

# FIND OUT MORE... MMC listening activities

Your school has a special day in July when it is going to be visited by a Brass Band. We think you'll love it! British Brass Bands are traditional, musical ensembles that include a wide variety of brass instruments and percussion. The music that they play is really varied, from operatic overtures to pop music.

## Music of the Spheres

### Philip Sparke

Can you name the instruments at the bottom of this page? Put the number of the instrument next to its name

This piece of music is played by a Brass Band. Brass Bands evolved from the mid 1800s in the Industrial towns and cities of Wales and mostly northern England. Today Brass Bands can be found all over the country and in other countries too, like Australia, Switzerland, the USA and Norway.

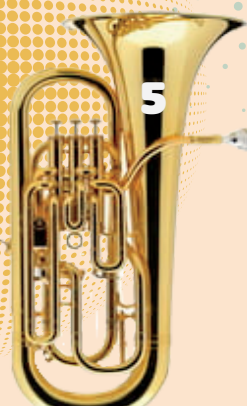
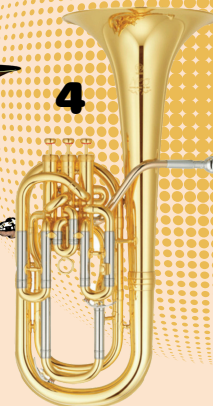
Brass Bands compete in contests and are placed in leagues, like football teams, called 'sections'. This piece of music is typical of a piece that might be played in a competition. It tests the players in all aspects of their playing, from playing tuneful melodies through to playing fast, technical passages.

The composer has taken science as the starting point for his piece of music. Pythagorus was an ancient Greek philosopher and politician and even now, his ideas have become the basis for much scientific thought

Listen to this music and draw what you think the music is trying to describe. The music lasts for about 17 minutes. Try to complete your art in this time.

Brass Bands are like little communities. They are great fun, not only because of the music that you play, but also for the friends you make and the social life that you take part in.

Philip Sparke is a living, English composer who was born in 1951. Philip is really well known for writing music for Brass and Wind Bands. You might also come across his music if you play a woodwind or brass instrument because he has written music specifically for exams.



- Tuba
- Trombone
- Euphonium
- Tenor Horn
- Flugel Horn
- Cornet
- Baritone Horn

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Peter Graham composed this music, Shine as the Light in 2006 for a visit he made to the Salvation Army's Star Lake Music Camp. The music is played through without stopping, but there are actually three movements (or separate pieces related to each other) of music within the structure. Three Salvation Army church songs are featured throughout the music:

1. It's a Great Day
2. Candle of the Lord
3. The Light Has Come

TASK: Look at the titles of the three movements. Identify where you think each of these movements start in this performance of the International Staff Band the New York Staff Band of the Salvation Army.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofAnDdY2LZ0>

movement 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
movement 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
movement 3 \_\_\_\_\_

## SHINE AS THE LIGHT

### Peter Graham

Peter Graham (born 1958) is a British composer for brass band. He was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland and he studied at the University of Edinburgh. He then went onto postgraduate studies at Goldsmiths College, University of London where he achieved his PhD in composition. Peter has a background that is firmly rooted in the Salvation Army and from 1983 until 1986, he lived in New York City, where he worked as a freelance composer/arranger and as a publications editor with the Salvation Army Music Bureau. Since his return to the U.K., he works as an arranger for BBC Television and Radio and has specialised in composition for brass band.



### The Salvation Army

A Salvation Army brass band is a brass band that is linked to a Corps, Division or Territory of the Salvation Army. Most of us will recognise and appreciate Salvation Army bands playing in public places during Christian events in the calendar such as Christmas in the UK. This phenomenon has become a part of seasonal customs though Salvation Army bands exist to spread the Christian message.

The commitment to playing a brass instrument in a band is just part of the picture of being in the Salvation Army. Most band members have other roles too. Salvation Army brass bands are also an excellent means of drawing attention for fund-raising and publicity. By taking part in public events, they raise awareness of The Salvation Army and the charitable work that they do in the communities where they are based. The brass bands also provide a source of fellowship (religious companionship) for the players. This fellowship is sometimes thought to be the most important part of being in the band.