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BOO84 (2017-2019)

HD video based on NTSC Footage, two-channel sound / a composition for British Brass Band and tape, loop 3 min. 43sec.

The Battle of Orgreave was a violent confrontation on 18 June 1984 between police and pickets at a British Steel Corporation (BSC) coking plant in Orgreave, South Yorkshire in Rotherham. - so begins the article on this so-called battle at Wikipedia - as of Tuesday, May 7, 18:51. Always the same video snippets you find in the web - not filmed by amateurs with smartphones, but by BBC reporters and the police, they were used and analyzed in court in the following years again and again.

A few years ago I worked as a composer and video artist on the stage adaptation of David Peace's book GB84 in 2004 and fought not only the 535 pages of the documentary novel but also through all the video documents I could find online about the miners strike in England. From several sources I tried to compose the video testimony of this battle and composed a music for British Brass Band. The Instrumentation of these marching bands and the sound is unique, because contrary to the continental march band and the American marching and big bands because instead of trumpets all sizes of horns from the flugelhorn to the tuba are played, which creates a warm unique horn-ensemble-sound. As part of the workers' culture, each mine had such a band, which adapted all music from actual dance hits to orchestral compositions of the so-called high culture on all occasions. Acoustic starting point for the composition was the sound recordings of two demonstration choirs, which I analyzed with special programs to their rhythm and harmony and morphed together with AI from AI research and arranged the result for this special cast. For the recording I used digital sample banks with well-rehearsed sounds of these special instruments. Referring to recent political events in England, I have taken this video out of its stage context. It marks a social upheaval, the consequences of which are so far.

