

ERIC CREES

Eric Crees is one of the most distinguished trombonists, arrangers and educators in the UK. He was Co-Principal Trombone in the London Symphony Orchestra for twenty-seven years and from 2000 until 2020 was Section Principal Trombone with the Orchestra of The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. He has played on many of the most iconic film sound-tracks, including the first four 'Star Wars', 'Superman' 1&2, 'Harry Potter' 1, 2 & 3, 'Braveheart', 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' and dozens more.

Eric has taught at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London since 1977 and in 2014 was awarded two prestigious honours: Conferment to Professor at the Guildhall and the International Trombone Association's Neil Humfeld Award for Teaching Excellence. He is internationally recognised as a conductor and arranger of brass music at the highest level and has been the Musical Director of London Symphony Orchestra Brass and the Brass Soloists of the Royal Opera House, making seven CDs in all, mainly of his own compositions, arrangements and editions. He is now Artistic Director of his own group, The Symphonic Brass of London and has released two albums with them, 'A Bridge across the Pyrenees' and 'Preludes, Rags and Cakewalks'.

INTRODUCTION

The delightfully humorous 'Cod-Pieces' are amongst scholar, critic and composer Peter Warlock's earliest compositions, although not published in their piano duet version until 1971. The original manuscripts are on two and sometimes three staves, cheekily marked 'whistle what's in green ink or get a second player'.

These two perfect miniatures are cleverly contrasted works: 'Dance' has the very Warlockian subtitle 'Pretty-pretty, with subdued lights and a bevy of punks, capering'. It is a charming and light-hearted affair in a 1930s jazz/ragtime style. 'Orientale', with its own caption, 'For a Tahiti Timbuctoo scene' has, as the title suggests, a more exotic feel. Set in the minor, its repeated rhythmic motif is interjected with clipped syncopated phrases. Halfway through, however, it moves to the major and the previous austere character is transformed into a roisterous swagger with a triumphant ending.

Each 'Cod-Piece' alone would make a terrific encore to a brass dectet recital, but played as a set of four would make a joyful addition to any programme, perhaps partnered with Warlock's better known masterpiece 'Capriol Suite', also published by ALAW.

Eric Crees, March 2020

RECOMMENDED SEATING PLAN

