MUSIC FOR BRASS BAND

Full Score

PETER GRAHAM

Metropolis
1927

Instrumentation:

Brass Band, Offstage Dance Band

(Cornets 1, 2, Trombone, Bass Eb, Xylophone and choke cymbal)

Percussion (4-5 players):

Timpani (hand-cranked siren)

Percussion (Hi-hat, Snare drum, Bongos (high and low), Bass drum, Cymbal, Tam-tam (mallet and bowed), Bell tree, Triangle, Sandpaper blocks

Xylophone

Vibraphone

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Composer's Note

Fritz Lang's 1927 science fiction epic Metropolis is considered to be a masterpiece of cinematic vision and a high point of German Expressionist filmmaking. Set in a future dystopian world the film introduces the viewer to two contrasting communities living in the vast city of Metropolis. Those above ground live a life of privilege and pleasure serviced by the underground-dwelling drone workers whose role is to maintain and operate the banks of machines which provide the city's power.

Lang's film, which can be considered a type of 20th century morality play, draws upon a range of themes and influences from Marxist ideals and social satire to overt religious symbolism.

The music does not attempt to precis the plot, such as it is, but simply reflects my musical responses to Lang's noirish visual style and set designs – the brooding machine rooms, the decadent nightclubs, the gothic cathedral and so on – paradoxically a world of terrifying beauty.

Metropolis 1927 was commissioned by Bramwell Tovey and The National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain with funds provided by The Arts Council of England. The first performances took place in the Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare on Saturday 19th April and in the Cheltenham Town Hall on Sunday 20th April 2014.

This revised version was premiered by The Black Dyke Band, conductor Nicholas Childs, at the 38th European Brass Band Championships in the Konzerthaus Freiburg, Germany, on Saturday 2 May 2015.

Peter Graham

About the Composer

Born in Scotland, Peter Graham read music at Edinburgh and London Universities (Goldsmiths’ College).

His music for brass and wind is performed across the globe, from China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea and Singapore in the Far East, across North and South America and in every major European country.

Awards include the American Bandmasters Association/Ostwald Award for Original Composition for Symphonic Winds and the Iles Medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians.

Metropolis 1927
(duration c. 15 minutes)

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Metropolis 1927

Motor off

L Tempo primo \( \text{~} \quad j = 136 \)

Vib.
Xyl.
Perc.
Timp.

B
E
Euph.

2nd Tbn.
1st Hn.
3rd Cnt.
2nd Cnt.

Sop. Cnt.

24

Bass
Bass

\( \cdot \)
\( \cdot \)
\( \cdot \)
\( \cdot \)
\( \cdot \)
\( \cdot \)

slent.

\( \cdot \)
\( \cdot \)
\( \cdot \)
\( \cdot \)
\( \cdot \)
\( \cdot \)

Tempo primo

\( \cdot \)
\( \cdot \)
\( \cdot \)
\( \cdot \)
\( \cdot \)
\( \cdot \)

Motor off

L.V.

Vib.
Molto cantabile e espressivo \( \frac{j}{=63} \)

Solo open (with Euphonium)

Solo (with Solo Cornet)

Solo Cornet

Solo Hn.

1st Hn.

2nd Hn.

1st Bar.

2nd Bar.

1st Tbn.

2nd Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Euph.

B. B. Bass

Bb Bass

Timp.

B. D.

Xyl.

Vib.
slent. \( \boxed{Z} \) in modo religioso \( \cdot \text{d} = 60 \)
Small dance band in the distance (as if on a wind-up gramophone)

1920's dance style $= 132$ (double tempo)

Small dance band in the distance (as if on a wind-up gramophone)

Muted (harmon, tube extended)

Rub sandpaper blocks to simulate gramophone record rotation

Metropolis 1927
Meccanico (tempo primo) $J = 136$

Metropolis 1927
Metropolis 1927

Vib.

Xyl.

Perc.

Timp.

B. Tbn.

1st Tbn.

2nd Tbn.

1st Bar.

2nd Bar.

1st Tbn.

2nd Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Euph.

E. Bass

Bb. Bass

Timp.

Perc.

Xyl.

Vib.

Tam-tam

(choke)