

## Schubert's Octet D803

Arranging this music has been a labour of love: experiencing in fine detail the sheer joy and technical mastery of this work of Schubert's has been an inspiration. Its six movements are very contrasted in character and, although the music has a lightness about it, it is nevertheless a masterpiece worthy of prominent performances.

Technically this is a very demanding work for a brass ensemble, not least because of the stamina required to perform it. Naturally, any of the six movements may be selected to be played as part of a concert programme since they can each stand on their own - though it is as a whole that Schubert's *Octet D803* has its greatest impact.

In this version I have recommended that the 'trio' musicians be placed on the left as the audience would view it, since it presents the French horn in a position where the performer does not have to work harder than necessary to project the sound. Generally, dynamics will need to be reduced somewhat to chamber-music level or less for everyone's comfort and enjoyment, not forgetting the sustainability of the brass players' facial muscles.

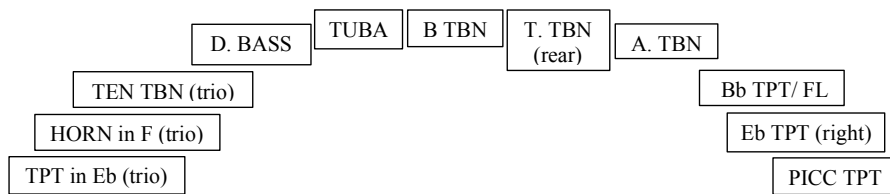
I hope you will enjoy performing this work.

Brian Raby

Pontypridd, February 2019

SCHUBERT OCTET D803 for BRASS TENTET and DOUBLE BASS

Recommended seating plan



While it is understood that extra players may be invited to perform with an ensemble it is recommended that the basic seating plan is adhered to in its essentials outlined in the above diagram.