

# ANTIQUÉ SUITE FOR BRASS

The five movements of this piece, written in 2014 for the players of Abbey Brass, follow the typical scheme of a baroque dance suite, but with harmonies and rhythms updated to a more modern idiom:

## 1. PRELUDE

A bold “fanfare” theme is heard on trumpet, closely imitated by a second (muted) trumpet. The same theme, at a lower pitch, is taken up by horn paired with tuba. In the background other instruments play cascading scale patterns.

## 2. SARABANDE

One group of instruments plays a stately sarabande theme starting on the first beat of the bar. Another group has a variant of this theme beginning on the *second* beat. The two are then played simultaneously!

## 3. GAVOTTE

In the outer sections a delicately phrased dance tune is played on trumpets and horn. The contrasting middle section gives prominence to the trombones before the original gavotte tune makes a graceful reappearance.

## 4. MINUET

Trumpet and trombone take the lead in this minuet that is almost a waltz. In the central section the tuba has a prominent role (suggesting a rather more portly dancer) before the minuet / waltz returns.

## 5. GIGUE

Against a vigorous rhythm from the tenor drum a rising fugue subject is announced by the trumpet and answered in turn by trombone, then horn. As the fugue ends a nudge to the rhythm reveals that the theme is related to the one we heard in movement I. Over organ-like pedal notes the music gathers to a triumphant final cadence.