

The NAXOS logo is located in the top left corner, featuring the word "NAXOS" in white capital letters on a blue rectangular background with a white border.

PETER GRAHAM

Force of Nature

Triquetra • Master of Suspense

Hymn for Bram • Hyperlink

The Triumph of Time

David Childs,
Euphonium

Rex Richardson,
Trumpet, Flugelhorn

Black Dyke Band

Nicholas Childs



Peter Graham (b. 1958)

Force of Nature



Photo: Goldy Solutions

Scots-born Peter Graham gained international recognition in 2002 when he became the first composer outside the United States to win the American Bandmasters Association's prestigious Ostwald Award for Original Composition for Symphonic Winds. Prior to that he had already made a significant impact in the British brass band scene via a series of outstanding compositions that first established his reputation. These include a collection of contest pieces with which he subsequently achieved a unique 'double quadruple' at the UK brass band 'majors', being set four times at the National and British Open Championships respectively.

Currently writing full time, Graham taught for a significant number of years as professor of composition at the University of Salford, mentoring a generation of brass and wind composers. He completed his own studies in composition at the University of Edinburgh and Goldsmiths, University of London, and holds a PhD.

His long association with the Black Dyke Band (he is currently creative chair) embraces multiple recordings including the GRAMMY-nominated album *Reflected in Brass* with Evelyn Glennie which he orchestrated and composed. His previous Naxos album with Black Dyke, *Metropolis 1927* (8.573968), received the rare accolade of 'CD of the Year' from all three band media outlets; *Brass Band World*, *British Bandsman* and *4BarsRest*. Other performers range from the Royal Concertgebouw and New York Philharmonic orchestra brass to the United States Air Force and 'The President's Own' United States Marine bands. His music was presented at a Command Performance in Windsor Castle in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh by Band of the Coldstream Guards, with whom he held an appointment as the first civilian composer-in-residence.

In recognition of his achievements within the brass community he has been the recipient of the Iles Medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians and the President's Award of both the North American and Scottish Brass Band Association.

Ronald Holz

Triquetra, Fantasia on Old Hundredth (2023)

Triquetra is a free fantasia on the hymn *Old Hundredth*. The tune appears in four different guises, harmonically and rhythmically altered on each occasion. Fragments of the melody are used to generate new ideas. As to the title, the *Triquetra* (Latin for ‘three-cornered’) symbol is representative of the Christian Trinity referred to in the final line of *Old Hundredth*: ‘Praise God from whom all blessings flow ... Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.’

Master of Suspense (2023)

Alfred Hitchcock remains one of the most highly regarded filmmakers. Known as the ‘Master of Suspense’, his movies rank among the greatest ever made. This concerto for jazz trumpet, commissioned by soloist Rex Richardson, calls for not only technical brilliance, but also extensive improvisation. As the piece unfolds, Graham references characters, images and events from three iconic movies:

I. Heatwave (Rear Window) – A sweltering New York city heatwave finds photo journalist L.B. Jefferies wheelchair-bound as he recuperates from a broken leg. Sounds of the city drift through his open apartment window as the heat intensifies.

II. Marnie (Marnie) – The epitome of the Hitchcock heroine, Marnie Edgar is here reflected in music that embraces her often remote, inscrutable and enigmatic personality, and acknowledges the language of Hitchcock’s musical collaborator Bernard Herrmann. Further into the movement Graham inserts the spiritual *Sometimes I Feel like a Motherless Child*, an embodiment of Marnie’s alienation.

III. 20th Century Limited (North by Northwest) – The chase is on as Roger Thornhill is the victim of mistaken identity and unjustly accused of murder. On the run from authorities, he boards a New York to Chicago sleeper train, the *20th Century Limited*, in an attempt to find the man who can help clear his name.

Hymn for Bram (2023)

Extracted from Graham’s *Metropolis 1927*, this ‘hymn’ serves as a homage to Bramwell Tovey (1953–2022), the internationally renowned, GRAMMY-winning orchestral conductor.

Hyperlink (2022)

Peter Graham initially provided this score for the 70th anniversary of The National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain. Shortly after its premiere, it featured as the test piece for the National Brass Band Championships held in the Royal Albert Hall, itself celebrating 150 years. Many similar anniversary ‘links’ are interwoven into the fabric of the piece in both quotation and homage.

The work opens with a startling adaptation of Bach’s *Tocatta and Fugue in D minor*. The Royal Albert Hall’s great Henry Willis organ (*I. The Voice of Jupiter*) looms over the whole musical edifice. The second movement, *Remember Me*, references both Ralph Vaughan Williams and band composer Ray Steadman-Allen, but closes with a poignant quote of the hymn *Welcome Home*, Graham saluting his parents to whom he dedicated the piece. The Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II is recognised via Parry’s coronation anthem *I Was Glad (III. Vivat)*. In masterful fashion Graham unites many disparate elements through a clear series of associations, though initially the connections may not be readily apparent.

Force of Nature (2023)

This three-movement euphonium concerto, written for David Childs, reflects upon moments in the extraordinary life of the American writer Ernest Hemingway – a ‘force of nature’.

I. Matador – The traditions of the Spanish bullfight fascinated Hemingway. He wrote frequently on the subject, going beyond the superficial and exploring the nature of fear and courage. This flamenco-inspired music contrasts moments of uncertainty and resolve.

II. Wayfarer (Reflections on Poor Wayfaring Stranger) – The tensions of Hemingway’s early life in the mid-west suburb of Oak Park, Chicago fuelled his wanderlust and drove him, at age 18, to the Italian Front, serving as an ambulance driver. Within days he was seriously wounded and the horrors of war put paid to adolescent illusions of immortality.

III. Pilar – The music conjures up the thrill of Hemingway’s beloved boat *Pilar* cutting through the waves off the coast of Cuba at 16 knots full-out.

The Triumph of Time (2014)

Graham subtitled this challenging work 'Variations for Brass Band'. The entire band gets put through multiple musical challenges, and a succession of soloists adds to the relentless drive and energy so apparent in Graham's compositions, marked as they are by dazzling stylistic diversity and eclectic interests. Written for the Black Dyke Band as its piece for the European Brass Band Championships Own Choice section in 2014 – which it won – *The Triumph of Time* is a microcosm of brass band excellence both in compositional craft and performance.

Ronald Holz, Peter Graham

Rex Richardson



Photo: Peter McElhinney

Renowned both as a jazz improviser and as a champion of new, genre-busting compositions featuring the trumpet as a solo voice, Yamaha Performing Artist Rex Richardson was named the 2008 Brass Herald International Personality of the Year. A veteran of the acclaimed chamber ensemble Rhythm & Brass, jazz legend Joe Henderson's Quintet and Sextet, William Russo's Chicago Jazz Ensemble, and the world-renowned Brass Band of Battle Creek, his hundreds of soloist appearances include prestigious festivals and renowned ensembles on six continents. His latest album *Freedom of Movement: 21st Century Trumpet Concertos* was released to critical and public acclaim and named a top-ten finalist for 4barsrest.com's 2018 Solo CD of the Year. Richardson has taught at Virginia Commonwealth University since 2002, served as International Tutor in Trumpet at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, UK, from 2012 to 2015, and at Austria's JAM Music Lab University since 2018. www.rexrichardson.net

David Childs



Photo: John Stizaker

David Childs is regarded as one of the finest brass musicians of his generation. He has appeared as soloist with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Royal Philharmonic, BBC Concert Orchestra, Sinfonia Cymru, DCINY Symphony and BBC Philharmonic; made solo appearances at the Singapore International Festival, Welsh Proms, Harrogate International Festival, Cheltenham Festival, Melbourne International Festival, BBC Proms and New York Festival and performed solo recitals at the Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room and Bridgewater Hall. He is a keen advocate of new music and has premiered ten concertos for euphonium including a Royal Albert Hall BBC Proms broadcast of Alun Hoddinott's *Sunne Rising – The King Will Ride* and the Carnegie Hall US premiere of Karl Jenkins' *Concerto for Euphonium and Orchestra*. David Childs is currently professor of euphonium at the University of North Texas and continues to enjoy an association with the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama as an Honorary Associate and International Visiting Tutor. David Childs is a Buffet Crampon Besson Artist. www.davechilds.com

Black Dyke Band



Black Dyke Band holds the highest rank in the worldwide brass band community. It has continued to win significant competitions under its music director, Nicholas Childs, and in 2015 the band became European Champion Band for the 13th time – in 2014 the band, for the 30th time, was declared British Open Champions. The band has also been National Champion of Great Britain on 23 occasions. In 2009, and again in 2011, 2012 and 2013, it became Champion Band at the English National Championships. Black Dyke Band is the most recorded band in the world, with over 370 recordings and the number growing every year. Under Nicholas Childs, it has received multiple CD of the Year awards in the brass press. The band has appeared in major concerts halls around the world from New York to Tokyo and has appeared at the BBC Proms. Its performing and recording schedule can be considered among the busiest and most productive of any British brass band. The band logo of the stag's head and Latin quotation are taken from the armorial bearings granted in 1857 to John Foster, founder of the band. The quotation translates to 'Act Justly and Fear Nothing.'

www.blackdykeband.co.uk

Nicholas Childs



Nicholas Childs has achieved the highest international reputation as a performer, teacher, conductor, interpreter and advocate of new music, and producer of pace-setting recordings. He has been marked with continued contest success, including the British Open, National and European Brass Band Championships. Further acclaim has come for his many innovative concerts and world premieres. His recordings with Black Dyke Band have been heralded as the very best in the brass band world, winning multiple CD of the Year awards. Childs gives particular emphasis to the development of the brass band movement through his commitment to training outstanding young musicians both at the collegiate level as well as within the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band, and the National Children's Brass Band of Great Britain, of which he is founder and music director. He currently serves as professor of music at the Royal Northern College of Music and Sensoka Gakuen College of Music, Tokyo, Japan.

Winner of the prestigious American Bandmasters Association's Ostwald Award for composition, Peter Graham is one of the leading brass band composers of his generation. Graham's previous Naxos album with the Black Dyke Band, *Metropolis 1927* (8.573968), received widespread acclaim from the brass band press. The five world premiere recordings heard on this album represent his long association with Black Dyke. The trumpet concerto *Master of Suspense* references Alfred Hitchcock's iconic movies, the virtuoso euphonium concerto *Force of Nature* was inspired by Ernest Hemingway's extraordinary life, and *The Triumph of Time* is a dazzling example of compositional craft and brass band virtuosity.

Peter
GRAHAM
(b. 1958)



1	Triquetra, Fantasia on Old Hundredth (2023)*	7:16	9	Force of Nature (2023)*	13:57
	Master of Suspense (2023)*	15:28	10	I. Matador	4:46
2	I. Heatwave	4:24		II. Wayfarer (Reflections on Poor Wayfaring Stranger)	5:19
3	II. Marnie	7:01	11	III. Pilar	3:48
4	III. 20th Century Limited	4:01	12	The Triumph of Time (Variations for Brass Band) (2014)	16:16
5	Hymn for Bram (2023)*	4:18			
	Hyperlink (2022)*	14:39			
6	I. The Voice of Jupiter	3:48			
7	II. Remember Me	6:22			
8	III. Vivat	4:27			

***WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING**

Rex Richardson, Trumpet 2 4, Flugelhorn 3

David Childs, Euphonium 9-11

Black Dyke Band • Nicholas Childs

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