

Cort Lippe

Program Notes

Solo Tuba Music (1987) was written for tuba player Mel Culbertson, who premiered the work in Paris in 1987, and is dedicated to the tuba player and composer David Durant. The piece employs conventional playing, secondary and percussive sounds, and vocal sounds in a hierarchical manner. A fascinating and challenging solo instrument, the tuba is used to explore musical depth of field, intelligibility of text, and exploits a large musical palette demanding much of the soloist.

Solo Tuba Music is recorded by Mel Culbertson on Neuma Records, vol. 1, and the Contemporary Music Review, U.K., Harwood Academic Publishers, vol. 6. József Bazsinka has also recorded the piece on Hungaroton Classic. Duration: 7 to 8 minutes.

The text used in this work is a paragraph extracted from the novel *Gravity's Rainbow* by Thomas Pynchon. Page 5 of **Solo Tuba Music** employs the following paragraph in its entirety:

The Meggazone is like being belted in the head with a Swiss Alp. Menthol icicles immediately begin to grow from the roof of Slothrop's mouth. Polar bears seek toenail-holds up the freezing frosty-grape alveolar clusters in his lungs. It hurts his teeth too much to breathe, even through his nose, even, necktie loosened, with his nose down inside the neck of his olive-drab T-shirt. Benzoin vapors seep into his brain. His head floats in a halo of ice.

Gravity's Rainbow

by Thomas Pynchon

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