

Program Note
Behavioral Science for Trombone Solo
Robert Greenberg
(1998)

Behavioral Science is in five continuous parts:

Part 1: Misbehavior/Out of control

Part 2: Vulgar Behavior/Gross stuff

Part 3: Crisis of Confidence/Whining and whimpering

Part 4: Behavior Becoming/Reflection and Introspection

Part 5: With Flying Colors/Putting It All Together

The initial inspiration for Behavioral Science was as follows: a few years ago, a trombonist friend of mine asked me if I wanted to join him and a few of "da boys" in attending the premiere of the "Beavis and Buttthead" movie. Whoa. Beavis and Buttthead with the low brass; a most stimulating prospect. A previous and, I'm sure, less interesting engagement kept me away, but the formative idea behind Behavioral Science was born: how do you civilize the eternal adolescent that is the trombone/trombonist without taking away its/his/her essential energy and joie de vivre?

Behavioral Science, then, is "about" the trombone and, to a degree, trombone players themselves (which, by the way, I was once one myself and my daughter presently is). The piece begins with the trombone completely out of control - a raucous, screaming, stuttering length of lacquered plumbing. Across the span of the piece the trombone gradually learns lyricism and self-discipline, gaining maturity and, ultimately, self-mastery. Behavioral Science concludes with a series of extremely virtuosic passages that require, as they do, the most exacting control imaginable.

Behavioral Science was composed between December, 1997 and February, 1998. It is dedicated with great affection and gratitude to Neil Hatler for his help, advice, and tireless dedication to the piece.

Robert Greenberg Biography

Robert Greenberg has composed over forty works for a wide variety of instrumental and vocal ensembles. Recent performances of Greenberg's works have taken place in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, England, Ireland, Italy, Greece and The Netherlands, where his *Child's Play* for String Quartet was performed at the Concertgebouw of Amsterdam in 1993. Greenberg holds degrees from Princeton University and the University of California at Berkeley, where he received a PhD in music composition in 1984. His principal teachers were Edward Cone, Claudio Spies, Andrew Imbrie and Olly Wilson. Among his awards are three Nicola De Lorenzo Prizes in composition, three Meet the Composer grants, and commissions from the Koussevitzky Foundation of the Library of Congress, the Alexander String Quartet, XTET, the Dancer's Stage Ballet Company, and others. Greenberg has performed, taught, and lectured extensively across North America and Europe. He is on the faculty the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where he is Chair of the Department of Music History and Literature and Director of Curriculum of the Adult Extension Division. Greenberg is creator, host and lecturer for the San Francisco Symphony's "Discovery Series" and the resident music commentator for National Public Radio's "Weekend All Things Considered". Since 1993, Greenberg has taped 224 lectures for the Virginia-based Teaching Company/Superstar Teachers Program on various musical topics; available on audio and video formats, the lectures have garnered wide praise. Greenberg is an artistic co-director and Board member of COMPOSERS, INC. His music is published by Fallen Leaf Press and CPP/Belwin and is recorded on the Innova label.