

MUSIC FOR EUPHONIUM

IN LEAGUE WITH EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

A CONCERTO
FOR EUPHONIUM AND PIANO

PETER GRAHAM

DURATION: C. 18 MINUTES

**COVER BY G K GRAPHIC DESIGN
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COMPOSER'S NOTE

Playing the euphonium was something of a family tradition in the Graham household. With my father (Peter) and late grandfather (Thomas) active in their respective local Salvation Army Brass Bands, my uncle Tommy solo euphonium with the mighty Tullis Russell Mills Band and my school brass teacher Robert Sands also an aficionado of the instrument, hardly a day passed when performances and recordings by the "greats", Clough, Groom, Sullivan *et al* were being discussed and appraised. And so when one of the greats of today, Steven Mead, asked me to write a concerto it was with this background in mind that I set to the task.

In League with Extraordinary Gentlemen combines two of my life interests - composition and 19th century popular fiction. Each of the concerto's three movements takes its musical inspiration from extraordinary characters who have transcended the original genre and have subsequently found mass audiences through film, television and comic book adaptations.

The first movement follows a traditional sonata form outline with one slight modification. The order of themes in the recapitulation is reversed, mirroring a plot climax in the H.G. Wells novella *The Time Machine* (where the protagonist, known only as **The Time Traveller**, puts his machine into reverse bringing the story back full circle).



The Adventure of the Final Problem is the title of a short story published in *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* by Arthur Conan Doyle. This is an account of the great detective's final struggle with his long-time adversary Professor Moriarty at the Reichenbach Falls in Switzerland. The music takes the form of a slowed down ländler (a Swiss/Austrian folk dance) and various acoustic and electronic echo effects call to mind the alpine landscape. The final bars pose a question paralleling that of Conan Doyle in the story - have we really seen the last of Sherlock Holmes?

The final movement, **The Great Race**, follows Phileas Fogg on the last stage of his epic journey "Around the World in Eighty Days" (from the novel by Jules Verne).

The moto perpetuo nature of the music gives full rein to the soloist's technical virtuosity. As the work draws to a conclusion, the frantic scramble by Fogg to meet his deadline at the Reform Club in Pall Mall, London, is echoed by the soloist's increasingly demanding ascending figuration, set against the background of Big Ben clock chimes.

The concerto is dedicated to the aforementioned family members, three "extraordinary gentlemen", P.G. Graham, T.H. Stewart and T. Stewart.

Peter Graham is Professor of Composition at the University of Salford, Greater Manchester, England



IN LEAGUE WITH EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN was first performed by Steven Mead and the Osaka Municipal Symphonic Band, conductor Kazuhiko Komatsu, in The Symphony Hall Osaka, Japan, on June 6, 2008.

Steven Mead and Tomoko Sawano (piano) have recorded the work on the CD **Audacious**, BOCC110

IN LEAGUE WITH EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN is also available with wind band (Orchestral version in preparation)

IN LEAGUE WITH EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN (CONCERTO FOR EUPHONIUM AND PIANO)

I - THE TIME TRAVELLER

PETER GRAHAM

Allegro ♩ = c.116

Euphonium

Piano

mp

9

Euph.

Pno.

17

Euph.

Pno.

A

p

25

Euph.

Pno.

In League with Extraordinary Gentlemen

31

Euph.

Pno.

cresc.

cresc.

37

Euph.

Pno.

42

Euph.

Pno.

B

f

f

46

Euph.

Pno.

mf

mf

50

Euph.

Pno.

55

C

Euph.

Pno.

mp

60

Euph.

Pno.

mf

Ped.

64

Euph.

Pno.

mf

mf

3

Ped.

II - THE FINAL PROBLEM

Adagio ♩ = 76

1

Euphonium

Piano

mp *p*

9

Euph.

Pno.

15 **A** *senza misura*

Euph.

Pno.

mf *mp* *p*

c. 6' Digital delay

16

Euph.

mf *mp* *p* *mf*

c. 6' Digital delay

B *Andante* ♩ = c.86

17

Euph.

Pno.

mp *mp*

* For (optional) effect use Boss DD-3 or similar

III - THE GREAT RACE

Vivace ♩ = c.152

1

Euphonium

Piano

4

Euph.

Pno.

7

Euph.

Pno.

9 **A**

Euph.

Pno.

In League with Extraordinary Gentlemen

11

Euph.

Pno.

13

Euph.

Pno.

15

Euph.

Pno.

17

Euph.

Pno.

19

Euph.

Pno.



21

Euph.

Pno.



23

Euph.

Pno.



25

B

Euph.

Pno.

f *mf* *tr*

f *mf*

Ped.



100

Euph.

Pno.

ff

mp

102

Euph.

Pno.

fp

fp

105

Euph.

Pno.

fp

f

mp

cresc.

f

Cadenza

108

Euph.

f

pp

mp

f

pp

8va

8vb

111

Euph.

mp

ff

mf

mp

In League with Extraordinary Gentlemen

A tempo

tr

Euph. 114

I *p* *mp*

Euph. 117

mf

Pno.

f

Euph. 120

(tr)

Optional

p cresc.

Pno.

Euph. 122

mf

Pno.

Euph. 124

mf *ff*

Pno. *ff* L.H.