Poverty Knock

Wind Band / Concert Band / Harmonie / Blasorchester / Fanfare

Andrew Robertson Mackereth

EMR 42973

1 1 8 1 1 1 5 4 4 1 1 2 2 2	Score Piccolo Flute Oboe Bassoon Eb Clarinet (optional) 1st Bb Clarinet 2nd Bb Clarinet 3rd Bb Clarinet Bb Bass Clarinet Bb Soprano Saxophone (optional) 1st Eb Alto Saxophone 2nd Eb Alto Saxophone Bb Tenor Saxophone Eb Baritone Saxophone	2 2 1 3 2 2 2 2 1 1 1	1st Trombone & + 9: 2nd Trombone & + 9: Bass Trombone & + 9: Baritone & + 9: Eb Bass & Bb Bass & Tuba 9: String Bass (optional) Timpani (optional) Tubular Bells Drums Special Parts 1st Bb Trombone 9:	2	Fanfare Parts
1	Eb Trumpet / Cornet (optional)	1	2 nd B ^b Trombone 9:	2	2 nd Flugelhorn
3	1st Bb Trumpet / Cornet	1	Bb Bass Trombone 9:	2	3 rd Flugelhorn
3	2 nd Bb Trumpet / Cornet	1	B ^b Baritone 9 :		_
3	3 rd B ^b Trumpet / Cornet	1	E♭ Tuba 9 :		
2	1st F & E♭ Horn	1	B ^b Tuba 9 :		
2	2 nd F & E ^b Horn	1	D' I uva /		
2	3 rd F & E ^b Horn				

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Andrew Robertson Mackereth



Andrew Mackereth was born in Gateshead, in the North-East of England in 1965. A fourth generation Salvationist, he first attended a meeting aged barely a week old. The son of officer parents, he has lived in many places including 4 years in Zambia and nine years in Kingston-upon-Hull. It was here that he began his earliest musical training.

In 1982, he returned to his native North-East to enrol on the Certificate in Brass Band Studies Course at Newcastle College of Arts & Technology, studying trombone, euphonium and tuba. In 1984, Andrew gained a place at the Birmingham School of Music to study Trombone and Composition, later studying Percussion and Conducting also. In his fourth year, he won the Bernhard Brown Memorial Composition Prize. At the completion of his studies, he entered the teaching profession first in Nuneaton before moving to Birmingham to become Head of Music in the largest UK school.

His first publication was the song "Ring the Bells of Heaven" in 1987, but it was 1996 before his first piece for brass band entered the repertoire. To date, more than 500 of his compositions; religious and secular are in print; many frequently feature on the concert programmes of Salvation Army Bands. In November of 2008 he was honoured by the New York Staff Band with a concert of his music entitled Profile 30. Andrew has led music programmes in Argentina, America, Germany and Netherlands and guest conducts brass bands in Germany and Sweden.

Numerous commissions include STANDARD BEARERS for the International Staff Band of The Salvation Army, HYMNUS for Wilhelmina Easterein (Netherlands) and EXALTATION for the Melbourne Staff Band. Other notable collaborations include North York Temple Band, Canadian Staff Band, Amsterdam Staff Band and Songsters. His bass trombone solo: Swing Low has been recorded by the renowned Bass Trombonist: Douglas Yeo and Tubist: Leslie Neish.

In addition to numerous guest conducting appearances, Andrew is the Bandmaster of the Nuneaton Salvation Army Band, The Salvation Army Symphonic Wind Ensemble and The Glebe Symphonic Wind Orchestra.



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Andrew Robertson Mackereth 2025

Poverty Knock is a factory-workers' song, written to be sung over the rhythm of the flying shuttles and clanking of mill machinery. Conditions of the English cloth mills of the 1890's, were hot, noisy, and dangerous. Injury and even death from the awkward and unsafe weaving machines was commonplace. And yet the continual knocking of the shuttle was at least a surety that you'd be able to eat: "guttle," in a time when unemployment still meant virtual starvation and misery.

The probable writer of Poverty Knock was Tom Daniel, a weaver from Batley. He was born around 1890 and left school at 11 working in various mills around West Yorkshire.

'Poverty, poverty knock, 'my loom is a saying all day, Poverty, poverty knock, gaffer's too skinny to pay, Poverty, poverty knock, keeping one eye on the clock, I know I can guttle when I hear my shuttle go, poverty, poverty knock.

Up every morning at five, I wonder that we keep alive, Tired and yawning in the cold morning, It's back to the dreary old drive.

Oh dear we're going to be late, Gaffer is stood at the gate, We're out of pockets, our wages they'll dock it, We'll have to buy grub on the slate.

And when our wages they'll bring, we're often short of a string, While we are fighting with gaffer for snatching, We know to his breast he will cling.

Sometimes a shuttle flies out, and gives some poor woman a clout, There she lies bleeding but nobody's heeding, Oh who's going to carry her out?

Performance Note:

The music is a simple setting of this English folk song. The rhythm of the loom is an ever-present feature that can be enhanced in any way conductors deem appropriate. The Tubular Bell part can be substituted for any type of bell sound and is intended to reflect the clocking in, lunch break and clocking off signals. The ironic setting at Letter E is intended to represent an inspection visit from an unpopular manager, or foreman!

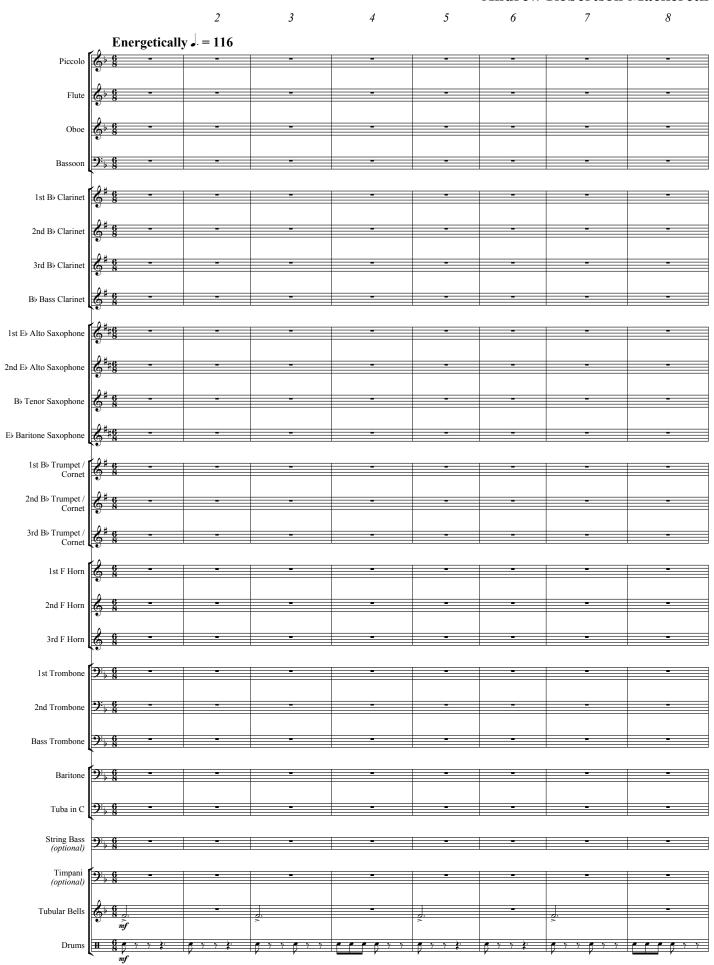


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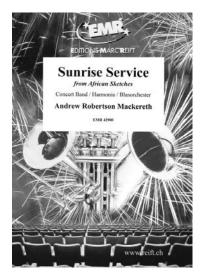


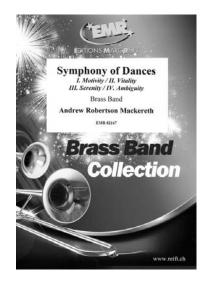


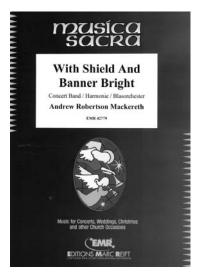


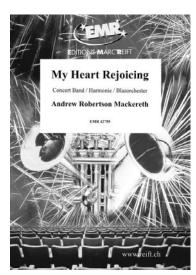
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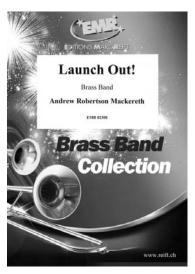












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