

Name: Pieter Koster

Main Subject: Wind band Conducting

Research Supervisor: Paul Scheepers

Title of Research: George Lloyd – Music for brass, from symphony to test-piece

Research Questions:

1. Did George Lloyd change his way of composing from Symphony no. 10 via Royal Parks to Diversions on a Bass Theme?
 - a. In what way does George Lloyd treat the following compositional elements in each piece?
 - i. Structure
 - ii. Harmony
 - iii. Thematic material
 - iv. Musical Tension
 - b. In what way does the treatment of these elements differ in each piece?
2. Did George Lloyd succeed in combining his own views with the demands of the test-piece commissions, to write an appropriate test-piece?

Summary of Results:

Cornish symphonic and opera composer George Lloyd has written several compositions for brass, starting with a symphony for brass ensemble (Symphony no. 10) and then several test-pieces for brass band. The commission of test-pieces for brass band contests appears to be guided only by implicit criteria for these sort of compositions. Lloyd's first test-piece, Royal Parks, apparently did not meet the criteria and his second test-piece, Diversions on a Bass Theme, did. This thesis investigates if George Lloyd changed his way of composing to write an appropriate test-piece, by a detailed analysis of Symphony no. 10, Royal Parks and Diversions on a Bass Theme. Besides that the thesis will try to answer the question if Lloyd was able to combine his own musical views with the demands of the test-piece commissions. The main findings are that Lloyd remained within his own musical language when writing the test-pieces, however he made some decisive choices regarding structure, form and thematic material that influenced the compositions significantly. He did partially succeed in combining his own views with the demands of the test-piece commissions.

Biography: Pieter Koster (1985) completed his Bachelor's Degrees at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague as a student of Ad van Zon on the trumpet, and Alex Schillings for conducting. In September 2016 he successfully completed his Master-exam concert with the Bundes Polizeiorchester München. Pieter has participated in multiple conducting courses with renowned (professional) orchestras and teachers.

Today he is professional conductor of the fanfare orchestras 'Ons Genoegen' Hattem, 'Wilhelmina' Volendam and the Koninklijke Brassband Utrecht. He is also a brass teacher for numerous students. Since 2014 he is secretary and member of the board of the Dutch Association of Wind band Conductors (Bond van Orkest-dirigenten en Instructeurs).