

An Analysis of Amy Dunker's *Brazil!*

By

Amy Dunker

www.amydunker.com

Instrumentation: Standard String Orchestra (with optional Improvisation section – written solos also provided for all instruments)

Duration: ca. 3 Minutes

Grade: 3

Harmonic Language: Tonal (D Major)

Meter: 2/4

Texture: Melody and Accompaniment

Chords for Improvisation: I – IV - V

Composition Date: 2007

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Composer Bio:

Composer-trumpeter-educator Amy Dunker's music resists easy categorization. From avant-garde improvisation to minimalistic sound sculptures to neo-romantic echoings, Amy delves deeply into the nature of human experience. Her works have been performed throughout the United States, Czech-Republic, Italy, the Ukraine, France, Thailand, Japan, Mexico, Germany, Great Britain, and Puerto Rico. Amy Dunker is an Associate Professor of Music at Clarke College where she teaches composition, theory, aural skills and trumpet. Amy received her bachelor's degree (music education) from Morningside College, a master's degree in trumpet performance from the University of South Dakota, a master's degree in composition from Butler University and a doctorate in composition from the University of Missouri-Kansas City - Conservatory of Music. Major influences in her musical education include Stanley DeRusha, Chen Yi, James Mobberley and Michael Schelle. Amy's works have been recorded on the ERM Media, NextAGem, Centerpoint and Whatsit labels. Her music is published by Alliance Publications, Inc.

Other String Orchestra Works by Amy Dunker:

Strings Around the World Series:

African Serenade (Grade 3 ½)	AP – 4122
Bossa Nova Brazil! (Grade 3)	AP – 4114
Brazil! (Grade 3)	AP – 4109
Cumbia! Cumbia! (Grade 3)	AP – 4106
Gvovi (Grade 2)	AP – 4110
Golden Ring Dance (Grade 2)	AP – 4116
Raga India (Grade 4)	AP – 4108
Reggae Jamaica (Grade 3)	AP – 4124
Rondo on a Puerto Rican Folk Song (Grade 1)	AP – 4121
South Africa Sings (Grade 3)	AP – 4115
Tango Loca (Grade 4)	AP – 4118
Tanz! (Grade 3)	AP – 4118
The Mambo Kings (Grade 3)	AP – 4119
Tribute to the Mariachi (Grade 3)	AP – 4117

Strings Today Series:

As Darkness Falls (Grade 4)	AP - 4111
Homage to W. A. Mozart (Grade 4)	AP – 4112
Rain Sketch (Grade 3)	AP – 4123

Brazil:

Brazil, officially the Federative Republic of Brazil was a colony of Portugal from its discovery by Pedro Álvares Cabral in 1500 until its independence in 1822. Bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on the east, Brazil borders every nation on the South American continent except Ecuador and Chile: Venezuela, Suriname, Guyana and the department of French Guiana are to the north, Colombia to the northwest, Bolivia and Peru to the west, Argentina and Paraguay to the southwest, and Uruguay to the south. The official language is Portuguese. Catholicism is the predominant religion.

Brazilian topography is diverse, including hills, mountains, plains, highlands, scrublands, savannas, rainforests, and a long coastline. Major rivers include the Amazon, the largest river in terms of volume of water, and the second-longest in the world; the Paraná and its major tributary, the Iguazu River.

Due to its colonial status, the major early influence derived from Portuguese culture. The Portuguese introduced the Portuguese language, Catholic religion and the colonial architectural styles. Other aspects of Brazilian culture are contributions of European and Asian immigrants, Native South American people (such as the Tupi), and African slaves.

In the 1950s, Antônio Carlos Jobim, Vinícius de Moraes, Baden Powell de Aquino, and João Gilberto popularized the Bossa Nova style in music. Later, Elis Regina, Milton Nascimento, Chico Buarque and Nara Leão had an important role in shaping Música Popular Brasileira (literally translated as "Brazilian Popular Music"). In the late 1960s, tropicalismo was popularized by Caetano Veloso and Gilberto Gil.

Brazilian Carnival is an annual celebration held 40 days before Easter and marks the beginning of Lent. Brazilian Carnival has distinct regional characteristics. Other regional festivals include the Boi Bumbá and Festa Junina (June Festivals).¹

Notes:

Brazil! is written in the style of a Carnival march with roots in the baião and frevo musical styles. It is a combination of folk-typed melody and simple harmonic progression combined with a syncopated reverse clave rhythmic figure as a basic background pattern similar to the bossa nova (In a traditional baião or frevo, the clave rhythmic pattern would be reversed.).

At rehearsal letter D, you may choose to either perform the passage as written and continue with the piece as written or you may repeat the passage a third, fourth, etc. time for optional solo work. The solos may be improvised using the given chord progression or you may choose to use the written solos provided. Each of the two written solos is provided in treble, alto, and bass clef for easy selection of players and voicing.

Form:

Introduction	ms. 1 – 15	
A	ms.16 – 31	
	<i>(Repeat ms. 16 – 31)</i>	
B	ms. 32 – 47	
A'	ms. 48 – 79	
A''	ms. 80 – 95	(Opt. Repeats for Solos)
	<i>(Repeat ms. 80 -95)</i>	
A	ms. 96 – 103	
Coda	ms. 104 - 112	

¹ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil> (accessed 02/07/08).

Theme 1 (Violin I, ms. 16 – 19):



Theme 2 (Violin I, ms. 32 -35):



Recommended Recordings:

Brassil Plays Brazil

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0000037GH?ie=UTF8&tag=amduap-20&linkCode=xm2&camp=1789&creativeASIN=B0000037GH>

