

An Analysis of Joel Blahnik's *Fanfare and Processional*

By

Dr. Amy Dunker

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Instrumentation: Flute/Piccolo
Oboe
Bb Clarinet 1 – 3
Bb Bass Clarinet
Bassoon
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

Snare Drum
Bass Drum
Tenor Drum

Harmonic Language: Tonal (F Major, Eb Major, Ab Major)

Meter: 4/4 2/2

Texture: Melody and Accompaniment

Duration: 3 Minutes

Grade: 3

Publisher: Alliance Publications, Inc., AP-623 www.apimusic.org
585 County Road Z, Sinsinawa, WI 53824-0157 USA
(608) 748-4411 Ext. 124

Publisher Copyright Date: 1998

Commission Statement: Commissioned by the Gillett High School Band, David Pelow,
conductor for the dedication of the Gillett, Wisconsin
Community Auditorium

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.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

John Philip Sousa once remarked: “A *march consists of two important elements—dynamics and accents.*” This composition was created in homage to these important elements.

Musicians, shape the music with attention to dynamics and accents, allowing the melodic lines to “*sing*” with the rise and fall of the crescendo/diminuendo. The music will then play itself and will delight all with its charm!

This work can be performed as two separate units or as an entire work. One interesting feature of the piece is that the *Fanfare* begins in common time and then transfers to cut time at the *Processional* march while maintaining the same pulse. These two stylistic differences provide variety and and ‘lift’ befitting a dignified processional.

The harmonic flavoring employed in this piece (eg. gravitation to and from the secondary dominant of the related minor key as an “assumed tonality” in the first strain **A-C** and the first four chords of the **Trio**) provides a refreshing coloring intended to mirror the delightful joy of making music together. Another example of the unusual is the modulation from the opening key of F to the Eb *Processional* key.

Fanfare and Processional was commissioned by the Gillett High School Band under the direction of David Pelow to celebrate the completion of the new Community Auditorium for Gillett, Wisconsin. Fittingly, the Auditorium will bear his name in tribute for his more than 30 years as bandmaster.

—jb

Form:

Fanfare: ms. 1 – 10 F Major

March:

A ms. 11 – 26 Eb Major

(repeat)

B ms. 27 – 42

(D. S. al fine)

A ms. 11 – 26 Eb Major

B ms. 27 – 42

Trio: ms. 43 – 62 Ab Major

(repeat ms. 45 – 52)

(repeat ms. 53 – 57)

C ms. 64 – 79

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



March:

Theme 1 (Bb Trumpet I, ms. 11 – 18):

mf *p*

Trp. 1 *f*

Theme 2 (Trombone I, ms. 27 – 30):

Tbn 1 *f*

Theme 3 (Flute, ms. 31 – 34):

pp

Theme 4 (Flute, ms. 64 – 71):

Fl. *f* *p* *cresc.*

Ⓜ *a Tempo*

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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