

TRUMPET IN B-FLAT

Jessica Rudman

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# A Curious Incident with the Queen

*for SATB Chorus and Chamber Ensemble*

with Text by Edith Nesbit

2017

ca. 10:00

## Performance Notes

- For the trumpet part, a cup mute can be substituted if a bucket mute is not available.
- A piano reduction of the instrumental accompaniment is included for rehearsals purposes. The piece may also be performed using this reduction in place of the full quartet.

## Program Notes

*A Curious Incident with the Queen* is based Edith Nesbit's *The Story of the Amulet*. Written in 1906, the novel concludes a trilogy chronicling the fantastical adventures of four siblings while their parents are abroad. In this book, the children find one half of a two-part amulet that promises to give them their greatest desire—the safe return of their parents—and they undertake a quest to find the second half. The amulet has the power to transport people through time, so the children travel to times and places where the second half of the amulet might be found. In the company of a wish-granting creature called the Psammead, the siblings visit a utopian future as well as past civilizations including Egypt, Atlantis, and Babylon. While in Babylon, one of the children reveals to its Queen that the Psammead grants wishes. She wishes to see the children's country and is transported to London circa 1900, where the children show her the city.

This composition dramatizes a small scene from that tour, where the Queen sees the poor people of the city and mistakes them for slaves. The children naively respond that they are not slaves because they have “votes.” The interaction, while brief and of no particular consequence in the plot of the story, struck me as particularly relevant to contemporary circumstances, which I was commissioned by The Astoria Choir in 2016.

I selected the text shortly after the American presidential election, seeing in Nesbit's words an expression of both the disparity between the highest and lowest echelons of our economy and also the feeling of political powerlessness many people felt as a result of the election. To me, what seems like a fanciful, even humorous scene in fact brings up a number of serious issues. It calls to attention the question of how or even whether a society that condones economic oppression is any better than one that practices slavery. It also asks us to consider what it means to have a voice in government if it does not seem to make a difference in one's quality of life. These profound undercurrents are what stayed with me after reading Nesbit's story, and I hope that her words will make a similarly lasting impression on audiences hearing this piece.

## Composer Contact Information

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Trumpet in B $\flat$ 

Commissioned by The Astoria Choir, Adam Eggleston, Director

## A Curious Incident with the Queen

Edith Nesbit (1858-1924)

Jessica Rudman (b. 1982)

**Majestic**  $\text{♩}=84$ 

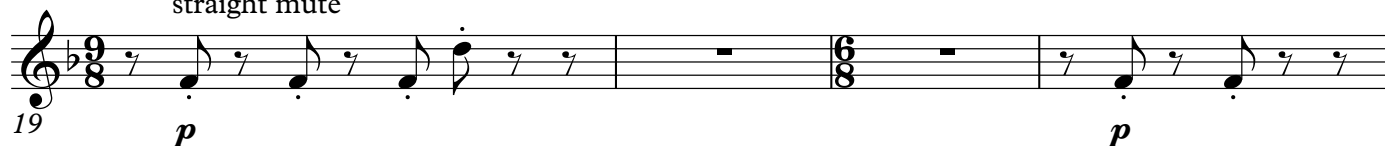
5



12

**rit.****19 Energetic**  $\text{♩}=84$ 

straight mute



**27** (straight mute)

**4**

23–26

*p*

**30**

**rit.**  
open

*mf* ————— *f*

**36** With Quick Changes of Mood ♩=60 **molto accel.**

**2**

**3**

35 36–37 39–41

**42** Suddenly Broad ♩=72

Sopranos

42

"They aren't slaves; they're work - ing peo - ple."

**molto accel.**  
harmon mute, stem in

**49** Suddenly Gentle ♩=60

46

*mf* ————— *pp* ————— *ff*

**4**

Vc.

50–53

**poco rit.**  
harmon mute, stem out

**61** Freely ♩=48

58

*mp* ————— *ff*

Trumpet in B $\flat$ **68** Moving Forward  $\text{♩}=60$ 

6 6

62-67 69-74

Altos Tenors

75 e - ven\_\_\_ if you un - der-stand it, which the chil dren\_\_\_ did not.

**78** bucket mute

78

*mf* *f*

**molto accel.**

**85** Suddenly Broad  $\text{♩}=72$

82 *n* 83-84

87 89-90 91-92

Tenors

**94** accel.

93 Fa - ther told me so."

harmon mute, stem in

*p* *f*

**2**  $\text{♩}=90$  rit.

97-98

open

*p* *ff*

**104 Moving Forward**  $\text{♩}=72$ 

102 104-110

**112** **accel.**

112 113-116 117-118

**120**  $\text{♩}=84$

120 p

**125**

123 mp pp

127 f p

**131** **poco accel.**

131 n 133-135 f

**137** **a tempo** ( $\text{♩}=84$ ) **molto accel.**

137 138-144 pp f

**146** **Suddenly Broad**  $\text{♩}=84$

bucket mute

147 ff 150-151

flz.

♩=84 **molto rit. al fine**

flz.

3

176 *ffp* *ff*

177

178

179

The image shows the final measures of a musical piece. Measure 176 begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature. A fermata is placed over a half note B-flat. A hairpin indicates a crescendo from *ffp* to *ff*. Measure 177 is in 3/2 time and contains a triplet of eighth notes (G, F, E) followed by a quarter rest, a half note D, a quarter rest, and a half note C. Measure 178 continues with a half note B, a quarter rest, and a half note A. Measure 179 ends with a half note G and a fermata. The tempo marking 'molto rit. al fine' is written above the staff.