**Partita**

The original version of *Partita* was written for brass band in 1971.  The version for symphonic wind band was made by Geoffrey Brand in 1999, specially for the G&M Brand wind series.

The musical thread that runs through the work is the 13th century plainsong *Dies Irae* from the Requiem Mass. This gives the work a rather sombre tone which is audible right from the start of its first movement *Intrada*. The initial hammer-like chords of the opening and conclusion are only interrupted momentarily by a more lyrical modal tune. Even here, on its repetition, it is surrounded by more insistent textural patterns.

The second movement, *Chorale and Variations*, uses the*Dies Irae* as the basis for an extended melody in the manner of a baroque sarabande. The five variations that follow are varied in texture, tempi, and dynamics. The final *March* is more optimistic in mood and presents as its main idea a rather jaunty theme which gets developed throughout the movement. However, the ominous presence of the *Dies Irae*has the last say with a final statement to round off the work.

© Edward Gregson