

Hornarama Code: 19073

Ken Bits

by Paul Basler (b. 1963)

for two horns [or trumpet and horn (35186)]

About the Work

Ken Bits was written for and dedicated to Michael Paige, the 1993–94 Senior Fulbright Lecturer in international curriculum development (and fine amateur trumpet player) at [Kenyatta University](#). The piece is in three short movements depicting various “events” during our year in Kenya. *Jua Kali Repairman* is a musical portrait of the ingenious artisans of Kenya who can fix just about anything with whatever is lying around (*jua kali* translates to “under the sun”). *Sundowner* is a quiet interlude, depicting that time of the day when one relaxes under a favorite tree, sipping a drink and talking with friends. *Matatu Alert* is a musical representation of the ever present, maniacal drivers and their small buses, joyfully terrorizing Kenyans and wildlife alike.

About the Composer

Paul Basler (b. 1963, Milwaukee), 1993–94 Fulbright Senior Lecturer in Music at [Kenyatta University](#) (Nairobi, Kenya), 1995–96 University of Florida Teacher of the Year and the 2001–03 College of Fine Arts University of Florida Research Foundation Professor is currently an Associate Professor of Music at the [University of Florida](#). He taught at [Western Carolina University](#) for four years and, prior to coming to WCU, was the North Carolina Visiting Artist in Residence at [Caldwell Community College](#). He received his BM degree magna cum laude from the [Florida State University](#), MM, MA, and DMA degrees from the [State University of New York at Stony Brook](#), and has received teaching awards and citations from the University of Florida College of Fine Arts, SUNY-Stony Brook, Western Carolina University, Kenyatta University and the Kenya Office of the President/Permanent Music Commission.

Basler is resident hornist for the annual Composers Conference in Boston and has performed as guest artist at numerous [International Horn Society](#) Workshops and the St. Petersburg International Chamber Music Festival in Russia. Basler has been a member of the [Charleston](#), [Greenville](#), [Asheville](#), [Tallahassee](#) and [Gainesville](#) Symphonies, and continues to maintain a busy performing schedule throughout the United States and abroad, having premiered over 120 works written for him in the past seven years. He also has received two American Cultural Affairs Specialist Grants from the [U.S. Department of State](#) and is currently a Visiting Artist in Residence with the Dominican Republic’s Ministry of Culture and the National Conservatory of Music. Basler’s horn teachers have included William Purvis, William Capps and Barry Benjamin and his composition teachers have been John Boda, John Downey, Bülent Arel, John Lessard and Billy Jim Layton.