

The Edel Rhapsody and the Wagner Tuba

"I am an English composer born in Yorkshire and my main instrument is the Guitar. I studied music at the City Of Leeds College Of Music and my work is best described as contemporary classical.

Some 25 years ago I encountered the rich, sonorous and noble tone of the Wagner Tuba and felt it merited being featured as a solo instrument in a concert work with orchestra. Something that had never been done before.

I felt a natural empathy for the Wagner Tuba as a composer because its range is very much the same as the Guitar. Regarding the title of the work, The Edel Rhapsody, I wanted to include a German word to reflect the instrument's origins. Also I have German ancestry. So I chose the German word for noble which is edel (pronounced aydel).

The Edel Rhapsody had its World Premiere at Carlisle Cathedral, England in 1993 and was acknowledged as the first work ever written for solo Wagner Tuba and orchestra. I made an extensive revision of the score in 2015 when I also wrote an adaptation for solo Wagner Tuba and Piano after receiving requests for recital and student performances.

The SCVSO performance of The Edel Rhapsody with Denny McGinn as soloist will be the first performance of the full revised score. A performance by another US orchestra is scheduled to follow soon after in early 2019."

Stephen Cudel
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