

Courtly Airs and Dances

Ron Nelson



Concert Band

LUDWIG *Masters*
PUBLICATIONS

COURTLY AIRS AND DANCES

I. Intrada; II. Basse Danse (France); III. Pavane (England);
IV. Saltarello (Italy); V. Sarabande (Spain); VI. Allemande (Germany)

RON NELSON
(b. 1929)

FOR CONCERT BAND

Instrumentation

1 Full Score	1 B \flat Tenor Saxophone	1 Euphonium B.C. 1
1 Piccolo	1 E \flat Baritone Saxophone	1 Euphonium B.C. 2
2 Flute 1	2 B \flat Trumpet 1	5 Tuba
2 Flute 2	2 B \flat Trumpet 2	1 Timpani
2 Flute 3	2 B \flat Trumpet 3	1 Percussion 1 (Marimba, Chimes, Tambourine)
1 Oboe 1	2 B \flat Trumpet 4	2 Percussion 2 (Vibraphone, Castanets, Triangle, Crash Cymbals, Sleighbells)
1 Oboe 2	2 B \flat Trumpet 5	1 Percussion 3 (Orchestra Bells, Suspended Cymbal)
2 B \flat Clarinet 1	2 B \flat Trumpet 6	1 Percussion 4 (Snare Drum, Tenor Drum, Triangle)
2 B \flat Clarinet 2	1 F Horn 1	1 Percussion 5 (Bass Drum with attached Cymbal)
2 B \flat Clarinet 3	1 F Horn 2	
2 B \flat Clarinet 4	1 F Horn 3	
2 B \flat Clarinet 5	1 F Horn 4	
2 B \flat Clarinet 6	2 Trombone 1	
2 B \flat Bass Clarinet	2 Trombone 2	
1 Bassoon 1	2 Trombone 3	
1 Bassoon 2	2 Trombone 4	
1 E \flat Alto Saxophone 1	1 Euphonium T.C. 1	
1 E \flat Alto Saxophone 2	1 Euphonium T.C. 2	

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ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Ron Nelson, a native of Joliet, Illinois, received his Bachelor of Music degree in 1952, Master's degree in 1953, and Doctor of Music Arts degree in 1956 from the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester. He studied in France at the Ecole Normale de Musique and the Paris Conservatory under a Fulbright Grant in 1955. Dr. Nelson joined the Brown University faculty the following year as an assistant professor in 1960, and full professor in 1968. He served as Chairman of the Department of Music from 1963 to 1973, and was named professor emeritus in 1993. In 1991 he was awarded the Acuff Chair of Excellence in the Creative Arts—the first musician to hold the chair. He has gained wide recognition as a composer of choral, band and orchestral works.

Dr. Nelson has received commissions from the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the United States Air Force Band and Chorus, the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra, and numerous choral organizations, colleges and universities, including the University of Minnesota, Dartmouth, Western Michigan and Lawrence, as well as the Classic Chorale Brevard Music Center and Aspen Music Festival. He has also received grants and awards from the Howard Foundation, ASCAP, Brown University, and several from the National Endowment for the Arts. Dr. Nelson is the distinguished winner of the 1993 ABA/Ostwald, the NBA Composition Contest, and the Sudler International Wind Band Composition Competition (The John Philip Sousa Foundation), for his work *Passacaglia (Homage on B-A-C-H)*.

PROGRAM NOTES

Courtly Airs and Dances is a suite of Renaissance dances which were characteristic to five European countries during the 1500s. Three of the dances (*Basse Danse*, *Pavane*, and *Allemande*) are meant to emulate the music of Claude Gervaise by drawing on the style of his music as well as the characteristics of other compositions from that period.

The festival opens with a fanfare-like *Intrada* followed by *Basse Danse* (France), *Pavane* (England), *Saltarello* (Italy), *Sarabande* (Spain) and *Allemande* (Germany).

PERFORMANCE SUGGESTIONS

Ample cues have been included throughout the suite to enable the conductor to adapt the instrumentation to the needs and capabilities of his/her ensemble. The conductor may wish to

perform parts of the suite; for example, *Intrada* may be useful for functions where a short fanfare is needed.

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With pomp ♩ = 68 - 70

I. Intrada

The score is for a 4/4 piece in B-flat major. It begins with a tempo of 68-70 bpm. The woodwinds (Flute, Piccolo, Oboe, Bassoon) and brass (Trumpets, Horns) play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, while the percussion provides a steady accompaniment. The flute and piccolo parts are marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The horn parts feature accents (*sfz*) and a dynamic shift to forte (*f*) in the fifth measure. The percussion part includes snare drum (S.D.), tom-tom (T.D.), and bass drum (B.D.) parts, with dynamics ranging from *ff* to *mf*.

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I. Intrada

With pomp ♩ = 68 - 70

II. Basse Danse (France)

In a stately manner ♩ = 58 - 62