

SCORE

I Have Heard Tell

For Orchestra

Based on the traditional folk song *Bristol Town*



Liz Lane

Programme notes

I Have Heard Tell is based on the folk song *Bristol Town*, transcribed by Ralph Vaughan Williams in 1903 and also incorporates quotations from the sea shanty *A Long Time Ago*, transcribed by Cecil Sharp in 1914. The title *I Have Heard Tell* is taken from the words of the folk song; sources are located in the online Vaughan Williams Memorial Library.

Elements and variations of *Bristol Town* weave throughout the music and new melodies emerge from different phrase combinations; it is not until the faster section towards the end where the complete folk song is heard in its original form and entirety. Aspects from *A Long Time Ago* can be heard interspersed at various points but the complete melody always remains elusive.

Liz Lane, October 2015
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Based on the traditional folk song *Bristol Town*,
transcribed by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 7 December 1903.
<http://www.vwml.org/record/RVW2/4/17> [accessed 30 September 2015]

Words collected by Cecil J. Sharp, 23 April 1908.
<http://www.vwml.org/record/CJS2/9/1529> [accessed 30 September 2015]

Also incorporating elements of the sea shanty *A Long Time Ago*,
transcribed by Cecil J. Sharp, 14 July 1914.
<http://www.vwml.org/record/CJS2/10/3014> [accessed 30 September 2015]

INSTRUMENTATION:

Flute 1
Flute 2/Piccolo
Oboe 1
Oboe 2/Cor Anglais
2 Clarinets in Bb
2 Bassoons
4 Horns
3 Trumpets
2 Trombones
Bass Trombone
Tuba
Timpani
Percussion 1: suspended cymbal, 4 tom-toms, snare drum
Percussion 2: bass drum, vibraphone, suspended cymbal, triangle
Harp
Strings

Duration: 5 minutes

Score is in C

I Have Heard Tell was commissioned as part of a suite of variations for orchestra by the University of the West of England, reflecting on Bristol's role as European Green Capital 2015. It was first performed by the University of the West of England Symphony Orchestra, conductor Adrian Hull, Colston Hall, Bristol, 6 December 2015.