Grade 2

Young Band

Commissioned by Crossroads Middle School of the West Shore School District, Lewisberry, PA, Mr. John Miliauskas, Director of Bands At the Crossroads

A Dedicatory Fanfare for Band

ROBERT W. SMITH (ASCAP)

- 1 Conductor
- C Flute 8
- 2 Oboe
- 4 1st B[,] Clarinet
- 4 2nd B[,] Clarinet
- 2 B_b Bass Clarinet
- 2 Bassoon
- 5 E Alto Saxophone
- 2 B^J Tenor Saxophone

- 2 E Baritone Saxophone
- 4 1st B[,] Trumpet
- 4 2nd B^J Trumpet
- 4 Horn in F
- 4 Trombone
- 2 Baritone
- 2 **Baritone Treble Clef**
- 4 Tuba

- 2 Mallet Percussion (Chimes, Suspended Cymbal)
- Timpani 1
- Percussion I 3
- (Crash Cymbals, Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Triangle, Wind Chimes)
- Percussion II
- (Triangle, Suspended Cymbals, Crash Cymbals, Bass Drum)

PROGRAM NOTES

At the Crossroads was written as a fanfare for the dedication ceremonies of Crossroads Middle School of the West Shore School District in Lewisberry, Pennsylvania. The work was premiered May 1, 1994, by the Crossroads Middle School Band under the direction of Mr. John Miliauskas.

At the Crossroads was conceived as a concert opener and/or a festival work. It was also intended as a teaching piece that would challenge each member of the band at this grade level. Please note that each section of the band is given the opportunity to play a key role in the music ensemble. Of particular note are the multiple opportunities for the low brass and woodwinds to play melodic and countermelodic lines throughout the work.

The horns and alto saxophones make the first melodic statement beginning in measure 3. Careful attention should be paid to the long sustain in the tuba, low reeds, and timpani. Stagger-breathing techniques should be introduced and implemented in these opening bars. The upper woodwinds are given a series of intermittent sustains in which dynamic shaping is crucial. Each entrance should appear from "nowhere," crescendo to a mezzo forte and then decrescendo back to the point where the release is not audible. Depending on the abilities of the individual players, I suggest the possibility of using a terraced release in the flutes, oboes, and clarinets to accomplish this effect.

The fanfare statement at measure 11 should be as majestic as possible. The brass section should enunciate each note with a slight separation to the next. The upper wood winds, in contrast, should sustain all notes to their full value. The rallantando should be drawn out as far as musically and technically appropriate.

The tempo at measure 20 should be brisk but not too fast. The chimes, representing the tolling of a school bell, should be directly on top of the beat, seemingly pushing the rest of the ensemble. The development section beginning at measure 34 is written to teach the concepts of melody and countermelody. The first melodic statement is introduced by the low brass and woodwinds, followed by a second melodic entrance in the trumpets. The remaining members of the ensemble weave yet a third melodic line into the developing texture, culminating in a full ensemble statement in measure 46. It was my intention to create a situation where all members of the band could think melodically and focus their energies on phrasing and balance between musical lines.

The transition into the reprise of the fanfare features a harmonic twist in measure 61. I suggest sustaining the first note of the measure to allow the students to hear this rather foreign chord (GI9) in this tonal environment. The fanfare reprise beginning in measure 64 should be treated in a similar fashion to the introduction. However, a half-time feel is established by the presence of the snare and upper woodwind counterlines. suggest rehearsing the brass, low reeds, and percussion (without snare) to establish the original fanfare treatment. After the connection with the introduction is made, then introduce the snare and upper woodwinds. The rallantando in measures 78-79 should be exaggerated as much as possible. In contrast, feel free to increase the tempo from measure 80 to the end if the ensemble is comfortable.

I hope you, your students, and your audience find At the Crossroads to be musically rewarding. Best of luck in your teaching endeavors.

Robert W. Smith









CONDUCTOR

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