

PROGRAM NOTES

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

In 1986, while a graduate student at Michigan State, I did an arrangement of "The Star-Spangled Banner" for wind ensemble to be performed at the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) Conference in Boston. In 2001, three days after the brutal attack on the World Trade Center, I dug out the manuscript. George Naff, former marching band director at East Carolina University, said that a national anthem should be a citizen's "love song to their country." It is in the spirit that I revised this arrangement as my part to support those brave souls, living and dead, who continue to support freedom in our country. – Jack Stamp

DOWN EAST FANFARE

The work is dedicated to the memory of Martin Mailman, longtime professor of composition at the University of North Texas (UNT), and a wonderful composer of band music. In one of our meetings, he told me about a work he wrote for the UNT Wind Symphony entitled "Secular Litanies," whose opening measures inspired this piece. The work was commissioned by the Maine Music Educators Association in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Maine All-State Band. – Jack Stamp

MARCH FROM '1941'

In Steven Spielberg's 1979 comedic film '1941,' residents of Los Angeles, California, mistakenly believe they are under attack from the Japanese in the aftermath of the assault on Pearl Harbor. The late John Belushi played "Wild" Bill Kelso, a somewhat unstable yet affable Air Force pilot at the center of the action. According to John Williams, Kelso's antics "seemed to require a musical accompaniment that had humor and rhythmic vitality. As a result, I set myself the task of writing a zanily patriotic march, that upon hearing, we might be moved to tap our feet to an imaginary parade going by, and have fun doing it." The "March from '1941'" is indeed a fun-filled romp from beginning to end and is most certainly among Williams' best efforts in the genre of martial music. The premiere performance of this concert band transcription was given by the Marine Band in 2003, conducted by the composer. – U.S. Marine Band concert program, 2016

MINIATURE OVERTURE

This piece was commissioned by Ernest Mills and the Kearsage Regional High School Band in North Sutton, New Hampshire. The request was for a short work that would be playable by a large number of high school bands throughout the country. It was my hope to make a significant teaching piece in this short, three-minute setting. The work is dedicated to Donald K. Smith, my band director at High Point High School in Beltsville, Maryland, who taught us self-discipline, self-motivation, and the pursuit of excellence. I thought it appropriate to dedicate one of my compositions to a person who was so influential in my musical life. – Jack Stamp

CHORALE AND TOCCATA

When commissioned by the Ohio Colleges Instrumental Conductors Association to write a challenging yet accessible work suited for small colleges or good high school bands, I recalled my days of study with Robert Washburn, and the classic 20th century compositional techniques that he taught me. It premiered in January 1992 with a second premier at the Ohio Music Educators Association convention in Columbus, Ohio. – Jack Stamp

PERTSHIRE MAJESTY

"Perthshire Majesty" was commissioned in January of 2003 by the Tara Winds of Atlanta, Georgia, David Gregory, conductor. If you look up the derivation of the name "David Gregory," you will find that it means "beloved watchman." I cannot imagine a more accurate name for a person who has devoted himself to serve as a guardian and inspirer of people in all stages of life. When David and the Tara Winds' membership commissioned me to compose a piece for their ensemble, I knew that the greatest challenge would be to create music that equaled the genuine warmth exhibited by the musicians I had gotten to