**Blow, Bugle Blow**

For hundreds of years, soldiers of the British Army on horse and afoot have responded to the call of the bugle.

From the domestic routine of military life, to battlefield commands, the trumpet and drum have attended soldiers to the cookhouse and the grave.

In **'Blow, Bugle Blow'** I have selected, combined and manipulated bugle calls to express a musical narrative.

The first movement is entitled ***'The Regiment'***.  Appropriately a bugle call for 'The Band', then a favoured regiment appears and the instruction to 'Walk' and then to 'Trot'. More regiments join the parade in the manner of a military Tattoo.

The second movement ***'Trail Lances'*** has a more contemplative mood with the directions to 'Half Wheel Right', 'Form Line' and even a sleepy 'Lights out'.

***'Charge'*** is the hot-blooded title of the third movement. From the opening 'Lontano' (in the distance) we progress through 'Stables' to 'Boot and Saddle' and on to 'Mount' and 'Advance'. The excitement increases through 'Gallop' and 'Draw Swords' then, ultimately, 'Charge'. The Guards Brigade make an appearance and the Light Division increase the marching pace with the Brigade of Gurkhas making an appearance.

The 'Alarm' should not be taken too seriously by listeners since the final sounds of this piece are, in fact, a celebration of the music of service and sacrifice.

*Blow, Bugle Blow* is a line from the Alfred Lord Tennyson Poem -The splendour falls on castle walls. It, therefore, seems appropriate to conclude with a further quote from the same poem.

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| "Our echoes roll from soul to soul, And grow for ever and for ever". |
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*Jeffery Wilson*  ( 2017 )