**Trombone Concerto**

**(brass band version)**

My Trombone Concerto was originally written in 1979 to a commission from Bedfordshire Education Service, for a new work for Michael Hext, winner of the first *BBC Young Musician of the Year* competition. This version for brass band was commissioned by Nicholas Childs, Music Director of the Black Dyke Band, specially for Brett Baker, the then principal trombone of the band. He has recorded it on the Doyen label with the Black Dyke Band.

The work falls into three main sections, played without a break, but conforming to the traditional pattern of concerto structure. After a slow introduction, containing most of the motivic and rhythmic ideas used in the work, there follows the main fast section which is itself divided into three parts and concludes with a fierce climax (timpani and gong). The slow and rather intense middle section is linked to a cadenza for the soloist, at first unaccompanied but leading to accompanied references to earlier material. The final section is a scherzo which ends dramatically with a re-statement of the opening slow introduction. A brisk coda concludes the work. The interval of a fourth (and its augmented form) provides melodic and harmonic unity for the work, whilst the tonal juxtaposition between E minor and B flat major throughout the concerto is an important element of the structure.

The writing for trombone is virtuosic, encompassing the whole range of the instrument, but it also exploits the rather beautiful lyrical sound of which this instrument is capable.

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