

MUSIC FOR BRASS

BY

PETER GRAHAM

Force of Nature

**Concerto for
Euphonium and Piano**

Gramercy Music (UK)

PO Box 41 • Cheadle Hulme • Cheshire SK8 5HF

Tel:/Fax: + 44 (0) 161 486 1959

www.gramercymusic.com

email: info@gramercymusic.com

Programme Note

In his writings Ernest Hemingway defined the American hero for a generation. He created a new type of fictional character - a “man’s man” - a hard drinking pugilist who enjoyed bullfights, big game hunting, deep-sea fishing and other “macho” pursuits. In many respects Hemingway was the living embodiment of his creation, though his somewhat idealised life ended in suicide on July 2nd 1961 and the chapter on this **Force of Nature** came to a close. The concerto reflects upon moments in this extraordinary life.

I - Matador – the traditions of the Spanish bullfight fascinated Hemingway. He wrote frequently on the subject, going beyond the superficial and exploring at a deeper level the nature of fear and courage. This flamenco-inspired music equally contrasts moments of uncertainty and resolve.

II – Wayfarer (*Reflections on Poor Wayfaring Stranger*) – the tensions of Hemingway's early life in the midwest suburb of Oak Park (a town he reputedly described as “narrow-minded”) fuelled his wanderlust. At the age of 18 he arrived at the Italian Front, serving as an ambulance driver. Within days he was seriously wounded and the horrors of war put paid to adolescent illusions of immortality.

III - Pilar - Hemingway's beloved boat *Pilar* could cut through the waves off the coast of Cuba at sixteen knots full-out. The music conjures up the thrill of the chase as the great fish hoves into view.

Force of Nature was written for David Childs.

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, the *President's Award* (from both the National Association of Brass Bands America and the Scottish Brass Band Association) and the *Iles Medal* of the Worshipful Company of Musicians.

Force of Nature (duration c. 14:00 mins)
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For David Childs

Force of Nature

Concerto for Euphonium

I - Matador

PETER GRAHAM

In free time

Euphonium B♭

Piano

f *mp* *f*

Ped.

This system contains the first four measures of the piece. The Euphonium B♭ part begins with a forte (*f*) sixteenth-note scale, followed by a mezzo-piano (*mp*) half note, and then another forte (*f*) sixteenth-note scale. The Piano part provides harmonic support with chords and sustained notes, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. A pedal point is indicated by a 'Ped.' line with a brace underneath the piano part.

Euph.

Pno.

f *p cresc.*

A

3 6

Ped.

This system contains measures 5 through 7. The Euphonium part features a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes (marked '3') and a sextuplet of eighth notes (marked '6'), followed by a crescendo leading to a piano (*p*) section. A box labeled 'A' is placed above the sextuplet. The Piano part continues with sustained chords, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. A pedal point is indicated by a 'Ped.' line with a brace underneath the piano part.

Euph.

Pno.

f *mp* *rall.*

3

Ped.

This system contains measures 8 through 11. The Euphonium part begins with a forte (*f*) melodic line, followed by a mezzo-piano (*mp*) section with a triplet of eighth notes (marked '3'), and then a rallentando (*rall.*) section. The Piano part provides accompaniment with chords and sustained notes, marked with a forte (*f*) and mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. A pedal point is indicated by a 'Ped.' line with a brace underneath the piano part.

B Tempo ♩ = c.68

Euph. ¹²

Pno.

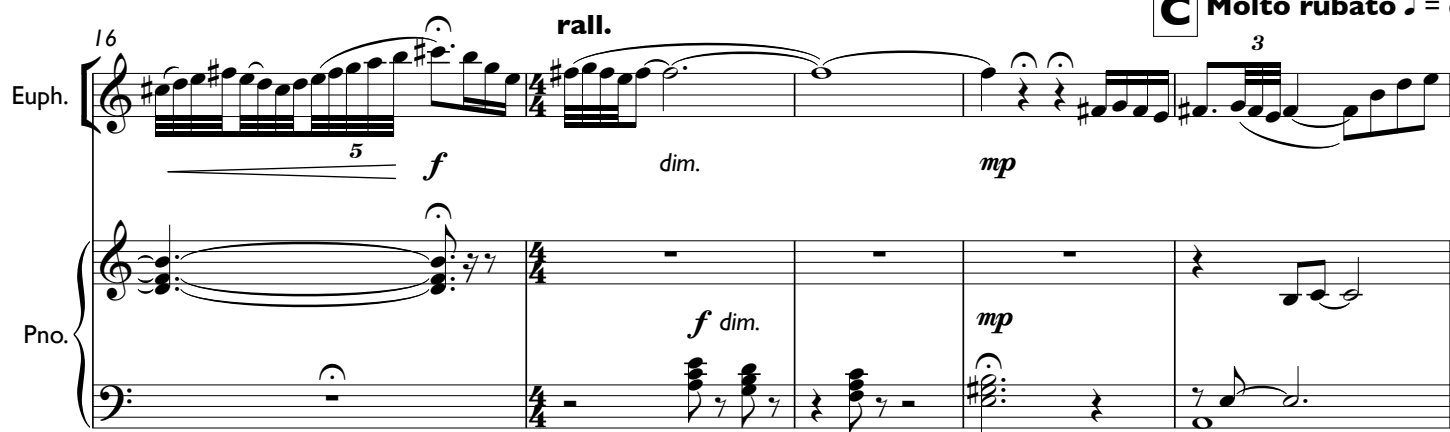
**C** Molto rubato ♩ = c.60

Euph. ¹⁶ *rall.*

Pno.

f *dim.* *mp*

f dim. *mp*



Euph. ²¹

Pno.



Euph. ²⁴

Pno.



55

Euph.

Pno.

G Allegro $\text{♩} = c.63$

60

Euph.

Pno.

H

67

Euph.

Pno.

72

Euph.

Pno.

I **Energico** ♩ = c.76

76

Euph. *f* *mp*

Pno. *f* *mp*

78

Euph.

Pno.

80

Euph. *f* *mf*

Pno. *f*

J

82

Euph.

Pno. *mf*

Euph. *107*

Pno.

This system contains measures 107 and 108. The Euphonium part features a complex melodic line with multiple triplet markings (groups of three notes beamed together) and various accidentals. The Piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand.

Euph. *109*

Pno.

This system contains measures 109 and 110. The Euphonium part continues with triplet patterns. The Piano part in measure 109 has a treble clef staff with a single chord and a bass clef staff with a whole note chord. In measure 110, the treble staff is empty, and the bass staff contains a whole note chord.

Euph. *110*

Pno.

f

This system contains measures 111 and 112. The Euphonium part includes trills (marked with a wavy line and 'tr') and slurs. The Piano part features a strong *f* (forte) dynamic, with chords in the right hand and a moving eighth-note bass line in the left hand.

Euph. *112*

Pno.

This system contains measures 113 and 114. The Euphonium part features a long trill in measure 113. The Piano part continues with chords and a moving bass line, ending with a double bar line in measure 114.

II - Wayfarer

(Reflections on Poor Wayfaring Stranger)

Mesto e cantabile ♩ = c.63

Euph.

Pno.

mp

mf

Ped.

Euph.

Pno.

dim.

mp

rit.

Poco più mosso ♩ = c.72

Ped.

Euph.

Pno.

mp

mp

A

Ped.

14 **B**

Euph.

Pno.

mf

Ped.

19

Euph.

Pno.

mp

Ped.

25

Euph.

Pno.

Ped.

30 **C**

Euph.

Pno.

Ped.

III - Marlin

Con brio ♩ = c.152**A**

Euph. *mf*

Pno. *f* *mf*

Euph. 8

Pno. *f*

Euph. 15 **B** *mp*

Pno. *mp*

21

Euph.

Pno.

27

Euph.

Pno.

C

33

Euph.

Pno.

mf

39

Euph.

Pno.

D

mp *mf*

Euph. 44 *mp* 4 4 4 4 4 4

Pno. *mp* 2 2 2 2

Euph. 49 *mf* *mp* 4 4 4 4 4 4 *mf*

Pno. *mf* 2 2 2 2

Euph. 54 *f* 4 4

Pno. *f* 2 2 2 2

E

Euph. 60 *mf*

Pno. *sfz*

216

Euph.

Pno.

mf

223

Euph.

Pno.

mf

230

Euph.

Pno.

cresc.

236

S

Con brio ♩. = c.152

Euph.

Pno.

f

mp subito

Red.

243

Euph.

Pno.

249

Euph.

Pno.

T **Piu mosso** ♩ = c.160

cresc.

f

Ped.

ossia

mp

mp

fp

f

Ped.

8^{va}

262

Euph.

f

Pno.

f

ff