

## (George) Percy (Aldridge) Grainger

Born	Brighton	Victoria	Australia	8 July	1882
Died	White Plains	New York	USA	20 February	1961

1882-1894 educated at home under the management of his mother, Rose – included piano (Louis Pabst), art, drama, languages and elocution. After his prodigy debut at age 12, helped by public subscription, he and his mother went to Frankfurt, to further his education. His father, an architect from Adelaide, designed Princes Bridge.

1895 -1901 education in Frankfurt- piano (James Kwast) and composition (Iwan Knorr). The Frankfurt Group – English music students with whom he linked, included Cyril Scott, Henry Balfour Gardiner, Roger Quilter and Norman O'Neill.

1901 – 1914 From a base in London Grainger established his career as a concert pianist and piano teacher. During this time he also had a few lessons from Busoni in Berlin and travelled two concert tours to Australia with contralto Ada Crossley. He began British folk song collecting from 1906, being the first to collect by recording on phonograph. Not until his concert career was established did he seek publication of his compositions; the first published by Schott in 1911. A first concert entirely of his music was given in 1912.

With the onset of World War 1 Grainger moved to USA where he worked as a pianist, composer, producer of piano rolls for Duo Art and recordings for Columbia. He joined the US Army in 1917, playing oboe and soprano saxophone and eventually becoming a band instructor. His mother's suicide in 1922 caused him to review his direction and he limited his concert performances, spending time recording Danish folk songs, travelling Europe and visiting Australia. He married Swedish painter Ella Strom in the interval of a Hollywood Bowl concert in LA, at which were performed the orchestral *To a Nordic Princess* and choral *An Australian Up-Country Song*. During the 1930's his activities included encouragement of school, tertiary and community music making, for which he scored and re-set his music for various ensembles. He edited some early music; became an influential educator at US performer summer schools and at universities; and presented a series of radio programmes titled: *Music, a Commonsense View of All Types*.

During World War 2 he turned regularly to the concert platform; continuing this and lecturing after the war. His experimental music, in which he sought to free music from rhythm and pitch constraints, was attempted for string instruments first and then on experimental machines – precursors of electronic instruments. His last years were frustrated by illness due to cancer. He is buried in Adelaide.

**Overview:** his fame was as a pianist (drawing room and concert platform) and teacher of piano – and as a major interpreter of friends music – e.g. Grieg and Delius. He wrote song, choral, piano, small and large orchestral ensemble and band works, mostly of short length. In total there are nearly 1200 pieces. He collected and arranged British and Nordic folk music. He was an individualistic experimenter with 'free' music. He was an occasional editor of early music; and a music populariser through education and radio. His philosophy of musical democracy – all people may contribute to music / and its corollary, that the music itself should be democratic, is represented by re-arranging and elastic scoring suitable for the available musicians.

He championed broad musical knowledge, contrary to the narrow-skilling view around him. His relationship to ‘Australian’ music was not of providing a colour palate for a nation, but he was influential in modeling freedom to dare creatively.

### **Choral and vocal compositions**

It is frustrating reading a listing of Grainger’s music as elastic scoring means that there may be several versions of a work. For this reason I have included every work on the Percy Grainger Society web that has voice, with an attempt to point up the available variants. Publishers are mostly Schott, Oxford, G Schirmer, Bardic. Some of the listed vocal works are arrangements by others of Grainger instrumental works. This list is incomplete – still being compiled. Additions are imminent.

Name of work	Vocal scoring	Other information
Afterword	Chorus & piano	
Agincourt Song	Chorus	
Anchor Song	Chorus	
At Twilight	Mixed chorus, tenor solo	
Australian Marching Song	Mixed chorus & orchestra	Alt. title: Marching Song of Democracy
Beaches of Lukannon	Mixed chorus & strings	Also: Voice and piano Kipling Jungle Book No 5
Bell Piece	Tenor & band	After Dowland
Bold William Taylor	Voice & ensemble	Voice and piano
Bridal Lullaby (theme from Howard’s End)	Chorus, tenor opt, harp/piano, &/or strings	SSAA chorus & harp / piano Both vocal arr. called Goodbye to Love
The Bride’s Tragedy	Double or single chorus, orchestra	
The Bridegroom Grat	Voice & piano	Voice & guitar Voice 7 strings
Brigg Fair	Tenor, mixed chorus	Tenor & strings
British Waterside	High voice & piano	Low voice & piano Alt. title: The Jolly Sailor
The Camp	Chorus & piano	Welsh fighting song No 1
Colonial Song	Soprano, tenor, harp, orchestra	Soprano, tenor, piano trio Soprano, harp, orchestra Soprano, tenor, piano, string quartet

		Soprano, tenor piano
Country Gardens	4 arr. by Tall  Arr. McCarthy	Mixed chorus a cappella Men's chorus a cappella Women's chorus a cappella 2-part treble chorus a cappella Chorus & orchestra
Creepin' Jane	Voice & piano	
Dalvisa	Mixed chorus a cappella	
Danny Deever	Double men's chorus and orch	Baritone, men's chorus, orchestra Men's chorus, piano & harmonium
David of the White Rock	Voice & piano	
Death Song of Hjalmar Thuren	Women's chorus & harps	
Dedication	High voice & piano	Male voice & piano
Died for Love	Woman's voice & piano	Woman's voice & instrumental trio
Dollar and a Half a Day	Male chorus	
Early One Morning	Soprano & orchestra	High voice & piano Mixed chorus a cappella
The Fall of Stone	Chorus & ensemble	Kipling Jungle Book No 1
Father & Daughter	Solo voices, double mixed chorus, orch	Orchestra = strings, brass, percussion
The First Chanty	Voice & piano	
Ganges Pilot	Male voice & piano	
Gypsy's Wedding Day	Mixed chorus a cappella	
Hard Hearted Barbra (H) Ellen	Voice & piano	
Harvest Hymn	Voice & piano duet	
The Hunter in His Career	Chorus & orchestra	Chorus & 2 pianos
The Hunting Song of the Seonee Pack	4 part male chorus & strings	4 part male chorus Kipling Jungle Book No 8
Husband & Wife	2 voices & piano	
The Immoveable	Mixed chorus & orchestra	

Do		
I'm Seventeen Come Sunday	Mixed chorus, percussion & brass	Chorus, percussion & strings Chorus & brass Mixed chorus & orchestra
In Bristol Town	Voice & guitar	
Irish Tune from County Derry	Chorus	
County Derry Air	Women's voices, opt. men's voices & orchestra	Elastic scoring Also women's voices, opt men's voices & 2 pianos
King Solomon's Espousals	Chorus & orchestra	
Kipling Jungle Book Cycle	All chorus & large ensemble Or piano/s	All title = The Fall of Stone Morning Song in the Jungle Night Song in the Jungle The Inuit The Beaches of Lukannon The Red Dog The Peora Hut Hunting Song of the Seeonee Pack Tiger, Tiger The Only Son Mowgli's Song Against the People
The Lad's of Wamphray	Men's chorus & orchestra	Men's chorus & 2 pianos
The Land o' the Leal	Voice & guitar	Voice & piano Voice & strings
Leezie Lindsay	Voice & piano	
Lonely Desert Man Sees the Tents of the Happy Tribes	Voices & room music	Voices & piano
Lord Maxwell's Goodnight	Voice & strings	Men's chorus & strings High voice, string quartet & string orchestra Male voice & piano Male chorus a cappella
The Lost Lady Found	Solo voice, chorus, various accompaniments	Chorus & wind

Love Song of Har Dyal	Voice & piano	Soprano or chorus & room music
Love verses from the Song of Solomon	Soloists, chorus, chamber orch. or piano	Soloists, chorus, orchestra Soloist, chorus, 2 solovoxes
Lukannon	Men's chorus	Voice & piano Kipling ?
March of the Men of Harlech	Double chorus & drums	Welsh Fighting Song 2
Marching Song of Democracy	Mixed chorus, organ, orchestra/band	
Marching Tune	Chorus & brass	
Mary Thomson	chorus	
The Men of the Sea	Voice & piano	
The Merchant-men	Men's chorus & orchestra	
Merciful Town	Voice & piano	
The Merry Wedding	Solo voices, chorus & orchestra	Accompaniment alternatives: 1 strings and piano 2 piano
Mo Nighean Dubh	Mixed chorus	
Morning Song in the Jungle	Mixed chorus	Kipling Jungle Book No 2
Mowgli's Song Against the People	Soloists, mixed chorus & ensemble	Alternate accompaniment: 2 pianos, 4 hands Kipling Jungle Book No 11
Near Woodstock Town	Mixed chorus	
Night Song in the Jungle	Men's voices	4 part men's chorus Kipling Jungle Book No 3
Northern Ballad	Male voice & piano	
The Old Woman at the Christening	Voice, piano & harmonium	Voice, harmonium & strings
O Mistress Mine	Chorus	After Morley
The Only	Soprano, tenor,	Kipling Jungle Book No 10

Son	opt chorus & room music	
The Peora Hunt	Mixed chorus, various accompaniments	6 part men's chorus Kipling Jungle Book No 7
The Power of Love	High voice & piano	Voices & room music string orchestra, harmonium & piano
The Pretty Maid Milking Her Cow	High voice & piano	Low voice & piano
The Rag-Time' Girl	Voice & piano	Arr. by Grainger
Random Round	Voices & room music	2 versions – random setting; set version
Recessional	Mixed chorus	With or without keyboard instruments
Red Dog	4 part men's voices	
A Reiver's Neck-Verse	Voice & piano	
Ride With an Idle Whip	Male voice & piano	
The Rival Brothers	Mixed voices & strings	
The Running of Shindand	Men's chorus	Men's chorus & 2 double basses
Sailor's Chanty	Men's unison chorus & piano	Male voice & piano
Scotch Strathspey & Reel	4 part male chorus & ensemble	
The Sea Wife	Mixed chorus & various accomp.	Voice & piano
The Secrets of the Sea	Male voice & piano	
Sekar Gadung	Voices, flute & percussion	Javanese
Shallow Brown	Voices & orchestra	Voices & piano
Shenandoah	Male voices	
Sir Eglamore	Mixed chorus, strings, brass, percussion	Mixed chorus, strings & brass
Six Dukes Went a-Fishin'	High voice & piano	Low voice & piano Voices & room music Chorus & winds Chorus & flute Chorus a cappella

Skye Boat Song	Voice & piano	
Soldier, Soldier	6 soloists, mixed chorus, opt. harmonium	Male voice & piano (2 settings)
A Song of Autumn	Voice & piano	
Songs of the North	Voice (chorus?) & piano	Comprising:  Willie's Gone to Melville Castle Weaving Song Skye Boat Song This is Not My Plaid Turn Ye to Me Drowned Fair Young Mary Leezie Lindsay The Women are a' Gane Wud My Faithful Fond One Bonnie George Campbell O'er the Moor O Gin I ere Where Gadie Rins Mo Nighean Dubh
The Sprig of Thyme	High voice & piano	Low voice & piano Voices & chorus
Stalt Vesselil	Voice & piano	
Stormy	Male voices	Pumping chanty
The Sussex Mummer's Christmas Carol	Mixed chorus	Arr by Perna
Thanksgiving Song	Chorus & orchestra	
There Was a Pig Went Out to Dig	4 part female chorus	4 single voices
Thou Gracious Power	Mixed chorus a cappella	
Three Burns Songs	Voice & piano	Including: Afton Water Evan Banks Yon Wild Mossy Mtns
The Three Ravens	Baritone, mixed chorus, flute, 4 clarinets	Baritone, mixed chorus, 5 clar. Baritone, mixed chorus, harmonium & wind fivesome
Tiger, Tiger	Solo voice & men's chorus	4 part men's chorus
Tribute to	Soloists, chorus	Has tuned glasses

Foster	& orchestra Or pianos	
The Twa Corbies	Voice & 7 strings	Voice & piano
Under en Bro	Voices & Room Music	Voices & piano
Variations on Handel's Harmonious Blacksmith	Voice or cello & piano	
We Have Fed Our Seas for a Thousand Years	6 part chorus & brass	Boys & men's chorus, 3 horns, low strings
The Widow's Party	Men's chorus & room music	
Willow, Willow	Voice & piano	Early setting: Voice & piano or Voice, 4 strings, guitar
The Wraith of Odin	Double chorus & orchestra	Chorus & piano
Ye Banks & Braes	Unison women, 4 part men's chorus, whistlers & harmonium	
The Young British Soldier	Voice & piano	

### Pieces likely heard in concert and on radio

Colonial Song	Country gardens
Danish Folk Song Suite	Gumsucker's March
Handel in the Strand	In a Nutshell Suite
Irish Tune from County Derry	Lincolnshire Posy
Mock Morris	Molly on the Shore
Seventeen Come Sunday	Shepherd's Hey
The Warriors	To a Nordic Princess
Youthful Suite	

### References

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