

*Simon Young*

## **Concerto for piano and Wind by Edward Gregson**

Edward Gregson's international standing speaks for itself, his music is performed, broadcast and recorded worldwide.

Born in the North of England in 1945, he studied at the Royal Academy of Music winning 5 composition awards and subsequently was a finalist in the BBC Young Composer's Prize. Since then he has combined teaching, academic and administrative posts with creative work; juggling composition with performing ( a sympathetic and perceptive pianist and conductor, especially of contemporary music), administrative duties including the Chairman of the Association of Professional Composers, Director of the Performing Rights Society, the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and the National Foundation for Youth Music, Member of the Government Music Industry Forum, and academic work as visiting professor of advanced composition at the Royal Academy of Music, Reader then Professor of Music at Goldsmith's College, University of London, before taking up his present post as Principal of the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

Gregson is a committed supporter of young performers and fellow writers but it is as a composer that he is best known, working almost entirely to commission. He is active in most genres, orchestral, chamber, choral and instrumental works, but it is in the areas of music for wind, brass and for the stage that he has made his greatest impact. His scores for the York Mystery Plays and especially the Royal Shakespeare Company received particular acclaim, while his music for bands, for brass and wind ensembles is performed throughout the world wherever brilliance, invention and masterly scoring are appreciated.

The Concerto for Piano and Wind by Edward Gregson  
'Homages'

Performances:           Composer (piano) Berkshire  
                                  Youth Wind Orchestra,  
                                  Manchester. October 1995  
                                  John McCabe (dedicatee) RNCM  
                                  Symphonic Wind Ensemble.  
                                  Lancaster. November 1997  
                                  John McCabe. Bloomington  
                                  Symphonic Wind Ensemble.  
                                  Indiana. November 2002  
                                  Simon Young. Kunitachi Music  
                                  Academy Wind Orchestra. Tokyo  
                                  October 2005

### Orchestration

3 Flutes (2 & 3 double Picc.)  
2 Oboes

Cor Anglais  
2 Clarinets in B flat  
Bass Clarinet (Doubles 3<sup>rd</sup> Clarinet)  
Soprano Saxophone  
2 Bassoons  
Contrabassoon (Doubles 3<sup>rd</sup> Bassoon)  
Solo Piano  
4 Horns in F  
4 Trumpets in B flat  
2 Tenor Trombones  
Bass Trombone  
Tuba  
Timpani (Doubles Tubular Bells)  
2 String Bases

### First Movement: Toccata - Fast and rhythmic

A 9 bar introduction heralds the octave piano entry (1) which is bold and forceful (2); a 'strict tempo' complicated rhythmic section (3) leads us to more octaves followed by a slower more expressive section (4) with orchestral trills and long sustained notes (5). It is not long before the toccata returns (6) and another complicated rhythmic section (7) leads to the piano cadenza (8) which develops many of the ideas already heard. This is followed by some 'con forza' playing (9), a return to the expressive section (10) and a final romp for the toccata (11).

### Second Movement: Passacaglia - Slowly

The movement opens in 3/2 time (12) with a long orchestral passage with solos from various wind instruments (13) playing a 3 note figure over and over again until eventually with a left hand flourish (14) the solo piano enters with the same figure. There is a slow but gradual build up (15), the music becomes quicker (16) and more rhythmically complicated (17) with triplets, octaves, quintuplets, setuplets (18) against triplets to a great climax heralding the return of the 3 note figure of the opening (19) to bring the movement to a quiet and serene end.

### Final Movement: Rondo Burlesque - Very Fast and Rhythmic

The piano introduces the finale '*leggiero e marcato*' in bars of various combinations of 10/8, 7/8, and 9/8 (20) and as the movement progresses with markings such as *martellato and bell-like* (21) interspersed with *dolce and giocoso* (22), (23), (24), (25), (26) without a break until the final notes. A very exciting movement to round off an interesting work not only to listen to, but also to play. SY11/05