



[Donations](#) [Advertise here](#) [QR History](#) [QR Home](#) [Contact us](#) [Archive](#)

← [Bradford, a 'House Divided'](#)

Endnotes, January-February 2025

Posted on [January 4, 2025](#) by [leslie](#)

Search

Recent Posts

- [Endnotes, January-February 2025](#)

Finally, to the composer (again, hardly known) Pamela Harrison (1915-90) — a student of the Royal College of Music, but who found obtaining even an interest from the BBC in her works difficult, to say the least. From the Resonus label comes a collection of Harrison's main works, including the tense, intricate, yet flowing *Cello Sonata*, *Septet*, the ghostly, memorised *Kindling of the Day* and another cycle, *The Lonely Landscape* — based upon the poems of Emily Brontë — all the works suggesting a 'land of lost content' atmosphere. Like William Busch, country locations appealed to Pamela Harrison: first, the North Downs, not far from Limpsfield; then, after the break-up of her marriage at the end of the 1950s, the remote setting of Dartmoor — interspersed with sojourns in Portugal — finally settling in Sussex, gaining inspiration from the South Downs. Sadly, she ended her days, not in rural peace, but in a car crash, returning from a painting trip, another of her enthusiasms.

The music assembled by Resonus will undoubtedly appeal to all lovers of modern English music, and especially those listeners who enjoy discovering an off-the-beaten-track experience; whether the rare, too-often marginalised music of an (undeservedly) neglected composer, or the fascinating biography and day-to-day life of a creative artist — often suffering the same disappointments and setbacks as the rest of us mortals. Superbly performed by James Gilchrist, tenor; Alice Neary, cello and Jams Coleman, piano — with the Royal Welsh Chamber Players — 'The Lonely Landscapes' of Pamela Harrison offers a vivid portrait of the composer.

CD details:

Lonely Landscape — Chamber Music and Song by Pamela Harrison. James Gilchrist et al, Royal Welsh Chamber Players. resonus, RES10351.

Stuart Millson is the Classical Music Editor of *The Quarterly Review*