

The David Childs Solo Series

# Funk Theory

**Composed by Peter Meechan**  
**for solo euphonium with piano or CD accompaniment**

Duration: c. 4.5 minutes

**About the music...** Having enjoyed many of Peter Meechan's early works for brass I commissioned Peter to compose a new work, for solo euphonium and trombone quartet, during the summer of 2003. Although composed for an unusual combination of instruments, the work became an instant success following its première on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2003, featuring the all female 'Bones Apart' trombone quartet and myself in Manchester's RNCM Concert Hall. It was obvious from the outset that the unusual instrumentation of the accompaniment would make *Funk Theory* difficult to programme, which is why the composer also produced versions for solo euphonium with piano or CD accompaniment presented here in this publication.

The music is based on two simple chord sequences - the first is heard in the initial 7 bars and the second is an eight bar sequence heard throughout the piece. The melody continually varies and develops becoming increasingly busy and difficult. To this extent, it could almost be seen as a small set of 'funk' variations.

*Funk Theory* has been performed in its various forms by euphonium soloists throughout the world. It is great fun to play and creates a little 'light relief' within any recital programme. *Funk Theory* is also available in this series with trombone quartet accompaniment.

**Performance tips...** I have found the composer's CD accompaniment, provided with this piano reduction, works particularly well and truly captures the essence of the music. However, in performance it is important to ensure the correct balance is achieved between the pre-recorded accompaniment and the soloist prior to any public performance. A poor balance will detract and can result in the performance becoming difficult for both soloist and audience.

The composer's skillfully crafted piano reduction also works extremely well, but it is important for both soloist and accompanist to pay particular care to ensemble when tackling the rhythmic complexities present throughout the work. For any adventurous musicians out there, it can be effective to combine both the CD and piano accompaniments. If this is attempted it is sensible to allow the CD to begin the work with the piano joining at bar 106 - Good luck!

**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](http://www.petemeechan.com)

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# Funk Theory

Peter Meehan

$\text{♩} = 125$

Soloist

Piano

*pp cresc.*

*ff*

8

*p cresc.*

*f*

*gliss.*

14

*ff*

*ffp*

*mf cresc.*

19

Cue

*ff*

Cue

*ff*

*f*

