



CONTRASTS

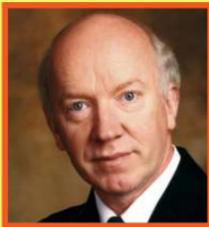
ORIGINAL WORKS FOR SOLO TROMBONE AND BRASS BAND

BRETT BAKER • TROMBONE

BLACK DYKE BAND
PROFESSOR NICHOLAS J CHILDS

TROMBONE TIME - KENNETH DOWNIE

This piece was commissioned by Brett Baker, and gives scope for virtuosic as well as lyrical playing. It is in one continuous movement, but falls neatly into three sections. The outer two are lively and occasionally light-hearted, requiring a wide range of notes and dynamics. A singing style is called for in the middle section, where the warmth and breath of the instrument are exploited. There is a reprise of the earlier material in the final section, before the music reaches an energetic conclusion.



Kenneth Downie was born in Glasgow and educated at Greenock High School, the Royal Manchester College of Music and Durham University. He then became a specialist music teacher in schools before leaving his position as Head of Music at Poole Grammar School to go into the jewellery business in 1976. In July 2001 Kenneth was appointed as 'creative consultant' to The Salvation Army's Music Ministries department in London with special responsibility for the nurture of promising young composers.

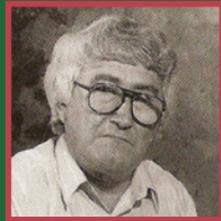
His published compositions, now numbering over 50, span a period of 30 years and are mainly for brass band or choir. In 1998 and 2000 his *Purcell Variations* and *Music for the Common Man* were chosen as First Section regional test pieces for the National Brass Band Championships.

In April 2006, a tribute CD from The International Staff Band of The Salvation Army was released on the SP&S label. The CD, *St Magnus*, includes the first studio recording of that music which was the test piece for the Championship Section of the 2004 European Brass Band Championships.

In May 2007, it was announced that Kenneth Downie had been commissioned and had written the test piece for the 2007 British Open Brass Band Championship. *Visions of Gerontius* is based on the hymn tune *Gerontius* of John Bacchus Dykes.

RHAPSODY FOR TROMBONE - GORDON LANGFORD

Langford's *Rhapsody for Trombone* is one of the most popular and accessible pieces written for solo trombone and brass band, though this in no way makes it an easy piece to play. Dating from 1975 the Rhapsody was the result of a commission by Geoffrey Brand for a new work for trombone to be performed by Don Lusher at the National Brass Band Finals Gala Concert at the Royal Albert Hall. Though no stranger to brass bands being originally brought up in the Salvation Army, this was an honour and refreshing change for Don. Born in Peterborough in 1923, the young Lusher was passionate about the sound of the brass band and had tried out most band instruments before settling on the trombone aged six. Don was, until his death in 2006 a great ambassador for the instrument. A former member of the great Ted Heath Band, leader of his own big band featuring many former Ted Heath players, he was passionate about the British Trombone Society members and he was twice its President. Don inspired generations of players and listeners alike.



Gordon Langford was born in 1930 in North London with the name Gordon Coleman and after beginning piano lessons at the age of five, he went on to study composition, piano and trombone at the Royal Academy of Music. Langford produced compositions and arrangements for film, theatre, television, radio and an enormous amount for brass band. For many years associated with the BBC radio programme *Friday Night is Music Night*, Langford's imaginative and ingenious technique is familiar to millions.

T THE GUARDIAN – PETER GRAHAM

The Guardian was dedicated to the composer's brother, Paul Graham, and premièred by Charles Baker with the New York Staff Band in The Pavilion, Old Orchard Beach, Maine, in 1983. Rhapsodic in construction, the work is based upon a setting by Ray Bowes of the well-known hymn *Jesus Loves Me*. The title is taken from the final verse of the hymn: '*Jesus loves me! He will stay close beside me all the way.*'

Peter Graham (b. 1958) is one of the leading composers for brass bands and was professor of composition at the University of Salford for over 20 years. Graham was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland studying at the University of Edinburgh and then undertook postgraduate studies with Edward Gregson at Goldsmiths College, University of London.



From 1983 until 1986 he lived in New York City, where he worked as a freelance composer/arranger and as a publications editor with the SA Music Bureau.

Since his return to the UK, he has worked regularly as an arranger for BBC Television and Radio and has specialised in composition for the British style brass band. Since the publication of *Dimensions* (1983) he has carved out a niche as an outstanding composer and arranger for brass bands, and a leading figure amongst contemporary band composers. His original compositions, which include *The Essence of Time*, *Montage* and *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*, are performed worldwide and have been selected as test-pieces for National Championships in Australia, New Zealand, North America and across Europe.



S SERENADE FOR TROMBONE – JOHN GOLLAND

John Golland was born in Ashton-under-Lyne on 14th September 1942. He was an only child, who suffered problems with his sight until the age of 26. Golland was educated at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Dukinfield, moving to De La Salle College, Salford, on a scholarship aged 11. At de la Salle he was taught piano by the school music-master and began to learn the violin and recorder; he also began to compose and to arrange hymns for the annual speech days. In 1960 he attended teacher training college in Oldham (also De La Salle), beginning his first job as a music teacher at St Anselm's School, Oldham in 1964. He also studied part-time at the Royal Manchester College of Music, with Thomas Pitfield (for composition) and Marjorie Clementi (for piano).



In his 20s Golland joined the Stalybridge Band, learning the euphonium; thereafter he regularly wrote and arranged for both brass and wind band. He conducted the Boarshurst Band and was later the Music Master of the West Hill Band and Choir (Mossley Brow). He also directed the City of Chester Band, Foden's, James Shepherd Versatile Brass, Dobcross Band and the W. Harrison Transport Rockingham Band. He conducted frequently in Switzerland from 1975 onwards, many of his works having been written for bands as a result.

Initially Golland taught in schools full time, but from 1970 concentrated on composition and his work with brass bands. His best-known band works include *Sounds*, *Atmospheres*, *Fives and Threes*, *Rêves d'Enfants*, and *Concertos* for euphonium and for flugel horn. In addition, he wrote and arranged incidental music for television (*Dear Ladies*), and for young people, including a children's opera, *The Selfish Giant*. In the late 1980s he resumed teaching, in the department of Media Studies at Salford College of Technology. Golland died 14th April 1993, after a long illness.

DANCE SEQUENCE – GARETH WOOD

Gareth Wood was born in Cilfynydd, Wales in 1950. He studied composition and the double bass at The Royal Academy of Music, joining the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in 1972. Since then Gareth has toured extensively with the orchestra, appearing at all the world's major music festivals. He has also played for many of the world's greatest conductors, such as Stokowski, Kempe, Karl Bohm, Haitink, Solti and has performed the "Ring" cycle at English National Opera with Reginald Goodall. He became Chairman of the Royal Philharmonic in 1991, a post he held for three years.



As a composer, he first came to the attention of the public in 1975 when his overture *Tombstone, Arizona* was performed at the Royal Albert Hall during the National Brass Band Festival. Many works for band followed and included test-pieces for the 1977 Butlins Youth Band Contest, the 1980 New Zealand Brass Band Championships and the 1992 European Championships.

In 1981, his overture *Suffolk Punch*, a commission by the Royal Philharmonic, was premiered in Ipswich where the work was encored. 1982 was the centenary of the famous Gunfight at the O.K. Corral and Gareth re-arranged his overture *Tombstone* for the University of Arizona Symphonic Wind Band and it was actually played in the O.K. Corral the very day of the anniversary!

His work **Dance Sequence** was written for the great Don Lusher in 1980 and due to difficult band accompaniments has rarely been heard on the concert platform.

TROMBANGO – STEPHEN ROBERTS

Trombango was written for Brett Baker in 2015 and draws on the dance form of the Argentine tango. It was premiered in Norway in 2016. It is rhapsodic in nature, with the soloist having the option of stamping his feet in the trade-mark tango rhythm, as well as exploring the wide expressive range of the trombone.

Stephen Roberts was born in London and studied at the Royal College of Music with Alan Civil and composition at Birmingham University.



He is a founder member of the Fine Arts Brass and has been responsible for

many of the ensemble's musical arrangements. As well as playing the horn, he is also known as a composer and conductor and has written works for a variety of artists and orchestras, including recent symphonic works for the BBC Symphony Orchestra and English Symphony Orchestra and two test pieces for the British Open Brass Band Championships.



C ONTRASTS – JAN VAN DER ROOST

Contrasts was written and dedicated for trombone soloist Dr Brett Baker. As the title indicates, contrasting elements characterise this challenging piece. The slow movement *Sounds* has a somewhat dark and sombre atmosphere and contains complex harmonies and special sound effects. Several contemporary playing techniques (like quarter tones for example) are used in the solo part, thus displaying the versatility of the trombone as a solo instrument. Although some more lyrical moments occur, the overall mood is rather serious and loaded. By using various mutes, the sound is colourful and sometimes even atypical for what we expect from a brass band. In contrast, the introduction to the second movement, *Caprice*, is energetic and dynamic with the soloist challenged by some technically demanding moments. The light-hearted and almost humorous character of this second part is striking and it brings us back to a more "typical" musical style. This movement also includes some melodic passages, but overall could be described as "entertaining, virtuosic and somewhat whimsical". Quite a contrast indeed with the first movement: the trombone really has different faces!



Jan Van der Roost was born in Duffel, Belgium, in 1956. At a very young age he was introduced to the repertoire of many of the frequently performed composers in the concert band, fanfare band and brass band genre which inspired him to put something on paper himself. He studied trombone, music history and musical education at the Lemmensinstituut in Leuven (Louvain). He continued his studies at the Royal Conservatoires of Ghent and Antwerp, where he qualified as a conductor and a composer.

He currently teaches at the Lemmensinstituut in Leuven, is special visiting professor at the Shobi Institute of Music in Tokyo, guest professor at the Nagoya University of Art and guest professor at Senzoku Gakuen in Kawasaki (Japan). Besides being a prolific composer, he is also very much in demand as an adjudicator, lecturer, workshop leader and guest conductor. His musical activities have taken place in more than 45 countries in four continents and his compositions have been performed and recorded around the world.

DR L BRETT BAKER

"The name Brett Baker has become an established, household name in the world of brass, not least for the level of commitment and focus that this outstanding musician has given to his craft."

Professor David King

Englishman Brett Baker (b. 1973), is viewed internationally as a leading brass performer and educator. He is passionate about encouraging composers to write pioneering new repertoire and one of the most recorded brass soloists. Brett is Programme Leader for Musical Arts at the University of Salford (Manchester). He continues to be an ambassador for Michael Rath Brass Instruments and is Principal Trombone of the world famous Black Dyke Band. He is Festival Director of both the Singapore and Thailand Low Brass Festivals and is a past President of the British Trombone Society (BTS). Brett has performed with singers such as Alison Goldfrapp and Hayley Westenra, trumpet soloist Alison Balsom and other world class trombone soloists including Ian Bousfield, Wycliffe Gordon, Christian Lindberg and Joseph Alessi.

Originally from the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, Brett studied at the University of Salford, simultaneously joining Fairey Band in 1992, conducted by Major Peter Parkes, with whom he had many contest successes including an historic treble in 1993/4. At Salford he was taught by Professor David King, whilst also studying for a degree in Business Economics.

In 2000 he was invited to join Black Dyke Band by Professor Nicholas Childs, achieving enviable contest successes. Now, as well as a performance schedule of 60 concerts a year, Brett enjoys presenting workshops, specialising in solo performance and band training. His research includes trombone solo repertoire, trombone instrument design through modular assembly and the psychology of performance. Brett has produced over 30 solo albums, eight under his own label of White River Evocations, which produces and distributes CDs. He has performed as guest soloist on a further 46 CDs. He has produced four sheet music trombone solo albums and many arrangements for trombone and piano. He regularly tours in the USA, Europe, Australia and New Zealand as a soloist.



As a consultant, Brett has worked with Michael Rath Musical Instruments for over 10 years on instrument design and has assisted in production of a signature mouthpiece.

As a conductor, Brett has many associations with bands in the North of England, and has achieved contest successes with Northop, Ratby and Longridge bands. He has been guest conductor of the University of Salford Brass Band, the brass band at the Royal Northern College of Music, Thoresby Colliery, Carlton Main Frickley Colliery and Leyland Band. In 2014 Brett conducted Tongwynlais Temperance at the National Finals of Great Britain in the Royal Albert Hall, London. Brett is currently conductor of the University of Salford Symphonic Wind Band.

As an adjudicator, Brett has judged the International Trombone Association in the USA, the National Solo Championships in Switzerland, many Association contests, the National Finals in the Netherlands, New Zealand and Australia, and most Area Qualifiers for the National Championships of Great Britain.

PROFESSOR NICHOLAS J. CHILDS

DMA, MA, FLCM, ARCM (Hons)

Heralded as a leading figure in the worldwide brass community, Prof. Nicholas Childs (DMA - Conducting, University of Salford) has rightfully achieved the highest international reputation as a performer, teacher-clinician, conductor, interpreter and advocate of new music, and producer of pacesetting recordings.

Initial success came as a euphonium soloist and partner with his talented brother, Dr Robert Childs, who together have toured the world as The Childs Brothers, performing in many of the world's most famous concert halls with the most prestigious bands and orchestras. Taking up the baton as a brass band conductor, Nicholas has had phenomenal success with many brass bands, including highly acclaimed regional and national championships.

His current tenure as Principal Conductor and Music Director of the famous Black Dyke Band has been marked with significant contest success, as well as a series of innovative concerts, world premieres, and recordings of major works for brass band with a variety of soloists and musical combinations. Not content with these activities, Prof. Childs is in great demand as a teacher, clinician, and consultant throughout the academic community.

BLACK DYKE BAND

Located in the Yorkshire village of Queensbury, Black Dyke Band holds the highest rank in the worldwide brass band community. Critics have rightfully declared it to 'stand alone' in the history of brass bands. Starting in 1816 as a brass and reed band, the modern brass band sites its founding year as 1855, under the title Black Dyke Mills Band, named after the firm run by John Foster and Sons that sponsored the group. The band's heralded story told in 150 Golden Years (1855-2005) by one of its former conductors, the late Dr Roy Newsome, demonstrates a band that has dominated the British contest arena from its earliest days.

Not content to rest on past laurels, Black Dyke has continued to garner significant wins under its current Music Director, Prof. Nicholas Childs, who took on musical leadership of the band in the autumn of 2000. In 2015, the band became European Champion Band for the 13th time. Although they have not entered the contest every year, in 2014 the band, for the 30th time, was declared British Open Champion at Symphony Hall, Birmingham. The band has also been National Champion of Great Britain on 23 occasions, most recently in October 2014, becoming Double Champions in 2014. In 2009, and again in 2011, 2012 and 2013, it became Champion Band at the English National Championships.

Black Dyke Band is the most recorded band in the world, with over 350 recordings and the number growing every year. Under Prof. Childs, it has received multiple CD of the Year awards in the brass press. One mark of the band's reputation came in August 2007 when Black Dyke was invited to take part in the BBC Promenade Concerts at the Royal Albert Hall, London. The band has appeared in major concert halls around the world from New York to Tokyo. Its performing and recording schedule can be considered among the busiest and most productive of any British brass band.

In 2006, as part of its initiative to sponsor the work of young people, Black Dyke Band, under the guidance of Prof. Nicholas Childs assisted by qualified members, formed the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band. The purpose of the enterprise is to inspire and motivate young people aged 11 to 21 in full time education to achieve their full potential as musicians, composers and citizens.

The band takes its logo of the stag's head and Latin quotation from the armorial bearings granted in 1857 to John Foster, founder of the band. The quotation translates to... **"ACT JUSTLY AND FEAR NOTHING"**

CONTRASTS

ORIGINAL WORKS FOR SOLO TROMBONE AND BRASS BAND

- | | | | |
|------|---|-------------------|-------|
| 1. | TROMBONE TIME © Kantara Musik
<i>Première Recording</i> | Kenneth Downie | 7.00 |
| 2. | RHAPSODY FOR TROMBONE © Chandos | Gordon Langford | 12.34 |
| 3. | THE GUARDIAN © SP&S | Peter Graham | 6.37 |
| 4. | SERENADE FOR TROMBONE © Hallamshire Music
<i>Première Recording</i> | John Golland | 6.06 |
| 5. | DANCE SEQUENCE © Rosehill | Gareth Wood | 10.07 |
| 6. | TROMBANGO © Tanglewind
<i>Première Recording</i> | Stephen Roberts | 7.14 |
| 7-8. | CONTRASTS © De Haske
<i>Première Recording</i> | Jan Van der Roost | |
| | <i>i. Sounds</i> | | 10.21 |
| | <i>ii. Caprice</i> | | 6.14 |

Executive Producer: Trevor Cafull
Producer and Engineer: Richard Scott
Co-Producer: Brett Baker
Assistant Engineer: Phil Hardman
Post-Production: Richard Scott

Production Manager: Nicki Tonge
Project Coordinator: Mari Malm Morkved
Photography: Jonathan Malits
Artwork and Design: GK Creative
Recorded by World of Sound at Dewsbury and Morley Town Halls
during 2017 and 2018