

The viola is a somewhat put-upon instrument, being the subject of rude jokes and accusations of inadequacies. I have attempted to lend it my support by writing *Music for Solo Viola* (1998), *Sonata for Viola and Piano* (1989) and now *Peregrinations for Viola and Orchestra* (2002). The new piece, which is being performed for the first time, celebrates the fine playing of Paul Silverthorne, of London, whom I have had the pleasure to know and hear play over the past ten or so years.

--RW