

BRASS

A Heavy Metal Sequence For Fanfare Orchestra

Introduction by the composer

'Brass' is the name of the copper-zinc alloy of which all wind instruments of the fanfare orchestra are made. This composition gives a musical description of various stages on the road from metal ore to music instrument. Since there are several different ways of brass production, I had to make a choice, and I must admit that already this choice doesn't fully reflect reality. To begin with, nowadays most brass products are made from the recycling of scrap material; however, I preferred to begin at the beginning: on the mine scene. And indeed there is a little bit more fantasy involved in this musical description of the sequence of events.

This composition was written for fanfare orchestra *Emergo* from the North-Holland town of Castricum (or, as trombone player Hans Huitenga put it, as a little joke for insiders: for 'Aloysius Castricum's Fanfare Emergo'). I am grateful to this orchestra, not only for commissioning me to write a piece for them but also for giving me the idea for this subject, which actually comes from flugelhorn player Jeroen Zonneveld, one of the orchestra's youngest members.

The piece consists of five movements, linked by short transitions, called 'Transport'. Here is a survey of their titles and what they describe:

I. Blast

At an open mine, all is quiet. Then workers arrive, making preparations for a routine blast; which duly follows.

Transport

A heavy truck transports the blasted ore to the crushing house.

II. Crushing House, Acid and High Voltage

The ore is crushed and then subjected to various processes of dissolving in sulphuric acid and extraction by electrolysis. (In reality, the dissolving process can take several months, so I hope no one will blame me for having considerably shortened this stage in the music.)

Transport

to a 'Brass Mill'.

III. Cast 'n Roll

The metals are melted, blended into brass and a part is cast into moulds. Another part is rolled and hammered into sheets.

Transport

to:

IV. The Music Factory...

The parts are assembled into the various instruments of a fanfare orchestra.

V. ... Award

At last, we hear the result of so much labour, in a broad fugue, starting with the basses and following the reversed score order. An energetic conclusion, with a few 'flashbacks', expresses joy about the existence of so many beautiful brass instruments.

Alexander Comitas, December 2006

Commissioned by Fanfare Orchestra 'Muziekvereniging *Emergo*', Castricum, on the occasion of their 100th anniversary, with financial support from COMPAM
Dedicated to Fanfare Orchestra 'Muziekvereniging *Emergo*', Castricum and Willem van Kooi
First performance: 30 March 2008; Philharmonie, Alkmaar
Duration: ca. 17 min.

LIST OF PLAYERS

Soprano Saxophone in B \flat
Alto Saxophone I in E \flat
Alto Saxophone II in E \flat
Tenor Saxophone I in B \flat
Tenor Saxophone II in B \flat
Baritone Saxophone in E \flat
Flugelhorn I in B \flat
Flugelhorn II in B \flat
Flugelhorn III in B \flat
Piccolo Trumpet in B \flat
E \flat Trumpet
Trumpet I in B \flat
Trumpet II in B \flat
Trumpet III in B \flat
Horns I - III in F *Parts available in E \flat*
Horns II - IV in F *Parts available in E \flat*
Trombone I *Parts available in C*
Trombone II *Parts available in C*
Trombone III *Parts available in C*
Baritone / Euphonium I in B \flat *Parts available in Bass Clef and Treble Clef*
Baritone / Euphonium II in B \flat *Parts available in Bass Clef and Treble Clef*
E \flat Basses (Bass Tubas) *Parts available in Bass Clef and Treble Clef*
B \flat Basses (Bass Tubas) *Parts available in C and in B \flat , Bass Clef and Treble Clef*
Contrabass (*Optional*), preferably going down to D
PERCUSSION (instruments can be shared by the players):
Percussion I: Timpani, Suspended Cymbal, Glockenspiel
Percussion II: Castanets, 4 Woodblocks, 2 Suspended Cymbals, Snare Drum
Percussion III: Sandblocks, Guïro, Anvil (or a piece of H-beam), Suspended Cymbal, 2 Tomtoms, Marimba
Percussion IV: Bass Drum, Marimba
Percussion V: Bongos, Congas, Pair of Cymbals, Tam-tam, Vibraphone (with motor off)

BRASS

A Heavy Metal Sequence for Fanfare Orchestra

Alexander Comitas,
op. 53 (2006)

I. Blast

1

2

Adagio ♩ = 56

Moderato ♩ = 76

Soprano Saxophone

Alto Saxophone I

Alto Saxophone II

Tenor Saxophone I

Tenor Saxophone II

Baritone Saxophone

Flugelhorn I

Flugelhorn II

Flugelhorn III

B♭ Piccolo Trumpet

E♭ Trumpet

Trumpet I

Trumpet II

Trumpet III

Horns I & III F

Horns II & IV F

Trombone I

Trombone II

Trombone III

B♭ Baritone / Euphonium I

B♭ Baritone / Euphonium II

E♭ Basses

B♭ Basses

Stringbass (Optional)

Percussion I (Timpani, Suspended Cymbal, Glockenspiel)

Percussion II (Castanets, 4 Woodblocks, 2 Suspended Cymbals, Snare Drum)

Percussion III (Sandblocks, Guiro, Anvil, Suspended Cymbal, 2 Tomtoms, Marimba)

Percussion IV (Bass Drum, Marimba)

Percussion V (Bongos, Congas, Pair of Cymbals, Tam-tam, Vibraphone)

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S. Sax.

A. Sax. I

A. Sax. II

T. Sax. I

T. Sax. II

Bar. Sax.

Flug. I

Flug. II

Flug. III

Picc. Trp.

E♭ Trp.

Trp. I

Trp. II

Trp. III

Hn I & III

Hn II & IV

Tbn. I

Tbn. II

Tbn. III

Euph. I

Euph. II

E♭ Basses

B♭ Basses

St. Bass

Perc. I

Perc. II

Perc. III

Perc. IV

Perc. V

mp > *pp* *smorz.*

mp > *pp* *smorz.*

mp > *pp* *smorz.*

mp > *pp* *smorz.*

mf

1 player, with mute

p

mf

mf

p

mf



rall.

Tempo primo

S. Sax. *f* *mf* *p* *pp*

A. Sax. I *f* *mf* *p*

A. Sax. II *f* *mf* *p* *pp*

T. Sax. I *f* *mf* *p*

T. Sax. II *f* *mf* *p*

Bar. Sax. *p* *pp*

Flug. I

Flug. II

Flug. III

Picc. Trp. *ff* *mf*

E♭ Trp. *ff* *mf*

Trp. I *ff* *mf* *p*

Trp. II *ff* *mf* *p*

Trp. III *ff* *mf*

Hn I & III *f* *mf* *pp*

Hn II & IV *mf* *pp*

Tbn. I *p* *pp*

Tbn. II *p* *pp*

Tbn. III

Euph. I *f* *mf* *pp*

Euph. II *f* *mf* *pp*

E♭ Basses *f* *mf* *p* *pp*

B♭ Basses *f* *mf* *p* *pp*

St. Bass *f* *mf* *p*

Perc. I *pp*

Perc. II *p* *mf*

Perc. III

Perc. IV

Perc. V

Timpani

with straight mute

div.

unis.

1 player

all players without mute

div. unis.

all players, div. unis.



6

A tempo

poco rit.

A tempo

28

S. Sax. *pp* unis.

A. Sax. I *pp*

A. Sax. II *pp*

T. Sax. I *pp*

T. Sax. II *pp*

Bar. Sax. *pp*

Flug. I *pp*

Flug. II *pp*

Flug. III *pp*

Picc. Trp.

E♭ Trp.

Trp. I *pp* div.

Trp. II *pp*

Trp. III *pp*

Hn I & III *pp* div.

Hn II & IV *pp*

Tbn. I *mp*

Tbn. II

Tbn. III

Euph. I *p* *pp* div.

Euph. II *pp*

E♭ Basses *p* *pp* div.

B♭ Basses *p* *pp* div.

St. Bass *pp*

Perc. I Susp. Cymbal with Timpani sticks *pp*

Perc. II

Perc. III

Perc. IV (B. D.)

Perc. V Tam-tam *p* *pp*

7 Più mosso $\text{♩} = 88$
div.

poco rall.

S. Sax. *fff* 3

A. Sax. I *fff* 3

A. Sax. II *fff* 3

T. Sax. I *fff* 3 1 player *pp*

T. Sax. II *fff* 3

Bar. Sax. *fff* 3 *pp*

Flug. I *fff* 3

Flug. II *fff* 3

Flug. III *fff* 3

Picc. Trp. *fff* 3 without mute

E♭ Trp. *fff* 3 without mute

Trp. I *fff* 3 without mute

Trp. II *fff* 3 without mute

Trp. III *fff* 3 without mute

Hn I & III *fff* 3 unis. div. 3

Hn II & IV *fff* 3

Tbn. I *fff* 3 without mute

Tbn. II *fff* 3 without mute *pp*

Tbn. III *fff* 3 without mute *pp*

Euph. I *fff* 3 unis.

Euph. II *fff* 3

E♭ Basses *fff* 3 unis.

B♭ Basses *fff* 3 unis.

St. Bass *fff* 3 Choose

Perc. I *fff* *f < fff* *f < fff* *f < fff* *mf < ff* *mp < f* *p < mf* *pp < mp* *p*
damp gradually (with body, or by someone else)

Perc. II Snare Drum *fff* 3 *f < fff* 3 *f < fff* 3 *f < fff* 3 *mp < f* *f* *p < mf* *pp < mp* 3

Perc. III Tomtoms *fff* 3 *f < fff* 3 *f < fff* 3 *f < fff* 3 *mp < f* *f* *p < mf* *pp < mp* 3 *p*

Perc. IV *fff* 3 *f < fff* 3 *f < fff* 3 *f < fff* 3 *mp < f* *f* *p < mf* *pp < mp* 3 *p*

Perc. V *fff* 3 *f < fff* 3 *f < fff* 3 *f < fff* 3 damp gradually



Transport

8

Allegretto and a little rough ♩ = 84

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout with the following instruments and parts:

- Saxophones:** S. Sax., A. Sax. I, A. Sax. II, T. Sax. I, T. Sax. II, Bar. Sax.
- Flutes:** Flug. I, Flug. II, Flug. III
- Trumpets:** Picc. Trp., E♭ Trp., Trp. I, Trp. II, Trp. III
- Horns:** Hn I & III, Hn II & IV
- Trombones:** Tbn. I, Tbn. II, Tbn. III
- Euphoniums:** Euph. I, Euph. II
- Basses:** E♭ Basses, B♭ Basses, St. Bass
- Percussion:** Perc. I, Perc. II, Perc. III, Perc. IV, Perc. V

Key musical markings and dynamics include:

- mf** (mezzo-forte) in the Flute I and II parts, and in the Trombone, Euphonium, and Bass parts.
- smorz.** (ritardando) markings in the Tenor Saxophone and Baritone Saxophone parts.
- ten.** (tutti) markings in the Trombone I and II parts.
- div.** (divisi) markings in the E♭ Basses and B♭ Basses parts.
- unis.** (unison) markings in the Flute I and II parts.
- mp** (mezzo-piano) marking in the Percussion II part.

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S. Sax. *div.* *ff* *p*

A. Sax. I *ff*

A. Sax. II *ff*

T. Sax. I *sff* *ff* *p* 3

T. Sax. II *sff* *ff* *p* 3

Bar. Sax. *p* 3 3

Flug. I *div. ten.* *sff* *ff* *p* 3 3 3

Flug. II *ten.* *sff* *ff* *p* 3 3 3

Flug. III *ten.* *sff* *div.* *ff* *p* 3 3 3

Picc. Trp. *ff* *p*

E♭ Trp. *ff* *p*

Trp. I *div. ten.* *sff* *ff* *p* 3 3 5

Trp. II *ten.* *sff* *ff* *p* 3 3 3

Trp. III *ten.* *sff* *ff* *p* 3 3 3

Hn I & III *sff* *ff* *p* 3 3

Hn II & IV *sff* *ff* *p* 3 3

Tbn. I *sff* *ff* *p* 3 3

Tbn. II *mf* *sff* *ff* *p* 3 3

Tbn. III *mf* *sff* *p* 3 3

Euph. I *sff* *ff* *p* *div.* 3

Euph. II *sff* *ff* *p* *div.* 3

E♭ Basses *sff* *p* 3

B♭ Basses *sff* *p*

St. Bass *p*

Perc. II *f*

Perc. IV 2 Susp. Cymbals *p*
(B. D.) *p*

Perc. V (Tam-tam) *p*