



# BLUE WHALE DREAMING

for Symphony Orchestra

by Richard Charlton © 2005

Programme notes

Twice the size of the biggest dinosaurs Blue Whales are the largest animals that have ever lived on earth. In every dimension their size is incomparable – imagine a creature whose tongue alone weighs as much as an elephant or whose heart is the size of a small car.

The song of the blue whale is the most intense of any animal alive. Their rhythmic pulses and deep moans are so loud they travel across entire oceans, yet the frequency of these calls is often so low that they are totally inaudible to human ears. It is interesting that no matter what age the individual, blue whales all sing at the same frequency.

Once hunted to the brink of extinction, there have been, in recent years, many sightings of Blue Whales feeding off the coast of South Australia. Although numbers are still low there is cause for optimism.

BLUE WHALE DREAMING takes, as a starting point, the rhythm of this lonely call and seeks to embrace the power and grace of this, almost mythical, creature. This work was written for the Ascham Symphony Orchestra Tour to Europe in 2005 and was premiered at the National Museum in Prague with the composer conducting.

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