

CONCERT GALLOP – Thunderbolt’s Pursuit

Three significant yet seemingly unrelated incidents occurred this year to give life to this new work for trumpet and piano. The first was that I had the good fortune to meet, work with and hear David Hickman perform at the 2010 International Trumpet Guild Conference in Sydney, Australia. At first, I was taken by his kind and approachable nature and the easy manner in which we were able to work together. Then, when I heard him play, I was impressed by his immaculate control and innate musicianship that he was able to project on the instrument. As a composer, I was excited by this extraordinary playing and was immediately keen to write for him.

Not long after this I did some music examining in regional New South Wales and passed through the very small town of Uralla. Uralla is a close-knit rural community that was the birthplace of one of Australia’s most notorious bushrangers, Captain Thunderbolt. While I was in Uralla I read of Thunderbolt’s life and his great ability as a horseman and thought that this would be a terrific story on which to base my new composition.

Soon after my return to Sydney I ran a rehearsal for twelve trumpet students. As the players warmed up one of the trumpeters played the opening of the Gödicke *Concert Etude*. Another joined in ... then another, ... and then another, and it was not long before all twelve were playing the piece in unison from memory. I love how this work has such appeal to so many trumpet players. It is well suited to the trumpet, and the themes are so “catchy.” This spontaneous outburst of joyful music-making inspired me to attempt to create a composition of similar technical demands that would have universal appeal among trumpet players. Hopefully, this will prove to be the case. (B. C.)

BRENDAN COLLINS

Australian composer Brendan Collins grew up in the city of Newcastle (just north of Sydney) and performed Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Trombone Concerto* with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra while a high school student. He later studied trombone and composition at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music with Ron Prussing, Arthur Hubbard, and George Golla. He also won a scholarship to study in Los Angeles with Ralph Sauer, principal trombone of the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

After eleven years as associate principal trombone of the Australia Opera, Collins was appointed composer-in-residence at Barker College in 2005. In 2006 he was the composer-in-residence with the Sydney Youth Orchestra. He has received numerous commissions and prizes. His *Trumpet Mambo*, for trumpet ensemble and percussion, was commissioned by the International Trumpet Guild in 2010.

Trumpet in B \flat

For David Hickman
Concert Gallop
Thunderbolt's Pursuit

Allegro vivace

Brendan Collins

$\text{♩} = 150$



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Trumpet in B♭

2

37 *f*

40 *sub. p*

43 *f* *mf*

46

49 *ff*

53 *p*

57 *mf* *ff*

61

64

68 **3**

78 *esp*

83

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Trumpet in B \flat

87 *cresc.* *opt. 8^{va}*

91 (8) *mf rit.* *a tempo* *cresc.*

95 *ff* *mp*

102 *r*

107

117

122 *cresc.* *mf*

126

130 (8) *Allegro vivace* $\text{♩} = 150$ *pp*

136

140



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