

Commissioned by BBC Radio 3

First Performance: 9 June 2010
BBC Philharmonic Orchestra
Nigel Robson, baritone
HK Gruber, conductor
BBC Studio 7, Oxford Road
Manchester, UK

BBC
RADIO



90 – 93FM

Commissioned by BBC Radio 3

Duration: c. 30 minutes

Instrumentation:

Solo baritone

2 Clarinets, preferably in C but if unavailable in E flat
3 Horns in F
3 Trumpets (3rd doubling Flugelhorn in B flat)
3 Trombones (alto, 2 tenors)
Tuba

Strings

Performance notes:

In the sections where the baritone is joined variously by flugelhorn, trombones and front desks of strings (e.g. 2.0). For the first time, the baritone may proceed to seats in front of the strings.

In movements 1 and 2, the baritone should be seated in the orchestra and play back from a position at a distance from the orchestra. The distance should be made to resemble a 78" (with some suitable padding).

The vocal line is written in a variety of different singing and speaking styles, ranging from *quasi-falsetto* speech to *quasi-aria* in the final movement to *sprechgesang* (*Pierrot Lunaire*, quasi Japanese *noh*) to singing in the final movement. The score, allowing the soloist latitude for appropriate ornamentation.

Performance material for this work is available to hire from Schott Music.

This edition was prepared in October 2015.

Changes to the work may have taken place since the preparation of this edition and it should therefore not be used for performance. For correct performance material, please place an order with our hire library or contact the local agent for your country.

Diese Studienpartitur wurde im Oktober 2015 erstellt.

Nach Fertigstellung dieser Ausgabe können Änderungen am Werk stattgefunden haben. Daher kann sie nicht zu Aufführungszwecken benutzt werden. Um Aufführungsmaterial mit dem jeweils gültigen Korrekturstand zu erhalten, wenden Sie sich bitte an unsere Leihabteilung bzw. an die für ihr Land zuständige Vertretung.

www.schott-music.com

2.

Franz Kafka: Das Stadtwappen

Das Wesentliche des ganzen Unternehmens ist der Gedanke. Neben diese Gedanke ist alles andere nebensächlich. Der Gedanke einmal in seiner Größe gefasst kann nicht mehr verschwinden, so lange es Menschen gibt wird auch der starke Wunsch dasein den Turm zu Ende zu bauen.

Franz Kafka: The City Coat-of-Arms

The essential of the entire undertaking is the intention to build a tower reaching to Heaven. The intention all else is irrelevant. The intention once grasped in its entirety will never be forgotten. As long as there are men survives the powerful desire will remain to complete the building of the tower.

Jakob Boehme, Mysterium magnum

Versteht mich recht! Was Babel und der Turm zu Babel andeutet, das ist die Stadt Babel, die wir auf dieser Stadt auf Erden bauen. Der Thum ist sein eigen erwählter Gott, die Gotteskinder, die aus dieser Schule der Schule dieser Welt sind die Baumeister dieses Thurmes. Es sind die Menschen, die von Menschen da zu berufen werden ohne Gottes Geist die sich nicht scheuen und ein Altgott von der Welt her. Keiner Aندر. Sie schnitzen allesamt nur Sündenbilder.

Jakob Boehme, Mysterium magnum

Beware! Hear us right! What Babel and the tower to Babel denote is the city Babel, which we build this city on earth. The tower is his chosen and elect god, the children of God, who are chosen from the school of this world are the masterbuilders of this tower. They are the men who are chosen as teachers and thereunto are chosen by mankind without God's spirit. They are not afraid and will set up an idol of this world. None erected.

3.

Chorale preliata Ascendit in caelum et descendit in infernum

4.

Streich

Ich habe die Erde unterjocht und habe die Völker gezwungen den grossen Turm zu bauen, den Himmel zu erobern, wie Nebukadnezar habe auch ich ins grenzenlose gebaut. Nun habe der König von Babylon mich erlöst. Nun sei an diesem den Weltdachboden zu kehren." "Diese Arbeit hat keinen Sinn!", schreit Nebukadnezar. Im Nichts habe nichts ein sinn."

Friedrich Dürrenmatt, Towerbuilding

(Nebukadnezzar, King of Babylon am I.)

Alone I climb up to my goal. I have subjugated the world and forced the people to build the great tower that I might conquer the heaven and kill God, the creator of this absurd world.

I shout. No answer. I challenge God to a duel. Silence. Not even an echo. The foe doesn't appear. At last from out of the void a phantom comes out. At first indistinct, then much clearer, takes on a form: an ancient, the countenance obliterated, dressed like Nebukadnezzar, in a kind of spacesuit; only more haggard, more shabbier, centuries, millennia of age, sunk into himself, sweeping together a few atoms with his broom. Taking no notice of the King of Babel, "Where is God," asks Nebukadnezzar. The ancient stands still, his eyes fixed into space. "Don't know," pausing he replies. "Who are you?" shouts the King of Babylon. A great heaving of the ancient's face, a soundless chuckle, then silence again. "Your predecessor," answers the ancient, sweeping with his broom. A few dead atoms swirl about. "Nebukadnezzar, King of Babylon, King of the tower, reached up to heaven and now seek out God to tell him, that ach-offender!" "Once I too undertook to do just that," responded the ancient, muttering monotonously. "I too, many times, I too subdued the world and compelled the peoples to perform impossible, impossible feats, immeasurable, to conquer the heavens, like Nebukadnezzar. I too have been released. The King of Babylon has released me. Now it's upto him to sweep the roof of the world. I challenge him. I challenge Nebukadnezzar. "In nothingness, nothing has a point".

5.

Franz Kafka, Das Stadtwaagen (weiter)

Da zu kam dass schon die zweite oder dritte Generation der Bauern, die den Himmelsturm zu bauen erkannte. Alles was in dieser Stadt aus Sagen und Geschichten über den Tag, den es nach einem prophezierten Tag in welchen die Stadt von oben herab mit schmelzenden Blei beschlagen zer-schmelzt werden.

Franz Kafka, The City Coat of Arms (cont.)

So it came about that the second or third generation of the farmers, who recognized the futility of building the heavenly tower. Every saying, every legend, every story about the day, the day on which the city will be smelted from above with molten lead.

6.

Choral

Ich will hinauf zum Himmelsteil, zum Himmelsteil will ich emporsteigen, hoch über die Sterne Gottes will ich mich erheben, ich will über die Wolkengipfel emporsteigen, dem Höchsten mich gleichstellen.

I want to ascend to the heights of Heaven, I want to ascend to the heights of Heaven, high above the stars of God I will exalt my throne, I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

1990-11-11:18

So when you have said in thy heart: I will ascend into Heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

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English words by the composer.

for those who love the language but not the word
TurmMusik / Tower Music

Alexander Goehr

Die Große Steinplattenschrift Nebukadnezars II
I. Inscription of Nebukadnezar II on the great stone tablets

rit.

I

Clarinet 1 in C

Clarinet 2 in C

Horn 1 in F

Horn 2 in F

Horn 3 in B

Trumpet 1 in C

Trumpet 2 in C

Trumpet 3 in C

Alto Trombone 1

Tenor Trombone 2

Bass Trombone 3

Tuba

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello/Double Bass

112

rit.

I

arco, sul ponticello

mp

2

Flute 1: *ppoco f*

Flute 2: *mp*, *f*, *p*

Flute 3: *mp*, *f*

Bassoon: *f*, *p*

Violin: *all. mp*, *mf*

Viola: *mp*, *mf*

Flute 1: *f*, *mf*, *f*

Flute 2: *f*, *mf*, *f*

ritardando

Flute 1: The pe-ri-ole the base of wax-der for de

Flute 2: the base of wax-der for de

Violin: *col. legno mp*, *mf*

Viola: *col. legno mp*, *mf*

28

4

A. Tbn 1

Tbn 2

Tbn 3

Bat.

col-er wach-er ne-ber jo-ai-ter der Pa-ter om-ni-po-ten-ter

per-pla-wach-er My-steri-osa der Hei-ge-ist der mit der Ma-ter

4

Vla

Vcl

PREVIEW

Low Resolution

29

A. Tbn 1

Tbn 2

Tbn 3

der Hei-ge-ist der mit der Ma-ter aus dem Wasser und dem Geist ge-bo-ren ist und in Flei-sch der Welt ge-bo-ren ist und in Flei-sch der Welt ge-bo-ren ist und in Flei-sch der Welt ge-bo-ren ist

der wahr-haftig aus dem Him-mel ge-kommen ist und in Flei-sch der Welt ge-bo-ren ist und in Flei-sch der Welt ge-bo-ren ist und in Flei-sch der Welt ge-bo-ren ist

5

Vla

Vcl

