oung symphonic band series

Thus Spoke the Raven

By Gary Fagan

Thus Spoke the Raven was inspired by the composer's reading of Edgar Allan Poe's poem "The Raven." Written in 1845, it is one of Poe's best known poems and certainly indicative of the writer's mastery of the macabre. It is dark and mysterious, and an effort has been made to capture that feeling musically.

The piece opens with very strong percussion work and should be played very forcefully. The anvil part may also be played on brake drum or on the dome of a suspended cymbal with a metal beater or stick. The remainder of the introduction should have a mysterious quality, with care taken to observe the contrasting articulations of staccato versus slurs. At measure 13, the piece takes on a driving rhythmic quality that should move forward through the rest of the piece without dragging, even through the legato section beginning at measure 46. A legato feel should also dominate at measure 79 without slowing, and woodwinds should observe breath marks carefully during this section.

NSTRUMENTATION

- Conductor Score
- Flute
- Bassoon
- 1st Bb Clarine
- 2nd B Clarinet
- El Alto Clarinet
- Bb Bass Clarinet
- st El Alto Saxophone
- 2nd El Alto Saxophone
- Bb Tenor Saxophone
- El Baritone Saxophone
- F Horn

- 1st Bb Trumpet
- 2nd B♭ Trumpet
- 1st Trombone
- 2nd Trombone
- Baritone T.C.
- Baritone B.C.
- Tuba
- Mallets (Xylophone & Bells)
- Percussion I (Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Crash Cymbals)
- 2 Percussion II (Anvil, Sus. Cymbal, Triangle,
 - Tambourine)
- 1 Timpani





































