Duration: 18 minutes

The original version of this work is for Horn and Brass Band. The score and parts of this version are available on sale from R.Smith & Co. Ltd.

A version for Horn and Orchestra is also available; this may be obtained from the Chester Hire Library, Music Sales Distribution Centre, Newmarket Road, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 3YB Tel: 0284 705705

Composer's Note

This work was commissioned in 1970 by the British Federation of Brass Bands, with funds provided by the Arts Council of Great Britain.

The first movement, marked Allegro Non Troppo, is in sonata form and opens with a rising motif of fourths on the Horn, answered by the band. These two motifs, which constitute the first subject, are important, as much of the ensuing material is developed from them. The second subject is more lyrical and announced by the Horn. The normal development section follows as does the recapitulation section, the second subject this time announced in canon between the Soprano Cornet and Horn.

The entire second movement is built upon the opening Horn melody, heard against an ostinato accompaniment from the band. There are cadenza passages in the middle of the movement but these lead back to the opening melody, heard this time on Soprano and then Solo Cornet, the Horn providing a melodic line of its own.

The last movement is a Rondo. After a short introduction the Horn announces the Rondo theme. There are two episodes, the first has long notes on the Horn, heard against muted Cornets, the second (built on fourths, the interval from which most of the material in the Concerto is derived) is lyrical in character. The final statement of the Rondo tune begins with Soprano but then the Horn takes over and an exciting Coda concludes the work.

Edward Gregson

For Ifor James





