Blake and Music, 2022

By Camila Oliveira and Jason Whittaker

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1 If 2021 saw a considerable addition to the corpus of Blake settings and tracks inspired by his poetry, 2022 witnessed something of an explosion, with almost a hundred releases recorded from this year alone. As has been evident for some time, this rapid acceleration is due to the growth of streaming services, with almost every track in the listings below being offered by Amazon, Apple, Spotify or—increasingly popular with artists—Bandcamp. As the barriers to entry decline, more and more independent artists are making their music available. This, of course, is true of all music, but it is significant that Blake's hold on the musical imagination is growing (and not just in terms of new versions of old favorites, such as “Jerusalem” or “The Tyger”).

2 One notable effect of this flourishing of Blakean music is that nearly every example listed here is some form of pop or alternative music. While classical music has abundant outlets for streaming (not least Apple's new classical music app), as CD sales have declined and concerts become more expensive to perform, far fewer settings of Blake's poems have been issued. Those few included this year, such as Brian DeMaris or Carl Vollrath, also tend to be simpler arrangements for piano or a small group of performers. The majority of items listed below are, unsurprisingly, single tracks, but 2022 did see some complete albums dedicated mostly or completely to Blake's work. As well as Vollrath's Old & New Poetry, which combines Blake's poetry with that of Sara Teasdale, Byron Bartlett and Benjamin Blower released longer recordings based on Songs of Innocence and of Experience, while Mukenai created an ambient work that draws heavily on Blake's mythology for its inspiration. In addition, it's worth noting that in 2022 Marianne Faithfull released a compilation of songs recorded between 1965 and 1995 that she fittingly named Songs of Innocence and Experience.

3 As in previous versions, this list omits tracks that are based on a single quotation from or allusion to Blake's work. Wherever possible, the country of the artist is given, as well as the work's instrumentation, duration, publisher, copyright date, genre, and format. Most entries include at least one link to a recording.

All That and a Bag of Fritos — Unknown

From All That and a Bag of Fritos 1; for voice, drums, synthesizers.
Track: Poison Tree (09:21).
Links: Amazon, Spotify.

Alter Mayster — Unknown

Jerusalem; for synthesizers.
Track: Jerusalem (02:14).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.

Andy Brown's Victorian Karaoke — UK

From Andy Brown's Victorian Karaoke; for voice, guitar.
Track: The Clod and the Pebble (01:26).
Link: Bandcamp.

Angels, Chris [Chris Engels] — Germany

From Tesla; for voice, guitar, bass, drums, synthesizers.
Track: A Poison Tree (06:48).
Links: Amazon, Bandcamp.

Aries Projectum Orchestra — Unknown
From Impressions; for piano.
Track: A Little Boy Lost (02:24).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.

Atkinson, Ellis — Unknown
Tyger Tyger; for synthesizers.
Track: Tyger Tyger (02:15).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.

Balkan Second Squad — Hungary
William Blake; for voice, guitar, bass, drums.
Tracks: Az emberi lényeg ["The Human Abstract"] (04:07);
London (04:38).
Note: Both settings are translated into Hungarian.
Links: Apple, Spotify.

Banjo Metal Nation — France
From Resonator; for voice, guitar, bass, drums.
Track: Ah! Sunflower (01:36).
Links: Apple, Spotify.

Bartlett, Byron — USA
Songs of Experience EP; for voice, guitar, bass, drums,
keyboards.
Tracks: The Sick Rose (00:54); The Tyger (02:07); Ah!
Sun-Flower (01:14); London (01:38).
Link: Bandcamp.

Bartlett, Byron — USA
Songs of Innocence EP; for voice, guitar, bass, drums,
keyboards.
Tracks: The Blossom (02:18); Laughing Song (01:46); Holy
Thursday (01:39); Spring (01:09); Nurse's Song (01:39);
Infant Joy (00:50).
Link: Bandcamp.

Bell, Steve — Canada
The Divine Image; for voice, flute, guitar.
Track: The Divine Image (03:04).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.

Bernd — Netherlands
The Tyger; for voice, guitar, harp, synthesizers.
Track: The Tyger (04:24).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.

The Black Buoy Project — Switzerland
From The Birds Know Things; for voice, bass, drums,
saxophone, synthesizers.
Streaming.
Tracks: The Tyger (07:41); The Little Girl Found (06:32).
Link: Bandcamp.

Blower, David Benjamin — UK
Innocence & Experience; for voice, guitar.
Tracks: Piping down the Valleys (03:13); The Ecchoing
Green (04:29); The Blossom (01:39); The Bard & Earth's
Answer (03:46); The Angel (02:55); A Dream/On
Another's Sorrow (06:49); The Ancient Bard (02:14);
A Divine Image (06:52).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.

Brillanti, Serafini — USA
From New Works for Soprano, Trumpet, and Piano; for
voice, trumpet, piano.
Tracks: Of Innocence and Experience: No. 1, Spring
(01:14); No. 2, Cradle Song (03:40); No. 3, The Sick Rose
(02:07).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.

Callahan, David Lance — UK
From English Primitive II; for voice, guitar, bass, drums.
Track: London by Blakelight (04:33).
Link: Bandcamp.
Caveira — Spain

The Tyger; for guitar, bass, drums, synthesizers.
Track: The Tyger (05:14).
Links: Apple, Spotify.

Clark, Tom — UK

From Meteor im Eis; for synthesizers.
Track: The Sick Rose (07:17).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.

Collateral Nature — Italy

From Morning Mars; for guitar, bass, drums, keyboards.
Track: Tyger! Tyger! Burning Bright (03:08).
Links: Apple, Deezer, Spotify.

Cultor Noctis — Belgium

From Reveries of Hatred; for voice, guitar, bass, drums, keyboards.
Track: Urizen (08:22).
Link: Bandcamp.

Dante's Inferno — Canada

From Shadow of Ideas; for voice, guitar, bass, drums, keyboards.
Track: Urizen (08:48).
Link: Bandcamp.

Darkoustix — Switzerland

From 7; for voice, guitar, bass, drums.
Track: A Poison Tree (01:59).
Link: Bandcamp.

DeMaris, Brian — USA

From Gratitude; for voice, piano.
Tracks: Songs of Innocence: Introduction (01:53); The Shepherd (01:38); The Echoing Green (02:30).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.

Diary of Madness — Germany

Cradle Song; for voice, guitar, bass, drums, keyboards.
Track: Cradle Song (03:41).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.

Diary of Madness — Germany

Poison Tree; for voice, guitar, bass, drums.
Track: Poison Tree (04:43).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.

DIE — Italy

A Dream; for voice, guitar, bass, drums, harmonica.
Tracks: The Echoing Green (03:33); A Dream (04:29); The Fly (04:41); Mad Song (04:25); The Angel (03:39); A Poison Tree (04:28); Laughing Song (05:15); A Little Girl Lost (03:36); Infant Sorrow (03:25); A Cradle Song (04:38).
Link: Spotify.

DK & the Hoop Snakes — USA

From Alchemical Infusion; for voice, guitar, bass, drums.
Track: Song (How Sweet I Roam’d) (01:47).
Links: Apple, Spotify.

Faithful — Spain

From Affixt Enactivist; for synthesizers.
Tracks: Urizen (02:40); Urizen II (04:52).
Link: Bandcamp.

Faulkner, Luke — UK

From The Scepter'd Isle; for piano.
Track: Jerusalem (02:16).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.

Fortnam, Craig — UK

From Lunar One A-Sides; for voice, guitar.
Track: Sweet Dreams Form a Shade (03:46).
Links: Apple, Spotify.
Frater Zyzphez — New Zealand


GAAP KVLT — Morocco


Givens, Edward — USA

From Eleventh Hour; for voice, guitar, harp, synthesizers. Independent, © 2022. Experimental. Streaming. Tracks: To the Evening Star (04:20); Ahania Weeps upon the Void (03:15); A Dream (03:53); For the Gentle Wind ["Never pain to tell thy Love"] (02:15); Steps of the Sun ["Ah! Sun-Flower"] (01:59). Link: Bandcamp.

Goldman, J. J. — UK


Goresleeps — Russia


Hammer King — Germany


The Hoods — USA


Hudson, Frank — USA


Jäger & Hypius + Verstärkung — Germany

From Masterplan; for voice, guitar, bass, drums, trumpet, keyboards. Timezone, © 2022. Folk/rock. CD/streaming. Track: The Garden of Love (04:05). Note: The poem has been translated into German. Links: Amazon, Spotify.

Jahrmusch — Russia


Karfagen — Ukraine


KlaGueSch — Germany


Kratt, Mørk — Russia


Krull, Kay — USA

From Saturn in Love; for voice, guitar. A Peppermint Future, © 2022. Folk. Streaming. Track: How Sweet I Roamed from Field to Field (03:26). Note: This version is inspired by the setting by the Fugs. Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.
Loadbang/Jeffrey Gavett — USA

From *Quiver*; for voice, trumpet, trombone.
Track: Proverbial [Proverbs of Hell] (05:19).
Links: Apple, Bandcamp.

The Local Moon — Germany

From *The Local Moon*; for voice, synthesizers.
Track: The Tyger (03:35).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Bandcamp, Spotify.

Lumor — Switzerland

From *Flock of Birds*; for voice, guitar, bass, drums, keyboards.
Track: Earth’s Answer (03:04).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.

Mahalia — Italy

From *In Concerto*; for voice, guitar, percussion, violin.
Tracks: The Little Boy Lost (02:41); The Little Boy Found (02:07).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.

Mann of Seasons — France

From *The Songs of Innocence*; for voice, guitar, bass, drums, keyboards.
Tracks: The Little Boy Lost (04:24); Poison Tree (04:25); The Garden of Love (02:30).
Link: Bandcamp.

Mealor, Paul, and St. Salvator’s Chapel Choir — UK

From *The Tyger and the Lamb: A Christmas Dance*; for voices, strings.
Track: The Tyger (06:08).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.

Melul — USA

From *The Sleep of Devils*; for voice, synthesizers.
Track: Enitharmon, Mother of Satan (02:58).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.

Moyno — France

From *Nothing Gold Can Stay*; for voice, piano.
Track: The Poison Tree (03:32).
Link: Bandcamp.

Mukenai — Russia

Urthona; for voice, piano, guitar, bass, drums, synthesizers.
Tracks: Urthona (utrecht) (04:32); Enitharmon (aruit) (04:51); Luvah (fenot) (04:59); Vala (everya) (05:09); Urizen (boa, the great serpent) (05:10); Ahania (geten) (03:25); Tharmas (wonder-gal ouverture) (03:05); Enion (vesuvius coda) (01:44).
Link: Bandcamp.

Musiques Nouvelles/Benjamin Sauzereau — Belgium/France

From *Coffret des 60 ans*; for piano, clarinet, violin, cello, synthesizers.
Track: A Poison Tree (10:26).
Links: Apple, Bandcamp, Spotify.

Neon Noodle — USA

From *Opiate Rebel*; for voice, guitar, bass, drums, synthesizers.
Track: Poison Tree (07:36).
Link: Bandcamp.

Nerfox — Spain

From *Theseus Paradox EP*; for synthesizers.
Track: The Tyger and the Lamb (05:36).
Links: Bandcamp, Spotify.

No Fun — USA

From *Snivel*; for voice, guitar, bass, drums, keyboards.
Nothing Sounds — New Zealand


Oldfield, Sally — UK


Orlando & die Unerlösten — Germany


Orlova, Alina — Lithuania


Otto, James Joshua, and Richard Hills — UK


Oxskin — Germany


Pair of Dust — USA


Poston, Elizabeth, and St. Salvator's Chapel Choir — UK


Rain, David — Canada


Real-Krabbtree Twins — USA


Revitskiy, Vladimir — Russia


Rising Sons & Falling Moons — USA

Rutter, John — UK

From *Sacred and Christmas Choral Music 2022*; for voices, organ.
Track: Blake's Lullaby (04:32).
Links: Amazon, Spotify.

Serpent-Peste — France

From *Inner Monologues*; for voice, synthesizers.
Track: 1. Poison Tree (05:24).
Link: Bandcamp.

Shallow Rivers — Russia

From *The Tales Told under the Willow*; for voice, guitar, bass, drums, keyboards.
Track: Mad Song (10:29).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.

Sísifo Rest — Spain

From *Sísifo Rest*; for voice, guitar, bass, drums, saxophone.
Track: Human Abstract (04:20).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.

Slowlick — Slovakia

From *Mare Liberum Apertum*; for voice, guitar, bass, drums.
Track: Blake Tyger (04:45).
Links: Apple, Spotify.

Sono — UK

From *Misery*; for voice, piano, synthesizers.
Tracks: The Sick Rose (02:17); London (03:11); Infant Sorrow (05:04).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.

The Sordid Sentinel — UK

*Sick Rose*; for voice, drums, synthesizers.
Track: Sick Rose (02:05).
Link: Bandcamp.

Sovereign Citizen — UK

From *Forgotten English Rebel Spirit*; for voice, guitars, percussion.
Track: Jerusalem (07:55).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.

Spencer, Louise — UK

From *Classical Favourites*; for harp.
Track: Jerusalem (02:36).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.

Swaffer — Unknown

The *Poison Tree*; for piano.
Track: The Poison Tree (03:43).
Link: Spotify.

Symbolical — Poland

From *Natura*; for voice, guitar, bass, drums, keyboards.
Track: Dark Urizen (06:49).
Links: Apple, Bandcamp, Spotify.

Vanek, John — UK

*Hear the Voice of the Bard*; for voice, guitar.
Track: Hear the Voice of the Bard (04:46).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.

Vishal — Unknown

*Tyger*; for voice, synthesizers.
Track: Tyger (03:01).
Links: Amazon, Spotify.

Vollrath, Carl — USA

From *Old & New Poetry, Vol. 2*; for voice, piano.
Tracks: Songs of Innocence: The Shepherd (02:15); The Ecchoing Green (02:04); The Lamb (02:49); The Little Black Boy (04:32); Nurse's Song (01:45); Songs of Experience: My Pretty Rose-Tree (01:27); Ah! Sun-Flower (01:58); The Garden of Love (02:38); The Little Vagabond
(03:49); The Schoolboy (02:40).
Links: Apple, Spotify.

Vronski — Poland

From *Ephemeral*; for voice, guitar, bass, drums, keyboards.
Track: Mad Song (03:58).
Links: Bandcamp, Spotify.

The Vultures — UK

From *The Vultures*; for voice, guitars, percussion.
Streaming.
Track: Jerusalem (01:47).
Links: Amazon, Spotify.

White, Nicholas — USA

From *Songs of Innocence; The Raven*; for voice, piano.
Tracks: Piping (02:11); The Shepherd (04:09); The Echoing Green (02:55); Little Lamb (03:08); Heaven's Light ["The Little Black Boy"] (06:48); The Blossom (01:33);
The Chimney-Sweeper (04:30); Lost and Found (05:03);
Laughing Song (02:07); A Cradle Song (04:23); The Divine Image (04:03); Holy Thursday (03:26); Night (06:02);
Spring (02:16); Nurse's Song (03:15); Infant Joy (01:34);
A Dream Song (02:59); Sorrow and Piping (06:18).
Links: Amazon, Apple, Spotify.

Yearwood, Kathleen — Canada

From *Folk Songs*; for voice, guitar.
Tracks: Ah! Sun-Flower (02:58); The Sick Rose (02:20);
The Garden of Love (01:50).
Link: Bandcamp.

Yesaki, Isao — Unknown

From *Explorations, Vol. 1*; for guitar, bass, drums, keyboards.
Track: The Marriage of Heaven and Hell (02:48).
Link: Spotify.