

MUSIC FOR BRASS

Commissioned by Brett Baker
First performance at the RNCM Manchester,
January 25th 2013 by Brett Baker (trombone),
Black Dyke Band, conductor Robert Childs
and Dale Gerrard (actor/narrator)

Radio City **For Trombone and Piano** **PETER GRAHAM**

(with narration – see performance note)

Piano Score

Gramercy Music (UK)
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Composer's Note

As youngsters growing up on the west coast of Scotland, my brother and I fell heir to an old valved radiogram which provided us with our first experiences of radio broadcasts. On the short wave signal, and through the static, we could pick up a whole range of programmes from across the Atlantic. I particularly recall the baseball games, the American accents of the announcers providing a window to a evocative world far removed from our small Ayrshire town. These memories form the basis of Radio City.

The work is set in three movements, each introduced by a pastiche radio announcer narrative written by Philip Coutts. The first, **City Noir**, is a nod towards Raymond Chandler's eponymous private eye Philip Marlow and the dark cityscape of 1940s California.

Movement two, **Cafe Rouge**, takes its title from the main restaurant in New York's famous Hotel Pennsylvania. Two of the most famous band leaders of the 1940s, trombonists Glenn Miller and Tommy Dorsey, broadcast live from the cafe on numerous occasions and the movement echoes with a collage of imagined sounds from the period.

The finale, **Two-Minute Mile**, derives from an event dubbed in the USA as "the most exciting two minutes in sport", namely the Kentucky Derby. The virtuoso soloist figurations have their roots in Kentucky bluegrass fiddle music, with the galloping bluegrass clog-dancing rhythms providing the backdrop.

Peter Graham

About the Composer



Born in Scotland, Peter Graham read music at Edinburgh and London Universities (Goldsmiths' College).

His music for brass and wind is performed across the globe, from China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea and Singapore in the Far East, across North and South America and in every major European country.

Awards include the American Bandmasters Association/Ostwald Award for Original Composition for Symphonic Winds and the Iles Medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians

Performance note

Radio City can be performed without narration but the impact of the work will be enhanced by the text. This can be delivered by the soloist (with American accent!), pre-recorded or ideally presented by an experienced actor with props. The background sound file can be downloaded from: www.gramercymusic.com/down.htm

Radio City – Peter Graham (duration c. 10 minutes)
Full recording available on **Radio City** (DOYCD351)
performed by Brett Baker with the Black Dyke Band MD Nicholas J. Childs

(version with brass band accompaniment also available, wind version in preparation)

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RADIO CITY

NARRATION BY PHILIP COUTTS

FOR TROMBONE, PIANO AND NARRATOR

PETER GRAHAM

COE 1: PLAY BACKGROUND SOUND FILE (OPTIONAL)

NARRATOR

THE HEAT HAD BEEN SPLITTING THE SIDEWALK ALL DAY LONG.
NOW, AFTER SUNDOWN, THERE WAS STILL NO END TO IT.
I SLID A FINGER UNDER MY SWEAT-SOAKED COLLAR AND TOOK
ANOTHER SLUG OF BOURBON. I WAS GOING TO NEED IT.
OUTSIDE THE BAR WAS A WORLD OF MISERY
BROKEN HOMES AND FADED DREAMS;
PETTY CRIMINALS AND BIG-TIME RACKETEERS...

I - CITY NOIR

Lento e rubato ♩ = c.56

Trombone

Piano

Trombone

Piano

COE 2:

SOMEWHERE, A JUKE BOX WAS PLAYING. SIRENS WAILED WITH SAD REGULARITY.
IT WAS THE MUSIC OF THE CITY AND I WAS GETTING TIRED OF ITS TUNE.
I WAS SICK OF THIS TOWN AND ALL ITS SORDID SECRETS... AND YET THERE WAS NO ESCAPING IT.
I GRABBED MY HAT FROM THE BAR, DRAINED MY GLASS AND STEPPED OUT INTO THE NIGHT.
THERE WAS WORK TO BE DONE...

Allegro (swing tempo) ♩ = c.82

6 repeat until narration ends **A**

Trombone

Piano

11

Trombone

Piano

f

15

Trombone

Piano

B

mf

19

Trombone

Piano

f

22

Trombone

Piano

C

f

26

Trombone

sim. 3

Piano

mp *mf*

29

Trombone

sim. 3

Piano

ff

D

33

Trombone

ff *mf* 3 *f*

Piano

mf

37

Trombone

mf

Piano

ff *mf* *f*

CUE 3:

...AND WITH THAT FAMILIAR SOUND RINGING IN OUR EARS, WE WELCOME YOU TO ANOTHER NIGHT OF THE BEST IN BIG BAND MUSIC. THIS IS THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY, COMING TO YOU FROM THE SMART, SPACIOUS SETTING OF THE CAFE ROUGE, HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA. WE HAVE A FULL HOUSE HERE TONIGHT IN DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN, THE BEATING HEART OF NEW YORK CITY... ON THIS EVENING'S PROGRAMME, WE INVITE YOU, ONCE AGAIN, TO LISTEN TO THE MUSIC OF AMERICA'S NUMBER ONE BANDELEADER, ONE OF OUR FINEST COMPOSERS AND ARRANGERS, THE DANCE SENSATION OF THE NATION. THE LIGHTS MAY BE GOING OUT ALL OVER EUROPE BUT WE AIM TO KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING WITH MUSIC TO WARM THE HEART. SO STAY TUNED, WHEREVER YOU ARE, AS WE WELCOME THE BOYS IN THE BAND AND MR GLENN MILLER...

II - CAFE ROUGE

Lento ♩ = c.60

A

Trombone

Piano

mf

tr

mp

Ped.

sim.

4

7

COE 4:

WELCOME TO LOUISVILLE ON THIS FINE SUNNY AFTERNOON. IF IT'S THE FIRST SATURDAY IN MAY IN CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING...IT'S KENTUCKY DERBY TIME. ALL EYES ARE ON CHURCHILL DOWNS AS THE RUNNERS AND RIDERS MAKE THEIR WAY ROUND THIS FAMOUS OLD TRACK. THE HORSES PRIMED FOR THE OFF; EVERYONE A THOROUGHbred BUT ONLY ONE A WINNER. YES, FOLKS, IT'S THE MOST EXCITING TWO MINUTES IN SPORTS. THE CROWD IS AT FEVER-PITCH FROM MILLIONAIRE'S ROW TO THE PACKED INFIELD, IT'S MINT JULEPS ALL ROUND AS THE PARTY GETS INTO FULL SWING. WHO WILL WIN THIS YEAR'S THE RUN FOR THE ROSES? WE'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH AS THE HORSES TAKE THEIR PLACES IN THE STARTING GATE. ON THE STAND SIDE, VANITY FAIR IS TAKING HIS TIME ABOUT IT; SEA VIEW CIRCLES ONCE MORE JUST TO BE SURE. NOW THEY'RE ALL IN... THE STARTER'S HAPPY... THEY OPEN UP... AND THEY'RE AWAY...

III - TWO-MINUTE MILE

Allegro $\text{♩} = \text{c.168}$

A

Trombone

Piano

Trombone

Piano

B

Trombone

Piano