

The David Childs Solo Series

Absolute Reality

Composed by Peter Meechan for solo euphonium & piano

Duration: c. 5.5 minutes

About the Music... *Absolute Reality* was composed following the devastating terrorist attacks carried out in the USA on September 11th 2001. The work is in no way an 'In Memoriam' to 9/11; it is one person's reaction to an event that shook the world, told through his music:

"Absolute Reality is in three sections. I composed the first during the afternoon of 9/11. The music reflects the sadness, and to some extent confusion, that many people were feeling at that point, and still feel today.

The second section is angry, aggressive, and panic driven - there is a lack of anything stable in the music. This again perhaps reflecting how true human beings were feeling in the immediate, and long term, aftermath.

The third and final section of the work is a return to the more reflective first section. Nothing really resolves; there are just small changes - things that are a little different. The music seems to hang, never really resolving - much as the world did on that day, and much as the world still does now..."

Peter Meechan

The title of this work comes from *Howl*, a poem by Allen Ginsberg. During the poem Ginsberg writes of many talented and promising young friends who were destroyed, either killed or broken as people by American society. Throughout the entire poem, Ginsberg only uses capital letters for people and place names. However, two-thirds through the poem he writes of one of his friends being "...run over by taxicabs of ABSOLUTE REALITY..." It was the true absolute reality of 9/11 that led Peter Meechan to write this work, commissioned and premiered by David Thornton at the Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal during November 2001.

Performance Tips... On the page this solo appears relatively simple; it doesn't exploit the extreme registers of the instrument and it isn't technically demanding, but do not be deceived! *Absolute Reality* requires the higher order skills of controlled dynamic playing, good production, sonority of tone and musical phrasing to do the music justice. There is little rhythmic pulse to latch onto throughout the work so during preparation it is worth studying the piano accompaniment to find out how the solo part fits. The entry in bar 33 can prove particularly difficult to time correctly. When preparing the work I would advise practicing the quiet dynamics quieter than marked, the loud dynamics louder than marked and the tempi slower than marked. When you eventually play the correct markings the performance will appear a lot easier, allowing you to enjoy the musical reward this work provides.

About the composer... Peter Meechan is recognised as one of the most exciting composing talents of his generation. His music is informed by entirely different influences from preceding generations, including jazz, dance, funk & acid house. His works for brass and wind have received worldwide acclaim with performances from many of Europe's leading ensembles and soloists.

Born in England, Peter studied composition at the Royal Northern College of Music where he received the prestigious Edward Hecht prize for composition. Following his time at the RNCM he was appointed the first ever 'Young Composer in Association' with the prestigious Black Dyke Band and was short-listed by the Society of the Promotion of New Music.

Peter's music has received performances all over the world and is regularly broadcast on radio and television. Still a young man, he is sure to establish himself as one of Britain's leading composers with creativity and musical skill way beyond his years. Find out more at www.petemeechan.com

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Absolute Reality

Piano Score

Peter Meehan

With Feeling ♩ = 52

Soloist

Piano

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