

WHEN WE LEARN AN INSTRUMENT we often play pieces by composers who have been dead for centuries – composers such as Handel, Mozart and Verdi, for instance. Although these justifiably famous composers wrote absolute masterpieces, well-known tunes that everyone loves, wouldn't it be exciting to play pieces by composers who are living now, as well? Once the mystique is banished, we find that composers these days are neither aloof in an ivory tower, nor starving in a garret (at least we hope not!).

For this collection no fewer than fourteen composers – very much alive – have been asked to produce musical fingerprints especially for the trumpet. These are very personal pieces in which the composers show a little of themselves: the different sounds they like, sometimes unexpected or unusual, sometimes jazzy, sometimes sombre. Their pieces may tell a story, or describe a feeling, or a place, or a game. The composers have used their creativity, exercised their imaginations, and you should too ... have fun!

All of the composers were asked to provide their full name, date of birth and two of their 'favourite things' – the answers are shown on the respective music pages. Here are my answers:



Full name Deborah Jane Calland Date and place of birth 28.1.65; Chandler's Ford, Hampshire Favourite colour midnight blue Favourite book Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë

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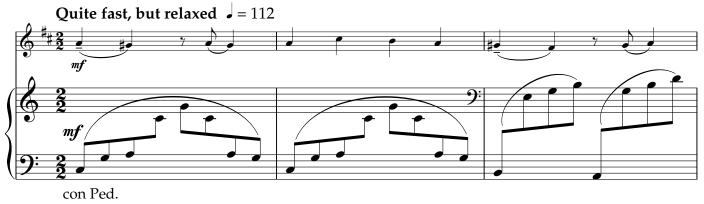
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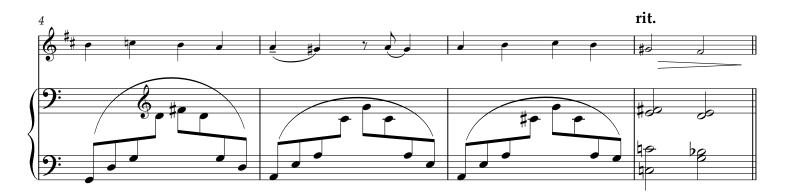


La Habana vieja

(Old Havana)

Christian Alexander









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Full name James Robertson Rae Date and place of birth 29.8.57; North Shields, Tyne and Wear Favourite instrument bagpipes (controversial!) Favourite sweet Mars bar (boring!)

A question of cool



















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