DAVID BECK was born in 1941 and raised in Kent, though born in Nottinghamshire. In addition to his normal schooling in Folkestone, from the age of 10 he attended the Saturday-morning "Kent Junior Music School" in Maidstone. There, a poor result in Grade 5 theory led to unexpectedly effective remedial teaching in Music Theory, after which he progressed rapidly, obtaining a Minor Music Scholarship to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, whilst still 16. At this point the scientific career for which he had seemed destined was abandoned.

He became a member of the National Youth Orchestra as a "general musician" on the strength of his supposed composition abilities, beginning as a tubular-bell player and graduating to the violas. There he received helpful advice from Herbert Howells. At Cambridge he won a College prize for composition and was second violin in a successful string quartet led by Simon Standage. After gaining his Mus. B. in Composition and Performance, he worked as a professional violinist in Manchester (UK) having served at various times in the Halls, the Manchester Cameratast and the BBC Northern (later Philharmonic) orchestras. He also enjoyed spells as a freelance. Composition took a back seat during his playing career, but it came to the fore after his retirement from the BBC. His compositions are usually in answer to requests from colleagues; very little of his work was ever entirely self-inflicted. His String Quartet No. 2 (available on asc cd 132) is a rare example of total self-motivation.
G.A CELEBRATION OF THE MUSIC OF DAVID BECK

Lesley-Jane Rogers (soprano)
Richard Simpson (oboe)
Richard Howarth (violin)
Jonathan Price (cello)
Ian Thompson (harpischord)
Keith Swallow (piano)
Richard Baker (narrator)

The New World Ensemble
Violin 1: Andrew Long
Viola: David Aspin (in Duets, Petite Suite and Carol Variations) and Rachel Jones (in String Quartet No. 1)
Cello: Zoe Long

The Fell Clarinet Quartet: Colin Blamey, Helen Bywater, Lenny Sayers, Marianne Rawles

1-3 Flights of Fancy, for recorder and harpsichord (2008)
Yafflemusik; Flutterby in Birdland; Bluebottle

This suite of three pieces for recorder and harpsichord (respectively descant, treble and soprano) was first performed at a concert in Nantwich to celebrate the ninetieth birthday of the artist Dorothy Bradford; indeed the second movement is subtitled "Ninety Bars for Dorothy Bradford". Unfortunately she did not live to attend the concert. John Turner was performing in Telemann's Tafelmusik at the time of composition, hence "Yafflemusik", a yaffle being a green woodpecker. "Bluebottle" requires no explanation. Although it has been suggested that it is a character study of the hyperactive Mr. Turner, that was never the intention!

OTHER TITLES AVAILABLE ON PRIMA FACIE

Birdsongs in Silence (PFCD001) A musical portrait of composer Beth Wiseman. Performed by Okeanos contemporary music group, John Turner (recorder) and Lesley-Jane Rogers (soprano).


Dreams and Dances (PFCD003) Contemporary compositions. A collection of works by composers represented by Prima Facie, some of which are to be found on other discs published by the label.

Orbits and Tangents (PFCD004) A celebration for Sir John Manduell. Performed by Lesley-Jane Rogers (soprano), John Turner (recorder), Richard Simpson (oboe), Richard Howarth (violin), Richard Tunnicliffe (viola da gamba), Jonathan Price (cello) and Ian Thompson (harpsichord).

The Rose Tree (PFCD005) Music in Memory of Basil Deane. Performed by Lesley-Jane Rogers (soprano), John Turner (recorder), Richard Simpson (oboe), Richard Howarth (violin), Richard Tunnicliffe (viola da gamba), Jonathan Price (cello) and Ian Thompson (harpsichord).


Piano Music (PFCD007) By Anthony Gilbert. Performed by Richard Casey (piano) and Ian Buckle (piano).

Reconciliations (PFCD008) Music by Adam Gorb. Performed by Paul Vowles (clarinet), Simon Parkin (Piano), Midori Sugiyama (violin), Ben Powell (piano), Gintante Gataveckaita (piano), Les Neish (tuba), Jonathan Fisher (piano), Graham Scott (piano).


For further details
Prima Facie http://primafacie.ascrecords.com info@ascrecords.com
John Turner is one of the leading recorder players of today. Born in Stockport, he was Senior Scholar in Law at Fitzwilliam College Cambridge before pursuing a legal career, acting for many distinguished musicians and musical organisations (including the Hallé Orchestra, the Royal Northern College of Music and the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain). He now devotes his time to playing, writing, reviewing, publishing, composing and generally energising. He has played as recorder soloist with the Hallé Orchestra, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, the Manchester Camerata, and many other leading orchestras and ensembles. In the last few years he has played in Germany, Switzerland, Poland, France, New Zealand, Japan and the USA, and given many recitals on Radio 3 with pianist Peter Lawson. In all, he has given the first performances of over 500 works for the recorder, including works by many non-British composers, including Leonard Bernsteiner, Ned Rorem, Peter Sculthorpe, Anne Boyd, Douglas Lilburn and Ruth Zechlin.

Recording details:
Flights of Fancy: Casterton Church, 3rd April 2011
Petite Suite and Carol Variations: The King's School, Macclesfield, 30th January 2011
Duets: Beckingham Hall, Gainsborough, November 13th 2008
String Quartet No. 1: Beckingham Hall. April 17th 2005
A Dunham Pastorale: The King's School, Macclesfield, 30th March 2005
Salford Keys: St. Thomas's Church, Stockport, 15th September 2010
A Christmas Vocalise for JM: The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall, Manchester University, 18th December 2008
Vocalise No. 2 for JM: The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall, Manchester University, 4th January 2010

Executive Producer: Steve Plews
Producer: David Ellis
Engineers: Richard Scott and Michael Langley

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15-17 Salford Keys, for four clarinets (2008)
Allegro; Andantino Semplice; Allegro ma non troppo

Written expressly for a concert at Salford University, given by the Fell Clarinet Quartet, these three movements have a somewhat "retro" character. Think Glenn Miller, Alfred Hitchcock and Scott Joplin! The final ragtime is "not too fast", of course.

18 Carol Variations, for recorder and string quartet (2011)

The tune is taken from one of the Christmas cards sent out by John Turner, who asked for these variations on his theme. Originally for recorder and harpsichord, the version with string quartet soon followed. Following the statement of the tune (with Beck's harmonisation) there are five variations, of which the fourth is a siciliano, concluding with a restatement of the tune.

19 A Dunham Pastorale, for recorder and piano (2004)

This piece is a musical portrayal of Thomas Pitfield's poem "Dunham Park (Winter Evening)" and it was designed to be preceded by a reading of that poem by Richard Baker on a CD entitled "Flying Kites – A Trafford Miscellany" (Campion Cameo 2044).

20 A Christmas Vocalise for JM, for soprano voice, recorder, oboe, violin and cello (2008)

This last minute offering for a concert that took place just before Christmas for Sir John Manduell uses the voice wordlessly – the listener has to guess the thinly disguised tune, but a clue is given by five words sung at the end! This is a live recording from that concert.

21 Vocalise No. 2 for JM (Wordsworthy), for soprano voice, recorder, oboe, violin and cello (2009)

The performers of A Christmas Vocalise for JM must have liked the concept. However the seasonal theme was hardly apt for a 2009 concert for JM in the Lake District. Like the 2008 Vocalise, this offering is a song (almost entirely) without words, but it attempts to follow the moods, stanza by stanza, of the Wordsworth original.

Andrew Long hails originally from Sheffield. Andrew is now the Associate Leader of Opera North and the Artistic Director of the New World Ensemble (NWE). As a soloist he has given recital and concerto performances as far afield as Norway, the Czech Republic, Belgium and Poland, where he gave a televised performance of Elgar's Violin Sonata. Andrew is a keen exponent of contemporary music and with the NWE has commissioned, performed and recorded many new works including Geoffrey Kimpton's Violin Concerto. He has also recorded three CDs with the NWE String Quartet and a disc of duos and trios for ASC. In spite of his busy playing schedule he has developed a distinguished teaching career. He was on the staff at Chetham's School of Music for 12 years, also teaching privately for the late Lord Menuhin and at the University of Manchester.

The Fell Clarinet Quartet was formed in 1999 at the Royal Northern College of Music. In 1999 they were awarded the RNCM Professional Diploma, with distinction. In 2003/4 the quartet was the recipient of a Tunnel Trust for Young Musicians Award. As well as performing in such venues as the Purcell Room in London and the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester the quartet has enjoyed a partnership with the Imperial War Museum North where they gave numerous performances as part of the "In the Mood" exhibition, playing works inspired by times of conflict.