George Frederick Handel (1685-1759) wrote three Water Music suites for performance by 50 instrumentalists on a barge during a royal procession on the Thames River in 1717. There are twenty-one movements in all ranging from slow airs to colourful allegros featuring two horns or two trumpets. The variety in tempos and the tuneful melodies have made the Water Music a favourite of audiences since the first performance.

The four movements selected from the three Suites to form this new Suite are Minuet, Air, Allegro and Alla Hornpipe.
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