



Howard Blake at 70

British composer Howard Blake, best known for his wistful tune 'Walking in the Air' from perennial Christmas favourite *The Snowman*, celebrates turning 70 with a concert at London's Cadogan Hall on his actual birthday, 28 October.

Born in London, Blake is a prolific composer of tuneful music for film, television and the concert hall. He was walking on a beach in Cornwall in 1971 when the melody to 'Walking in the Air' came to Blake, though it wasn't until the early 1980s that he was able to put the tune, now with lyrics, to its most memorable use in *The Snowman*. Blake's nine-year-old son will sing the boy soprano solo in the birthday concert. The concert will also include the concerto Blake wrote for Princess Diana's 30th birthday; it will be played by William Chen, who also recorded a disc of Blake's solo piano music, *Lifecycle*.

Blake's 70th is also marked by two CD releases, a new recording from Naxos of music with violin and piano, and a re-release from Sony BMG featuring original recording of the concerto with Blake himself at the keyboard.

For more information about composer Howard Blake and his music, go to www.howardblake.com