# 64th International Rostrum of Composers

# BBC Radio 3 Submission 1/3

**Tom Harrold**

Programme note for RAZE:

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*Raze* is written in one continuous movement which lasts around five minutes, and was commissioned by the BBC Proms to open the Last Night of the 2016 Proms and showcase the Proms Youth Ensemble. Titles are almost consistently the final decisions I make as part of the writing process, so it was highly unusual for me to decide on *Raze* as the title before the piece had even been sketched. I rarely intend to write programmatic music, but instead I used the title *Raze* as a 'way in' to the work. *Raze* means ‘clear the way’, ‘overthrow’, and ‘knock down’, and this is exactly what the piece is designed to do at a noisy, carnival-like concert such as the Last Night of the Proms.

The piece is in many ways a collage of angular, brash musical moments which are linked through a series of repeating intervals, melodic motifs and swaggering bass-lines. The material is characterised by sour, baleful strings, blaring brass, and cacophonous, raucous winds which ‘raise’, soar, and hurtle towards the climax.

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Please note my website is [www.tomharrold.net](http://www.tomharrold.net), and that the link to the recording is <https://soundcloud.com/tom-harrold/raze>. There’s also a video of it here: <https://vimeo.com/183989825>