**Patterns**

Building musical paragraphs using short, irregular rhythmical patterns became a favourite Gregson formula in the early 1970s. The work called *Patterms* is the clearest and most disciplined example. By limiting himself to a single musical motif, heard at the outset on trombones, Gregson was able to offer a true test of technique and musicianship in a concise three part structure. The opening is another Gregson prelude. The alternating patterns of 3s, 4s, 5s and 7s are bonded by a constant quaver pulse.

The music here possesses a neo-classical, pristine quality. In the central episode, the same triadic figure is transformed into a lilting barcarolle-like dialogue beginning on solo cornet and horn. When the whole band becomes involved, the trombones add a moment of bi-tonal ambiguity, which sets in motion an exuberant Latin dance and final flourish. *Patterns* was commissioned by the Butlins Youth Brass Band Championships for the 1974 competition at the Royal Albert Hall.

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