

Synergy 78 – Program Notes – BIRDS AND BEASTS: MUSIC FOR FLUTE AND CLARINET

Invention for Flute and Clarinet (2020) was a commission by Synergy 78.

Birds of paradise (2022) by Christopher Lee was commissioned by Synergy 78. It is inspired by a line from Thomas Forrest's *The Breadtree Fruit* (1784):
"Birds of paradise...clad in gold of many hues and dipped in the purple of dawn."

The Twa' Corbies (2013) by Joe Stollery is a ballad about two ravens discussing what to do with the dead knight they have found. In the story the ravens settle down next to the knight, conversing about his fate, heroism, and the loss of his hawk, who flew off searching more carrion, and his wife, who took a lover. Finally, the ravens eat the corpse, the pecks depicted as sinister staccatos. The piece ends with a breathless sound referencing the ballad's final lines: 'Oer his white banes, when they are bare,/The wind sall blaw for evermair.' *Notes by composer*

The Flight of the Brave Chicken (2018) by Shulamit Ran was a commission based on four panels that Nina Frankel painted in 2014 which depict a progression from darkness to light. Titled "Brave Chicken Meets the Ogre," "Brave Chicken Fights the Ogre," "Brave Chicken Flees to Safety," and "Brave Chicken in the Healing Hut," the panels depict two distinctly different musical characters are posed against one another. The piece traces the evolving change in the balance of power and with it the journey from darkness to light. *Notes by composer*

Brave Chicken Meets the Ogre



Brave Chicken Fights the Ogre



Brave Chicken Flees to Safety



Brave Chicken in the Healing Hut

