

An Analysis of Ctirad Kohoutek's *Symphonic Dance*

by

Dr. Amy Dunker

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Instrumentation:

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

French Horn 1 – 4
Bb Flugelhorn (Cornet) 1 – 2
Bb Trumpet 1 – 3
Trombone 1 – 3
Euphonium 1 – 2
Tuba 1 – 2
String Bass

Timpani
Xylophone
Percussion I: Triangle, Tambourine, Cymbals
Percussion 2: Snare Drum, Bass Drum

Duration: 4 Minutes

Grade: 5

Harmonic Language: Neotonal

Meter: Mixed (3/4, 2/4, 5/8, 7/8, 6/8, 8/8, 4/4)

Texture: Melody and Accompaniment, Counterpoint

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Composer Bio:

Ctirad Kohoutek (b. March 18, 1929, Czech composer, music theorist and pedagogue has served as Professor of composition at the Academy of Music Arts in Prague (1980-1990), Artistic Director of the Czech Philharmonic (1980-1987) and Senior Lecturer of composition, theory and conductor at the JAMU (1953 - 1980).

In his first creative period, Kohoutek coped with the classical and romantic heritage as well as the influence of folklore. He gradually arrived at the critical unorthodox application and synthesis of modern composition principles which, in 1957, crystallized in his own project composition method. This method consists in drawing up a composition plan in graphic form with a time axis which is realized in concrete sound form in the process of creation. Every composition is given its individual form and stratification of expression in agreement with its message. Since 1965, Ctirad Kohoutek has written most of his works in this manner. His latest period in the work is characterized by a simplification of compositional means and the effort for communicativeness of the music.

Form:

A	ms. 1 – 65	Vivace
B	ms. 66 - 119	Allegro assai
A	ms. 120 – 181	Vivace
A' + B'	ms. 182 – 234	Allegro assai

**The final section exhibits extensive motivic development of both themes in a virtuosic setting.*

Theme 1 (Bb Trumpet I, ms. 4 – 8):

The image shows two staves of musical notation. The top staff is a short excerpt of a melody starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The bottom staff is labeled "Bb Tpt. 1" and shows the full notation for measures 4 through 8, including a repeat sign at the beginning.

Theme 2 (Oboe I and II, ms. 66 – 70):

The image shows two staves of musical notation. The top staff is a short excerpt of a melody starting with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic, marked "cantabile, poco espr.". The bottom staff is labeled "Obs." and shows the full notation for measures 66 through 70, including a long slur over the entire phrase.

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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