

PUBLISHERS NOTE

Composed as a double tribute – for cellist Fred Sherry, in his 50th birthday year, to play to Elliott Carter on his 90th birthday – Oliver Knussen's *Eccentric Melody* was first published in the journal *Tempo* in December 1998. Like many of Knussen's works dedicated to friends, it contains a name cipher, in this case for Carter whose full name was Elliott Cook Carter Jr. The work was premiered privately on Carter's birthday at his home on 11 December 1998 and received its first public performance in February 1999 in New York.

Fred Sherry comments: 'Carter often talked about, and composed, wide ranging melodies in which the pitches were meant to sound improvised or eccentric. I believe (but Olly never said) he was channelling the spirit of Carter in this work.'

Writing to Faber Music in 2001, Knussen stated his intentions to give *Eccentric Melody* 'some siblings to form a 4-or-5 movement cello suite' (he also mentioned that two movements were partly sketched in his notebooks). Sadly, that project was never realised, but we are pleased to be able to present this manuscript facsimile of *Eccentric Melody* as a stand-alone item.

for Fred Sherry, in his 50th birthday year, to play to Elliott Carter on his 90th birthday

ECCENTRIC MELODY

for violoncello alone

December
1998

$\text{♩} = 90c.$

slow dim. *pp* *p* *mp* *mf* *poco f*

precipitato *maestoso*

p *pp* *f* *p* *f* *ff*

mf *ff* *mf* *ff* *f* *sf* *mf* *f*

movin *ord.* *temp*

Sample Page