

# Rude Mechanicals



A Trombone Quartet

David Lancaster



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## A Trombone Quartet

**Rude Mechanicals** was commissioned by the **Slidin' About** trombone quartet in 2016. In this, the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shakespeare's death, there are two specific references to the bard's plays: the work's title refers to the group of rustic characters who put on a heartfelt performance to conclude *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and the link to the sound world of the trombone quartet seemed quite clear in my mind. When I was close to completing the work in late October 2016 I learned of the passing of my friend and former brass teacher Michael Antrobus to whom I owe a considerable musical debt. Consequently the coda of the piece (in complete contrast to the rest of the music) is slow and sustained and is prefaced by a famous quotation from Act IV of *The Tempest*: 'We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little lives are rounded by a sleep'. This final chorale is certainly influenced by Ralph Vaughan Williams' setting of that same text: Mike loved English music.

The music is in six clear parts, each emerging from a unison repeated note which is passed around the quartet. The pulse remains constant throughout; contrasts of pace are regulated by changing the metre rather than the beat. Metre changes are  $\text{♪}=\text{♪}$  throughout.

Duration c. 6'15"

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### I

**Allegro molto** ♩ = 160

Tenor Trombone 1

Tenor Trombone 2

Tenor Trombone 3

Bass Trombone

5

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

10

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

14

Tbn. 1      *f sempre*

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.      *f sempre*

19

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.      *f*

23

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3      *f*

B. Tbn.      *f*

27

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

30

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

## II

34

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

con sord. (cup)

*fp*

con sord. (straight)

*fp*

38

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

*v.*

**pp**

**fp**

**pp**

**pp**

41

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

**pp**

44

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

## III

47

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

*pp*

*mf*

52

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

*mf*

*f*

*mf*

*f*

*f*

*mf*

*f*

58

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

61

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

65

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

68

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

70

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

73

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

77

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

81

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

*sfp* *p sempre*

*sfp sempre*

*sfp* *p sempre*

*p sempre*

IV

open

86

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

92

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

*f*

*gliss.*

*f*

*f*

96

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

100

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

104

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

10

108

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

*gliss.*

*f*

*gliss.*

*f*

*gliss.*

*f*

gliss.

*f*

112

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

*f*

*gliss.*

*f*

*gliss.*

*f*

gliss.

*f*

*gliss.*

*f*

116

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

*f*

*gliss.*

*f*

*gliss.*

*f*

*gliss.*

*f*

*f*

*gliss.*

*f*

*gliss.*

*f*

120

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

124

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

128

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

132

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

**pp**

136

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

**pp**

B. Tbn.

**pp**

139

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

**pp**

142

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

*pp*

145

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

**V**

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

150

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

154

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

*f*

158

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

*f*

162

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

166

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

171

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

175

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

179

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

This section shows four staves for tubas. Measure 179 starts with a rest in all parts. Measures 180-181 show rhythmic patterns with slurs and dynamic markings *sf*. Measure 182 begins with a dynamic *sf* followed by *sf*. Measures 183-184 show rhythmic patterns with slurs and dynamic markings *sf*.

183

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

This section shows four staves for tubas. Measures 183-184 show rhythmic patterns with slurs and dynamics *p*, *sffz*, *p*, *p*, *sfp*, *p*, *sffz*, *p*. Measures 185-186 show rhythmic patterns with slurs and dynamics *p*, *sffz*, *p*, *p*, *p*, *sffz*, *p*, *p*. Measures 187-188 show rhythmic patterns with slurs and dynamics *p*, *sffz*, *p*, *p*, *p*, *sffz*, *p*, *p*.

188

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

This section shows four staves for tubas. Measures 188-189 show rhythmic patterns with slurs and dynamics *p*, *sfp*, *sffz*, *p*, *p*, *sffz*, *p*, *p*. Measures 190-191 show rhythmic patterns with slurs and dynamics *sfp*, *sffz*, *p*, *p*, *p*, *sffz*, *p*, *p*. Measures 192-193 show rhythmic patterns with slurs and dynamics *p*, *sffz*, *p*, *p*, *p*, *sffz*, *p*, *p*.

192

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3 *sffz p*

B. Tbn. *f*

196

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

200

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

204

Tbn. 1

*cresc.*

Tbn. 2

*cresc.*

Tbn. 3

*cresc.*

B. Tbn.

*cresc.*

209

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

213

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

**VI**

"We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep". The Tempest, Act IV Scene 1.  
In Memoriam Michael Antrobus 18.4.43 - 23.10.16

**Meno Mosso** ♩=80

218

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

224

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

230

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.