

An Analysis of Jiří Laburda's *Overture*
(from *Symphony No. 2 for Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Percussion*)

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

Horn in F 1 – 2
Bb Trumpet 1 – 3
Trombone 1 – 2
Euphonium
Tuba

Timpani
Percussion I: Snare Drum, Triangle, Vibraphone
Percussion II: Bass Drum, Crash Cymbals, Suspended Cymbals

Duration: 6 ½ Minutes

Grade: 4

Harmonic Language: Tonal (Eb Major)/Neotonal

Meter: 3/4

Texture: Melody and Accompaniment, Counterpoint

Genre: Symphony for Winds (Mvmt 1)

Composition Date: 2001

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Composer Bio:

JIRÍ LABURDA

bn April 3, 1931

Jiří Laburda, (*pronounced YIH-zhee*) composer from the Czech Republic, has acquired his love for music from his parents and received elementary musical training in his native town of Soběslav. His attitude to music in general, and composition, in particular, was also shaped by the Czech composers Karel Hába, Zdeněk Hůla and the musicologist, Eduard Herzog.

Between 1952 and 1955, Laburda studied at the Pedagogical Faculty of Prague's Charles University and later on at the Prague Teacher Training College (1957-1960). In 1970, he received the title of Doctor of Philosophy; his doctoral thesis was entitled *The Symphonies of D. D. Schostakovitch*. His treatise, *Didactic Problems of Modern Textbooks of Harmony*, completed in 1973, is now part of his university textbook, *Diatonic Harmony*.

Jiří Laburda taught at various teacher-training colleges and institutions in Czech towns until he joined the staff of the Pedagogical Faculty of Charles University in Prague. He is presently on the faculty at the Conservatory of Music in Prague.

In his early days as a composer, Jiří Laburda devoted himself mostly to choral compositions which which still assume a pride of place among his works. In composition, he draws on traditional means of expression. Stylistically, he ties on to neo-classicism in particular. As far as modern techniques of composition are concerned, it is small aleatoric and dodecaphony which are closest to his temperament.

Over the years, Laburda has composed an impressive number of works out of which more than 150 compositions have appeared in print. Laburda's compositions are understandable and are very well received by the broadest sector of music

lovers. He has always maintained lively contacts with musicians and amateur choirs for which he has composed very comprehensible works. To date, he has produced many compositions for children, notably minor works which children can easily play or sing. Among his technically demanding compositions are the virtuoso 1st and 2nd *Partita for Solo Violin*, numerous *Sonatas* (8 for piano, 4 for organ, 2 for trombone, oboe, clarinet, trumpet, tuba, accordion), *Concertos* (piano, organ, bassoon, accordion), *Double Concerto for Violin and Cello*, 8 *Masses, Cantatas, Symphony*, etc.

That Jiří Laburda's compositions are generally acclaimed and successful is corroborated by the countless prizes and distinctions which have been awarded thus far at domestic and international musical competitions. As far as domestic events go, in the jubilee competition sponsored by Czechoslovak Radio Prague, he won the prize for his *Piano Concerto*, while carrying away several prizes from the nationwide choral competition at Jihlava.

At international music festivals and similar events, he was awarded the Oscar Esplá prize for his cantata-missa, *Glagolitica* (1966); he won the Otto Sprechelsen prize in the city of Hanover, Germany, for his cantata, *Metamorphoses* (1968); in 1974, his *Prelude for Solo Accordion* received the SACEM-UPAC prize in Paris. Prizes in international competitions were received also in 1987, 1994 and 1996 for other music compositions.

Green Marjoram for Mixed Choir received the prize —*Premio Città di Trento*—in 1986 and also the first prize in the 1986 International Choral Competition, Trento, Italy. It was premiered by L'ensemble Vocal a cappella de Lyon, France, under the direction of Marcel Corneloup, on October 3, 1987 in Trento, Italy.

Other Concert Band Works by Jiří Laburda:

Adagio (from *Symphony No. 2 for Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Percussion*) AP-656

Scherzo and Finale (from *Symphony No. 2 for Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Percussion*) AP-677

Notes:

Overture for Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Percussion (AP-652) is Laburda's response to API's invitation to write works for students with American wind band scoring. It becomes a companion work to *Adagio* (AP-656) and *Scherzo and Finale* (AP-677) which are magnificent compositions. Musical diamonds! Laburda's has crafted an incredible gems of sensitivity and emotion. The composer's intent was to portray the color and warmth of winds. Tenderness and clarity prevail. Control of tone and tuning is vital in these heart-rendering works by this South Bohemian Czech composer from the Czech Republic. The three titles together make up *Symphony No. 2 for Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Percussion*.

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Form:

Introduction	ms. 1 – 10	Eb Major
A	ms. 11 – 78	Eb Major
B	ms. 79 – 117	Neotonal
A'	ms. 118 – 155	Neotonal
A''	ms. 156 – 199	Eb Major
B'	ms. 200 – 222	Eb Major
A'''	ms. 223 – 262	Eb Major
Coda	ms. 263 – 304	Eb Major

Theme 1 (Flute I and II, ms. 11 – 19):



Theme 2 (Bb Trumpet I and II, ms. 91 – 99):

The image displays two staves of musical notation for Bb Trumpets 1 and 2. The first staff, labeled 'B^b Tpts. 1&2', contains measures 91 through 95. It begins with a dynamic marking of *p* (piano) and features a melodic line with eighth-note patterns in the first measure, followed by a half-note melody in the second measure, and then a series of chords in the third, fourth, and fifth measures. A dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) is placed under the fifth measure. The second staff, also labeled 'B^b Tpts. 1&2', contains measures 96 through 99. It starts with a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) and consists of a single half-note chord in the first measure, followed by a half-note melody in the second measure, and then two measures of whole notes in the third and fourth measures.

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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