

ANDERSON, JOHN

MOMENT'S NOTICE (MARCH)

Instrumentation: fl, (ob doubling fl), 2 cl, bcl, sax, tsax, hn, 2 tpt, 2 trb, bar, bsn, tba, SD, BD, cym [1 part for trb II, bar, bsn]

Duration: 1'

Availability: Composer

Level: Easy

Musical Characteristics: Simple one-minute march. Two-bar introduction, then A B A cod form. The A section features an energetic, marcato four-bar phrase which is repeated. The contrasting B section is more lyrical and legato. It consists of two four-bar phrases. Traditional harmonies with basic chord progressions. In E-flat major with some use of C minor. Melodic material is simple with restricted range and mainly stepwise movement. 4/4 metre, marked "Bright, quarter = 90." Simple repeated rhythmic patterns featuring half, quarter, dotted quarter, eighth, dotted, eighth and sixteenth notes. Considerable homorhythmic movement. The introduction consists of four fermata half note chords for the full band. The A section also features full band, while the first half of section B is more lightly scored. Dynamics range from p to f.

Technical Challenges: Limited technical demands make this composition suitable for a junior band. Changes of dynamics and articulation require attention. The unmarked notes, staccato notes, accented notes and slurs must be carefully differentiated, and the dotted eighth/sixteenth rhythmic pattern must be very precise. All players must enter and cut off together on the opening half note fermata chords. Tuba legato tonguing in the low register may be difficult to achieve and to blend with the ensemble. Instruments must blend well in chordal, homorhythmic passages. Chords must be carefully tuned, especially on forte accented chords where brass may tend to sharpen, woodwinds to flatten.

Pedagogical Value: A simple, easily accessible march for a junior band. A useful study in repetition and contrast in articulation, dynamics, and A B A form. Aids the development of ensemble skills as players work to achieve good balance and to move together on dotted eighth/sixteenth note rhythmic patterns, pause chords, and accented attacks.

MYSLICKI, J. A.

SLAHAL ROCK

Instrumentation: 2 fl, 2 cl, 2 sax, tsax, 2 hn, 2 tpt, 2 trb, euph, tba, (el bass), SD, BD, cym, bells, (unison chorus)

Duration: 2'30"

Availability: Composer

Level: Easy

Musical Characteristics: Based on a simple two-bar melodic figure from a Northwest Coast Indian gambling song. (Slahal, "the bone game," is an Indian gambling game.) Considerable use of repetition, with the melodic figure passing from one section of the band to another. Centres on B-flat (with lowered seventh in the Indian theme) till letter C where it moves to C, again with the lowered seventh. Heavy emphasis on fourths in quasi-ostinato accompanying figures. Simple repeated rhythmic patterns in 4/4. Some use of syncopations. Antiphonal effects at letter C as lower and upper voices answer back and forth. A good deal of doubling of voices. Dynamic range is from mp to ff. Use of electric bass and optional chorus should be noted.

Technical Challenges: Changes of articulation require careful attention, especially since sections of the band do not always use the same articulation. The bar before letter C is challenging because of the syncopated rhythm and the low notes for the lower brass. The off-beat rhythmic figures at letter C must be played precisely. Repeated pitches reduce dexterity challenges. Good balance between melody and accompaniment is needed, especially when the melody is in the low brass and woodwinds, with Trumpets, Horns and Flutes providing accompaniment. Good blend of sound is needed when instruments move in unison. Care is needed on accented notes so that tone quality and intonation do not suffer.

Pedagogical Value: Appealing for young students in a junior band. Scored so the piece will sound full even with a small band. Useful for teaching articulation. Interesting use of harmonic effects and Canadian Indian musical material. All parts have musical interest since melodic and rhythmic material Dances from instrument to instrument.

RIDDLE, PETER

ECHO FANFARE

Instrumentation: fl, ob, 2 cl, sax, tsax, hn, 2 tpt, trb, bar [same as trb], tba, SD, BD, cym, wbk, trg [3 percussion players]

Duration: 2'

Availability: Composer

Level: Easy

Musical Characteristics: A short piece (40 bars) in which groups of instruments echo each other, usually in two-bar phrases. Tonal harmony, with emphasis on primary chords. Frequent use of unisons and open fifths. Simple melody, often featuring scalewise movement. 4/4 time, with simple rhythmic patterns using only quarter and half note values. Moderate tempo. Texture ranges from thin (two voices) to thick (full band). Groups of instruments echo back and forth. Homophonic movement of voices within each group of instruments. Dynamic range is from p to f, with dynamic changes helping to create the echo effects.

Technical Challenges: Technical demands are limited, thus making this piece well suited for a junior band. Comfortable ranges for all instruments. Very few changes in articulation. Frequent rests in all parts reduce fatigue for young players.

Pedagogical Value: A useful study in dynamic changes. Valuable for developing ensemble skills

in a Junior band.