

Solo Trumpet
(C, Opt. Eb, Flugel and Piccolo trumpets)

Stephenson

Bold, Blue and Bright

for Solo Trumpet, Trumpet Sextet and Timpani



Music for Brass
www.stephensonmusic.com

Bold, Blue and Bright - Program Notes

written by the composer

In the fall of 2004, Marc Reese (Empire Brass trumpeter) and I began discussions about a new piece that would be a complement to the Concerto for seven trumpets and timpani of Altenberg. I believe it was Marc who suggested: “How about something Bold, blues-y, and then a bright piccolo feature to finish it out?” And that is how the title and piece were born.

Having heard Marc play on many occasions, both with the Empire Brass and when he would join us in the Naples Philharmonic trumpet section, I knew that the most important feature of his playing I wanted to feature would be his sound. It is the core of Marc’s teaching and playing, and it gave me great pleasure to “expose” it in this piece.

The movements are, of course, self-explanatory: the 1st movement to be strikingly bold, almost devoid of melody but rather concentrating on pure *tutta forza*, occasionally pitting the trumpets against the timpani in rhythmic interplay. The end of the 1st movement is a surprise, fading away as an echo. The Blues-y movement starts right where the 1st movement ended, but immediately launches into the expected blues feel, in complete contrast to the 1st movement. The timpani is used almost as a pizzicato bass, while the solo flugelhorn floats above the jazzy chords, colors, and rhythms of the ensemble trumpets. The third movement starts *attacca*, introducing the bright piccolo trumpet on top of the held remnants of the blues. Here, again to change the mood, I stick mainly with bright chords, up-beat rhythms, and almost pointillistic writing at times to spring the music forward to its exciting conclusion.

The seven minute piece was written for premiere at the Las Vegas Music Festival of 2005, with Marc Reese as soloist.

Solo B \flat Flugel

II. BLUE

Blues Ballad (♩ = 80)

9

15

22

28

32

39

A

B

C

D

E

F

mp *mf*

mp *mf*

mf *f* *mf* *mp* *mf*

sub. mf *sub. p* *poco* *mf*

sub. p *mp*

p *poco* *mp*

mp *p*

to Picc. Trpt. in A *rit.*

Piccolo Trpt. in A

III. BRIGHT

(G) Allegro Spirito, Bright (♩ = ca. 120)

f leggiero

5

9 3 *mf* *f*

(H)

15 *f* leggiero

19 *mf* *p*

(I)

23 6 *mf* *f* *f*

32 *sub.p* *f* *ff*

(J)

37 *sfz* 6 3 **(K)** 10 Trpt. 6

Piccolo Trpt. in A

Bright

59 **2** **(L)** **3** *f* *Ossia*

67 *mf*

72 *f*

77 *mf*

82 **(M)** *p*

87 *p mp* **2** *p mp*

93 **2** *mf* *mf* **2**

100 **(N)** *f*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score for Piccolo Trumpet in A contains measures 59 through 100. The music is written in a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo and mood are indicated as 'Bright'. The score includes several dynamic markings: *f* (forte), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *p* (piano). There are also performance instructions such as 'Ossia' and 'Bright'. The score is divided into sections marked with circled letters: (L) at measure 59, (M) at measure 82, and (N) at measure 100. Rhythmic values are indicated by numbers 2 and 3 above the notes. The music features a variety of note values, including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests. Slurs and accents are used to indicate phrasing and emphasis. The score concludes with a final measure at measure 100.

