Great Beginnings

By Michael Kamuf (ASCAP)

PROGRAM NOTES

This original composition for very beginning band gives the youngest players an opportunity to play melodic material as well as slurs and accents. Flowing melodies and countermelodies are presented over varying accompaniment building to a heroic final statement.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

The opening introduction should be played confidently and build to forte in measure 3. The first statement of the A theme occurs at measure 5 in the clarinet and alto saxophone, while the remaining ensemble members provide accompaniment. With the exception of measure 49 through the end, both the A and B themes should be played in a legato style. This theme reoccurs at measure 13 in the flute, alto saxophone, trumpet, and mallets, while oboe, clarinet, tenor saxophone, and horn introduce a countermelody. The B theme is announced at measure 21 by the oboe, alto saxophone, and horn (clarinet takes over for horn at measure 25). The A theme returns at measure 29 in the low woodwind and brass instruments for one phrase, while the flute, alto saxophone, trumpet, and mallets conclude the statement.

A brief percussion interlude occurs at measure 37. While it does add a timbre and character, this percussion passage works well without the optional timpani part. The B theme returns at measure 41 with statements featuring the woodwinds (measures 41–44) and brass (measures 45–48). A final statement of the A theme occurs at measure 49. This passage should differ from previous statements as the melody and countermelody are to be played with accents.

This piece provides a great opportunity for directors to introduce and reinforce the concepts of slurs and accents.

Throughout the entire piece, care should be taken by the players not to overshadow the melodic material, and percussion should complement the winds.

I hope you and your students have fun studying and performing Great Beginnings.

Michael Kamuf
Great Beginnings

FULL SCORE
Approx. Duration - 2:00

Allegro $\frac{\text{D}}{ \text{4} } = 120-132$

Flute

Oboe

B♭ Clarinet

B♭ Bass Clarinet

E♭ Alto Saxophone

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

E♭ Baritone Saxophone

B♭ Trumpet

F Horn

Trombone/Baritone/Bassoon

Tuba

Mallet Percussion (Bells)

Optional Timpani

Percussion 1 (Snare Drum, Bass Drum)

Percussion 2 (Crash Cymbals/Woodblock, Tambourine/Triangle)

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