

The composer Jonathan Dove is well known for writing music for choirs, operas, orchestras, plays, films and music for children. His music has been performed on 5 continents all over the world!

Jonathan grew up in London, in a place called Greenwich. When he was nine, his parents who were architects designed and built a house for them, on the edge of Greenwich Park and they watched it rise out of the ground. It has a spiral staircase, and even a laundry chute to send clothes from the bedrooms upstairs down to the washing machine.

Whilst growing up Jonathan enjoyed playing the piano, organ and violin and his musical beginnings started very young when he was 4 or 5. He would try to play pieces he'd heard his mother play when she thought he was asleep. He then started having violin lessons after discovering an old violin in his grandfather's loft and by the age of 12 he was playing the organ at church. He always liked making up music, but when he tried to write it down, it never seemed as good as it was in his head. It took him years to find a way to capture some of those fleeting ideas and write them down. He was also fascinated by the theatre and as a child he always loved making things. He made his first model theatre out of an old Shreddies packet. The next theatre he made was much more elaborate, made of wood, but, unfortunately part of the scenery caught fire when he tried to make Aladdin appear out of a trap door in a puff of smoke.

Jonathan and his music are known all over the world and he has been compared to the original Friday Afternoons composer, Benjamin Britten! His set of Friday Afternoons songs entitled Seasons and Charms was written in collaboration with Alasdair Middleton. The songs tell stories of a fast car, a mad moon and birds amongst many other things and they are about the months of the year. Instead of describing each month they thought it would be more fun to just try to evoke an idea of them in the words. Maybe you can work out which songs fit to each month.