

# Zephyr

(Fast Train to Chicago)

By Michael Ryan (ASCAP)

#### **INSTRUMENTATION**

- 1 Conductor
- 10 Flute
- 2 Oboe
- 10 B♭ Clarinet
- 2 B♭ Bass Clarinet
- 6 E Alto Saxophone
- 4 B<sub>b</sub> Tenor Saxophone
- 2 E Baritone Saxophone
- 8 B Trumpet
- 4 F Horn

- 6 Trombone/Baritone/Bassoon
- 2 Baritone Treble Clef (World Part Trombone in B<sup>1</sup> Treble Clef)
- 4 Tuba
- 1 Mallet Percussion (Chimes)
- 1 Optional Timpani (Tune: Bi, Ei)
- 2 Percussion 1 (Snare Drum, Bass Drum)
- Percussion 2
  (Sandpaper Blocks)

#### **WORLD PARTS**

Available for download from www.alfred.com/worldparts

Horn in E

Trombone/Baritone in Bl Bass Clef

Tuba in E♭ Bass Clef

Tuba in Eb Treble Clef

Tuba in Bb Bass Clef

Tuba in Bb Treble Clef

## **PROGRAM NOTES**

On May 26, 1934, a new long-distance, non-stop world record was set by the Burlington Railroad Silver Streak Pioneer Zephyr's 1,015 mile journey from Denver to Chicago in approximately 13 hours. The average speed was an impressive 77.6 miles per hour.

To coincide with the 26th anniversary of this momentous trip, the train was donated to the Museum of Science and Industry (Chicago) in 1960, where it is still on permanent exhibit, waiting to be boarded and inspected.

With urgent forward motion supplied by percussion and staccato low winds throughout, chiming railway crossing bells, and persistent melodic themes, listeners are virtually on board, whizzing effortlessly across the plains. At the end of the bridge, before the repeat of the 'A' section, the familiar long-long-short-long locomotive horn signal ('Q' in Morse code), as the train approaches a public crossing, is also heard.

## **NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR**

Aside from the few adjacent chromatics throughout, the music is straightforward and plays easily, with ranges and rhythms within the Beginning Band parameters.

Special attention will need to be focused on articulations and dynamic contours. Many teaching opportunities present themselves.

Percussion is the glue that holds the work together. Snare drum, which plays throughout, needs to lay down a confident, steady beat. Though not optimum in terms of tonal color, if chimes are not available, bells may be used as a substitute. In that case, they should be played with B-flats at the octave. An even more authentic alternative may be the use of a large ship's bell, as long as performance allows an even quarter note pulse.

Tuesja



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**FULL SCORE** Approx. Duration - 1:45

With steady forward motion J = 138

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