

TRUMPET IN C

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 C

Commissioned by The Astoria Choir, Adam Eggleston, Director

# A Curious Incident with the Queen

Edith Nesbit (1858-1924)

Jessica Rudman (b. 1982)

**Majestic** ♩=84

*f* like a fanfare *pp*

5

*mp* *pp*

9

*pp* *mf*

12

*f*

**rit.**

*mf* *mp* *n*

**19 Energetic** ♩=84  
straight mute

*p* *p*

**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 C

## 68 Moving Forward ♩=60

62-67 69-74

Altos Tenors

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

78 bucket mute

*mf* *f*

molto accel.

82 *n* 83-84

87 89-90 91-92

Tenors

93 Fa - ther told me so."

94 accel.

harmon mute, stem in

*p* *f*

97-98 99-100 101-102

*p* *ff*

## 104 Moving Forward ♩=72

102 104-110

112

accel.

4

2

112

113-116

117-118

*p*

*f*

120 ♩=84

120

*pp* 3

*p* 3

3/4

123

125

*mp* *pp*

The first system of the musical score for 'The Swan Song' is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The system begins at measure 127, indicated by a bracketed measure number below the staff. The music starts with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4 (G4) marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. This is followed by a triplet of eighth notes: A4 (A4), B4 (B4), and C5 (C5), marked with a triplet '3' below. The melody continues with a quarter note D5 (D5), a half note E5 (E5), and a quarter note F5 (F5), all marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The system concludes with a double bar line, followed by a key signature change to one flat (B-flat) and a time signature change to 4/4.

131 poco accel.

131 *n*

133–135

*f*

137 a tempo (♩=84) molto accel. 7 bucket mute Suddenly Broad ♩=84 f

137 138-144 pp f

147

flz.

*ff*

2

150-151

5/4

## Trumpet in C

153 **3** open

152 153–155 *n* *f* **3**

158 **3** **3** **3**

161 **3** *ff*

rit. *mf* *mp* *p* *n*

164

168 **4** **4** **3** **5** *accel.*

167 168–171

174 *f*

**3** *flz.* *ffp* *ff* *molto rit. al fine*

176