

for Joel Ashford
Comic Book Fanfares
 for Solo Horn in F

MARTIN BUTLER

Precipitato ♩ = 138

Musical score for the 'Precipitato' section (measures 1-16). The piece is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 138 beats per minute. It begins with a *ff* dynamic. The first line (measures 1-4) features a melodic line with triplets and a change to 3/4 time. The second line (measures 5-8) continues with triplets and a *ffz* dynamic. The third line (measures 9-12) includes a change to 3/4 time and returns to *ff*. The fourth line (measures 13-16) features a rapid sixteenth-note passage starting with *p*, followed by *ff* dynamics and a change to 5/4 time.

Calmo ♩ = 120

Musical score for the 'Calmo' section (measures 17-30). The tempo is 120 beats per minute. The first line (measures 17-21) starts with *pp* and includes a triplet. The second line (measures 22-26) begins with *sim., espress.* and includes a triplet. The third line (measures 27-30) concludes with a triplet and a *pp* dynamic.

Composer's note: *Comic Book Fanfares* is a 9-minute fantasy for horn, by turns elegiac and broadly comedic. In 1993–4 I wrote a comic opera (called *Craig's Progress*) peopled with comic book characters. The hero, Craig, had his own brand of 'heroic' music—slightly pompous, naive, energetic and youthful—and was 'represented' in the orchestra by the horn, that quintessential sonic icon of heroism. *Comic Book Fanfares* uses a couple of ideas from Craig's music and weaves them into a portrait that's really a fond reminiscence, but also a salute to the heroic in all of us. It was completed in September 2016, and written for Joel Ashford through Third Ear's 'greater than' commissioning initiative.

Duration: 9 mins

31 *p* *animato* *pp*

36 *sf*

39 *sf* *sf* *sf* *sim.*

41 *f*

43 *ff*

46 *calmo* *p* *p*

51 *pp* *ppp* *p* *Animato* ♩ = 138

57 *ff sost.*

61 *meno f* *f* *ff*