

PETITE SUITE
for Brass Septet

Sibelius often spoke of the happy summers he used to spend in the hospitable home of his Aunt Eveliina in the little southern coastal town of Loviisa. There he could enjoy the congenial company of friends and relatives, with whom small ensembles would be formed to play music. A major portion of his early chamber works were composed at Loviisa during his boyhood and student days. It was there too that certain of the last works of Sibelius's early period saw the light of day, his *Overture* and *Petite Suite* for brass septet, which are documents shedding interesting light on one of the master's developmental stages.

Before the turn of the century, Loviisa was a popular resort, where summer guests took care of their health, bathing and hiking. A brass band conducted by one Christian Haupt gave concerts in the local park. Haupt had played the French horn in the orchestra founded by Robert Kajanus in Helsinki between the years 1882 and 1888, after which he had moved over to Loviisa, presumably in response to Sibelius's urging.

The *Overture* and the three movements of the *Petite Suite* were written during the 1889-91 period for various functions held in Loviisa. The *Andantino* movement was performed at the Tammisaari Music Festival in 1891, where Sibelius was a member of a four-man jury.

The *Overture* and *Petite Suite* were originally composed for a brass septet: a brass band can play them by simply adding to the number of players performing each part. Before the turn of the century, Finnish brass bands often appeared reinforced to formidable size: for instance, in a concert held in October 1891 at the headquarters of the Helsinki Fire Brigade, the brass band comprised of army musicians was no less than 250 strong. Represented in the band were, inter alia, 46 bass tubas, 30 E-flat cornets, 30 first and 20 second cornets as well as alto and tenor horns, euphones and percussion instruments!

Holger Fransman

PETITE SUITE

for Brass Septet

JEAN SIBELIUS

Prelude

Arr. by Holger Fransman

Allegro

Musical score for the first system of the brass septet. It includes parts for Eb Cornet, 1st Bb Cornet, 2nd Bb Cornet, Eb Horn, Tenor Horn, Baritone, and Bb Tuba. The Eb Horn, Tenor Horn, Baritone, and Bb Tuba parts begin with rests, while the three cornet parts start with a forte (f) dynamic and a triplet of eighth notes.

Musical score for the second system, numbered 1 through 7. The parts for the three cornets continue with rhythmic patterns, while the Eb Horn, Tenor Horn, Baritone, and Bb Tuba parts enter with triplet eighth notes.

Musical score for the third system, numbered 1 through 7. The parts for the three cornets continue with rhythmic patterns, while the Eb Horn, Tenor Horn, Baritone, and Bb Tuba parts continue with triplet eighth notes.