

The Sonata for Unaccompanied Tenor Trombone was written in 1983-4 and received its premier at the Festival de La Rochelle, France, on June 23rd 1984. My original intention had been to write a set of concert studies, to help introduce advanced players to "extended techniques": however, I found this a rather dry task and the material quickly developed into a 3 movement recital piece. The didactic intent reveals itself, however, in the deliberate examination of successive techniques: advanced lip flexibility's, multiphonics, doodle-tonguing, inhaled playing, breath effects, and finally a transfer of didgeridoo technique onto the trombone: circular breathing coupled with continually shifting vowel coloration's of a single pitch.

Formally the 1st movement treats its material in the manner of a baroque fantasia, based upon a melody in the style of an Irish lilt. The 2nd movement is a moto-perpetuo heavily influenced by jazz techniques, and particularly the opening licks characteristic of Frank Rosolino. Whilst these two movements tie the player strictly to heavily notated technical tasks, the 3rd movement is deliberately sparse in its notation, leaving the player free to explore every conceivable permutation of colour and rhythm obtainable within one , unbroken low F#. The melody in multiphonics at the end is a counter-subject to the melody at the heart of the first movement - intended as an exultant relief from the confines of strict notation, so much so that the player must-needs scream! The piece then ends with fragmented chattering, and one final tongue-slap rocketing air through the instrument without any conventional instrumental sound. The Sonata was dedicated to the composer Paul Keenan and the choreographer Jane Noonan, as a wedding present.

John Kenny    September 1995

**John Kenny** Born in 1957 in Birmingham, John is a multi - faceted performer. As a trombonist his interests include contemporary solo repertoire, modern jazz and early music. As a composer he has received many commissions and worked as the Strathclyde composer in residence to the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. He has given recitals and broadcasts throughout Europe, both as soloist and with ensembles. He is a Professor at the Guildhall School of Music, lecturer at Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart and in 1993 was elected Associate of the Royal Academy of Music.