

WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE

OR

(LITTLE GREEN MEN IN INTERGALATIC SPACESHIPS WITH RAYGUNS AND PHASERS)

`**When Worlds Collide**` is written for and dedicated to Dr Luc Vertommen and the members of Brass Band Buizingen. The work was written to be the free choice test piece for Brass Band Buizingen at the Vlaams (Flemish) Open Brass Band Championships, held in Mechelen, Belgium on 14th April 2012.

COMPOSER NOTE

`**When Worlds Collide**` seeks to recreate the atmosphere and sentiment of the American cult Sci-Fi movies of the 1950's such as Robert Wise's 1951 film `The day the Earth Stood Still' and `Invasion of the Body Snatchers' directed by Don Siegel in 1956, as well as Rudolph Maté's 1951 film `When Worlds Collide'

`**When Worlds Collide**` is programmatic with subtitled sub-sections marked in the score as follows:

1. CROP CIRCLES - 2. LIGHTS IN THE SKY - 3. STRANGE HAPPENINGS - 4. SIGHTINGS -
5. "WE COME IN PEACE" - 6. ALIEN ABDUCTION - 7. ANALYSIS OF THE EARTHLINGS -
8. TELEPORTATION - 9. NEW UNDERSTANDINGS - 10. VISIONS OF FAR OFF WORLDS -
11. COLONISATION!

I have tried to design `**When Worlds Collide**` to sound uniquely different depending on the band that is performing it. This idea is not new – it is for me a truly fascinating characteristic of Igor Stravinsky's *Le Sacre du Printemps* (Rite of Spring). Stravinsky's masterwork seems to force the orchestra to create its own individual and personal sound, which is exciting for both performer and audience alike. I have given the conductor and band much scope in `**When Worlds Collide**` to be creative and imaginative in their interpretation. My main aim in this is to avoid the performance becoming too "safe" and lacking a sense of fun and entertainment. I hope you will find `**When Worlds Collide**` is a good antidote to conservative concert programming!

STEPHEN HAWKING ON EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL LIFE

The British theoretical physicist and cosmologist Stephen Hawking talked about the possibilities of extra-terrestrial life in a recent documentary for the Discovery Channel. Hawking said that in his opinion there is little doubt that amongst the 100's of billions of stars in the Cosmos there should be planets capable of sustaining life. "To my mathematical brain, the numbers alone make thinking about aliens perfectly rational...The real challenge is to work out what aliens might actually be like".

Hawking continued, "We only have to look at ourselves to see how intelligent life might develop into something we wouldn't want to meet. I imagine they might exist in massive ships, having used up all the resources from their home planet. Such advanced aliens would perhaps become nomads, looking to conquer and colonise whatever planets they can reach." Hawking believes it could have devastating consequences to life on Earth if we made contact with intelligent visitors from outer of space "If aliens ever visit us, I think the outcome would be much as when Christopher Columbus first landed in America, which didn't turn out very well for the Native Americans."