Strange New Worlds

PETER GRAHAM

Instrumentation

Brass Band

Percussion (1 – 3 players):

**Timpani** (Optional)

**Percussion 1** (Optional) Xylophone, Vibraphone

**Percussion 2** Bass drum, Sus. cymbal, Snare drum, Tam-tam (or large cymbal)
Programme Note

Strange New Worlds was commissioned by Nicholas Childs for the National Children’s Brass Band of Great Britain with funds provided by Arts Council England.

The COVID-19 pandemic made it necessary for the 2020 course to transition from residential to virtual and the work was designed to accommodate this change. The participants individually filmed themselves to a click track and the videos were collated to create a “virtual” performance. The premiere was streamed live on YouTube on August 7, 2020.

The work is in 5 movements with a narrative dictated by the individual movement titles. Although to me this narrative is clearly defined, multiple scenarios present themselves. Some may interpret the story as being one from the ancients while others might identify with the science-fiction of H.G. Wells. Others still will relate to the recent surge of interest in 1980s culture and the Netflix series Stranger Things (to which the title of my work pays homage). Nor would it be unreasonable to consider the piece an analogy reflecting events in 2020. Listeners will decide the story (or message) for themselves.

The five movements are:

I/II Things to Come/Descent to Darkness (to be played without a break)

III Resistance

IV/V Aftermath/A New Hope

Peter Graham
June 2020

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, the President’s Award (from both the National Association of Brass Bands America and the Scottish Brass Band Association) and the Iles Medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians.

Strange New Worlds (duration c. 8:00 minutes)

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II - Descent to Darkness

Horns, Baritones, Euphoniums and Basses TACET

Adagio $\frac{4}{4} = 76$

Soprano Cornet E

Solo Cornet B♭

Repiano Cornet B♭

2nd Cornet B♭

3rd Cornet B♭

1st Trombone B♭

2nd Trombone B♭

Bass Trombone

Timpani

Vibraphone

Percussion 1

Percussion 2
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F Repeat 4 times gradually fading

Soprano Cornet B♭

Solo Cornet B♭

Repiano Cornet B♭

2nd Cornet B♭

3rd Cornet B♭

1st Trombone B♭

2nd Trombone B♭

Bass Trombone

Timpani

Percussion 1

Percussion 2
III - Resistance

Determined $\frac{q}{Q} = 104$

Flugelhorn

Solo Horn Eb

1st Horn Eb

2nd Horn Eb

1st Baritone Bb

2nd Baritone Bb

Euphonium Bb

Bass Eb

Bass Bb

Timpani

Percussion 1

Percussion 2

Cornets and Trombones TACET

Alternate in 2 bar phrases if preferred

Alternate in 2 bar phrases if preferred

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