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Tuba Concerto: Score (Faber Edition)



Synopsis

The Tuba Concerto was written in 1953 and 1954 in response to an invitation to compose a work for the golden jubilee of the London Symphony Orchestra. Vaughan Williams was in his eighty-second year by then; an interest in unusual instrumental sonorities was a feature of his music in the latter part of his life, so his choice of tuba as solo instrument was less surprising than it might have seemed. He justified it by treating it seriously and poetically, emphasizing its lyrical capabilities rather than the more comic propensities. The work is dedicated to the London Symphony Orchestra and its then-principal tuba player, Philip Catelinet, whom the composer consulted constantly throughout the writing of the work. The lively, outer movements both conclude with extended cadenzas, while the beautifully lyrical Romanza is Vaughan Williams at his best. The brass band arrangement is by Phillip Littlemore and is a welcome addition to Faber's brass band repertoire.

Book Information

Series: Faber Edition

Paperback: 4 pages

Publisher: Faber Music (January 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0571564682

ISBN-13: 978-0571564682

Product Dimensions: 11.7 x 8.7 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 ounces

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