

American Fantasy – A Tribute to the Patriotism of George M. Cohan
Performance Notes

Thank you for purchasing *American Fantasy*.

American Fantasy – A Tribute to the Patriotism of George M. Cohan for concert band is a concert piece I adapted from the version written for professional orchestra. Beginning with my original *American Fantasy Fanfare* introduction it takes the listener on a whirlwind trip through *I'm A Yankee Doodle Dandy* and *You're a Grand Old Flag* written and made famous by George M. Cohan with quotes of *America the Beautiful* and *The Star Spangled Banner*. It is wrapped up with the *American Fantasy Fanfare* for a spectacular ending.

It is my hope that this piece will challenge the ensemble while inspiring and entertaining your audiences.

Suggestions:

- This can be performed by groups that are smaller “wind ensembles” of 40 or more players up to large concert bands.
- This piece takes the usual concert band in a different direction using drum set as the foundation for the Dixieland and big band jazz inspired sections.
- Included in this piece is an opportunity to feature three talented members of the band (clarinet, trumpet and trombone) playing a Dixieland style version of *I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy* from bar 47 through 77. Through this section, the players can play what's written, with Dixieland jazz inflections and style, or, if they have such skills, they can improvise their own version of this. In either case, I strongly recommend that the trumpet stay very close to the written part in order to be the unifying voice that is typical of Dixieland jazz. From 77 through 106, the style is big band swing. From 107 to the end the style is more of a traditional concert band except for bars 163 and 164, which should have a big band swing feel as a bit of a surprise.
- The tuba cue in the Contra Alto Clarinet – bars 16 through 34 can be played in lieu of tuba if one so chooses. It's probably best to have one or the other, but not both through this section.
- For the Dixieland section – bars 47 through 77 – it might be fun to have the solo clarinet, trumpet, trombone and tuba stand and be featured visually as well as musically. Also consider having the string bass tacet through this section. Alternately, tacet the tuba part and have the string bass be featured instead.
- The trombone cue in the horns at bars 185 through 188 should only be played if it is needed to balance the trumpets in the fanfare. Otherwise, it should not be played so that the horn section has more stamina to play 189 to the end.

I hope that you, your band, and audience enjoy this spirited piece.

I welcome your comments and stories of success via email to bruce@allsunmusic.com.

Thank you!

Bruce Healey

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