

SEASCAPES (RAY STEADMAN-ALLEN)

Commissioned for the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain with the aid of funds provided by Boosey & Hawkes Band Festivals Ltd for the Championship held at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on Saturday 8th October 1988.

'Seascapes' takes its inspiration from the poem 'Cargoes' by John Masefield. Each of the three verses is reproduced before the first page of the appropriate movement

'Cargoes' is reproduced by permission of the Society of Authors as Literary Representatives of John Masefield.

Programme Note

In the first movement, a gentle lyric theme, set against a pulsating background is contrasted with a dance. The dance reaches its climax and the music concludes with a quiet theme. The second movement has something of the nature of a sarabande, with a central section, which is a little lighter but retains a Spanish flavour. The composer adds a whimsical thought of his own that there may also have been a party of monks aboard! A variety of ingredients blend in the third movement: the coaster engines, the sea, some jovial shanty-music and the storm element through which the coaster steadily chugs.

DUR: Approx. 12.00

CARGOES

by John Masefield

Quinquireme of Nineveh from distant Ophir
Rowing home to haven in sunny Palestine,
With a cargo of ivory,
And apes and peacocks,
Sandalwood, cedarwood, and sweet white wine.
Stately Spanish galleon coming from the Isthmus,
Dipping through the Tropics by the palm-green shores,
With a cargo of diamonds,
Emeralds, amethysts,
Topazes, and cinnamon, and gold moidores.
Dirty British coaster with a salt-caked smoke stack
Butting through the Channel in the mad March days,
With a cargo of Tyne coal,
Road-rail, pig-lead,
Firewood, iron-ware, and cheap tin trays.