**Biography** (300 words)

**Stephen Montague** is an Anglo/American composer born (1943, Syracuse, New York) and educated in the USA (Florida State University, Ohio State University). Since 1972 he has been living in Europe, first as a Fulbright Scholar in Warsaw (1972-74), then from 1974 in London where he works as a freelance composer, pianist and conductor. His works have been performed worldwide by leading ensembles and soloists including the London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic, BBC Symphony Orchestra, The National Symphony Orchestra (Washington, DC), Südwestfunk Symphony (Baden-Baden), RTE Orchestra Madrid. Solo performers include pianists Stephen Kovacevich, Marc-André Hamelin, Joanna MacGregor, baritone Benjamin Luxon, and percussionist Evelyn Glennie.

Recent commissions include the BBC Proms, Birmingham Royal Ballet, UK New Music Biennale, Calgary Philharmonic (Canada), Royal Festival Hall, the Southbank and Barbican Centres, London.

In addition to writing for conventional ensembles Montague has done a number of large scale theatrical events with sometimes hundreds of performers such as directing the Cage Centennial *Musicircus* at English National Opera, London Coliseum and unusual works such as his *Horn Concerto* for klaxon horn soloist and an orchestra of automobiles, and a piano concerto with symphonic brass, percussion and 8 motorcycles for the UK World Superbike Championships Brands Hatch. The piano soloist was twice World Superbike Champion, James Toesland.

As a conductor Montague specializes in contemporary music and recently conducted the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Royal Navy Band and Chorus in a performance of his *Dark Sun – August, 1945* in a RAF bomber hanger.

*Composer Portrait* concerts of Montague’s work have taken place in London, Cambridge, Aberdeen, Vienna, Budapest, Warsaw, Houston, Hartford, and Chicago.

*“Southern Lament”* an NMC recording of his piano & chamber works won the International Piano Award for *Best New Piano Music Recording 2006*. His works are published by United Music Publishing: [www.ump.co.uk](http://www.ump.co.uk). His website is at: **stephenmontague.com**