

An Analysis of Joel Blahnik's *Invention No. 1*

by

Dr. Amy Dunker

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Instrumentation: Flute (Piccolo)
Oboe
Bassoon
Bb Clarinet 1 – 3
Eb Alto Clarinet
Bb Bass Clarinet
Eb Alto Saxophone 1 – 2
Bb Tenor Saxophone
Eb Baritone Saxophone

Bb Trumpet 1 – 2
Horn in F 1 – 2
Trombone 1 – 2
Baritone
Tuba

Timpani
Percussion: Suspended Cymbal, Bass Drum, Finger Cymbal (or Triangle), Snare Drum, Tenor Drum, Bells

Grade: 2

Duration: 5 1/2 Minutes

Harmonic Language: Tonal (g minor (ends with Picardy Third – G Major Chord))

Meter: 4/4

Texture: Melody and Accompaniment, Homophony, Canon

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Composer Bio:

Joel Blahnik is a native of Wisconsin's Door County, a graduate of Lawrence University Conservatory of Music, and above all, an instrumental music educator in the Wisconsin Public Schools from 1961-1993. During his comprehensive music career he has been a guest clinician/lecturer in over 250 of the state's schools. He has received many local, state, and national awards for his creativity and excellence in teaching during these three decades.

As a composer, his works have been featured at national composer symposiums and international festivals, and appear on state and international music education selected lists. His works have been recorded by state, national and foreign radio and TV. As an author, his writings have appeared in state, national, and international journals.

As a conductor, his student ensembles have distinguished themselves at state convention events including three performances at the celebrated Mid-West International Band and Orchestra Clinic. He has served many years as a clinician for state adjudication workshops, related-arts festivals, music camps, and other music activities from elementary schools to world professional ensembles.

Since 1988, he has been called to a great deal of musical activity in the Czech Republic. This includes guest conducting student, amateur, and professional ensembles, co-founding the Prague Youth Wind Ensemble Festival, Music Director of Summer Music Camps, and networking with Czech musical artists and composers.

The counter melody to his teaching is the water, where he has served over 40 years as a U.S. Coast Guard licensed skipper on the Great Lakes. Since 1975, he has also been the Chambers Island Lighthouse caretaker and historian. He and his wife, Mary Ann, have a family of three children.

Notes:

Invention No. 1 is designed to employ all the winds in a melodic role. Its intent is to harness the vigor of young instrumentalists into a musical awareness of phrasing, imitation and color. Its further purpose is to illustrate various techniques of canon or imitation.

Form:

A	ms. 1 – 59
B	ms. 60 – 113
A'	ms. 114 – 189
Coda	ms. 190 – 193

Theme 1 (Flute, ms. 3 – 19):

♩ = 96-144
Flute Solo

F1. *mp espressivo*

F1.

F1.

Theme 2 (Flute, ms. 62 – 79):

Flutes alone



mf

F1. 

F1. 

F1. 

Dr. Amy Dunker is an Associate Professor of Music at Clarke College in Dubuque, IA, USA where she teaches composition, theory, aural skills, trumpet and directs the new music ensemble.

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