

An Analysis of Josef Flegl's *Hail to the Border Guards* (*Sláva Chodsku*)

by

Dr. Amy Dunker

www.amydunker.com

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

Bb Cornet 1 - 3
Horn in F 1 – 4
Trombone 1 – 3
Baritone
Tuba 1 - 2

Timpani
Percussion I: Snare Drum
Percussion II: Cymbals
Bass Drum

Arrangement: Karel Bělohoubek and Joel Blahnik

Harmonic Language: Tonal (F Major, Bb Major)

Meter: 2/2

Texture: Melody and Accompaniment

Duration: 3 Minutes

Grade: 3

Genre: March

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Notes:

Hail to the Border Guards / Sláva Chodsko

is a dynamic march by the Czech music teacher and composer, Josef Flegl* (1881-1962) which celebrates the unique Chod culture from SW Bohemia of the Czech Republic bordering Bavaria. This march is a tribute to these unique people including 6 centuries of my ancestors, who were granted the right and privilege to be a 'free people' by the early Czech kings. In turn, they bravely guarded their country's borders and even resisted attempts by the 18th century Austro-Hungarian authority which tried to enslave them as serfs in spite of their ancient privilege. As courageous border guards, the Chods developed their own folk music, a distinctive musical culture of their own. This march portrays their strength and uniqueness.

Karel Bělohoubek majestically adapted the original orchestral work, *Sláva Chodsku* by Josef Flegl, for symphonic band. Blahnik, most interested in this work because of his Chod heritage, brought his skills to it in collaboration with Bělohoubek which has brought about a finely tuned edition for publication.

The fanfare motif of the opening two measures (do, mi, so, so, la, so) cleverly carries itself throughout the entire composition. Solid block scoring with *subito* dynamic markings grant the work a commanding stature. The *legato Trio* melody flows like honey and, again, *subito* dynamics provide an element of intrigue and interest. This march is very playable and possesses great appeal. Contact the publisher directly if interested in a recording.

—jb

Form:

Fanfare:	ms. 1 – 4	F Major
A	ms. 15 - 40	
	(repeat ms. 15 – 36)	
B	ms. 41 - 57	
	(repeat ms. 41 – 55))	
Trio:	ms. 58 - 93	Bb Major
A'	ms. 94 - 137	

“Fanfare” Theme (Bb Cornet I, ms. 1 – 4):



Theme 1 (Bb Cornet I, ms. 15 – 18):



Theme 2 (Piccolo, ms. 23 – 26):



Theme 3 (Piccolo, ms. 41 – 46):

Picc. D *f* *p*

“Trio” Theme (Horn in F I and II, ms. 58 – 61):

Trio
ff *sub. p*

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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