PROGRAMME NOTE

The idea of this funeral homage came when my friend Alain Altinoglu asked me to compose a piece for solo trombone and orchestra, initially for La Monnaie in Brussels, to be performed in an all-Beethoven programme between the 1st Symphony and the 3rd Symphony. As we know, the Eroica was initially dedicated to Napoléon Bonaparte, but Beethoven furiously removed this dedication on hearing that Napoléon had made himself emperor. The connection with Belgium seemed to me evident, because of the Battle of Waterloo which was a significant defeat for the French emperor. I wanted to react to the period of insecurity and economic instability (with its rise in nationalism) in which we live, through this musical homage to an idealist who could only impose his vision by force, and thus failed. This *Tombeau de Napoléon* is a manifesto against the absurdity of war and the pointless ambition of the men who create them.

The piece is in one movement with several episodes to be played without interruption. It has three principal sections: slow – fast – slow. The solo part is very lyrical, using the whole range of the instrument, always trying to take advantage of the beautiful resources of the trombone, but can also be sharp and rhythmical, sometimes inspired by bebop or funk. I have used several mutes for the trombone as well as unusual percussion instruments such as anvils, bells and canons.

Richard Dubugnon

INSTRUMENTATION

3 Flutes (3rd doubling Piccolo)
2 Oboes
2 Clarinets in B♭
2 Bassoons
Contrabassoon

4 French Horns in F
2 Trumpets in C
Solo Trombone
Trombone
Bass Trombone
Contrabass Tuba

Percussion (min. 2 players):

Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Canon (or very large Gran cassa), 4 Tom-toms, Tambourine, 2 Bongos, 3 Suspended Cymbals: small (splash), medium and large, 2 large Crash Cymbals, Triangle, large Tam-tam, Bells (B2–C3), Glockenspiel, Vibraphone.

Timpani

Harp

Violins I – 12
Violins II – 10
Violas – 6
Violoncellos – 6
Double basses – 4

Orchestral materials are available for hire from
www.editionpeters.com

Commissioned by La Monnaie / De Munt
L'Auditorium-Orchestre National de Lyon and WDR Sinfonieorchester Köln

pour mon cher ami Alain Altinoglu

Tombeau de Napoléon

Ode concertante pour trombone et orchestre

Richard Dubugnon
Op. 81

NOTA BENE : tous les trilles au demi-ton, sauf indication contraire
all trills are semi-tone trills, unless specified otherwise

Sample

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14 **poco accel.**

2 **Andante** ♩ = 60

p sub. *f* *pp sub.* *legatissimo*

16 *pp* *mp cantabile*

18 *poco a poco cresc.*

19

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