

# Breaking the Century

## Composer's programme note:

One Hundred is a number that has had special importance to man throughout history. 2000 years ago the Romans called their foot soldiers 'Centurions'; the 100<sup>th</sup> part of an American dollar is called a 'cent'; Athletes and swimmers race over a 100 meters or multiples of a hundred; with luck and skill you can score a 'century' in cricket; In the animal kingdom a 'Centipede' is an insect that is reputed to have a hundred legs. We all aspire to become a 'centenarian' and live to a healthy one hundred years of age.

I wrote **Breaking the Century** as a Brass Band commission to celebrate Oxted Bands centenary and have used this piece as the starting point to develop the work further for Concert Band.

**Breaking the Century** can be broadly described as a Dance Overture. It is written as a *moto perpetuo* (perpetually in motion), with its momentum and energy maintained throughout by its fast Allegro tempo.

**N.C.**

**NIGEL CLARKE** began his musical career as a trumpeter but a developing interest in composition, stimulated by the New Polish School of composers took him to the Royal Academy of Music to study with Paul Patterson. Here his striking originality and capacity for hard work were recognised with several significant awards including the Josiah Parker Prize adjudicated by Sir Michael Tippett and the Queen's Commendation for Excellence – the Royal Academy of Music's highest distinction. A British Council Scholarship enabled him to participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> Summer School for Young Composers in Poland, where he studied the works of Penderecki and Lutoslawski. Nigel Clarke is Head of Composition at the London College of Music and Media and a guest professor at the Xinjiang Arts Institute in north-west China.

**Breaking the Century** has been recorded by The Central Band of The Royal Air Force conducted by Squadron Leader Rob Wiffen on the Polyphonic CD: (Index No.???????????)