



Divertimento for Strings, Winds & Percussion (1993)

Grade 5 • 9:15

published by Sonic Soundscape Productions

Full score and parts - \$150.00

Score only - \$25.00

PROGRAM NOTES

Divertimento for Strings, Winds, and Percussion, composed in the summer of 1993, was commissioned by the Des Moines Symphony Orchestra and premiered that same year under the baton of Joseph Giunta. The piece, in four movements, is a tribute to three American composers, Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, and George Gershwin who were all intrigued by jazz and incorporated elements of the idiom into their music. The use of the musical pitches C (Copland), B (Bernstein), and G (Gershwin) forms the nucleus for much of the thematic, as well as harmonic material. The composition uses jazz elements as the basis for a classical composition. Extensive use is made of the flatted third, fifth, and seventh from the blues scale both in thematic and harmonic structures. Written meters are often altered by grouping notes in a manner that displaces normalagogic accents. Typical is the eighth note grouping of 3 + 3 + 2 in a 4/4 measure. The interval of the seventh derived from the C-B note relationship is a prominent unifying element in each movement.

The third movement, *Remembrance*, strays from extensive use of the blues scale, idiomatic jazz rhythms, and extensive use of the C, B, and G note combinations. Here, the intention is to contrast the other three movements (movement three is in the key of G, all others are in C) but continue the use of idiomatic jazz elements in the form of a jazz ballad.

The *Divertimento for Strings, Winds, and Percussion* was later transcribed by the composer and retitled *Divertimento for Winds, and Percussion*, and performed by the Iowa State University Wind Ensemble at the College Band Directors National Association North Central Convention in Omaha. The work immediately drew national attention and selected to be used at the prestigious Cincinnati College Conservatory Conducting Symposium during the summer of 1994. The work is recorded and released by the North Texas Wind Symphony on the Klavier label (Klavier KCD-11070). *Divertimento for Winds, and Percussion* has since received an array of international performances.

INSTRUMENTATION

Winds: Flute 1/Piccolo & Flute 2, Oboe 1 & 2, English Horn, Bassoon 1 & 2, Bb Clarinet 1 & 2, Bb Bass Clarinet

Brass: F Horn 1 - 4, C Trumpet 1 - 3, Trombone 1 - 2, Bass Trombone, Tuba

Percussion: Timpani, Percussion 1 (snare drum, bass drum, temple blocks, suspended cymbal, crash cymbals, wood block), Percussion 2 (crash cymbals, suspended cymbal, tam-tam, 4 concert toms, triangle, splash cymbal, tambourine, sandpaper blocks, vibra-slap), Percussion 3 (4 concert toms, xylophone, orchestra bells, chimes)

Keyboard: Celesta