

Precis

BRASS IN ST DAVID'S

Friday 18 February 7.30pm, St David's Cathedral, Hobart

Fabian Russell conductor

TSO Brass and Percussion

BYRD (arr HOWARTH) The Earle of Oxford's March (5')

BARBER Mutations from Bach (7')

JONES The Empress (5')

TERRACINI Concerto for Brass (14')

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HOVHANESS Requiem and Resurrection (15')

HARRISON Triple Threat for Brass and Percussion (9')

PARKER A Londoner in New York (excerpts) (8')

The Earl of Oxford cited in the title of the opening work was none other than poet Edward de Vere (1550-1604), thought by some to have authored plays attributed to William Shakespeare. For a period he was the landlord of composer William Byrd (c1540-1623). The Earle of Oxford's March (which is also known as The March before the Battle) was originally written for virginal, a smaller type of harpsichord. It is heard here in a brass arrangement by composer, arranger and conductor Elgar Howarth (born 1935).

Composed in 1967, Mutations from Bach is by American composer Samuel Barber (1910-1981). The melody that underscores the piece (and heard in full at the beginning) is the 16th-century Lutheran hymn tune *Christe, du Lamm Gottes* (Christ, thou Lamb of God). It is a tune that predates JS Bach (1685-1750) but was used by him in several of his works. Barber takes fragments of these various settings from Bach and varies (or 'mutates') them as the work unfolds.

When he's not playing Principal Tuba in the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, Tim Jones (born 1969) is busy composing in arranging. Tonight's concert offers the world première of *The Empress*, which Tim describes as follows: 'The Empress is a piece celebrating the concept of Mother Earth. It could be a real person or a Goddess. It is a lot of creative energy distilled into 5 minutes.'

The Concerto for Brass by Sydney-based composer Paul Terracini (born 1957) is in three movements: *Allegro barbaro*, *Pange lingua* and *Presto*. The outer movements are colourful and vibrant – note that in addition to brass ensemble, the instrumentation calls for timpani and percussion – while the middle movement (which is for brass ensemble alone) is based upon the haunting ancient plainsong *Pange lingua*.

Alan Hovhaness (1911-2000) was an American composer of Scottish-Armenian descent. He found inspiration in religious and mystical traditions, non-Western music and pre-tonal practices in Western music. His *Requiem and Resurrection*, which was composed in 1968, begins in sepulchral registers, slowly rising to a solemn though jubilant close, with some ecstatic episodes en route.

Holly Harrison (born 1988), who recently held the position of Composer in Residence with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, wrote *Triple Threat* specifically for TSO Brass and Percussion. She describes the piece as follows: 'It aims to highlight the diverse strengths of the brass section, showcasing agility and virtuosity, lyrical beauty and a cheeky playfulness. As the title suggests, the work is in three movements, each conjuring up a contrasting sound world. A 'triple threat' usually describes an all-round performer or sports star, but in this context refers to the flexibility of brass across three different settings. No singing or dancing to see here!'

English composer Jim Parker (born 1934) offers contrasting impressions of the Big Apple in *A Londoner in New York*. In this concert, we hear *Chrysler Building*, an ode to the city's most elegant Art Deco skyscraper, and *Grand Central*, which captures the forward momentum of a steam locomotive – a thing of the past when Parker composed the suite, in 1987, but somehow suitable for a grande dame like Grand Central Station.

Robert Gibson, Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, © 2022

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PARKER A Londoner in New York (excerpts)

French Horn

Greg Stephens*

Philip Paine#

Jules Evans

Roger Jackson

Wendy Page

Trumpet

Yoram Levy*

Darcy O'Malley#

Mark Bain

Glenn Schultz

Melanie Wilkinson

Trombone

David Robins*

Jackson Bankovic

Iain Faragher

Bass Trombone

Mitchell Nissen*

Tuba

Tim Jones*

Timpani

Matthew Goddard*

Percussion

Gary Wain*

Tracey Patten

Drum Kit

Stephen Marskell#

* principal player

guest principal