

A MALVERN SUITE

PHILIP SPARKE

Arranged for Concert Band by
John Holland



studiomusic
LONDON

Philip Sparke (b. 1951) studied composition, trumpet and piano at the Royal College of Music, where he gained an ARCM. It was at the College that his interest in bands arose. He played in the college wind band and formed a brass band among the students, writing several works for both ensembles. At that time his first published works appeared *Concert Prelude* (brass band) and *Gaudium* (concert band). A growing interest in his music led to several commissions, his first major one being for the Centennial Brass Band Championships in New Zealand *The Land of the Long White Cloud*. Further commissions followed from individual bands, various band associations and the BBC, for whom he three times won the EBU New Music for Band Competition (with *Slipstream*, *Skyrider* and *Orient Express*). Philip has written for brass band championships in New Zealand, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Australia and the UK. A close association with banding in Japan led to a commission from the Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra. This opened the door worldwide to his concert band music. In 1996 the US Air Force Band commissioned and recorded *Dance Movements* which won the prestigious Sudler Prize in 1997. Philip's conducting and adjudicating activities have taken him to most European countries, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the USA.

A Malvern Suite was written in 1984 after a visit to Hereford and Worcester, and is in three movements, each named after one of the 'Three Choirs' venues:

1. Worcester Cathedral A brisk unison opening leads to the first fanfare-like subject which is followed by a broad theme. The mood subsides until a lighter, chordal passage is introduced which leads to the central climax of the movement for full band.

2. The Wye Hereford the second movement, opens with a wistful solo which introduces the main theme. This is followed by a light staccato passage which accompanies a cantabile tune. This is taken up by the whole band until, after a climax, the main theme returns, this time on full band. The movement closes quietly.

3. Gloucester Market A bright and breezy movement starting with a perky tune. This is answered and followed by a bridge passage which leads to a legato solo over a rhythmic accompaniment. This expands until the whole band is playing and leads back to a restatement of the opening of the movement. The work ends with a short reminder of the main theme which is interrupted by the whole band in unison.

Duration: c. 15'30"

This work has been recorded by
The Royal Northern College of Music
Wind Orchestra on the Polyphonic CD:
QPRMQ56D **'DOUBLES'**

A MALVERN SUITE

1. WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

by **PHILIP SPARKE**

Concert Band arrangement by JOHN HOLLAND

Allegro vivo (♩ = 168)

A **B**

Picc. *ff marc.*

Fl. 1 *ff marc.*

Fl. 2 *ff marc.*

Ob. 1, 2 *a2 ff marc.*

E♭ Cl. *a2*

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

Alto Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1, 2

Sop. Sax.

Alto Sax.

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1, 2

Tpt. 3, 4 *a2*

Hn. 1, 2

Hn. 3, 4 (From. 1, 2)

Tbn. 1, 2

B. Tbn.

Euph. (From. 3)

Tba.

S. Bass

Timp. *tr* *ff* *tr* *ff* *tune B♭ to C*

Perc. 1 *ff*

Perc. 2 *ff* *Xylophone*

[illegible]