## The Call: The Brass Presented

The Call presents the symphonic brass instruments in all their splendour. In this music the spirit of the brass and their separate personalities are transformed into soloistic passages in which each group is presented in their musical and historical context. "The Call" starts with a summoning, so specific for the origin and tradition of the brass instruments. This "First Call" is followed by the "Introduction", a heroic theme in which the whole section is present.

After the "Introduction", a "Call" is bringing us to the presentation of the trombone section. Historically connected to the human voice, this music, the "Tune", shows us the velvet and flexible nature of the trombones and their blending sound spectrum. A "Call" takes us to the next section, "Fanfare", in which the trumpets are presented. Various aspects of the trumpets are used in this music: their military aspect, the clear melodic voice and the heroic character of the instrument and their players. With a short "Call" the horn section is introduced. Their music is the "Song", in which the beautiful, nostalgic character of the Horns is woven into a long melodic line. Initially all four horns, with their large range, are able to fill the whole harmonic spectrum.

After the "Song" one is already introduced to the last section, the tubas. The tenor tuba, with its flexible, soloistic voice and the bass tuba, the harmonic basis in brass music, play a duo, but are interrupted by the next "Call". This "Call" transforms fluently into the "Chant", an emotional bass melody, in which all instruments, in dark colours though, accompany the tubas.

Again the tuba duo connects us to the "Voices". In this part, all the separate brass voices are woven into a baroque like polyphony, in which the last instrument, the piccolo trumpet is introduced.

The "Final Call" sounds, and brings us the grand finale, the "Passacaglia". Now the solemn voices of the trombones, horns, trumpets, with tuba soli, build into a grandioso theme in which the whole brass, in all its splendour, is presented in their majestic role. Just before the final bars, the Call theme sounds once more......

The Call is dedicated to the American friends of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra.

—Nick Woud Solo Timpanist RCO

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written for the Concertgebouw Orchestra Brass













