

NIGEL HESS

Nigel Hess has worked extensively as a composer for television, theatre and film. Credits include *A Woman of Substance*, *Vanity Fair*, *Campion*, *Testament* (Ivor Novello Award for Best TV Theme), *Summer's Lease* (Television & Radio Industries Club Award for Best TV Theme), *Maigret*, *Classic Adventure*, ('Music from the Movies' Award for Best BBC Theme), *Dangerfield*, *Just William* and *Stick With Me Kid* for Disney. Recent television scores include *Wycliffe* for HTV (Royal Television Society Nomination for Best TV Theme and 'Music from the Movies' Award for Best ITV Theme), the BBC's *Hetty Wainthropp Investigates* starring Patricia Routledge (Ivor Novello Award for Best TV Theme and Royal Television Society Nomination for Best TV Theme) and *Badger*, a Feelgood Fiction drama series for BBC1 starring Jerome Flynn. His most recent feature film score is for Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*, directed by Bill Cartlidge.

From 1981 to 1985 Nigel Hess was Company Music Director and House Composer for the Royal Shakespeare Company and has contributed twenty scores for RSC productions. He was awarded the New York Drama Desk Award for 'Outstanding Music in a Play' for the productions of *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Cyrano de Bergerac* on Broadway.

PROGRAMME NOTE

The journey begins at the source of the River Thames at Kemble in Wiltshire, first with just a few drops of water, but gaining strength as the flow starts. A horn solo introduces the main theme, based on an old Wiltshire melody 'Through the Groves', which dates back to the eighteenth century. A solo trumpet announces that the voyage has well and truly begun, and very soon we cross into Oxfordshire, passing close to the village of Bampton – where morris dancing was invented, with its jingles and stamping sticks. Along the river we can glimpse many Elizabethan manor-houses, and at Godstow we pause to view the nunnery, founded in 1133, hearing an ancient plainsong melody, 'Domino', from the school of Notre Dame in about 1200. Then Oxford itself, with its dreaming spires and steeple bells, and the abbey at Abingdon.

The World Poohsticks Championships are held on the river at Little Wittenham, an event to which trombones and tubas pay tribute. As we cross borders again into Berkshire, an old folk tune of that county, although of Irish origin, is heard – 'The Pride of Kildare'. A well known boating-song intrudes, reminding us of halcyon days spent in Henley, but soon we arrive at Windsor with 'Here's a Health unto His Majesty', a popular song during the reign of Charles II. Passing Runnymede, where the Magna Carta was signed in 1215, we sight Hampton Court and hear Henry VIII's gentle 'Greensleeves'. Rounding a bend in the river, 'The Lass of Richmond Hill' greets us with a broad smile. As we sail through Barnes, the house where composer Gustav Holst lived is spotted, closely followed by Miss Pinkerton's Academy (from *Vanity Fair*) at Hammersmith. A wave to Lambeth, and Big Ben hoves majestically into view. Nostalgically we remember London Bridge before arriving at Greenwich, starting-point of many a heroic voyage, and we hear the sailor's hymn 'Eternal Father, Strong to Save'. Smelling the salt in the air, we can sense the open sea, and as the journey reaches its end, our Wiltshire melody proudly sweeps out to meet the ocean. The Thames Journey is complete.

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Picc. *sfmf* *f*

Fls. *sfmf* *f* *mf* *mp*

Obs. *sfmf* *f* *mf* *mp*

C. A. *sfmf* *f*

Es Cl. *sfmf* *f*

1. *sfmf* *f* *mp* 3 soli

Cl. 2. *sfmf* *f*

3. *sfmf* *f*

Alt. Cl. *sfmf* *f* *mf* *mp*

B. Cl. *sfmf* *f* *mf* *mp*

Bsns. *sfmf* *f* *mf* *mp*

A. Saxes. *sfmf* *f*

T. Saxes. *sfmf* *f*

Bar Sax. *sfmf* *f*

1.2. *sfmf* *f*

Hns. *sfmf* *f*

3.4. *sfmf* *f*

1.2. *sfmf* *f*

Crts. *sfmf* *f*

3. *sfmf* *f*

Tpts. *sfmf* *f*

Tbns. *sfmf* *f*

B. Tbn. *sfmf* *f*

Euphs. *sfmf* *f*

Tbas. *sfmf* *f*

Stg. Bass *sfmf* *f*

Timp. *sfmf* *f*

(gls) *sfmf* *f*

(cym) *sfmf* *f*

(SD) *sfmf* *f*

(BD) *sfmf* *f*

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