

Hymn for Peace (Dur. 6mins)

Published work, composition for large ensemble (2018)

Hymn for Peace belongs within a larger body of my original works for large ensemble that draw their influence from culturally diverse musical traditions in a bid to extend and develop the stylistic reach of the repertoires of the contemporary brass- and symphonic wind ensembles. In addition to the originality of the artefact, as embodied in the composition, the work adds to an ongoing process within which I explore the interface between regional dialects associated with improvised folk, world music and jazz and the established, notated scoring traditions of the brass band and wind band. Whilst my earlier work *Jabulani* explores themes from South Africa and the music of Joseph Shabalala, and the vocal styles of *isicathamiya* and *mbube*, *Hymn for Peace* takes its influence from the folk music of Sendai in Japan. Sendai was the closest city to the epi-centre of the earthquake that gave rise to the devastating tsunami of 2011. The work develops on stylistic lines drawn from the melodic gestures and approach to phrasing associated with the solo *shakuhachi*. The textural and harmonic qualities of *Hymn for Peace* draw their influence from the genre-specific language of the soundtracks used in TV documentaries that were made following the tsunami.

In manuscript, the draft for *Hymn for Peace* received its premiere performance in 2013 when Grimethorpe Brass Band undertook a tour of Japan. The piece was revised and rearranged for both symphonic wind band and European fanfare band in 2018. All three versions of the work were subsequently published by Band Press (Belgium) and are currently awaiting release. The premiere of the completed work in its arrangement for brass band is to take place in Autumn 2019 in a public performance by Northern Crystal Brass Band conducted by Hiroe Tada.