A Liquid Symphony

for brass band

Martin Humphries

- 2017 -
Programme note:

*A Liquid Symphony* is a fusing of two musical idioms: the traditional four-movement symphonic structure (fast opener; slow reflection; dance; fast finale), and four common forms lifted from the brass band canon (fanfare; hymn; air varié; march). The work was inspired by my time in the Cornish town of Porthleven, working as a Porthleven Prizewinner towards an exhibition of art works inspired by the place and community. During this time I became an honorary member of the Porthleven Town Band, playing tuba and trombone in their rehearsals and performing with them at a bandstand engagement.

Each movement is inspired by a Cornish beer I enjoyed in one of the many fine drinking establishments the town and surrounding area has to offer. The flavours of these beers have infused my music in many ways, most obviously through time signatures, which are all derived from alcohol content. The taste descriptor for each brew also serves as a perfect introduction to the music:

I – Atlantic
*(Sharp’s Brewery, Pale Ale, 4.2%)*

‘Atlantic’ is a deep golden colour. The aroma of Pale Ale is a blend of stunning citrus notes, juicy tropical fruits and fresh-picked hops with a touch of candyfloss. The flavour has a delicate sweetness with fruity succulence and citrus spice to the fore. The finish is sweet at first becoming dry and lingering with hop zest.

II – Mena Dhu
*(St Austell Brewery, Stout, 4.5%)*

'Mena Dhu' is translated from the Old Cornish meaning 'Black Hill' – as dark as night with a smoky log fire aroma. Hints of liquorice and dark chocolate tantalise the taste buds on the journey to a surprisingly light but long linger.

III – Spingo Middle
*(Blue Anchor Brewery, Bitter, 5.0%)*

‘Spingo Middle’ is a traditional Cornish sweet strong bitter with an unforgettable flavour. Originally brewed in celebration of the return of local soldiers from World War I, it is now one of Cornwall’s most sought after beers.

IV – Porthleven: The Untameable
*(Skinner’s Brewery, Pale Ale, 4.8%)*

Straw-coloured and zesty, with strong citrus aromas, starting with a zip of lemon and lime in the mouth, and ending with a flash of passion fruit. Brings out the best in spicy food, smoked meats and kebabs. Named in honour of Cornwall’s iconic surfing break, this fine, strong pale ale is as refreshing as the fine ocean spray hitting your face as you ride the perfect wave. Only you get to enjoy it without even getting your feet wet.
Performance note:

- Each movement of *A Liquid Symphony* may be played in isolation or as a complete set;
- The first three movements use only part of the ensemble, with the finale utilising the full forces;
- In the fourth movement ‘Porthleven: The Untameable’, 2nd time bars should be taken on the DC.
Instrumentation:

Soprano Cornet in E♭
Solo Cornet in B♭ (x4)
Repiano Cornet in B♭
2nd Cornet in B♭ (x2)
3rd Cornet in B♭ (x2)

Flugelhorn in B♭
Solo Horn in E♭
1st Horn in E♭
2nd Horn in E♭

1st Baritone in B♭
2nd Baritone in B♭

Solo Trombone in B♭
2nd Trombone in B♭
Bass Trombone in C

Euphonium in B♭ (x2)

E♭ Bass (x2)
B♭ Bass (x2)

Percussion (x3)
Bass Drum – Snare – Clash Cymbals

Duration:
c. 9 minutes
A Liquid Symphony

I - Atlantic

(Sharp's Brewery, Pale Ale, 4.2%)
IV - Porthleven: The Untameable

(Skinner’s Brewery, Pale Ale, 4.8%)

Strong and Zesty (♩=c.120)

Sop. Cnt.

Solo Cnt.


2nd Cnt.

3rd Cnt.

Flug.

Solo Hn.

1st Hn.

2nd Hn.

1st Bar.

2nd Bar.

1st Tbn.

2nd Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Eb Bass

Bb Bass

B. D.

S. D.

Cym.

Always lettering unless staccato
To continue
Q Trio

Sop. Cnt.
Solo Cnt.
2nd Cnt.
3rd Cnt.
Flag.
Solo Hn.
1st Hn.
2nd Hn.
1st Bar.
2nd Bar.
1st Tbn.
2nd Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Euph.
El Bass
Bb Bass
B. D.
S. D.
Cym.