a link to additional information about the piece and the composer, please see the on-line version of this document at <http://repertoire.heckelphone.org>.

## H

---

**Hirsch, Cornelius (born 1954, DE): *Nachtfalters Klagpsalter, 2012***

Duration: 10min

Remarks: for 2 oboes, 2 cors anglais, 2 bass oboes and 2 bassoons

Tags: bass oboe; chamber music, multiple

For a link to additional information about the piece, the composer and to a recording, please see the on-line version of this document at <http://repertoire.heckelphone.org>.

# M

---

**Moran, Robert (born 1937, US):** *Survivor from Darmstadt, 1984*

Remarks: for nine amplified bass oboes; commissioned by Nora Post; the premiere of the piece, held 1984 in Darmstadt, caused considerable controversy (due to its title)

Tags: bass oboe; chamber music, multiple

For a link to additional information about the piece and the composer, please see the on-line version of this document at <http://repertoire.heckelphone.org>.

# S

---

**Silvestrini, Gilles (born 1961, FR):** *Tiento, 2000*

Publisher: Delatour (DLT0342)

Remarks: for oboe ensemble (four oboes, 2 oboes d'amour, 2 cors anglais and 2 bass oboes; dedicated to René Guillaumot

Tags: bass oboe; chamber music, multiple

For a link to additional information about the piece and the composer, please see the on-line version of this document at <http://repertoire.heckelphone.org>.

**Sorabji, Kaikhosru Shapurji (1892–1988, UK):** *Opus Clavisymphonicum (Concerto for Piano & Large Orchestra), 1957–1959*

Duration: 100min

Publisher: Sorabji Archive (KSS80)

Remarks: dedicated to John Ireland; scored for two bass oboes

Tags: bass oboe; orchestra, multiple

For a link to additional information about the piece and the composer, please see the on-line version of this document at <http://repertoire.heckelphone.org>.

## Index

### B

Broughton, Tim G. .... 1

### D

Dupont, Gabriel .... 1

### F

Fox, Christopher .... 1

### G

Grella-Możejko, Piotr .... 1

### H

Hirsch, Cornelius .... 1

### M

Moran, Robert .... 2

### S

Silvestrini, Gilles .... 2

Sorabji, Kaikhosru Shapurji .... 2