

# *Gregson's evolving works*

## A guide to the transformations of Edward Gregson's music

**By Matthew Nunes**

(Last Revised: January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019)

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While researching the music of Edward Gregson (b. 1945) it is evident that select works evolved throughout their lifetimes based on the needs and commissions of his career. With multiple versions of the same music available one could get lost in a tangled web spanning decades. The purpose of this guide is to identify the applicable works, the changes to these, and who and/or what may have originated these changes. From here, researchers could seek necessary scores and verify the musical material.



These works fall into six categories:

- Works that were retitled (RT)
- Works that were re-orchestrated (RO)
- Works that were revised and/or extended (R/E)
- Works that were repurposed into larger works (RP)
- Works that became or left sketches for other works (SK)
- Works that fall into more than one of the above categories (designations assigned as needed)

For each category a two-to-three letter designation is provided for easy or quick reference. These designations are assigned based on the syllables of its category. For example: RT for **Re**Titled, R/E for **Re**vised and/or **E**xtended, etc. For the final category all appropriate designations are assigned, as needed.

**(In alphabetical order from originating work)**

*...and the seven trumpets...* (1998) was revised in 2000 for Foden's brass band and retitled *The Trumpets of the Angels*. In 2016 Nicholas Childs commissioned a new version of that work for the Black Dyke Band. This New Performing Edition of *The Trumpets of the Angels* removed the organ part while adding new material.<sup>1</sup>

**(RT, RO, R/E)**

*Aztec Dances* (2010) was commissioned by Christopher Orton for recorder and piano. It was re-orchestrated in 2011 for flute and piano for Wissam Boustany. In 2013 a version for flute and 13-player ensemble was commissioned by Adam Johnson and the Orchestra of the Northern Lights.<sup>2</sup>

**(RO)**

*Celebration* (1991) led to the formation of *Blazon* (1992).<sup>3</sup>

**(SK)**

*Euphonium Concerto* (2018) was written for David Childs. Orchestrations include brass band, orchestra, and piano and will be available for purchase/performance as of June 2019.<sup>4</sup>

**(RO)**

*Fairground Songs* (1982) for children's voices and orchestra (with text by the composer's wife, Susan Gregson) emerged out of the positive experiences of *The Salamander and the Moonraker* (1980). It is unclear if any musical material or sketches found its way to the later work.<sup>5</sup>

*Fanfare for Europe* (1973) was written for large brass ensemble, organ, and percussion. Gregson also created a version for brass band entitled *Fanfare*, published 1976.<sup>6</sup>

**(RT, RO, SK)**

*Flourish for an Occasion* (1981) for three trumpets and three trombones was a wedding fanfare that was repurposed as the opening movement of *Occasion* (1986) for brass band. *Occasion's*

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<sup>1</sup> Gregson, Edward. "...and the seven trumpets...: Programme Note", "The Trumpets of the Angels: Programme Note", and "The Trumpets of the Angels (New Performing Edition): Programme Note". EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/and-the-seven-trumpets/>, <https://edwardgregson.com/works/trumpets-of-the-angels-the/>, and <https://edwardgregson.com/works/trumpets-angels-new-performing-edition/>.

<sup>2</sup> Gregson, Edward. "Aztec Dances (recorder/flute and piano): Programme Note" and "Aztec Dances – concerto for flute and ensemble: Programme Note". EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/aztec-dances/> and <https://edwardgregson.com/works/aztec-dances-concerto-for-flute-and-ensemble/>.

<sup>3</sup> Hindmarsh, Paul. Liner notes to *Gregson: Concertos etc.* BBC Philharmonic. Chandos 10105, CD, 2003.

<sup>4</sup> Gregson, Edward. "Euphonium Concerto (brass band version): Programme Notes". EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/euphonium-concerto/>.

<sup>5</sup> Gregson, Edward. "Fairground Songs: Programme Note". EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/fairground-songs/>.

<sup>6</sup> Gregson, Edward. "Fanfare for Europe: Programme Note" and "Fanfare: Programme Note". EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/fanfare-for-europe/> and <https://edwardgregson.com/works/fanfare/>.

final two movements, III. Elegy and IV. Dance were commissioned as a test piece for a 1982 competition in Scotland.<sup>7</sup>

**(RT, RO, RP)**

*Four Pictures* (1982) are piano duets written for the composer's sons Mark and Justin. The first three movements were used in *Four Etudes* (2016) for brass band.<sup>8</sup>

**(RT, RO, RP)**

*Greenwich Dances* (1983) for orchestra was commissioned by the National Centre for Orchestral Studies, conducted by Adrian Leaper. It was revised and renamed *Contrasts – a concerto for orchestra* (1989) and performed by the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. Finally, it was again revised and renamed *Concerto for Orchestra* (2001) and recorded by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Douglas Bostock.<sup>9</sup>

**(RT, R/E)**

*Horn Concerto* (1971) was written with brass band for Ifor James. In 2013 it was re-orchestrated on a commission by Paul Klein, Principal Horn of the Ulster Orchestra and BBC Northern Ireland. Gregson notes he modeled this re-orchestration on a “late Haydn sized orchestra, with addition of a percussionist”.<sup>10</sup> It is also available with piano.

**(RO)**

*Meditation: Before the Cross* (1963) exists in versions for choir SATB/organ, male voices a capella, and cornet and brass band (which was made for a David Daws solo album in 2003).<sup>11</sup>

**(RO)**

*Music for The Plantagenets Trilogy* (1988) and *Music for Henry IV parts 1 & 2* (1991), the incidental music for two different collections of Shakespeare's history plays, would spawn a handful of works. *The Sword and the Crown* (1991) for wind band was commissioned by the Royal Air Force Music Services for their 1991 British tour. In 1992 BBC Radio 2 and the Central Band of the Royal Air Force commissioned a combined version for wind band and orchestra. The work was revised in 1992 but it is not clear for which version. In 2002 the Parc and Dare Band commissioned a brass band version. Next came *The Kings Go Forth* (1996) for wind band which was commissioned by the Royal Air Force Music Service and an American

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<sup>7</sup> Gregson, Edward. “Flourish for an Occasion: Programme Note” and “Occasion: Programme Note”. EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/flourish-for-an-occasion/> and <https://edwardgregson.com/works/occasion/>.

<sup>8</sup> Gregson, Edward. “Four Etudes for brass band: Programme Note”. EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/four-etudes-brass-band/>.

<sup>9</sup> Gregson, Edward. “Concerto for Orchestra: Programme Note”. EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/concerto-for-orchestra/>.

<sup>10</sup> Gregson, Edward. “Horn Concerto (brass band version): Programme Note” and “Horn Concerto (orchestral version: Programme Note”. EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/horn-concerto-brass-band-version/> and <https://edwardgregson.com/works/horn-concerto-orchestral-version/>.

<sup>11</sup> Gregson, Edward. “Early Vocal and Choral music: Programme Note” and “Meditation: Before the Cross: Programme Note”. EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/early-vocal-choral-music/> and <https://edwardgregson.com/works/meditation-before-the-cross/>.

Universities Consortium. Finally, *An Age of Kings* (2004) for brass band was commissioned by Nicholas Childs and the Black Dyke Band for a recording. According to Gregson this piece “[incorporates] music from both the symphonic suites for wind band”. It is not noted whether music from Gregson’s *The Plantagenets (Symphonic Study)* (1973) for brass band was incorporated into the initial 1988 trilogy or the 1991 plays.<sup>12</sup>

**(RT, RO, R/E, and RP)**

*Piano Sonata in one movement* (1983) left sketches that were repurposed for *Six Little Piano Pieces* (1982, revised 1993). The date discrepancy reveals these works may have been composed simultaneously.<sup>13</sup>

**(RT, RP, SK)**

*Prelude for an Occasion* (1968) was written for the Black Dyke Mills brass band. It was re-orchestrated for wind band in 1985 for Geoffrey Brand’s G&M Brand series.<sup>14</sup>

**(RO)**

*Processional* (1992/1993) for brass quintet was commissioned by the University of Sunderland. It was re-orchestrated for brass band in 1995 on a commission by the Yorkshire Building Society Band for their BBC Festival of Brass concert.<sup>15</sup>

**(RO)**

*Romance* (1964) for clarinet and piano was written for Robert Hill. It was re-orchestrated for recorder and string quartet in 2004 for John Turner. It is also available for recorder and piano.<sup>16</sup>

**(RO)**

*The Sad Tale of Barbara Allen* (1974) is an arrangement of a traditional English folk song and was written for female voices. In 2017 it was re-orchestrated for upper voices and piano.<sup>17</sup>

**(RO)**

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<sup>12</sup> Gregson, Edward. “The Plantagenets (Symphonic Study): Programme Note”, “Music for The Plantagenets trilogy: Programme Note”, “Music for Henry IV parts 1 & 2: Programme Note”, “The Sword and the Crown: Programme Note”, “The Sword and the Crown: Programme Note”, “The Kings go Forth: Programme Note”, and “An Age of Kings: Programme Note”. EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/plantagenets-symphonic-study-the/>, <https://edwardgregson.com/works/music-for-the-plantagenets-trilogy/>, <https://edwardgregson.com/works/music-for-henry-iv-parts-1-2/>, <https://edwardgregson.com/works/sword-and-the-crown-the/>, <https://edwardgregson.com/works/kings-go-forth-the/>, and <https://edwardgregson.com/works/an-age-of-kings/>.

<sup>13</sup> Gregson, Edward. “Piano Sonata in one movement: Programme Note” and “Six Little Piano Pieces: Programme Note”. EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/piano-sonata-in-one-movement/> and <https://edwardgregson.com/works/six-little-piano-pieces/>.

<sup>14</sup> Gregson, Edward. “Prelude for an Occasion: Programme Note” and “Prelude for an Occasion: Programme Note”. EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/prelude-for-an-occasion-2/> and <https://edwardgregson.com/works/prelude-for-an-occasion/>.

<sup>15</sup> Gregson, Edward. “Processional: Programme Note” and “Processional: Programme Note”. EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/processional-for-brass-quintet/> and <https://edwardgregson.com/works/processional/>.

<sup>16</sup> Gregson, Edward. “Romance (clarinet and piano): Programme Note”, “Romance (recorder and string quartet): Programme Note”, and “Romance (recorder and piano): Programme Note”. EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/romance-clarinet-piano/>, <https://edwardgregson.com/works/romance-recorder-string-quartet/>, and <https://edwardgregson.com/works/romance-recorder-piano/>.

<sup>17</sup> Gregson, Edward. “The Sad Tale of Barbara Allen: Programme Note”. EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/sad-tale-barbara-allen/>.

*The Salamander and the Moonraker (An Adventure Story in Music)* (1980) for children's choir, two narrators, and orchestra (with text by the composer's wife, Susan Gregson) was revised and re-orchestrated in 2017.<sup>18</sup>

**(RO, R/E)**

*Shadow of Paradise* (2005) for oboe and percussion had some of its material "reworked" in the *Saxophone Concerto* (2006) commissioned by Nobuya Sugawa and premiered by the BBC Philharmonic, conducted by Clark Rundell. Both these pieces were inspired by Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem *Kubla Khan* (1798). According to Paul Hindmarsh's liner notes from *Symphony: The Music of Edward Gregson Volume V* (DOYCD319) (2013) by the Black Dyke Band, some of the leftover material would later become *Rococo Variations* (2008) for brass band.<sup>19</sup> The *Saxophone Concerto* is also available with piano.

**(R/E, SK, RO)**

*Serenata Notturna* (1998) for violin and piano was re-orchestrated in 2004 for cello and piano. According to the composers notes "a substantial part of the same music became an outline sketch for the slow movement of a Violin Concerto" (see below).<sup>20</sup>

**(RO, SK)**

*Stepping Out* (1996) was repurposed as the second movement of a piece called *Two Pictures for Orchestra* (2009), the first movement being Gregson's tribute to the late artist Dorothy Bradford entitled *Goddess*. *Goddess* itself was re-orchestrated for a larger ensemble.<sup>21</sup>

**(RP, RO)**

*Symphony in two movements* (2012) for brass band was commissioned by the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain and the National Youth Brass Band of Wales. It was re-orchestrated in 2015 for symphonic brass and percussion, after a 2014 request when Gregson was in America.<sup>22</sup>

**(RO)**

*Three Matisse Impressions* (1993) for recorder and piano was re-orchestrated in 1997 for John Turner, now for recorder, strings, harp, and percussion.<sup>23</sup>

**(RO)**

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<sup>18</sup> Gregson, Edward. "The Salamander and the Moonraker (An Adventure Story in Music): Programme Note". EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/salamander-and-the-moonraker-childrens-cantata-the/>.

<sup>19</sup> Gregson, Edward. "Shadow of Paradise (solo oboe and percussion): Programme Note" and "Saxophone Concerto: Programme Note". EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/shadow-of-paradise/> and <https://edwardgregson.com/works/saxophone-concerto/>.

<sup>20</sup> Gregson, Edward. "Serenata Notturna (violin and piano): Programme Note" and "Serenata Notturna (cello and piano): Programme Note". EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/serenata-notturna-violin-piano/> and <https://edwardgregson.com/works/serenata-notturna-cello-piano/>.

<sup>21</sup> Hindmarsh, Paul. Liner notes to *Gregson: Trombone & Cello Concertos etc.* BBC Concert Orchestra. Chandos 10627, CD, 2011.

<sup>22</sup> Gregson, Edward. "Symphony in two movements: Programme Note" and "Symphony in two movements for symphonic brass and percussion: Programme Note". EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/symphony-in-two-movements/> and <https://edwardgregson.com/works/symphony-in-two-movements-symphonic-brass-and-percussion/>.

<sup>23</sup> Gregson, Edward. "Three Matisse Impressions (recorder and piano version): Programme Note" and "Three Matisse Impressions (recorder and ensemble version): Programme Note". EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/three-matisse-impressions-recorder-and-piano-version/> and <https://edwardgregson.com/works/three-matisse-impressions-recorder-strings-harp-and-percussion/>.

*Three Songs* (1965) for baritone voice, horn, and string quartet contained a middle movement with copyright concerns from the Robert Frost Estate preventing performance and publication. In 1980 Gregson wrote more songs to poetry and in 2017 decided to remove and replace the problematic Frost movement. This collection became *Five Songs of Innocence and Experience* (1980, rev. 2017).<sup>24</sup>

**(RT, RP)**

*Trombone Concerto* (1979) was written with orchestra for Michael Hext. It was re-orchestrated for brass band in 2012 at the request of Nicholas Childs for Black Dyke Band's principal trombone Brett Baker<sup>25 26, 27</sup>. It is also available with piano.

**(RO)**

*Tuba Concerto* (1976) was written with brass band, commissioned by the Besses o' th' Barn Band for John Fletcher. Gregson created an orchestral version in 1978 (premiered by Fletcher in 1983), and a wind band version in 1984.<sup>28</sup> It is also available with piano.

**(RO)**

*Variations on Laudate Dominum* (1976) for brass band was commissioned for the British tour of the London Citadel Band (from Canada, and led by the composer's brother, Bramwell). The piece was extended in 2007 for the Black Dyke Band. In 2017 a re-orchestration for symphonic wind band was made available.<sup>29</sup>

**(RO, R/E)**

*Violin Concerto* (2000) was written with orchestra but two movements reach beyond this piece. The second movement spawned out of *Serenata Notturna* (see above) while the final movement was used as a basis for the third movement of *Triptych* (2011) for solo violin (*Triptych* was the test piece for the 2011 RNCM Manchester International Violin Competition). In his work *The Dance, forever the Dance* (1999) for orchestra Gregson used Oscar Wilde's poem *The Harlot's*

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<sup>24</sup> Gregson, Edward. "Three Songs: Programme Note" and "Five Songs of Innocence and Experience: Programme Note". EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/three-songs/> and <https://edwardgregson.com/works/five-songs-of-innocence-and-experience/>.

<sup>25</sup> Lyndon Brett Baker's June 2014 Performance Portfolio for his DMA at the University of Salford contains his notes on the premiere, recording methodology and process, and an email from Edward Gregson, pages 66 – 75. It is available at [http://usir.salford.ac.uk/32496/1/L\\_B\\_Baker\\_DMA\\_Performance\\_Portfolio\\_Sept\\_2014.pdf](http://usir.salford.ac.uk/32496/1/L_B_Baker_DMA_Performance_Portfolio_Sept_2014.pdf).

<sup>26</sup> According Paul Hindmarsh's liner notes for the Trombone Concerto on *Symphony: The Music of Edward Gregson Volume V* (DOYCD319) (2013) by the Black Dyke Band, Gregson refused earlier requests for a brass band version. Brett Baker also requested the re-orchestration as early as four years before.

<sup>27</sup> Gregson, Edward. "Trombone Concerto: Programme Note" and "Trombone Concerto (brass band version): Programme Note". EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/trombone-concerto/> and <https://edwardgregson.com/works/trombone-concerto-brass-band-version/>

<sup>28</sup> Gregson, Edward. "Tuba Concerto (brass band version): Programme Note" and "Tuba Concerto (orchestral version): Programme Note". EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/tuba-concerto-brass-band-version/> and <https://edwardgregson.com/works/tuba-concerto-orchestral-version/>.

<sup>29</sup> Hindmarsh, Paul. "Variations on Laudate Dominum: Programme Note", "Variations on Laudate Dominum (revised version): Programme Note". EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/variations-on-laudate-dominum/> and <https://edwardgregson.com/works/variations-on-laudate-dominum-revised-version/>. An entry exists for the symphonic wind band version of the work but no Programme Notes are available.

*House* for inspiration, which was also an inspiration for the *Violin Concerto*. This may suggest a musical link in addition to the inspirational.<sup>30</sup>

**(RT, RO, RP)**

*Welcome* (1996) for boy's voices, organ, brass, and percussion led to the creation of *A Welcome Ode* (1997)<sup>31</sup>. *Welcome* was re-orchestrated for upper voices and piano in 2006.<sup>32</sup>

**(RT, RO)**

### **Acknowledgements**

Thank you to **Stephen Allen** for notifying me of a missing work in this list. – January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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<sup>30</sup> Gregson, Edward. "Serenata Notturna (violin and piano): Programme Note", "The Dance, forever the Dance: Programme Note", "Violin Concerto: Programme Note", and "Triptych (solo violin): Programme Note". EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/serenata-notturna-violin-piano/>, <https://edwardgregson.com/works/dance-forever-the-dance-the/>, <https://edwardgregson.com/works/violin-concerto/>, and <https://edwardgregson.com/works/triptych/>.

<sup>31</sup> Hindmarsh, Paul. "Gregson: The Manchester Years (1996-2013)". *Manchester Sounds*, pp. 227-242. 2013.

<sup>32</sup> Gregson, Edward. "Welcome: Programme Note". EdwardGregson.com, accessed January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <https://edwardgregson.com/works/welcome/>.